

# Contents

1. Defence and Military Exercises.....	1
2. Art and Culture.....	8
3. Environment and Geography.....	10
4. Economy.....	14
5. Schemes in News.....	17
6. Index and Reports .....	19
7. International Affairs .....	22
8. MOU and Agreements.....	24
9. Polity and Governance .....	27
10. Summit and Conferences .....	32
11. Science and Technology.....	34
12. Books and Authors .....	39
13. Sports.....	41
14. Person in News.....	44
15. Places in News .....	49
16. Important Days.....	52
17. Practice Set.....	56

# 1

## Defence and Military Exercises

### EXERCISE TIGER TRIUMPH



#### Context

- Tiger Triumph* is a joint tri-service military exercise between India and the United States.
- The 2025 edition marks the **4th iteration** of this exercise.
- It is a **tri-service exercise**, involving the **Army, Navy, and Air Force** of both countries.
- The exercise is focused on **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** operations.
- It is being conducted in the **Bay of Bengal**.

#### Objective

- To enhance **interoperability** between the armed forces of India and the U.S. in HADR operations.
- To formulate **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for establishing a **Combined Coordination Centre (CCC)**.
- To enable **rapid and seamless coordination** between Indian and U.S. Joint Task Forces during **exercises, crises, and contingencies**.

Country	Participants / Assets
India	<b>Naval Ships:</b> INS Jalashwa, Gharial, Mumbai, Shakti
	<b>Aircraft:</b> P-8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft
	<b>Army:</b> 91 Infantry Brigade, 12 Mechanised Infantry Battalion
	<b>Air Force:</b> C-130 aircraft, Mi-17 helicopters
USA	Navy Ships: USS Comstock, USS Ralph Johnson Troops: US Marine Division troops embarked

### 9K33 OSA-AK MISSILE SYSTEM



#### Context

- The Indian Army's Air Defence warriors from the **White Tiger Division** recently conducted a **live missile-firing exercise** using the 9K33 Osa-AK system.

#### Key Features

- The 9K33 Osa-AK is a Russian-built, highly mobile, low-altitude, short-range tactical surface-to-air missile system.
- It was developed in the 1960s and fielded in 1972 by the Soviet Union.

Feature	Specification/Description
Origin	Russia (Soviet Union)
NATO Reporting Name	SA-8 Gecko
Type	Low-altitude, short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)
First Deployment	1972
Mobility	Highly mobile, fully amphibious, air-transportable
Vehicle Setup	All-in-one TELAR (Transporter-Erector-Launcher and Radar)
Length	9.1 meters
Width	2.78 meters
Weight	Up to 18 tonnes
Crew Capacity	Up to 5 crew members
Missile Load	6 ready-to-fire missiles on the roof
Target Engagement Range	Up to 12 km
Operational Road Range	500 km

## INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT INKED WITH FRANCE FOR 26 RAFALE-MARINE AIRCRAFT FOR INDIAN NAVY



### Context

- India and France signed an IGA for procurement of 26 Rafale aircraft for the Indian Navy.
- Includes 22 Single-Seater and 4 Twin-Seater Rafale-Marine aircraft.

### Comprehensive Package Included

- Training and simulator systems
- Associated equipment
- Weapons
- Performance-Based Logistics (PBL)
- Additional equipment for the existing Rafale fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF)

### Aatmanirbhar Bharat Focus:

- Includes Transfer of Technology (ToT) for integrating indigenous weapons
- Plans for setting up:
  - Rafale fuselage production facility in India
  - Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities for engines, sensors, and weapons
- Expected to generate thousands of jobs and support numerous MSMEs

Category	Details
Name	Dassault Rafale
Generation	4.5 Generation
Manufacturer	Dassault Aviation
Configuration	Twin-engine, delta-wing, multirole fighter
Speed	Up to Mach 1.8
Combat Radius	Over 1000 km
Primary Roles	Air superiority, ground support, reconnaissance, anti-ship

## Key Features and Avionics

Feature	Details
Radar	RBE2 AESA Radar
Electronic Warfare	SPECTRA EW Suite
Sensors	Front sector optronics, omnidirectional warning systems
Engines	2 x SNECMA M88 turbofan engines
Special Capability	Supercruise (supersonic flight without afterburners)
Hardpoints	14 (can carry up to 9,500 kg of external payloads)

### Variants

Variant	Type
Rafale C	Single-seat (Air Force)
Rafale B	Twin-seat
Rafale M	Naval variant
Rafale N	Nuclear Strike (Proposed)
Rafale R	R&D Variant

## DRDO ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN SCRAMJET ENGINE DEVELOPMENT



### Context

- Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, achieved a major breakthrough in hypersonic technology.
- Successfully conducted long-duration Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor ground testing for over 1,000 seconds.

### Test Details

- Conducted at the new Scramjet Connect Test Facility in Hyderabad on April 25, 2025.
- This follows an earlier test of 120 seconds in January 2025.
- The success prepares the system for full-scale flight-worthy combustor testing.

## About Hypersonic Cruise Missile

- Travels at speeds of more than Mach 5 (>6,100 kmph).
- Powered by an air-breathing scramjet engine using supersonic combustion.
- Designed for long-duration cruise missions.

## FOURTH NEXT GENERATION OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL YARD (3040)



### Context

- Yard 3040, the fourth Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) (ex-GRSE), had its keel laying ceremony on 24 April 2025.
- The ceremony held at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata.

### Project Background

- Contracts for 11 NGOPVs were signed on 30 March 2023.
- Shipbuilding shared between:
  - Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL): Lead Shipyard, constructing 7 ships.
  - Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE): Follow Shipyard, constructing 4 ships.

### Capabilities of NGOPVs

- Displacement of approximately 3000 tonnes.
- Designed for:
  - Coastal Defence and Surveillance
  - Search and Rescue (SAR)
  - Protection of Offshore Assets
  - Anti-Piracy Operations

## DRDO CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL RELEASE TRIALS OF INDIGENOUS LONG-RANGE GLIDE BOMB 'GAURAV'

### Context

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a major breakthrough with the successful release trials of the Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) 'Gaurav' from April 8 to 10, 2025.



### Key Features

- The weapon was launched from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft and demonstrated high-precision accuracy and a range of nearly 100 km.
- These trials mark a significant step forward in enhancing India's precision-strike capabilities.
- The LRGB 'Gaurav' has been designed and developed by a consortium of DRDO laboratories, namely:
  - Research Centre Imarat (RCI) - Hyderabad
  - Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) - Pune
  - Integrated Test Range (ITR) - Chandipur

Parameter	Description
Name	Long-Range Glide Bomb 'Gaurav'
Category	Precision-guided glide bomb
Weight Class	1,000 kg
Launch Platform	Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft
Effective Range	Close to 100 km
Guidance Capability	Advanced glide capability with high accuracy
Target Type	Static land target on an island

## THIRD NEXT GENERATION OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL (YARD 3039)



### Context

- In a key development for India's maritime defence capability, the Keel Laying Ceremony of Yard 3039, the third Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), was held on 11 April 2025 at GRSE Ltd, Kolkata.

## Key Features

Feature	Details
Approximate Displacement	3000 tonnes
Primary Roles	Coastal Defence, Surveillance, Search and Rescue (SAR) operations
Additional Capabilities	Protection of Offshore Assets, Anti-Piracy, and Maritime Law Enforcement

## RS 2,385 CRORE CONTRACT INKED WITH BEL FOR ELECTRONIC WARFARE SUITES & AIRCRAFT MODIFICATION KITS FOR MI-17 V5 HELICOPTERS



### Context

- The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bengaluru for the acquisition of Electronic Warfare (EW) Suites and aircraft modification kits for Mi-17 V5 helicopters.

### Key Highlights

- The total cost of the project is Rs 2,385.36 crore.
- The agreement was signed on April 07, 2025, in New Delhi, in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh.
- The contract is under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured) category.
- The EW Suite will enhance the operational survivability of the helicopters in hostile environments.

## A TRI-SERVICES ALL WOMEN CIRCUMNAVIGATION SAILING EXPEDITION, SAMUDRA PRADAKSHINA, KICK-STARTS ITS 55-DAY VOYAGE

### Context

- Samudra Pradakshina is a tri-services all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition from Mumbai to Seychelles and back.

- The expedition was flagged off on **April 7, 2025**, by Lt Gen AK Ramesh, Commandant, College of Military Engineering (CME), from the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Colaba, Mumbai.



### Project Details

- A 12-member all-women crew from the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force** is participating, selected from 41 volunteers.
- The team will cover **4,000 nautical miles** over 55 days aboard IASV Triveni.
- The initiative promotes **Nari Shakti** and gender parity in maritime domains and serves as preparation for a full circumnavigation sailing expedition planned in **2026**.
- All participants underwent **two years of rigorous training** in ocean sailing, dealing with weather challenges, mechanical issues, and physical endurance.
- The **flag-in ceremony** will be held on **30 May 2025**, marking the successful completion of the mission.

## RAKSHA MANTRI FLAGS-OFF INS SUNAYNA AS INDIAN OCEAN SHIP SAGAR FROM KARWAR



### Context

- On April 5, 2025, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged off the Indian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), INS Sunayna, as part of the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR mission from Karwar, Karnataka.

- The event coincided with the **10th anniversary of the SAGAR initiative** and **National Maritime Day**.

- This mission underscores India's commitment to regional maritime security, peace, and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

### Significance of IOS SAGAR

- Objective:** To reinforce India's commitment to peace, prosperity, and security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Regional Cooperation:** 44 naval personnel from nine friendly nations - Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania - will be onboard, strengthening bilateral ties.
- Mission Role:** IOS SAGAR aims to boost collective security and maritime excellence, focusing on fostering interoperability among regional maritime forces.

During its deployment, INS Sunayna will visit the following ports:

Port Visits	Countries
Dar-es-Salaam	Tanzania
Nacula	Mozambique
Port Louis	Mauritius
Port Victoria	Seychelles

### INS Sunayana

Feature	Details
Class	Saryu-class Offshore Patrol Vessel
Shipyard	Designed and constructed indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited
Commissioned	15th October 2013
Base	Southern Naval Command
Primary Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fleet support operations</li> <li>Coastal and offshore patrolling</li> <li>Ocean surveillance</li> <li>Monitoring sea lines of communication and offshore assets</li> <li>Escort duties</li> </ul>
Propulsion	Two diesel engines achieving speeds in excess of 25 knots
Power Management	Automatic power management system
Navigation & Communication	Fitted with the latest navigation, communication, and electronic support systems

Armament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One 76 mm gun with electro-optic fire control system</li> <li>Close-in Weapon Systems (CIWS)</li> <li>CHAFF launchers</li> </ul>
Helicopter	Capable of carrying a helicopter

## BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE INDRA-2025

### Context

- The 14th edition of the bilateral Naval Exercise INDRA 2025 between the Indian Navy and the Russian Navy was conducted from **28th March to 2nd April 2025**.
- This exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability and strengthening maritime security between the two nations.

### Key Highlights

Aspect	Details
Exercise Duration	28th March to 2nd April 2025
Edition	14th edition
Participating Navies	Indian Navy, Russian Navy
Objective	Enhance interoperability in countering common maritime threats
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex coordinated manoeuvres</li> <li>Simulated engagements</li> <li>Drills for enhancing joint maritime operations</li> </ul>
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced jointmanship</li> <li>Reinforced commitment to maritime order</li> <li>Strengthened capacity to address maritime security challenges</li> </ul>

## LAUNCHING OF FIFTH 25T BOLLARD PULL TUG OJAS (YARD 339)



## Context

- The fifth 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug 'Ojas' was launched on 31 March 2025 at M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRS), Kolkata, in presence of Cmde Sanjay Kumar, President SSB, Kolkata.

## Key Highlights

- The tug is part of a contract for six 25T BP Tugs signed with TRS on 12 November 2021.
- These tugs are indigenously designed and built as per Naval Rules and Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) regulations.
- The first four tugs have already been delivered and are used by the Indian Navy for berthing, un-berthing, and manoeuvring of naval ships and submarines in confined waters.
- The tugs also support afloat firefighting and have limited Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities.
- The project promotes the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.

## INDIAN AIR FORCE PARTICIPATES IN MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE DESERT FLAG-10 IN UAE



## Context

- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent arrived at Al Dhafra Air Base, UAE.

## Key Highlights

- IAF is there to participate in Exercise Desert Flag-10, a premier multinational air combat exercise.
- The IAF is participating with MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft.
- The exercise is being hosted by the UAE Air Force from 21 April to 08 May 2025.
- Air forces from Australia, Bahrain, France, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, UAE, UK, and USA are also participating.
- The exercise aims to conduct complex fighter engagements and promote the exchange of operational knowledge and best practices.

- It enhances mutual understanding, interoperability, and defence cooperation among participating nations.
- The IAF's involvement highlights India's commitment to strengthening defence ties with friendly countries.

## INDIA - UZBEKISTAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE DUSTLIK-VI COMMENCES AT FOREIGN TRAINING NODE, AUNDH



## Context

- The 6th edition of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise, DUSTLIK-VI, commenced on 16 April 2025 at the Foreign Training Node, Aundh (Pune).

## Key Highlights

- The bilateral exercise is part of ongoing military cooperation between India and Uzbekistan, aimed at enhancing counter-terrorism capabilities and interoperability in semi-urban and sub-conventional scenarios.

Parameter	Details
Edition	6th
Exercise Name	DUSTLIK-VI
Duration	16th April to 28th April 2025
Venue	Foreign Training Node, Aundh, Pune
Indian Contingent	60 personnel from JAT Regiment and Indian Air Force
Uzbek Contingent	Personnel from the Uzbekistan Army
Previous Edition	DUSTLIK-V held in Termez District, Uzbekistan in April 2024
Frequency	Annual (conducted alternately in India and Uzbekistan)
Theme	Joint Multi-Domain Sub-Conventional Operations in Semi-Urban Scenario

## STORMBREAKER MISSILE



## Context

- US fighter jets are reportedly deploying the advanced "StormBreaker" precision glide bombs in combat missions.

## Key Highlights

- The StormBreaker, designated as GBU-53/B and also known as the Small Diameter Bomb II (SDB-II), is a U.S. air-launched precision glide bomb developed by Raytheon.
- It is designed for all-weather precision strikes against both stationary and moving targets.
- The bomb weighs 93 kg, has a length of 1.76 meters, and a diameter between 15 and 18 cm.
- It features a multi-mode guidance system that includes millimeter-wave radar, uncooled infrared imaging, and a digital semi-active laser seeker.
- Its GPS/INS navigation system allows for real-time in-flight target updates, improving flexibility during missions.
- The bomb is equipped with TacNet Data Link (DL) technology, enabling communication between weapons for coordinated targeting.
- It supports Automatic Target Recognition (ATR), allowing it to detect and engage tracked or wheeled vehicles.
- The warhead has multi-effects, combining blast, fragmentation, and shaped charge capabilities to maximize lethality.
- StormBreaker can strike moving targets at a range of 45 miles (72 km) and stationary targets at up to 69 miles (111 km).

- Despite its small size, it delivers decisive battlefield effects and has been used by U.S. fighter jets in combat operations against Houthi rebels in Yemen.

## EXERCISE BALIKATAN 2025



## Context

- 17,000 personnel are participating in the 2025 edition of the Balikatan exercise.
- "Balikatan" is a Tagalog term meaning "shoulder-to-shoulder", symbolizing the US-Philippines military alliance.

## Key Highlights

- It is the largest bilateral exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the United States.
- The exercise is held annually to boost military interoperability and operational readiness under the Mutual Defense Treaty.
- The 2025 edition marks the 40th iteration of this joint exercise.
- Balikatan 2025 will include a Full Battle Test, integrating real-world forces and events into virtual and constructive combat simulations.
- The exercise spans all domains: air, land, sea, space, and cyber, focusing on the defense of Philippine sovereignty.
- It includes four major components:
  - Combined Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (CJLOTS) operation
  - Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA)
  - Command-and-Control Exercise (C2X)
  - Multilateral Maritime Exercise (MME)

## Art and Culture

### JAYA SRI MAHA BODHI



#### Context

During his recent trip to Sri Lanka, PM Narendra Modi visited the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi tree at Anuradhapura.

- The Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi Tree is a Bo tree (*Ficus religiosa*, known as Pipal in Hindi) believed to have grown from a branch of the original Bodhgaya tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment.

#### About the Mahabodhi Tree in Bodhgaya

- The present tree is which was earlier destroyed several times by man-made misery and natural calamities. The original Bodhgaya tree was destroyed, possibly by Ashoka's wife Tishyarakshita

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION IN DWARAKA

#### Context

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is conducting a new study at Dwarka and Beyt Dwarka in Gujarat.

The study includes both onshore and offshore explorations.

#### Objective

- To search, document, and study submerged archaeological remains.
- To ascertain the age of recovered objects using scientific analysis of: Sediments, Archaeological remains and Marine deposits.

#### About Dwarka

- Meaning:** Dwarka literally means the "gateway to heaven" in Sanskrit, is derived from the famous Dwarkadhish Temple
- Location:** Dwarka town is located on the western shore of the Okhamandal Peninsula in the Indian state of Gujarat.
- River:** The city is placed on the right bank of the Gomti river at the mouth of the Gulf of Kutch facing the Arabian Sea.

### GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF BHAGAVAD GITA AND NATYASHASTRA

#### Context

Recently Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra have been inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

#### About Bhagavad Gita

- Introduction:** The Bhagavad Gita is a revered philosophical and spiritual scripture rooted in ancient Indian tradition.
- Origin:** The Gita is found in the Bhīṣmaparva of the Mahabharata (chapters 23–40), containing 700 verses across 18 chapters.

#### About Natyashastra

- The Natyashastra, authored by Bharat Muni, is the foundational treatise on Indian performing arts.
- It is known as the Nātyaveda, or the science of drama and performance.
- Origin:** The text was likely codified around the 2nd century B.C. and is preserved at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.

### KOKBOROK LANGUAGE

#### Context

The Kokborok Sahitya Parishad, a tribal literary body in Tripura demanded for the inclusion of the Kokborok language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

#### About Kokborok Language

- Etymology:** The term "Kokborok" is derived from:
  - Kok = verbal
  - Borok = people/human

- Speakers:** It is the most widely spoken tribal language in Tripura, predominantly spoken by the Borok people, also known as Tripuris.

- Linguistic Classification:** Belongs to the Tibeto-Burman language family. Functions as the lingua franca among multiple tribal communities: Debarma (Tripuri), Reang, Jamatia, Noatia, Kalai, Rupini, Murasing, Uchoi.
- State Language:** It is recognised as one of the State languages of Tripura

#### Repatriation of Raghuji Bhosale I's Sword

- Event:** The Maharashtra government successfully reclaimed the historic sword of Raghuji Bhosale I from a Sotheby's auction in London.

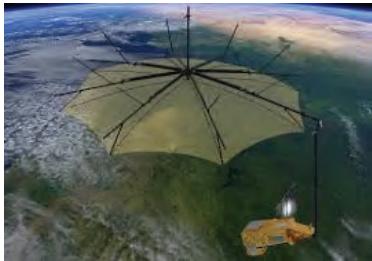
- Significance:** This marks the first instance of Maharashtra retrieving a historical artifact from an international auction, underscoring efforts to preserve India's cultural heritage.

#### Tripura's Jatra Utsav

- Festival:** Tripura organized the Jatra Utsav to celebrate and preserve its traditional art forms and cultural heritage.
- Cultural Significance:** The festival featured performances and exhibitions, aiming to revitalize interest in regional arts and crafts.

## Environment and Geography

### ESA'S BIOMASS MISSION



#### Context

The European Space Agency (ESA) is set to launch the Biomass mission to map and monitor global forests.

#### About Biomass Mission

- **A Launch Site:** Europe's spaceport in French Guiana
- **A Orbit Type:** Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO).
- Sun-synchronous orbit ensures that the satellite passes over the same part of the Earth at roughly the same local solar time, providing consistent lighting for observations.
- **A Altitude:** Around 666 km above Earth.

#### Objective of the Biomass Mission

- A Map and monitor the state of global forests.
- A Fill the gap in data on above-ground biomass and forest height at large geographical scales.
- A Improve understanding of forests' role in the global carbon cycle.
- A Quantify how carbon storage is changing with ongoing deforestation.
- A Generate 3D images of forests from canopy to roots.

### SUPREME COURT DIRECTS CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE (CEC) TO SURVEY AGASTHYAMALAI LANDSCAPE

**Context:** The Supreme Court has directed the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to conduct an extensive survey of the entire tropical forest ecosystems of the

Agasthyamalai landscape to identify non-forestry activities and encroachments.

#### About Agasthyamalai Landscape

The Agasthyamalai landscape is recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a 3,500-km biosphere reserve falling within both Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

**Sanctuaries in the Reserve:** The reserve includes three wildlife sanctuaries, Shendurney, Peppara and Nayar, as well as the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger reserve.

### BAKU TO BELEM ROADMAP



#### Context

India strongly pushed for teamwork among BRICS nations to tackle climate change and meet the 2030 Climate Agenda during the 11th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Brasilia, Brazil.

#### What is 'Baku to Belem Roadmap'?

- The Roadmap is an ambitious climate finance framework initiated between COP29 (held in Baku, Azerbaijan) and COP30 (scheduled in Belém, Brazil).
- Its main goal is to raise USD 1.3 trillion every year by 2035 to support Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). (The money will help developing countries take action on climate change.
- It is expected to be finalized at COP30 (Belem, Brazil, November 2025).

- **Organisations Involved:** UNFCCC COP Presidencies (Azerbaijan and Brazil).
- It ensures that poorer countries are not left behind while moving toward sustainability.

### GLOBAL CARBON PRICING AGREEMENT FOR SHIPPING INDUSTRY

#### Context

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), a UN agency, finalized the world's first global carbon pricing agreement for the shipping industry.

#### Key Features of the New IMO Framework

- **Goal:** Achieve net-zero emissions from international shipping by 2050, aligning with the 2023 Revised IMO Strategy.
- **Implementation Timeline:** Formal approval expected in October 2025.
- Enters into force March 2027.
- Compliance starts 2028 for ships over 5,000 gross tonnage.
- **Revenue Generation:** Expected to raise \$10 billion annually by 2030.
- **Criticism:** Experts and Pacific Island nations argue the agreement falls short of a 1.5°C pathway, likely achieving only 8% emissions cut by 2030 versus the 20-30% needed.
- The U.S. pulled out of negotiations and reportedly threatened retaliation against any country taxing U.S. ships.

### PINK MOON 2025



#### Context

The Pink Moon of 2025 was visible on April 12. Despite its name, the Pink Moon does not appear pink; it bears a soft white or golden hue.

#### About the Pink Moon

- The Pink Moon is the name for April's full moon, which is also a Micromoon.

#### Micro Moon

- A micro Moon occurs when the full moon is at its farthest point (apogee) from Earth, appearing slightly smaller and dimmer.

For example:

- **Pink Moon:** April full moon, named after blooming moss pink flowers.
- **Cold Moon:** December full moon, symbolizing winter's cold.
- **Flower Moon:** May full moon, associated with colorful spring blossoms.

### NEW HOMES FOR ONE HORNED RHINO



#### Context

The Wildlife Institute of India has prepared an action plan to enhance efforts in protecting the one-horned rhinoceros by setting up new conservation centers across various states.

#### About the One-Horned Rhino

- The one-horned rhinoceros, also known as the Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), is a large herbivorous mammal native to the Indian subcontinent.
- Once widespread across the Indo-Gangetic plains, their numbers drastically declined due to poaching, habitat loss, and human encroachment.
- Today there are around 4,000 one horned rhinos currently surviving in the wild, found only in India and Nepal.
- Primary Habitat: Floodplain grasslands, swamps, and forests in the Terai region.
- Conservation Status: Listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.

#### Donor Sites

- **Kaziranga National Park:** Kaziranga National Park in Assam, has been identified as the primary donor site for translocation.
- **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam:** Pobitora, with 107 rhinos in just 16 sq km, has the highest rhino density globally.
- **Jaldapara and Gorumara, West Bengal:** These parks will receive rhinos from Assam and also serve as donor sites themselves.

## New Conservation Centers

- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (Assam): Targeted to reintroduce five rhinos over 13 years.
- D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary (Arunachal Pradesh): Proposed for five rhinos in the same time frame.
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve (Bihar): Prepared to receive relocated rhinos.
- Uttar Pradesh Sites: Dudhwa National Park, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, and Katerniaghatah Wildlife Sanctuary are listed for potential rhino reintroduction.
- Surai Range (Uttarakhand): Identified as a future rhino habitat

## NILGIRI TAHR

Kerala and Tamil Nadu will conduct a synchronised census of the Nilgiri Tahr from April 24 to 27, 2025.



### About the Nilgiri Tahr

- Nilgiri Tahr is the sole Caprinae species found in the tropical mountains of southern India.
- It is also the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
- The adult males of Nilgiri Tahr species develop a light grey area or "saddle" on their backs and are called "Saddlebacks".

### Hadean Protocrust

- Researchers from Macquarie University in Australia challenged earlier beliefs about plate tectonics.
- They found chemical signatures thought to be caused by plate movements existed even in the Hadean protocrust, before subduction began.

### What is the Hadean Protocrust?

- The Hadean protocrust refers to the Earth's very first crust layer.
- Term meaning: "Hadean" reflects the hellish conditions of this period—marked by extreme heat, volcanic activity, and a partially molten surface.
- It refers to the planet's first geologic aeon.
- Formation: It formed during the earliest geologic aeon called the Hadean.
- This period occurred within 200 million years of Earth's formation.

## ICIMOD REPORT ON THE HINDU KUSH HIMALAYA

### Context

Recently ICIMOD report reveals declines in snow persistence across the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)

### Key Highlights of the Report

**Sharp Decline in Snow Persistence:** Snow persistence across the HKH region is 23.6% below normal, the lowest in 23 years, indicating reduced snow retention after snowfall.

### About the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region

- Hindu Kush Himalaya Region stretches 3,500 kilometers and spans eight countries- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.
- 85% of mountain communities remain dependent on this biodiversity for food, water, flood control and cultural identity
- Water Tower of Asia: Hindu Kush Himalaya Region is the source of 12 Asian river systems and is called the 'Water tower of Asia'.

## GANDHI SAGAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

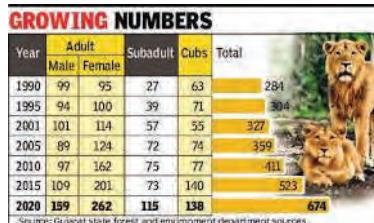
### Context

Recently, two cheetahs, Prabhas and Pawak, were released into the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.

### About Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

- Location:** The sanctuary is located in the districts of Mandsaur and Neemuch in western Madhya Pradesh, bordering Rajasthan. It is atop a flat rocky Malwa plateau.
- Establishment:** Notified as sanctuary in 1974.
- River:** Chambal flows through, dividing it into two parts.
- Ecosystem:** The sanctuary's savanna ecosystem comprises open grasslands interspersed with dry deciduous trees and shrubs due to the rocky terrain and shallow topsoil.
- Riverine valleys are evergreen.

## ASIATIC LION CENSUS



### Context

The 16th Asiatic Lions Census will be conducted from May 10 to 13th by the Gujarat Forest Department

### About the Census

- Origin:** The first ever lion census was conducted by the Nawab of Junagadh in 1936.
- Area:** The census will cover spread across 11 districts of Saurashtra region ie. Junagadh, Gir-Somnath, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Morbi, Surendranagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Jamnagar, Amreli, Porbandar and Botad.
- Estimation Method:** The estimation will be done using the Direct Beat Verification method

### About Asiatic Lions

- The Asiatic lion is a lion population of the subspecies *Panthera leo leo*. IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- Habitat: They are found in forest, savanna, shrubland, grassland, and desert.
- Their range is limited to the Gir Forest National Park in India

## ENDANGERED VULTURES GET NEW CENTRE IN MAHARASHTRA



### Context

On Earth Day 2025, 34 critically endangered vultures, 20 long-billed and 14 white-rumped vultures were transferred

from Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre (JCBC), Pinjore to Maharashtra for wild reintroduction.

### About Long-Billed Vultures (*Gyps indicus*)

- It is a large scavenger bird native to the Indian subcontinent, primarily found in cliffs and rocky outcrops in central and peninsular India.
- Ecological Role:** These vultures play a vital ecological role by feeding on animal carcasses, thus preventing the spread of diseases.
- Threats:** They have suffered massive population declines due to the veterinary use of the drug diclofenac, which is toxic to them when ingested via cattle carcasses.
- Conservation Status:** Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

## SCARBOROUGH SHOAL

### Context

China accused a Philippine frigate of illegally entering Scarborough Shoal, claiming sovereignty violations and urging the Philippines to cease further provocations.

### About Scarborough Shoal

Scarborough Shoal is a coral atoll in the eastern South China Sea, around 220 km west of Luzon, Philippines.

## GUINDY NATIONAL PARK

### Context

A neglected grassland habitat within the Guindy National Park, known as the Polo Ground, is now set for restoration to support the blackbuck population.

### About the Guindy National Park

- Location & Size:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Biodiversity:** it is home to blackbucks, spotted deer, jackals, pangolins, and over 130 bird species. It also acts as a green lung for Chennai, preserving urban wildlife.

# Economy

## LIMITS ON VALIDITY OF FOREIGN FUNDS



### Context

- Foreign contributions received via the FCRA prior permission route will now have a utilization window of 4 years from the date of MHA approval.
- The validity for receiving funds is now 3 years from the date of approval.

### Retroactive Application

- For previously approved applications, the 4-year utilization limit applies from the date of the new MHA order, even if the earlier approval exceeded 3 years.
- Legal Implication:** Non-compliance with the new time limits will be treated as a violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, and will attract penal action.

### FCRA Prior Permission – Key Conditions

- Eligibility:**
  - Applies to entities not permanently registered under FCRA.
  - Must obtain prior permission for each specific project, source, and amount of foreign contribution.

### Legal Registration Requirement

- Entity must be registered under one of the following:
  - Societies Registration Act, 1860
  - Indian Trusts Act, 1882
  - Companies Act, 2013
- Banking Norms:** All foreign contributions must be received in a designated SBI branch in New Delhi, as mandated by the MHA.

### Governance Restrictions:

- The Chief Functionary of the Indian recipient must not be associated with the foreign donor.
- At least 75% of the governing body members should be unrelated to the foreign donor or their family.

### “BLUE CATEGORY” FOR INDUSTRIES

#### Context

New Blue Category introduced by CPCB to promote essential environmental service sectors by easing operational regulations and incentivizing eco-positive industries.

#### Classification Methodology: Based on Pollution Index (PI)

- Developed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- Pollution Index (PI) considers emissions to air, water, and hazardous waste output.
- Industries are classified as:

<b>Red:</b>	• PI > 80 High pollution potential.
<b>Orange:</b>	• 55 ≤ PI < 80 Moderate pollution potential.
<b>Green:</b>	• PI < 25 Low pollution potential.
<b>Blue</b>	• For essential environmental services, regardless of PI.

### What Falls Under Blue Category?

- Waste-to-Energy Plants:** Even with a high PI of 97.6, they are included due to their crucial role in sustainable waste management.
- Landfill Maintenance:** Essential to manage solid waste and avoid contamination.
- Biomining Activities:** Helps recover land and resources from old waste dumps.
- Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plants:** Eligible based on their feedstock, e.g., organic waste, which is eco-friendly.

### Incentives for Blue Category Industries

- Consent to Operate (CTO) is granted with a two-year extension.
- Reduces bureaucratic burden and encourages compliance and innovation in environmental management.

### HOUSEHOLD DEBT IN INDIA INCREASED FROM 36.6% OF GDP (JUNE 2021) TO 42.9% (JUNE 2024)

- Increase in household debt reflects a macroeconomic shift, prompting analysis of key debt metrics like Debt-to-GDP ratio, public debt, and internal vs external debt. **Debt-to-GDP Ratio.**
- Definition:** Measures the total debt of a country as a percentage of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Significance:** Indicates a country's debt repayment capacity.
  - A high ratio can signal fiscal stress.
  - A moderate ratio is sustainable if economic growth is strong.
- India's Data:**
  - 57.1% (2024–25) – Central Government estimate.
  - 56.1% (2025–26) – Projected.
  - Target: Reduce to **50 ± 1%** by 2030–31.
- State Contribution:**
  - States hold ~1/3rd of total public debt.
  - Accounted for over 50% of the rise in public debt from 2014–15 to 2019–20.

### Public Debt

- Definition:** Total government liabilities used to fund fiscal and development needs.
- Repayment:** From the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Constitutional Basis:** Under Article 292, the Union government contracts debt within limits set by Parliament.
- Classification:**
  - Debt under the Consolidated Fund of India:** Includes market borrowings like G-Secs and T-Bills.

- Public Account Liabilities:** Includes provident funds, small savings, etc.

### PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2024

#### Context

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2024, offering valuable insights into the changing dynamics of India's labour market across both rural and urban areas.

#### Based on Current Weekly Status (CWS)

- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**
  - Urban Male LFPR increased from 74.3% to 75.6%.
  - Urban Female LFPR rose slightly from 25.5% to 25.8%.
  - Overall Urban LFPR increased to 51.0%.
  - All-India LFPR remained stable at 56.2%.
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR)**
  - Urban WPR increased from 47.0% to 47.6%.
  - All-India WPR was nearly unchanged at 53.5%.
- Unemployment Rate (UR)**
  - Rural UR declined slightly to 4.2%.
  - Urban Male UR increased.
  - Urban Female UR decreased.
  - Overall Urban UR remained at 6.7%.
  - All-India UR fell slightly from 5.0% to 4.9%.

#### Based on Principal and Subsidiary Status (PS+SS)

- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Slight decrease at national level from 59.8% to 59.6%.
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** Declined marginally from 58.0% to 57.7%, indicating a minor drop in employment.
- Unemployment Rate (UR):**
  - All-India UR increased slightly from 3.1% to 3.2%.
  - Sector-specific trends varied, showing mixed employment patterns.

LFPR, WPR and UR (in per cent) in usual status (ps+ss) from PLFS conducted during January 2023 - December 2023 and January 2024 - December 2024 for persons of age 15 years and above

Indicator	Rural			Urban			Rural + Urban		
	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
January 2023 - December 2023									
LFPR	79.8	47.3	63.4	74.9	27.2	51.4	78.3	41.3	59.8
WPR	77.7	46.4	61.9	71.6	25.2	48.8	75.8	40.1	58.0
UR	2.7	1.9	2.4	4.4	7.5	5.2	3.2	3.0	3.1

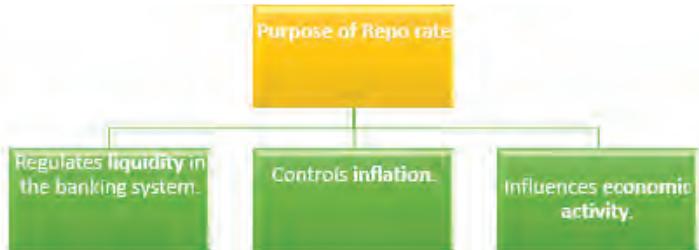
# 5

## Schemes in News

January 2024 - December 2024									
LFPR	80.6	45.8	62.9	76.2	27.6	52.2	79.2	40.3	59.6
WPR	78.4	44.8	61.4	72.8	25.8	49.6	76.6	39.0	57.7
UR	2.8	2.1	2.5	4.4	6.7	5.0	3.3	3.1	3.2

### REPO RATE

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the **repo rate** by 25 basis points, bringing it down to 6%.
- Definition:** The repo rate is the **interest rate at which RBI lends short-term funds** to commercial banks against government securities.



- Mechanism:**
  - Lower repo rate** encourages banks to borrow more, increasing money supply.
  - Higher repo rate** discourages borrowing, reducing liquidity.
- Impact of RBI Repo Rate Cut**
  - Lower Borrowing Costs:**
    - Commercial banks pay less to borrow from RBI.
    - Banks pass on this benefit by **offering lower loan interest rates** to customers.
  - Fixed Deposit (FD) Interest Rates:**
    - Banks typically **reduce FD rates** after a repo rate cut.
- New FDs yield **lower returns**.
  - Existing FDs remain unaffected until maturity.
- Enhanced Credit Flow:**
  - Cheaper loans encourage **businesses and consumers** to borrow more.
  - Leads to **higher investment and consumption**.
- Boost to Real Estate & Infrastructure:**
  - Affordable financing may lead to **increased demand in real estate and infrastructure sectors**.
- Support Amid Global Challenges:**
  - The rate cut is part of an **accommodative stance** to protect India's economy from external shocks (e.g. U.S. tariffs impacting exports).

### 10 YEARS OF THE PRADHAN MANTRI MUDRA YOJANA (PMMY)

#### Context

India marks 10 years of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) on 8 April 2025.

#### About Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)

- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a flagship Central Sector Scheme aimed at funding the Unfunded micro enterprises and small businesses.
- It was launched in 2015 to provide collateral-free micro credit to small and micro entrepreneurs across India, especially in the non-corporate and non-farm sectors.
- Nodal Agency:** Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance. A Implementation Through: PMMY is implemented through MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency).
- Eligible Borrowers:** The scheme covers a broad base of entrepreneurial entities, including: Individuals, Proprietary concerns, Partnership firms, Private and public limited companies, Other legal entities etc.
- Credit Guarantee Support:** The Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) covers defaults, encouraging financial institutions to lend more.

Loan Categories Under PMMY		
Category	Loan Limit	Purpose
Shishu	Up to ₹50,000	For startups/early-stage businesses
Kishor	₹50,000 - ₹5 lakh	For growing businesses
Tarun	₹5 lakh - ₹10 lakh	For scaling up enterprises
Tarun Plus	₹10 lakh - ₹20 lakh	For well-performing Tarun borrowers

### GREEN HYDROGEN CERTIFICATION SCHEME OF INDIA (GHCI)

- Objective:** To establish a transparent certification system for green hydrogen production, facilitating India's transition to clean energy.

#### Key Features

- Certifies hydrogen produced using renewable energy sources.
- Aims to attract investments and promote exports in the green hydrogen sector.
- Significance:** Aligns with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, targeting ₹8 lakh crore investments and 6 lakh jobs by 2030.

### NATIONAL ZERO MEASLES-RUBELLA ELIMINATION CAMPAIGN 2025-26

- Launched by:** Union Health Ministry during World Immunization Week (April 24-30).
- Aim:** Achieve 100% immunization coverage to eliminate measles and rubella by 2026.
- Implementation:** Nationwide vaccination drives targeting children, with a focus on high-risk areas.

### PM POSHAN (POSHAN SHAKTI NIRMAN) SCHEME

- Update:** The central government approved an additional ₹954 crore to cover increased food material costs.
- Objective:** Provide one hot cooked meal to students in government and government-aided schools.
- Duration:** 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education.

### NATIONAL MANUFACTURING MISSION

- Purpose:** Enhance the 'Make in India' initiative by increasing manufacturing's contribution to GDP.
- Goal:** Boost manufacturing sector's share in GDP from the current 16-17%.
- Strategy:** Focus on infrastructure development, skill enhancement, and policy reforms.

### PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA - GRAMIN (PMAY-G) UPDATES

- New Survey:** Awas+ 2024 Mobile App launched to identify additional eligible rural households.

# 6

## Index and Reports

- **Financial Assistance:** Increased to ₹1,20,000 for flat land and ₹1,30,000 for hilly areas.
- **Extension:** Scheme extended until 2029, aiming to construct 2 crore additional houses.

### 'UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME (UPS)

- **Approval:** Cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs.
- **Implementation Date:** April 1, 2025.

- **Features:**
  - ◆ Guarantees 50% of the last drawn base salary as pension.
  - ◆ Applicable to federal government employees with a minimum of 25 years of service.
- **Financial Implication:** Estimated cost of ₹6,250 crore for FY 2024-25.

### TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION REPORT 2025



#### Context

- In the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD's) 2025 Technology and Innovation Report, India is ranked 36th out of 170 countries in the Readiness for Frontier Technologies Index.
- This represents an improvement from its previous ranking of 48th in 2022.
- The report also highlights India's position as the 10th largest global investor in AI, with \$1.4 billion in private investment in 2023.
- **Performance Across Indicators:** India ranked 3rd in R&D, 10th in industrial capacity, but lagged in ICT deployment (99th), skills (113th), and access to finance (70th).
- **Advancement in Human Capital:** India, along with Bhutan, Morocco, Moldova, and Timor-Leste, improved its human capital position due to increased years of schooling and more high-skill employment.

### FIRST PANCHAYAT ADVANCEMENT INDEX (PAI) REPORT RELEASED

#### Context

Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has unveiled the first-ever Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) baseline report for FY 2022-23.

#### Purpose

- Assesses performance of 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs)

- Promotes data-driven, competitive, and inclusive rural governance
- Aligned with Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)



#### Performance Classification

- Front Runners: 699 (0.3%)
- Performers: 77,298 (35.8%)
- Aspirants: 1,32,392 (61.2%)
- Beginners: 5,896 (2.7%)
- Achievers: 0

#### Top Performing States (Front Runners)

- Gujarat: 346
- Telangana: 270
- Followed by: Maharashtra, MP, UP

#### Major Aspirant States

- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh

#### Assessment Framework

- Based on 9 LSDG Themes and 435 indicators from MoSPI's National Indicator Framework (NIF)

#### The 9 LSDG Themes

- Poverty-free and enhanced livelihoods
- Healthy Panchayat
- Child-friendly Panchayat
- Water-sufficient Panchayat
- Clean and green Panchayat
- Self-sufficient infrastructure
- Socially secured Panchayat

- Good governance
- Women-friendly Panchayat

#### Data Collection

- Through multilingual online PAI Portal: [www.pai.gov.in](http://www.pai.gov.in)

#### INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST DIGITAL THREAT REPORT 2024



#### Context

- India launched its first Digital Threat Report 2024 to strengthen cybersecurity in the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector.
- The report, a collaborative effort between MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) and global cybersecurity firm SISA, highlights evolving cyber risks and provides strategic measures to protect the nation's financial infrastructure.

#### Key Issues

- **Surge in Cyberattacks:** The report highlights a surge in cyberattacks in the BFSI sector, including a rise in data breach costs.
- **Emerging Threats:** It anticipates future attacks, including AI-driven threats, supply chain attacks, and LLM prompt hacking.
- **AI's Role:** The report acknowledges the increasing impact of AI in cyberattacks and the need for strategic cybersecurity management.

#### "WOMEN AND MEN IN INDIA 2024" REPORT RELEASED BY MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (MoSPI)

#### Context

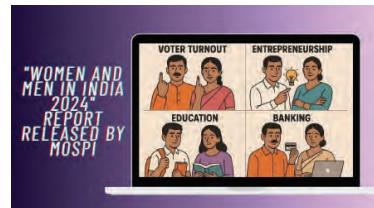
The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the 26th edition of its publication, "Women and Men in India 2024 Report: Selected Indicators and Data".

Some of the highlights of the publication are as follows:

##### 1. Education: Gender Parity Index (GPI):

- Primary: 1.03 | Upper Primary: 1.02 | Higher Secondary: 1.02

- Indicates higher female enrolment than males at all levels.



##### 2. Labour Force Participation: Female LFPR (15+ years):

- Rose from 49.8% (2017-18) to 60.1% (2023-24)
- Signifies growing women's workforce participation.

##### 3. Financial Inclusion: Women hold:

- 39.2% of bank accounts, 39.7% of deposits
- Rural women: 42.2% of bank accounts
- Shows increased economic autonomy, especially in rural areas.

##### 4. Stock Market: Female DEMAT Accounts:

- Jumped 4.2x from 6.67M (2021) to 27.71M (2024)
- Reflects rising financial literacy and investment interest.

##### 5. Entrepreneurship:

- Rise in female-led businesses in manufacturing, trade, services
- Indicates expanding women's role in enterprise.

##### 6. Political Participation:

- Female Voter Turnout (2024): 65.8% vs Male: 65.5%
- Shows parity in democratic engagement.

##### 7. Startups: Women-led Startups:

- From 1,943 (2017) to 17,405 (2024) → 800%+ growth
- Success of gender-inclusive startup policies.

##### 8. Health Trends:

- Total Fertility Rate: 2.0 (2023)
- Female Life Expectancy: 71.3 years
- Indicates better health outcomes and longer lifespan for women.

#### NITI AAYOG LAUNCHED UNLOCKING \$25+ BILLION EXPORT POTENTIAL REPORT

#### Context

- National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)'s new report highlights India's potential to become a global leader in the hand and power tools industry.



- With the global market projected to grow from \$100B to \$190B by 2035, India aims to boost exports to \$25B in the next 10 years and generate 35 lakh jobs, strengthening its manufacturing ecosystem.

#### Key Focus Areas

- India's Current Share:
  - Hand Tools: \$600M (1.8%)
  - Power Tools: \$470M (0.7%)

- Export Goal:
  - 25% share in hand tools
  - 10% share in power tools

#### Challenges Identified

- 14-17% cost disadvantage vs. China
- High raw material & logistics costs
- Labour & regulatory bottlenecks

#### Strategic Interventions

1. Develop 3-4 world-class tool clusters (PPP model)
2. Reform QCOs, duties, EPCG, labour laws
3. Provide bridge cost support (₹8,000 crore if needed)

**Vision:** Position India as a global manufacturing hub, aligning with *Make in India* and *Viksit Bharat* @2047 goals.

## International Affairs

### INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE (IBCA)

#### Context

Recently, India and IBCA signed an agreement officially establishing India as the alliance's headquarters and secretariat.

#### Launched by

- India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2023.

#### Headquarters

- New Delhi, India

#### Objective

To protect and conserve the seven major big cat species through collaboration among range countries and global stakeholders.

#### Seven Big Cats Covered:

- Tiger
- Lion
- Leopard
- Snow Leopard
- Jaguar
- Cheetah
- Puma

#### Key Features

- Membership:** Open to over 97 "range countries" (countries where these big cats are found).
- Focus Areas:**
  - Conservation and protection of habitats.
  - Combatting illegal wildlife trade and poaching.
  - Sharing of best practices, research, and training.
  - Strengthening wildlife corridors and protected areas.
- Inspired by:** India's success in tiger conservation through Project Tiger, which began in 1973.

#### Funding

- India has committed ₹100 crore (~\$12 million) to fund the Alliance for the first five years.
- Future contributions expected from member countries, NGOs, and international conservation bodies.

#### Governance Structure

- IBCA is expected to have a Council, Secretariat, and working groups.
- It will operate through scientific collaboration, capacity building, and joint initiatives.

### MAURITIUS CPF WITH ISA

Mauritius has become the first African country to sign a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

#### About the Country Partnership Framework (CPF)

- The CPF is a strategic initiative developed by ISA to facilitate long- and medium term cooperation with its member countries.
- It aims to accelerate clean energy transitions by implementing joint solar energy projects tailored to each country's needs.
- Mauritius is also the fourth country globally, after Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba, to sign the CPF.

### MARK CARNEY ELECTED AS PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

- Background:** Mark Carney, a former Governor of the Bank of England and Bank of Canada, was elected as Canada's Prime Minister in April 2025.
- Significance:**
  - His election marks a shift in Canada's political landscape.
  - Carney aims to address economic challenges and manage tensions with the United States under President Donald Trump.

### GLOBAL WIND ENERGY REPORT 2025

#### Findings

- The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) reported a record addition of 117 GW of wind energy capacity in 2024, bringing the total to 1,136 GW.
- The report highlighted challenges such as supply chain disruptions and the need for policy reforms to sustain growth.

### Special 301 Report by the United States

- Overview:** The U.S. Trade Representative released the Special 301 Report, identifying countries with inadequate protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs).

## MOU and Agreements

### SWIGGY SIGNS MOU WITH MINISTRY OF LABOUR



#### Context

- On April 15, 2025, the Ministry of Labour & Employment signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Swiggy**, one of India's leading platform-based employers, to enhance gig and logistics employment opportunities via the **National Career Service (NCS) portal**.
- The MoU was formalized reflecting a significant public-private partnership to boost formal employment linkages in the gig economy.

#### Salient Features of the MoU

- Integration with NCS Portal:** Swiggy will integrate its gig opportunities—including delivery, logistics, and support roles—onto the NCS portal using API-based systems. This will ensure real-time job postings, seamless application tracking, and enhanced visibility of verified gig jobs for job seekers.
- Job Creation Target:** The collaboration aims to create over 1.2 million (12 lakh) job opportunities in the gig and logistics sectors over the next 2–3 years.
- Focus on Inclusion:** The partnership emphasizes inclusive hiring, particularly promoting employment for youth, women, and those seeking flexible or non-traditional work arrangements.
- Structured Onboarding and Welfare:** The MoU supports structured onboarding, digital empowerment, and increased awareness of government worker welfare schemes for gig workers.

- Public-Private Model:** This agreement is part of a broader government strategy to collaborate with private sector employers and gig platforms, aiming to bridge the gap between job seekers and private sector employment through holistic, public-private coordination.

### NIELIT SIGNS MOUS WITH 8 ORGANISATIONS TO PROPEL DIGITAL INDIA MISSION



#### Context

- On April 25, 2025, the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with eight leading organizations to advance the Digital India mission.

- The eight organizations with whom NIELIT signed the MoUs are:
  - Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL)
  - ERNET India
  - National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)
  - Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
  - SKYROOT Aerospace
  - Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR)
  - Kyndryl India
  - Heartfulness Institute

#### Objectives and Areas of Collaboration

- These strategic partnerships are designed to:
- Enhance education, skilling, research, and innovation in Electronics, Information Technology, and emerging technologies.

- Facilitate joint research projects, curriculum development, capacity building, and training programs.
- Support the development and adoption of emerging technologies and foster innovation ecosystems.

### INDIA-SRI LANKA SIGN HISTORIC DEFENSE PACTS



#### Context

- India and Sri Lanka have entered a new era of strategic partnership by signing their **first-ever formal defense cooperation pact** during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Colombo in April 2025.
- This landmark agreement, described as "historic" by both governments, marks a significant evolution in bilateral relations, coming nearly four decades after the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka Accord and the controversial Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) deployment.

#### Key Features of the Defense Pact

- First Formal Framework:** The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides a structured, five-year umbrella framework for bilateral defense cooperation, institutionalizing and expanding existing initiatives.
- Joint Military Activities:** The pact covers high-level military exchanges, joint exercises, training programs, and capacity building, with a focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.
- Naval and Security Cooperation:** Increased naval port calls and maritime security collaborations are central, reflecting shared interests in safeguarding sea lanes and countering nontraditional threats such as terrorism, piracy, and trafficking.
- Defense Industry Collaboration:** The agreement opens avenues for exploratory discussions on defense industry cooperation, including technology sharing and potential joint ventures.
- Mutual Security Assurances:** Both nations reaffirmed that their security is interconnected. Sri Lanka's leadership assured that its territory and surrounding waters will not be used against India's interests.

### INDIA AND RUSSIA AGREE ON 6 NEW STRATEGIC PROJECTS TO BOOST BILATERAL INVESTMENT COOPERATION



#### Context

- India and Russia have taken significant steps to deepen their bilateral investment relationship by **approving six new strategic projects** during the 8th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects (IRWG-PIP), held in New Delhi in April 2025.
- This move marks a notable advancement in economic cooperation, building on the longstanding "**Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership**" between the two countries.

#### Key Highlights of the Strategic Projects

- Six New Strategic Projects:** The newly agreed projects span sectors such as trade, technological innovation, and economic development, aiming to boost mutual investments and diversify economic engagement.
- Institutional Mechanism:** The IRWG-PIP operates under the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation, providing a structured platform for advancing priority investment projects.
- Broad-Based Participation:** The 2nd India-Russia Investment Forum, held alongside the working group session, saw participation from over 80 Indian and Russian businesses, financial institutions, and government officials, reflecting strong stakeholder interest and collaboration.

### INDIAN RAILWAYS AND DMRC SIGN MOU FOR AUTOMATIC WHEEL PROFILE MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS

#### Context

- Indian Railways and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the procurement and installation of **Automatic Wheel Profile Measurement Systems (AWPMS)**, marking a significant step toward modernizing railway maintenance and enhancing operational safety.



#### Key Features of the MoU and AWPMS

- Advanced Technology:** AWPMS is a state-of-the-art, non-contact system that uses laser scanners and high-speed cameras to automatically and accurately measure train wheel profiles in real time.
- Operational Efficiency and Safety:** The system enables rapid assessment of wheel geometry and wear.

- Scope of Implementation:** Under the agreement, DMRC will be responsible for the procurement, supply, installation, and commissioning of four AWPMS units at designated Indian Railways locations. The expected timeline for installation and commissioning is within 18 months.
- Collaborative Benefits:** This partnership promotes technology exchange and skill development between Indian Railways and DMRC, reinforcing a shared commitment to innovation, safety, and operational excellence.
- Maintenance Modernization:** By adopting AWPMS, Indian Railways aims to reduce maintenance time, enhance rolling stock management, and improve overall service reliability, supporting the broader goal of modernizing India's railway infrastructure.

9

## Polity and Governance

### PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU GIVES ASSENT TO WAQF (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2025



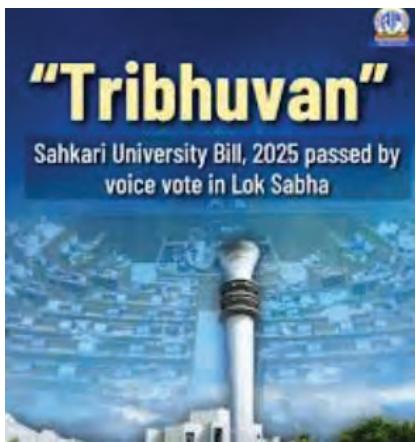
#### Context

- President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, which was passed by Parliament in April 2025.
- The Legislation was passed in the Lok Sabha on 3rd April, with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

#### Key Reforms

	Details
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reforms governance and management of <b>waqf properties</b> in India by enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency.</li> </ul>
Key Reforms Introduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renamed the 1995 Act to <b>Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act (UWMEED)</b>.</li> <li>Redefines waqf formation.</li> <li>Improves survey and registration processes.</li> <li>Strengthens <b>government oversight</b> mechanisms.</li> <li><b>Inclusivity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires at least two Muslim women on Central Waqf Council and State Boards.</li> <li>Allows non-Muslim members on Waqf Boards (controversially).</li> <li>Establishes separate boards for Bohra and Aghakhani sects.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Legal Reforms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Removes "waqf by user"</b> (properties historically used for Muslim purposes).</li> <li>Allows appeals to High Courts within 90 days against Waqf Tribunal orders.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Inclusivity Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandates <b>representation of non-Muslim members and women</b> in waqf-related boards and committees.</li> </ul>
Heritage and Welfare Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguards <b>heritage sites</b>. - Promotes <b>social welfare</b> programs. - Supports <b>economic inclusion</b> for marginalized groups (e.g., Muslim widows and divorcees).</li> </ul>
Judicial Oversight & Litigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addresses long-standing challenges like <b>litigation</b> and <b>lack of judicial oversight</b>, creating a more <b>structured and accountable</b> management framework.</li> </ul>

## THE "TRIBHUVAN" SAHKARI UNIVERSITY BILL, 2025



### Context

- The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025 establishes India's first national cooperative university, marking a significant milestone for education and training in the cooperative sector.
- The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 3, 2025, passed by the Lok Sabha on March 26, and by the Rajya Sabha on April 1, 2025. It received Presidential assent on April 3, 2025.

### Key Features and Objectives

	Key Features and Objectives
Institutional Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University to be established at IRMA, Gujarat.</li> <li>IRMA will become a school within the university, retaining identity and autonomy under the new structure.</li> </ul>
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide education, training, research, and capacity building in the cooperative sector.</li> <li>Offer degree, diploma, PhD, distance and e-learning courses.</li> <li>Develop centres of excellence and establish or affiliate campuses in India and abroad.</li> </ul>
National Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declared as an institution of national importance, supporting the vision of "Sahkar Se Samriddhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation).</li> </ul>
Governance Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headed by a Vice-Chancellor (appointed by the central government).</li> <li>Oversight by an Executive Council and Governing Board.</li> <li>Chancellor (person of eminence) to lead the Governing Board, with members from govt, NABARD, NDBB, and cooperative experts.</li> </ul>
Affiliation and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central hub for affiliating cooperative training institutes.</li> <li>Capacity to train and certify up to 800,000 people annually.</li> <li>Register cooperative training institutes as affiliated colleges in all states.</li> </ul>
Historical Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Named after Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel, founder of Amul, who pioneered India's cooperative movement and revolutionized the dairy industry.</li> </ul>
Sectoral and Economic Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foster entrepreneurship, support rural development, and promote financial inclusion.</li> <li>Research in global cooperative models, sustainable practices, and technologies like blockchain.</li> </ul>

## LOK SABHA PASSES AIRCRAFT OBJECTS AND COASTAL SHIPPING BILLS



### Context

On April 3, 2025, the Lok Sabha passed two significant pieces of legislation: the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, and the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024.

### The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025

- The Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, is designed to bring India's aircraft leasing and financing framework in line with international standards.
- This legislation represents a pivotal move in bolstering investor trust in India's fast-expanding aviation sector.
- The Bill implements the Cape Town Convention of 2001, which was created to simplify and harmonize cross-border aircraft leasing arrangements. Although India became a signatory in 2008, the lack of effective domestic enforcement led to leasing costs in India being 8–10% higher than in other markets.
- By passing this Bill, India aims to address these shortcomings, offering greater legal certainty to aircraft financiers and helping lower operational expenses for domestic airlines.

### Key Provisions of the Bill

- Grants authority to the Central Government to establish rules for implementing the Cape Town Convention and its Protocol.
- Appoints the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as the official Registry Authority for aircraft interests.
- The DGCA is responsible for the registration and de-registration of aircraft and related assets.
- Creditors are required to notify the DGCA before initiating recovery actions in cases of payment defaults.
- In the event of a default, creditors are permitted to repossess aircraft, helicopters, or engines within two months, or within a period mutually agreed upon by the parties involved.

### About Coastal Shipping Bill

- Purpose:** The Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive legal framework for coastal trade, aiming to make coastal shipping an affordable, dependable, and environmentally friendly mode of transport, in line with the objectives of the National Logistics Policy.
- Definition of Indian Coastal Waters:** Indian coastal waters are defined as the territorial waters extending up to 12 nautical miles (about 22 km) from the coastline, along with adjacent maritime zones reaching up to 200 nautical miles (approximately 370 km).
- Rationale:**
  - Legal Consolidation:** The Bill was introduced to streamline and unify the regulations governing coastal shipping in India, fostering domestic participation and supporting the growth of coastal trade.
  - Self-Reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat):** It aims to ensure India possesses a coastal fleet owned and operated by Indian citizens, serving both national security and commercial interests.
- Rising Coastal Traffic:** Coastal cargo volumes have increased by 119% over the past decade, from 74 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 162 million tonnes in 2023-24, with a target of 230 million tonnes by 2030, highlighting the need for a robust legal framework.

	Main Provisions
Vessel Regulation	Covers all types of vessels — ships, boats, sailing vessels, and mobile offshore drilling units — regardless of propulsion, operating within Indian coastal waters.
Scope of Coasting Trade	Includes movement of goods and passengers between Indian ports, services like exploration, research, and commercial activities (excluding fishing).
Licensing Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian-owned vessels no longer need a general trading license for coastal trade.</li> <li>Foreign vessels must obtain a license from the Director General of Shipping.</li> <li>Eligibility to charter foreign vessels extended to Indian citizens, NRIs, OCIAs, and LLPs.</li> </ul>
License Revocation	The Director General of Shipping can modify, suspend, or revoke licenses for legal violations or non-compliance.

Strategic Planning	National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan will be created and updated every two years for route planning and integration with inland waterways.
National Database	A centralized database will be set up to enhance transparency, coordination, and policy-making.

#### NITI NCAER STATES ECONOMIC FORUM PORTAL



#### Context

- The **NITI NCAER States Economic Forum Portal** was recently launched by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the portal is designed as a comprehensive, user-friendly digital resource on the finances and socio-economic landscape of Indian states.

	Details
Coverage	Data from 1990-91 to 2022-23 for 28 Indian states on social, economic, and fiscal parameters. Includes research papers and expert commentary.
Key Features	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>State Reports:</b> Overview of macro &amp; fiscal landscape by state, using indicators (demography, economy, socio-economic, fiscal).</li> <li><b>Data Repository:</b> Categorized database under five verticals — Demography, Economic Structure, Fiscal, Health, Education.</li> <li><b>State Fiscal and Economic Dashboard:</b> Graphs, summary tables, and raw data for visualization and analysis.</li> <li><b>Research and Commentary:</b> In-depth insights and policy analysis at state and national levels.</li> </ol>
Facilitates Understanding	Tracks long-term macro, fiscal, demographic, and socio-economic trends to aid analysis by policymakers, researchers, and the public.
Policy Relevance	Supports evidence-based policy making through historical trends and real-time analytics.
Accessibility & Benchmarking	Offers a user-friendly interface to compare states' performance across sectors and against national benchmarks.
Platform for Dialogue	Serves as a hub for informed debate and knowledge exchange on fiscal issues, enabling engagement among researchers, stakeholders, and policymakers.

#### ANTI-NEET BILL

##### TAMIL NADU'S NEET DILEMMA

<b>GUV R N RAVI'S CONTENTION</b> Bill is against the interests of students, especially the rural and economically poor students of the state	<b>GOVT RESPONDS</b> The government will make every effort to examine the views expressed by the governor and clarify the factual position and pass the bill again	The CM said there was "unshakable consensus" among the people of Tamil Nadu, political parties and social thinkers that NEET was against poor rural students and that medical admission based on NEET was against social justice
		

— M K Stalin  
CHIEF MINISTER

#### Context

President Droupadi Murmu has withheld assent to the **Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill, 2021**, which sought to exempt the state from the mandatory National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admissions to undergraduate medical courses in government colleges.

#### About the Anti-NEET Bill

- The Bill, passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in September 2021 and re-adopted in February 2022 after being returned by the Governor.
- It proposed that admissions be based solely on Class 12 marks rather than NEET scores, citing concerns that NEET disadvantages students from rural and underprivileged backgrounds.

#### President's Power over State Legislation (Articles 200 & 201)

<b>Process Involvement</b>	The Governor reviews a State Bill and may reserve it for the President's consideration.
<b>President's Options</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Assent – Bill becomes law</li> <li>Withhold Assent – Bill may be reconsidered</li> <li>Reserve for Consideration</li> </ol>
<b>Bills Needing Presidential Assent</b>	Bills that conflict with Union laws-Bills affecting national policies-Bills on Concurrent List subjects (e.g., Anti-NEET Bill, Tamil Nadu)
<b>Money Bills</b>	Do not require Presidential assent

## Summit and Conferences

### BANGLADESH TAKES OVER CHAIRMANSHIP OF BIMSTEC FOR NEXT TWO YEARS



#### Context

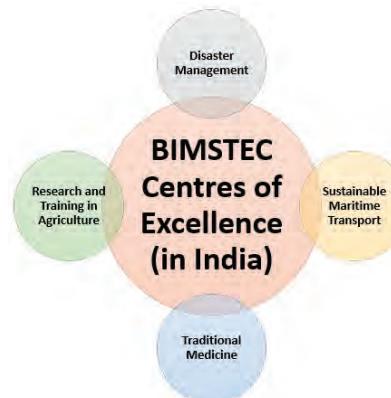
- Bangladesh assumed the Chairmanship of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
- The chairmanship will be held by **Bangladesh for the next two years**.
- Bangladesh received the Chairmanship from the Prime Minister of Thailand.
- The 6th BIMSTEC Summit was hosted by Thailand under its Chairmanship.
- Theme of the summit: "BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient, and Open".
- Focus: Enhancing regional cooperation and addressing key challenges.

#### Documents and Declarations

- Adoption of the Summit Declaration and Bangkok Vision 2030:
  - A roadmap for regional prosperity.
  - Emphasis on economic integration, resilience to global challenges, and collaboration in infrastructure and technology.

#### India's Announcements and Initiatives

##### BIMSTEC Centres of Excellence (in India)



#### Digital & Financial Initiatives

- Initiative to link India's UPI with BIMSTEC payment systems.
- Operationalization of BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru.
- Proposal for a pilot study on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to improve governance and service delivery.

#### BODHI Program

- BIMSTEC for Organized Development of Human Resource Infrastructure (BODHI).
- Focus: Skill development, training, scholarships, and capacity-building for professionals across BIMSTEC nations.

### 61ST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF NMCG



#### Context

The 61st Executive Committee (EC) Meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), chaired by Shri Rajeev Kumar Mital, Director-General NMCG, has approved several major projects aimed at the conservation and rejuvenation of the Ganga River.

#### Key Initiatives Approved

##### Sewerage Infrastructure

- Projects approved in:
  - Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh).

- Arrah (Bihar).
- Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh).
- Pujali (West Bengal).
- Objective: Stop untreated sewage from entering the Ganga and its tributaries.

#### Nature-Based Solution (Pilot Project)

- CAMUS-SBT plant to be installed in the Shahdara drain (Delhi).
- Purpose: Rejuvenation of the Yamuna River through sustainable bio-treatment technology.

#### Research & Innovation

- Launch of IND-RIVERS Collaboratory:
  - A partnership between NMCG, IIT Delhi, and the Netherlands.
  - Focus: Development of intelligent river systems and urban river solutions.

#### Cultural Heritage Conservation

- Approval for a study on traditional wooden boat-making craft.
- Coverage: Regions within the Ganga River basin.

#### Ecological Education & Awareness

- Development of DDA Biodiversity Parks.
- These will serve as Knowledge-cum-Skill Development Centres.
- Aim: Enhance river conservation education and capacity building.

## Science and Technology

### FRAM2 SPACE MISSION



#### Context

- SpaceX successfully launched the **Fram2 mission** on **March 31, 2025**, from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, marking the **first human spaceflight** to orbit Earth's poles.
- Crew:** Led by crypto entrepreneur Chun Wang with three private astronauts.
- Milestone:** First crewed mission to achieve a polar orbit (passing over Earth's poles).
- Significance:** Demonstrates SpaceX's leadership in commercial spaceflight and innovation beyond government-backed programs.
- Launch Details:**
  - Location:** NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Pad 39A (Cape Canaveral, Florida).
  - Rocket:** Falcon 9 with Crew Dragon capsule.
  - Spacecraft:** Reusable Crew Dragon "Resilience", originally co-developed with NASA for ISS missions.
  - Mission Goals:** Conduct scientific experiments and observe polar regions during the 3–5-day orbital journey.
  - Impact:** Advances private space exploration and positions SpaceX as a pioneer in orbital path innovation.

### CHASTE (CHANDRA'S SURFACE THERMOPHYSICAL EXPERIMENT)

#### Context

India's Chandrayaan-3 mission's **ChaSTE** (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) became the

first instrument to successfully measure subsurface temperatures near the Moon's south pole.



<b>Historic Achievement</b>	First instrument to perform <b>in-situ</b> subsurface temperature measurements at the lunar south pole. Not done by ESA's Philae or NASA's InSight HP3.
<b>Integration</b>	Part of the <b>Vikram</b> lander (Chandrayaan-3).
<b>Deployment Mechanism</b>	<b>Rotation-based</b> , with <b>10 temperature sensors</b> spaced <b>1 cm apart</b> .
<b>Penetration Depth</b>	Up to <b>10 cm</b> below the lunar surface.
<b>Duration</b>	Continuous data collection for <b>10 Earth days</b> – from <b>August 24 to September 2, 2023</b> .
<b>Sampling Rate</b>	<b>1 measurement per second</b> , providing high-resolution temperature profiles.
<b>Surface Temperature</b>	At Shiv Shakti site: <b>355 K (82°C)</b> – higher than expected due to slope and sunlight.
<b>Subsurface Temperature</b>	At <b>8 cm depth</b> : about <b>-10°C</b> , indicating strong insulating properties of lunar regolith.
<b>Temperature Variability</b>	High <b>spatial variability</b> near poles; more uniform near lunar equator.

<b>Scientific Importance</b>	Helps understand thermal behavior at south pole; supports future missions and water ice detection.
<b>Significance</b>	Demonstrates India's technological and scientific leadership in lunar exploration.

### ISRO'S CARTOSAT-3 IMAGE SHOWS DAMAGE BY THE EARTHQUAKE IN MYANMAR



#### Context

- ISRO's Cartosat-3 satellite captured and released high-resolution images that clearly show the widespread destruction caused by the **powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake** that struck Myanmar on March 28, 2025.
- The satellite imagery provides a detailed assessment of the damage, particularly in the **cities of Mandalay and Sagaing**, and highlights the collapse of critical infrastructure and historic landmarks.

	<b>Key Findings from Cartosat-3 Imagery</b>
<b>Major Infrastructure Collapse</b>	<b>Ava (InnWa) Bridge</b> over the Irrawaddy River completely collapsed - Widespread <b>ground ruptures</b> and <b>liquefaction</b> observed in flood plains
<b>Damage to Landmarks and Institutions</b>	Severe damage at <b>Mandalay University</b> (buildings & highways)-Partial/complete destruction of iconic cultural sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ananda Pagoda</b> (UNESCO site)</li> <li><b>Mahamuni Pagoda</b></li> <li><b>Phayani Pagoda</b></li> <li><b>Sky Villa</b>: Heavy damage in <b>Sagaing</b> to Ma Shi Khana Pagoda and local monasteries</li> </ul>
<b>Urban and Residential Impact</b>	Extensive damage to <b>roads</b> , <b>residential areas</b> , and <b>urban infrastructure</b> in <b>Mandalay</b> , <b>Naypyidaw</b> , and nearby regions

<b>Casualties and Regional Effects</b>	Thousands of <b>deaths and injuries</b> -Earthquake and aftershocks felt in <b>northern Thailand</b> , including <b>Chiang Mai</b>
<b>Technical Details</b>	Used <b>Cartosat-3's sub-50 cm high-resolution imagery</b> - Pre-event data: March 18, 2025- Post-event imagery: March 29, 2025-Enabled accurate before-and-after comparison of damage

### VIBE CODING

# Vibe Coding

#### Context

- Vibe coding exploded as an overnight buzzword in Silicon Valley after being coined by OpenAI co-founder and former Tesla AI lead Andrej Karpathy in February 2025.
- The term quickly gained traction across the tech industry, with widespread discussion among developers, entrepreneurs, and the media.

### What Is Vibe Coding?

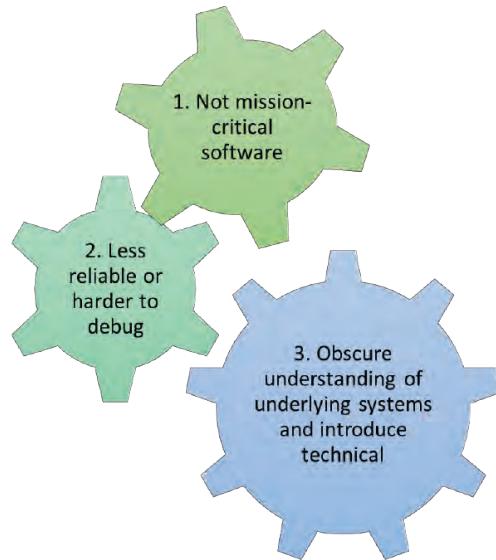
- Vibe coding is a programming paradigm where the developer describes what they want in natural language-either by typing or speaking-and an AI, typically a large language model (LLM), generates the code.
- The process is intuitive and conversational, emphasizing "feeling the vibes" of a project rather than focusing on traditional, line-by-line coding or deep technical understanding.
- In vibe coding, the human acts more as a director or guide, steering the AI's output and making high-level decisions, rather than manually crafting every line of code.
- This method is particularly suited for rapid prototyping, creative projects, and scenarios where precision is less critical.

### Why Did It Become a Buzzword?

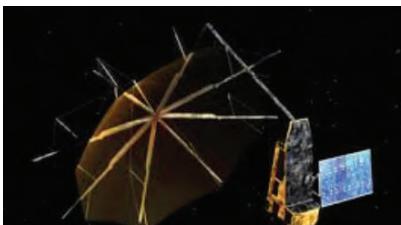
- Accessibility:** Vibe coding lowers the barrier to entry for non-programmers, enabling anyone to build apps or websites with minimal technical expertise

- Productivity:** Developers can automate repetitive tasks, quickly generate boilerplate code, and focus on higher-level design.
- Silicon Valley Adoption:** Startups and tech companies rapidly embraced the paradigm, with some reporting that 95% of their codebases are now AI-generated.

#### Limitations of Vibe Coding



#### Biomass Satellite Mission



#### Context

The European Space Agency (ESA) launched its Biomass satellite to map the world's forests and measure forest

biomass on a global scale on April 29, 2025, aboard a Vega C rocket from the Kourou Spaceport in French Guiana.

#### About Biomass Satellite Mission

Mission Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First-ever global measurements of forest biomass</li> <li>Track forest change over time</li> <li>Study carbon cycle, deforestation, and climate change</li> </ul>
Environmental Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forests store ~861 Gt of carbon</li> <li>Absorb ~16 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>/year</li> <li>Supports UN REDD+ program and climate agreements</li> </ul>

- Cultural Shift:** The movement reflects a broader trend toward "English as the new programming language", where natural language replaces traditional code as the primary interface.

Satellite Specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orbit: Sun-synchronous, ~666 km altitude</li> <li>Mass: ~1.2 tonnes</li> <li>Size: 10 x 12 x 20 meters</li> </ul>
Instrument Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Payload: P-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), 435 MHz</li> <li>Wavelength: 70 cm</li> <li>Antenna: 12-meter deployable circular reflector</li> </ul>
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First satellite to use P-band SAR for deep forest penetration</li> </ul>
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global biomass maps &amp; forest height at 200 m resolution</li> <li>Tomographic 3D forest imaging in year one</li> <li>Topography &amp; ice sheet structure mapping</li> </ul>
Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhances carbon emission predictions</li> <li>Informs forest management and landscape-scale carbon dynamics</li> </ul>

#### NASA Curiosity Rover



#### Context

- NASA's Curiosity Rover has recently uncovered the first solid evidence of a carbon cycle on Mars by discovering significant deposits of the mineral siderite (iron carbonate) within sulfate-rich layers in Gale Crater's ancient lakebed.
- This finding marks a major breakthrough in understanding Mars' geological and atmospheric evolution.

	Details
Discovery Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gale Crater — Curiosity drilled into rocks along an 89-meter stretch of terrain.</li> </ul>

Sample Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curiosity used its onboard chemistry lab to analyze rock samples.</li> </ul>
Key Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Rocks contained 5–10% siderite by weight — much higher than previously found. - Indicates a large portion of ancient CO<sub>2</sub> is trapped in Mars' crust.</li> </ul>
Associated Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of iron oxyhydroxides, formed from siderite in acidic water, suggesting some CO<sub>2</sub> was re-released into the atmosphere.</li> </ul>
Implications for Carbon Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of a limited but active carbon cycle in Mars' past. Operated during a time of thicker atmosphere and liquid water on the surface.</li> </ul>
Why It Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solves the mystery of Mars' "missing" carbonates.</li> <li>First direct in situ evidence of a carbon cycle on Mars.</li> <li>Suggests Mars had a dramatic climate shift, locking atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> into subsurface minerals.</li> </ul>

#### Sapsan Missile



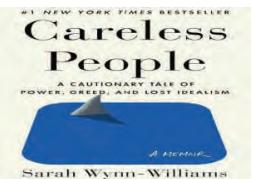
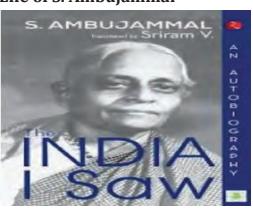
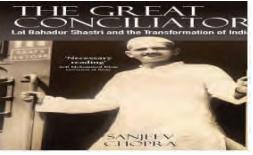
#### Context

- For the first time, the Russian Ministry of Defence has officially acknowledged the growing threat posed by Ukraine's newly developed short-range ballistic missile, the Sapsan (also known as Hrim-2 or Grom-2).
- In an April 19, 2025 report, Russia detailed strikes against a Ukrainian Sapsan missile test site and the NASAMS air defense systems protecting it, confirming the system's operational deployment and strategic significance.

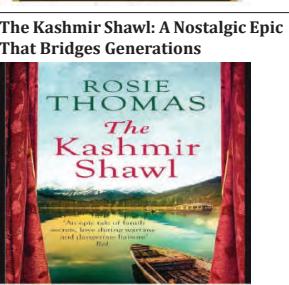
# 12

## Books and Authors

	Details
Extended Range and Capability	The Ukrainian Sapsan version has a range of up to 700 km, compared to the export variant's 50–280 km range. Enables strikes deep into Russian-held territory, including critical logistics and military bases.
Advanced Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combines features of a <b>tactical ballistic missile</b> and <b>multiple rocket launchers</b>.</li> <li>Launches <b>ballistic</b> and <b>cruise missiles</b>.</li> <li>Carries a <b>480–500 kg warhead</b>.</li> <li>Mounted on a <b>transporter-erector-launcher</b> with two missiles.</li> </ul>

Books	Author	Description
 CARELESS PEOPLE: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism	Sarah Wynn-Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The book offers a revealing look inside one of the world's most influential tech companies — Facebook.</li> <li>It draws from her seven-year tenure at the core of Facebook's global policy operations.</li> </ul>
 The India I Saw: A Glimpse into the Life of S. Ambujammal	Written by - Naan Kanda Bharatham Translated by - Sri Ram V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S. Ambujammal's life showcases a transformation from privilege and personal sorrow to public service.</li> <li>She emerged as a committed and impactful figure in India's freedom movement.</li> <li>Deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, she embraced his ideals in both thought and action.</li> <li>Her work reflected a blend of patriotism, social reform, and women's empowerment.</li> </ul>
 THE GREAT CONCILIATOR Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India	Sanjeev Chopra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <i>Great Conciliator</i> by Sanjeev Chopra focuses on the legacy of Lal Bahadur Shastri.</li> <li>It highlights how Shastri's contributions have often been underappreciated.</li> <li>The book traces his journey from a humble background to becoming India's second Prime Minister.</li> </ul>

Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician	Arun Singhal and Devendra Kumar Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Archives of India, in collaboration with Vani Prakashan, will launch a new book titled <i>Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician</i>.</li> <li>The launch is scheduled for <b>April 30, 2025</b>.</li> <li>It aims to highlight the life, work, and legacy of the renowned Indian mathematician <b>Srinivasa Ramanujan</b>.</li> </ul>
The Kashmir Shawl: A Nostalgic Epic That Bridges Generations	Rosie Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The story revolves around an antique shawl that becomes a key to uncovering hidden family histories.</li> <li>It explores deep emotional journeys and the lives of women across different generations.</li> </ul>



## VETERAN WOMEN HOCKEY FORWARD VANDANA KATARIYA RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY



### Context

- Veteran Indian women's hockey striker **Vandana Katariya** announced her retirement from international hockey, marking the end of a historic 15-year career.
- The 32-year-old retires as the **most-capped female hockey player** in Indian history, with 320 international appearances and **158 goals**.
- Highlights of a Stellar Career:**
  - Tokyo 2020 Olympics:** First Indian woman to score a hat-trick in Olympic hockey; instrumental in India's best-ever **fourth-place finish**.
  - Major Contributions:** Played crucial roles in the **Asian Champions Trophy**, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games.

## INDIA WRAPS UP THE SENIOR ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A TOTAL OF 10 MEDALS



### Context

- India concluded its campaign at the 2025 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship in Amman with an impressive tally of 10 medals.

### Key Highlights

- India's Wrestling Contingent:**
  - 30-member team (10 women, 10 men in freestyle, 10 men in Greco-Roman) featuring top wrestlers like Antim Pangal, Reetika, and Mansi Lather.
- Medal Winners:**
  - Gold:** Manisha Bhanwala (Women's 62kg).
  - Silver:** Reetika Hooda (Women's 76kg), Udit (Men's 61kg), Deepak Punia (Men's 92kg).
  - Bronze:** Antim Pangal (Women's 53kg), Mansi Lather (Women's 68kg), Muskan (Women's 59kg), Dinesh (Men's 125kg), Dinesh Kumar (Men's Greco-Roman 87kg), Nitesh (Men's Greco-Roman 97kg).

## HITESH GULIA BECOMES THE FIRST INDIAN BOXER TO WIN GOLD AT THE WORLD BOXING CUP



### Context

- India's boxing team made a strong debut at the 2025 World Boxing Cup in Foz Do Iguacu, Brazil, with Hitesh Gulia becoming the **first-ever Indian boxer** to win a gold medal.
- His opponent, **Odel Kamara** from England, was forced to withdraw from the final due to an injury, awarding Hitesh the gold.
- Key Achievements:**
  - Gold:** Hitesh Gulia (First Indian to win gold at World Boxing Cup)

- Silver: Abhinash Jamwal (65kg)
- Bronze: Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Manish Rathore (55kg), Sachin (60kg), Vishal (90kg)

#### THE UNITED KINGDOM IS SET TO HOST THE 2035 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP



##### Context

- The United Kingdom is set to host the 2035 FIFA Women's World Cup, emerging as the only valid bidder, confirmed by FIFA President Gianni Infantino.
- The joint bid by England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland brings the tournament back to Europe for the first time since 2023.

#### CRICKET TO FEATURE 6 TEAM EVENT IN LOS ANGELES 2028 OLYMPICS



##### Context

- Cricket Returns to Olympics After 128 Years
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially confirmed cricket's return to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics on April 9, 2025, marking its first appearance since the 1900 Paris Games.
- Key Highlights:
  - ◆ Format: T20
  - ◆ Teams: 6 each for men & women
  - ◆ Athlete Quota: 90 men, 90 women (15 per squad)
  - ◆ Last Played: 1900 (GB vs France)
- Other New Sports at LA 2028: Baseball/Softball, Flag Football, Lacrosse (Sixes), Squash

#### INDIAN MEN'S RECURVE TEAM WINS SILVER IN STAGE 1 OF ARCHERY WORLD CUP 2025



##### Context

- India Wins Silver in Men's Recurve at Archery World Cup 2025 (Stage 1)
- India's recurve men's team—Dhiraj Bommahevara, Atanu Das, and Tarundeep Rai—secured a silver medal in Stage 1 of the Archery World Cup 2025 in Auburndale, Florida.
- Despite being the world no. 2 team, they lost 1-5 to China in the final after defeating Spain in the semi-finals.

#### KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES 2025



##### Context

- 7th edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2025 to be Held in Bihar for the First Time.
- The Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025 will take place in Bihar from May 4 to 15, marking the state's debut as host. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the event in Patna, with CM Nitish Kumar and Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya unveiling the logo, mascot 'Gajasimha', and theme song.
- Key Highlights:
  - ◆ Host: Bihar
  - ◆ Dates: May 4 - 15, 2025
  - ◆ Launch Venue: Samvad Hall, Patna
  - ◆ Mascot: Gajasimha (represents the strength of an elephant and the courage of a lion, inspired by the Pala dynasty's heritage seen in Nalanda and Bodhgaya.)
  - ◆ Logo Colors: Orange & Green – Cultural vibrancy

#### NISHCHAY WINS SILVER WITH 19.59M THROW AT ASIAN U-18 ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP



##### Context

- At the Asian U-18 Athletics Championship in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, 16-year-old Nishchay from Haryana won silver in boys' shot put with a personal best of 19.59m.

#### INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING SPORT FEDERATION (ISSF) WORLD CUP 2025



##### Context

- India put on a strong show at the 2025 ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru (April 13-22), winning seven medals including two gold and finishing 3rd in the overall standings behind China and the USA.

#### Medal Winners of India

- Gold:
  - ◆ Suruchi Singh – Women's 10m Air Pistol
  - ◆ Suruchi Singh & Saurabh Chaudhary – 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team
- Silver:
  - ◆ Manu Bhaker – Women's 10m Air Pistol
  - ◆ Arjun Babu – Men's 10m Air Rifle
  - ◆ Simranpreet Kaur Brar – Women's 25m Pistol (debut World Cup medal)
  - ◆ Rudranksh Patil & Arya Borse – 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team
- Bronze:
  - ◆ Saurabh Chaudhary – Men's 10m Air Pistol

#### MANUSH SHAH AND DIYA CHITALE CLINCH MIXED DOUBLES TITLE AT WORLD TABLE TENNIS (WTT) CONTENDER TUNIS 2025



##### Context

- Manush Shah and Diya Chitale won the mixed doubles title at the WTT Contender Tunis 2025 (April 22-27), becoming only the second Indian pair to win a WTT Contender mixed doubles title after Manika Batra & Sathiyan Gnanasekaran (2021).
- Final Match: Defeated Japan's Sora Matsushima & Miwa Harimoto 3-2, avenging a prior loss at WTT Star Contender Doha.

## Person in News

### SHIRLEY BOTCHWEY

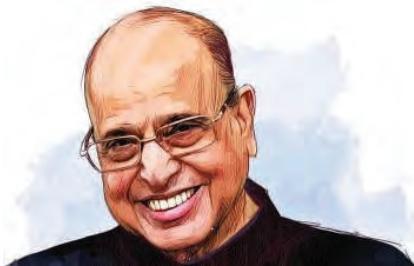


#### Context

- Shirley Botchwey became the first African woman to assume the office of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations on April 1, 2025.

	Details
Name	Shirley Botchwey
Position	Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations
Date Assumed Office	April 1, 2025
Notable Achievement	First African woman to become Secretary-General
Order	7th Secretary-General
Predecessor	Patricia Scotland (Dominica) – First woman to hold the post
Experience	20 years in diplomacy, international relations, governance, public service
Previous Position	Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (2017–2024)

### DR K KASTURIRANGAN



#### Context

- Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman and eminent space scientist **Dr. Kasturirangan (1940-2025)**, passed away at the age of 84.
- He was a pioneering **Indian astrophysicist and space scientist**, best known for his specialization in high-energy astrophysics, particularly in X-ray and gamma-ray astronomy.

Other Roles	Member of Ghana's National Security Council
Nomination Process	Nominated by Commonwealth leaders
Term Limit	Maximum of two terms, four years each
Responsibilities	Promote and protect Commonwealth values, represent Commonwealth, manage Secretariat

### Legacy and Contributions

#### Chairman of ISRO (1994–2003)

**Major Launch Vehicles:** Operationalized PSLV and GSLV

**Key Missions Initiated:**

- EDUSAT (Tele-education satellite)
- INSAT/GSATs (Telemedicine & communication)
- RESOURCESAT (Earth resource monitoring)
- Chandrayaan-1: India's first lunar mission; discovered water on the Moon

**Commercial Operations:** Leased INSAT-2E transponders to INTELSAT in 1999, boosting Indian cable TV sector

#### Scientific & Technological Achievements

**Satellites Developed:** IRS-1C and IRS-1D (remote sensing), INSAT communication satellites, and ocean observation satellites IRS-P3 and P4.

- Served as Project Director for India's first experimental earth observation satellites, Bhaskara-I and II.

#### Policy and Institutional Leadership

- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** Chaired the committee that drafted this landmark policy, which introduced holistic, multidisciplinary, and flexible education reforms, emphasizing early childhood education, foundational literacy, vocational integration, and technology-enabled learning.
- Lead the Kasturirangan Committee,** which reviewed the Gadgil Committee report and recommended that 37% of the Western Ghats be designated as Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

#### Recognition and Awards

- Has received all three of India's highest civilian awards: Padma Shri (1982), Padma Bhushan (1992), and Padma Vibhushan (2000), in recognition of his outstanding contributions to science, technology, and national development.

### 52ND CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA



#### Context

- The President of India has appointed **Justice BR Gavai as the next Chief Justice of India** with effect from May 14, 2025.

- He is currently the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, and has been nominated to the Union Law Ministry.

#### About Chief Justice of India

Constitutional Provision	Article 124 of the Constitution
Appointing Authority	President of India
Recommendation Process	Senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is usually recommended by the outgoing CJL.
Eligibility Process:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Citizenship:</b> Must be a citizen of India</li> <li><b>Judicial Experience:</b> Served as a High Court judge for at least 5 years</li> <li><b>Advocacy Experience:</b> OR practiced as an advocate in a High Court for at least 10 years</li> <li><b>Seniority Convention:</b> In practice, the senior-most Supreme Court judge is appointed based on length of service</li> </ul>

## Power and Functions of the Chief Justice of India

### Administrative Authority

- Master of the Roster – power to constitute benches and allocate judicial work.

### Head of Supreme Court

- Oversees functioning and administration of the Supreme Court

### Judicial Appointments

- Influential in appointments and transfers in the higher judiciary

### Advisory Role

- Acts as key constitutional advisor to the government on legal/judicial matters

### Special Powers

- Under Article 128, the CJI may, with the President's consent, appoint a retired Supreme Court or qualified High Court judge to act temporarily as a Supreme Court judge.
- With the approval of the President, the CJI can change the seat of the SC from Delhi to any other place.

## JUSTICE DINESH MAHESHWARI



### Context

- Justice (Retired) Dinesh Maheshwari, former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India.
- He officially assumed charge in April 2025, following approval from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of Law and Justice.

### Tenure and Composition

- Tenure:** The 23rd Law Commission was constituted on September 1, 2024, and its term will extend until August 31, 2027.
- Members:** Alongside Justice Maheshwari, advocate Hitesh Jain and Professor D.P. Verma (law faculty, Banaras Hindu University, and a member of the previous commission) have been appointed as full-time members.
- Structure:** The Commission also includes ex-officio members from the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department, with provision for up to five part-time members.

## MIRABAI CHANU



### Context

- Mirabai Chanu, the Olympic silver medallist in weightlifting, has been elected as the Chairperson of the Indian Weightlifting Federation's (IWLF) Athletes Commission in April 2025.
- This appointment marks a significant milestone, as she will represent and advocate for the voices and concerns of fellow Indian weightlifters within the federation's administration.

### About Chanu

- A distinguished athlete from Manipur, Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal in the 49 kg category at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (held in 2021), becoming only the second Indian weightlifter to win an Olympic medal.
- She is also a two-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist (2018 and 2022) and a former World Champion (gold in 2017, silver in 2022).
- Despite missing a medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics due to health issues, her sporting credentials remain exceptional.

## ANANYA PANDAY



### Context

- French luxury brand Chanel on April 16, 2025 named Bollywood star Ananya Panday as its first-ever brand ambassador from India.
- Ananya is also the brand ambassador of international brands such as Swarovski, Jimmy Choo, Lakmé, Beats and Timex.

## POPE FRANCIS



### Context

- Pope Francis died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88, at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta.
- The Vatican announced that he passed away at 7:35 a.m. local time due to a stroke followed by a coma and irreversible cardiocirculatory collapse.
- He had been suffering from several health issues, including bilateral pneumonia, acute respiratory failure, high blood pressure, and type II diabetes.
- Pope Francis was the first Latin American pope and the first Jesuit pope, known for his inclusive approach, focus on social justice, environmental issues, and efforts to reform the Church amid internal challenges.

## SHAJI N KARUN



**Context**

- Legendary Malayalam filmmaker and cinematographer Shaji N Karun passed away on April 28, 2025, at the age of 73 in Thiruvananthapuram after battling health issues.
- His death came just days after he was honoured with the J C Daniel Award, the highest lifetime achievement award in Malayalam cinema, by the Kerala government.

**About Shaji N Karun**

<b>Known For</b>	Pioneer of Malayalam New Wave Cinema; bringing it to international audiences
<b>Recent Recognition</b>	Honoured with J C Daniel Award (highest lifetime achievement award in Malayalam cinema) by Kerala Govt
<b>Debut Film</b>	<i>Piravi</i> (1988)
<b>Other Cannes Screenings</b>	<i>Swaham</i> (1994) – Nominated for Palme d'Or; <i>Vanaprastham</i> (1999)
<b>National Award Winner</b>	Kutty Srank – National Award for Best Feature Film (2010)

**KATHAK LEGEND KUMUDINI LAKHIA PASSED AWAY****Context**

- Kathak legend Kumudini Lakhia passed away on April 12, 2025, in Ahmedabad at the age of 94, marking the end of an era in Indian classical dance.

- Renowned as a pioneering choreographer and visionary, Lakhia fundamentally reshaped Kathak by challenging its traditional dependence on narrative (katha) and literary content, introducing abstraction, ensemble choreography, and contemporary themes to the classical form.
- She also choreographed for the iconic film *Umrao Jaan* (1981).
- Lakhia earned her wide recognition, including the Padma Shri (1987), Padma Bhushan (2010), and the Padma Vibhushan (announced in 2024).

**VETERAN BOLLYWOOD ACTOR MANOJ KUMAR PASSED AWAY AT 87****Context**

- Veteran Bollywood actor and filmmaker **Manoj Kumar, also known as "Bharat Kumar"**, passed away at 87 in Mumbai on April 4, 2025.
- He was known for his patriotic films and left a lasting mark on Indian cinema.
- His death was attributed to heart-related complications and liver cirrhosis.
- Manoj Kumar's contributions to Indian cinema were widely recognized. He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in 1992 and the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, India's highest honor in cinema, in 2015.

**THAILAND (CAPITAL: BANGKOK)**

- Recently, India-Thailand ties were elevated to Strategic Partnership.
- The Government of Thailand has also released an iStamp depicting Ramakien (Thai Ramayana) mural paintings.

**Political Features**

- **Location:** Southeast Asia
- **Regional Groupings:** ASEAN, BIMSTEC
- **Land Border:** Myanmar (Northwest), Cambodia (East), Laos (Northeast) and Malaysia (South).
- **Water bodies:** Gulf of Thailand (South) and Andaman Sea (West).

**Geographical Features**

- **Major rivers:** Mekong, Chao Phraya, etc.
- **Climate:** Tropical monsoon.

**LESOTHO (CAPITAL: MASERU)**

- Recently, the US imposed a 50% tariff on its imports, the highest rate for any country.

**Political Features:**

- It is a small, mountainous, landlocked nation surrounded by South Africa.
- Nicknamed the *Mountain Kingdom*.

**Geographical Features**

- **Climate:** Cooler than typical for 30°S latitude due to high altitude (3,096 m); influenced by both Indian and Atlantic Oceans.
- **Mountains:** Drakensberg and Maloti Ranges.
- **UNESCO Site:** *Maloti-Drakensberg Park*, a transboundary heritage site with South Africa's uKhahlamba Drakensberg and Lesotho's Sehlathebe National Park.



#### **PORTUGAL (CAPITAL: LISBON)**

- Recently, the President of India is on an official visit to Portugal.

##### **Political Features**

- Westernmost country in Europe, on the Iberian Peninsula.
- Bordered by Spain (North & East) and the Atlantic Ocean (South & West).
- Includes two autonomous Atlantic archipelagos: Madeira and Azores.
- Lisbon is among Europe's oldest cities.

##### **Geographical Features**

- Climate:** Maritime temperate - cool, rainy north; warm, dry south.
- Terrain:** Tagus River splits the country, mountains in the north, rolling plains in the south.
- Highest Point:** Ponta do Pico (Pico Alto).



#### **BRAZIL (CAPITAL: BRASÍLIA)**

- Recently, 1 5th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting was held in Brazil.

##### **Political Features**

- Largest country in South America and the fifth largest globally.
- Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and shares land borders with all South American nations except Chile and Ecuador.

##### **Geographical Features**

- Crossed by both the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- Amazon River:** Home to the world's largest river system and the largest untouched rainforest.
- Climate:** Predominantly humid tropical and subtropical, with a semi-arid zone in the Northeast.
- Mining:** Leading global producer of niobium; second in iron ore, manganese, tantalite, and bauxite production.



#### **SAUDI ARABIA (CAPITAL: RIYADH)**

- Recently, the Indian PM co-chaired the 2nd India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) meeting.

##### **Political Features**

- Absolute monarchy in the Middle East.
- Largest country on the Arabian Peninsula, covering about 80% of its area.
- Borders: Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Yemen; coastal boundaries with the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, and Gulf of Aqaba.
- Hosts Islam's two holiest cities - Mecca and Medina.

##### **Geographical Features**

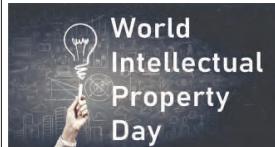
- Largest country without any permanent river.
- Climate:** Harsh desert climate with extreme temperatures.
- Resources:** Rich in oil, natural gas, iron ore, and other minerals.

## Important Days

Day	Date	Theme	Important Pointers
National Maritime Day	April 5	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To commemorate the maiden voyage of the first Indian-owned ship, SS Loyalty, from Mumbai to London in 1919.</li> </ul>
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)	April 6	Leveling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declared by the United Nations General Assembly.</li> </ul>
World Health Day	April 7	Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures	-
World Homeopathy Day	April 10	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commemorates Dr. Samuel Hahnemann's birth.</li> </ul>

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre	April 13	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurred on 13th of April, 1919 in Amritsar, Punjab during a peaceful gathering.</li> <li>British troops under General Reginald Dyer opened fire on unarmed civilians.</li> </ul>
Siachen Day	April 13	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commemorates the launch of <b>Operation Meghdoot (1984)</b> by the Indian Army.</li> <li>Demonstrated joint coordination between the <b>Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF)</b>.</li> </ul>
BR Ambedkar Remembrance Day (Ambedkar Jayanti)	April 14	-	-
World Art Day	April 15	Art for Unity and Healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiated by the <b>International Association of Art (IAA)</b> in 2012.</li> </ul>
World Heritage Day	April 18	Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 Years of ICOMOS Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was declared by the <b>International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)</b> in 1982 and later approved by the <b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</b> in 1983.</li> </ul>
World Liver Day	April 19	Food is Medicine	-

National Civil Service Day	April 21	-	-
			
World Earth Day	April 22	Our Power, Our Planet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiated by Senator <b>Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin</b>.</li> <li>Inspired by the <b>1969 Santa Barbara oil spill</b> and rising environmental awareness.</li> </ul>
			
National Panchayati Raj Day	April 24	-	-
			
World Malaria Day	April 25	Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established by the <b>World Health Organization (WHO)</b> in <b>2007</b> during its 60th World Health Assembly.</li> </ul>
			
World Immunization Week 2025	April 24 - 30, 2025	Immunization for All is Humanly Possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO officially endorsed World Immunization Week in 2012.</li> </ul>
			

World Intellectual Property Day	April 26	IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP	-
			
World Veterinary Day	April 26	Animal Health Takes a Team	-
			

## Practice Set

1. With reference to the **Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi** tree, consider the following statements:

- It is believed to have grown from a branch of the original Bodhi tree under which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment.
- It was planted in Bodhgaya, India, by the daughter of Emperor Ashoka.
- It is one of the oldest human-planted trees in the world that is still surviving.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 1 and 3 only  
 (c) 2 and 3 only      (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to the recent archaeological explorations by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Dwarka and Breyt Dwarka, consider the following statements:

- The objective of the study is to search and document submerged archaeological remains both onshore and offshore.
- The city of Dwarka is located on the eastern coast of India, facing the Bay of Bengal.
- Scientific methods are being used to ascertain the age of recovered objects through analysis of sediments, archaeological remains, and marine deposits.
- Dwarka is situated on the left bank of the Gomti River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only      (b) 2 and 4 only  
 (c) 1, 2, and 3 only      (d) 1, 3, and 4 only

3. With reference to the recent inclusion of Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, consider the following statements:

- The Bhagavad Gita is a philosophical scripture that forms a part of the *Bhīṣmaparva* in the Mahabharata.
- The Natyashastra, authored by Bharata Muni, is also known as *Nātyaveda* and deals with Indian performing arts.
- The Natyashastra was codified in the 8th century A.D. and is preserved at the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.
- UNESCO's Memory of the World Register aims to preserve documentary heritage of global significance.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, and 4 only      (b) 1 and 3 only  
 (c) 2, 3, and 4 only      (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

4. Which of the following countries is *not* mentioned as a participant in Exercise Desert Flag-10?  
 (a) Germany      (b) China  
 (c) Australia      (d) France
5. Consider the following statements regarding the joint India-U.S. military exercise 'Tiger Triumph 2025':

- It is the fourth edition of a bilateral tri-service exercise.
- The exercise is centred on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- The 2025 edition is the first time the exercise is being held in the Bay of Bengal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?  
 (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only      (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. Which Indian state recently organized the **Jatra Utsav** to promote and preserve its traditional art forms and cultural heritage?  
 (a) Assam      (b) West Bengal  
 (c) Tripura      (d) Odisha

7. The 9K33 Osa-AK, recently used in an Indian Army exercise, is a:  
 (a) Long-range ballistic missile system developed by the USA  
 (b) Short-range, low-altitude surface-to-air missile system of Soviet origin  
 (c) Medium-range cruise missile system developed by Israel  
 (d) Surface-to-surface missile system jointly developed by India and Russia

8. Match the following Rafale variants with their corresponding roles/types:

Rafale Variant	Type / Role
A. Rafale C	1. Naval Variant
B. Rafale B	2. Twin-seat
C. Rafale M	3. Single-seat (Air Force)
D. Rafale N	4. Nuclear Strike (Proposed)

Select the correct code:

- (a) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4      (b) A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1  
 (c) A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2      (d) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3

9. The term 'Gaurav' was recently in the news. It is related to?  
 (a) A new satellite launch  
 (b) Successful release trials of a Long-Range Glide Bomb  
 (c) Development of a new fighter aircraft  
 (d) Launch of a new naval vessel

10. With reference to the Third Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), Yard 3039, consider the following statements:

- Yard 3039 is the third NGOPV being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- NGOPVs are designed for coastal defence, surveillance, and search and rescue operations.
- These vessels have a displacement of approximately 5,000 tonnes.

How many of the statements given above are correct?  
 (a) Only one      (b) Only two  
 (c) All three      (d) None

11. Which of the following statements is *not* correct about the 'Samudra Pradakshina' expedition?

- It is an all-women sailing expedition involving personnel from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- The expedition was launched from the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala.
- The crew will sail aboard IASV Triveni and cover approximately 4,000 nautical miles.
- The expedition serves as a preparatory mission for a full circumnavigation voyage planned in 2026.

12. INS Sunayana is a type of

- (a) First stealth warship  
 (b) Surya class Offshore Patrol Vessel.  
 (c) Aircraft Carriers  
 (d) Corvettes

13. Exercise INDRA is a joint military exercise between India and:

- (a) USA      (b) Russia  
 (c) France      (d) Japan

14. With reference to the European Space Agency's (ESA) Biomass Mission, consider the following statements:

- It aims to map and monitor global forests using a satellite placed in geostationary orbit.
- The mission will help in estimating above-ground biomass and forest height on a global scale.
- It seeks to improve understanding of the role of forests in the global carbon cycle.

4. The Biomass satellite will orbit at an altitude of around 666 km in a sun-synchronous orbit.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only      (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 2, 3 and 4 only      (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

15. Which country is set to host the 2035 FIFA Women's World Cup?

- (a) Germany      (b) Canada  
 (c) United Kingdom      (d) Australia

16. With reference to the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)**, consider the following statements:

- The 6th BIMSTEC Summit was hosted by Thailand under the theme "BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient and Open".
- BIMSTEC includes all South Asian countries as its members.
- It was established by the Bangkok Declaration in 1997.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only      (d) 1, 2 and 3

17. With reference to the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, consider the following statements:

- It was launched by India in 2023 to promote the conservation of seven big cat species globally.
- The headquarters of IBCA is located in Geneva under the UN Environment Programme.
- The alliance draws inspiration from India's Project Tiger initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only      (d) 1, 2 and 3

18. National Panchayati Raj Day is observed on which of the following dates?

- (a) April 21      (b) April 22  
 (c) April 23      (d) April 24

19. Which of the following is the theme for Earth Day 2025?

- (a) Invest in Our Planet  
 (b) Planet vs. Plastics  
 (c) Our Power, Our Planet  
 (d) Restore Our Earth

20. With reference to the *Baku to Belém Roadmap*, consider the following statements:

- It is a climate finance initiative jointly spearheaded by the UNFCCC COP29 and COP30 presidencies.
- The roadmap aims to mobilize USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2035 to support the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

3. It focuses exclusively on financing climate adaptation in developed countries.  
 4. The finalization of the roadmap is expected at COP30 in Belém, Brazil in 2025.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 1, 2 and 4 only  
 (c) 2 and 3 only      (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**21.** With reference to the **Global Carbon Pricing Agreement for the Shipping Industry**, recently finalized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), consider the following statements:

1. The agreement aims for net-zero emissions from international shipping by 2050 in line with the 2023 Revised IMO Strategy.
2. The compliance will apply to ships over 5,000 gross tonnage starting from 2028.
3. The agreement is expected to enter into force in March 2025 and generate \$10 billion annually by 2030.
4. The agreement has been welcomed by all nations including Pacific Island countries and the United States.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 1, 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1, 2 and 4 only      (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

**22.** With reference to the *Pink Moon* and related lunar phenomena, consider the following statements:

1. The Pink Moon refers to the full moon in the month of April and is named after a flower.
2. A Micromoon occurs when the full moon is at its closest point to Earth, making it appear larger and brighter.
3. The Cold Moon and Flower Moon are traditional names given to the full moons of December and May, respectively.
4. The Pink Moon appears pink in color due to atmospheric refraction during moonrise.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only      (b) 1, 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 2 and 4 only      (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

**23.** Which of the following statements is **correct** about the Nilgiri Tahr?

- (a) It is a large carnivorous mammal found in the Indo-Gangetic plains.
- (b) It is the state animal of Kerala and found only in desert ecosystems.
- (c) It is the only Caprinae species native to the tropical mountains of southern India.
- (d) "Saddlebacks" refer to the young females of the Nilgiri Tahr species.

- 24.** What does the term **Hadean Protocrust** refer to?  
 (a) The oceanic crust formed after the Cambrian explosion.  
 (b) The Earth's first crust layer formed during its earliest geologic aeon.  
 (c) The crust formed during the Ice Age in the Quaternary period.  
 (d) The Martian crust formed in the early solar system.

- 25.** Consider the following statements regarding the 25T Bollard Pull Tug 'Ojas':

1. It is the fifth tug in a series of six being built under a contract with Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL).
2. These tugs are exclusively imported from South Korea under the SAGAR initiative.
3. The tug is designed to assist in berthing, unberthing, and afloat firefighting operations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2      (b) 2 and 3  
 (c) 1 and 3      (d) 1, 2 and 3

- 26.** For how long is the validity for receiving foreign funds under prior permission valid?

- (a) 1 year      (b) 2 years  
 (c) 3 years      (d) 4 years

- 27.** Which of the following activities falls under the Blue Category?

- (a) Steel manufacturing
- (b) Plastic production
- (c) Waste-to-Energy plants
- (d) Textile dyeing units

- 28.** Vandana Kataria who recently announced her retirement is associated with which sport?

- (a) Badminton      (b) Hockey  
 (c) Wrestling      (d) Shooting

- 29.** Portugal shares its land border with which country?

- (a) France      (b) Italy  
 (c) Germany      (d) Spain

- 30.** Consider the following statements regarding the Khelo India Youth Games 2025:

1. The Games are hosted by Jharkhand.
2. The mascot 'Gajasingha' symbolizes the strength of an elephant and courage of a lion.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

- (a) 1 only      (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- 31.** Which of the following organizations released the 2025 Technology and Innovation Report?

- (a) World Economic Forum  
 (b) World Bank

- 32.** According to the Panchayat Advancement Index, which state has the highest number of 'Front Runner' Gram Panchayats?  
 (a) Maharashtra      (b) Gujarat  
 (c) Telangana      (d) Uttar Pradesh

- 33.** Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Days	Dates
1. World Malaria Day	26th April
2. World Homeopathy Day	10th April
3. World Health Day	7th April

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 1, 2 and 3  
 (c) 2 and 3 only      (d) 3 only

- 34.** With reference to the **Country Partnership Framework (CPF)** of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statements:

1. Mauritius is the first African country to sign the CPF with ISA.
2. The CPF aims to support long-term cooperation through country-specific solar energy projects.
3. So far, only three countries globally—Mauritius, India, and Sri Lanka—have signed the CPF.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only      (d) 1, 2 and 3

- 35.** Who was elected as the Prime Minister of Canada in April 2025?

- (a) Justin Trudeau      (b) Chrystia Freeland  
 (c) Pierre Poilievre      (d) Mark Carney

- 36.** With reference to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The bill was introduced to bring more transparency and accountability in the management of Waqf properties.
2. It was passed unanimously by both Houses of Parliament.
3. The Bill applies only to urban Waqf properties.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 only      (d) 1, 2, and 3

- 37.** Recently, the US imposed a 50% tariff on imports from which country, the highest rate for any nation?

- (a) Ethiopia      (b) Senegal  
 (c) Lesotho      (d) Rwanda

- 38.** Consider the following statements about National Maritime Day:

1. It is celebrated annually on April 6th in India.

2. It commemorates the maiden voyage of the first Indian-owned ship, SS Loyalty, from Mumbai to London in 1919.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

- (a) 1 only      (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- 39.** At the 2025 Asian U-18 Athletics Championships, Nishchay won a silver medal in which event with a personal best throw of 19.59 meters?

- (a) Shot Put      (b) Discus Throw  
 (c) Javelin Throw      (d) Hammer Throw

- 40.** Who became the first African woman to assume the office of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations in April 2025?

- (a) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala  
 (b) Amina J. Mohammed  
 (c) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
 (d) Shirley Botchwey

- 41.** Consider the following:

A renowned astrophysicist, he served as Chairman of ISRO from 1994 to 2003. Under his leadership, key missions like EDUSAT, RESOURCESAT, and Chandrayaan-1 were initiated. He also chaired the committee for India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and is one of the few Indians to be honored with the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan.

Identify the distinguished personality from the description given above?

- (a) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam  
 (b) Dr. Raghunath Anant Mashelkar  
 (c) Dr. K. Kasturirangan  
 (d) Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

- 42.** Who has been appointed as the 52nd Chief Justice of India, effective from May 14, 2025?

- (a) Justice BR Gavai  
 (b) Justice Sanjiv Khanna  
 (c) Justice DY Chandrachud  
 (d) Justice KG Balakrishnan

- 43.** What medal did India win in the men's recurve team event at the Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 1?

- (a) Gold      (b) Silver  
 (c) Bronze      (d) None

- 44.** Consider the following statements about the Debt-to-GDP ratio:

1. It indicates a country's ability to repay its debt using its economic output.
2. A very high ratio always indicates a strong and growing economy.

- Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 only                                 (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2                         (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 45.** In April 2025, the Ministry of Labour & Employment signed an MoU with which company to enhance gig and logistics employment opportunities via the NCS portal?  
 (a) Zomato                                 (b) Swiggy  
 (c) Ola   (d) Mynta
- 46.** The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, seeks to establish the country's first Cooperative University at:  
 (a) Kheda                                     (b) Anand  
 (c) Surat                                     (d) Rajkot
- 47.** The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, implements which international convention in India?  
 (a) Paris Convention  
 (b) Cape Town Convention of 2001  
 (c) Geneva Convention  
 (d) Montreal Protocol
- 48.** Consider the following statements with reference to the States Economic Forum Portal:  
 1. The portal is designed as a comprehensive, user-friendly digital resource on the finances and socio-economic landscape of Indian states.  
 2. It is developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 only                                     (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2                             (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 49.** Consider the following statements regarding Pope Francis:  
 1. Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88.  
 2. He was residing in the Apostolic Palace at the time of his death.  
 3. Pope Francis was the first pope from the Americas and the first Jesuit pope.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 and 2 only                             (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only                             (d) 1, 2, and 3
- 50.** The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), launched in 2015, primarily aims to:  
 (a) Provide subsidies for rural housing  
 (b) Fund large-scale industrial projects  
 (c) Offer collateral-free credit to micro and small enterprises  
 (d) Promote export-oriented units

- 51.** The Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme (GHCS) of India primarily aims to:  
 (a) Subsidize fossil fuel-based hydrogen production  
 (b) Certify hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources  
 (c) Ban the use of hydrogen in heavy industries  
 (d) Promote grey hydrogen for export
- 52.** The PM POSHAN scheme, extended till 2025–26, is implemented by which ministry?  
 (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
 (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries  
 (c) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
 (d) Ministry of Education
- 53.** With reference to the National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination Campaign 2025–26, consider the following statements:  
 1. It was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.  
 2. The campaign aims to achieve 100% immunization coverage against measles and rubella by 2026.  
 3. The campaign was launched during World Immunization Week.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 and 2 only                             (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only                             (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 54.** Scarborough Shoal, recently in news, is located in which of the following seas?  
 (a) East China Sea                             (b) Sea of Japan  
 (c) South China Sea                             (d) Philippine Sea
- 55.** In April 2025, NIELIT signed MoUs with 8 organisations to propel the Digital India mission. NIELIT functions under which Union Ministry?  
 (a) Ministry of Education  
 (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship  
 (c) Ministry of Science and Technology  
 (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- 56.** Consider the following statements regarding the India-Sri Lanka defense pact signed in April 2025:  
 1. It is the first instance of India signing a defense pact with any South Asian neighbour.  
 2. The pact aims to enhance joint defense manufacturing between the two countries.  
 3. The agreement was signed during a bilateral visit by the Indian Prime Minister.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 and 2 only                             (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only                             (d) 1, 2, and 3
- 57.** In April 2025, Indian Railways signed an MoU for Automatic Wheel Profile Measurement Systems with which organization?  
 (a) BEML  
 (b) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)  
 (c) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)  
 (d) RITES
- 58.** The periodic labour force survey is conducted by:  
 (a) Ministry of Labour and Employment  
 (b) NITI Aayog  
 (c) NSO under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI)  
 (d) Finance Commission
- 59.** What was the theme of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit?  
 (a) "Resilient South Asia"  
 (b) "BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient, and Open"  
 (c) "One Region, One Future"  
 (d) "BIMSTEC for Development"
- 60.** Who authored the book "The India I Saw: A Glimpse into the Life of S. Ambujammal"?  
 (a) Naan Kanda Bharatham  
 (b) Sanjeev Chopra  
 (c) Arun Singh and Devendra Kumar Sharma  
 (d) Sarah Wynn-Williams
- 61.** With reference to the **Awaas+ 2024 Mobile App**, consider the following statements:  
 1. It was launched to identify additional eligible households for rural housing schemes.  
 2. The app is associated with the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U).  
 3. It aims to strengthen data collection for housing needs in rural areas.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 and 2 only                             (b) 1 and 3 only  
 (c) 2 and 3 only                             (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 62.** Consider the following statements regarding India's performance at the 2025 ISSF World Cup:  
 1. India finished third in the overall standings behind China and the USA.  
 2. Suruchi Singh won two gold medals, one in the Women's 10m Air Pistol and another in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team with Saurabh Chaudhary.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 only                                     (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2                             (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 63.** ChaSTE, an instrument onboard Chandrayaan-3, is designed to measure:  
 (a) Lunar seismic activity  
 (b) Dust particle movements on the Moon
- (c) Radiation levels in space  
 (d) Subsurface temperatures of the Moon
- 64.** Which among the following spacecraft was used for the Fram2 mission?  
 (a) Crew Dragon Endurance  
 (b) Crew Dragon Resilience  
 (c) Starliner Calypso  
 (d) Soyuz MS-20
- 65.** Which space agency lead the Biomass satellite mission launched in April 2025?  
 (a) NASA                                     (b) ISRO  
 (c) ESA                                     (d) JAXA
- 66.** In April 2025, Curiosity Rover found evidence of a carbon cycle on Mars through the discovery of which mineral?  
 (a) Siderite                                     (b) Hematite  
 (c) Gypsum                                     (d) Olivine
- 67.** Which of the following trends was observed in the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2024?  
 1. Urban Male Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased.  
 2. Urban Female Unemployment Rate (UR) increased.  
 3. Worker Population Ratio (WPR) at the all-India level declined under PS+SS status.  
 4. All-India Unemployment Rate based on Current Weekly Status (CWS) increased.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below:  
 (a) 1 and 3 only                             (b) 1, 2, and 3 only  
 (c) 2, 3, and 4 only                             (d) 1 and 4 only
- 68.** Consider the following pairs:
- | Author                                  | Book   |
|---|--|
| 1. Sarah Wynn-Williams                  | A. "CARELESS PEOPLE: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism" |
| 2. Naan Kanda Bharatham                 | B. "The India I Saw: A Glimpse into the Life of S. Ambujammal"             |
| 3. Sanjeev Chopra                       | C. "The Great Conciliator: A Book on Lal Bahadur Shastri"                  |
| 4. Arun Singh and Devendra Kumar Sharma | D. "Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician"                           |
- Choose the correct option:  
 (a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D                     (b) 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B  
 (c) 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A                     (d) 1-D, 2-A, 3-B, 4-C

- 69.** Saudi Arabia has coastlines along which of the following water bodies?  
 (a) Arabian Sea and Mediterranean Sea  
 (b) Caspian Sea and Arabian Sea  
 (c) Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf  
 (d) Red Sea, Persian Gulf and Gulf of Aqaba
- 70.** Who won India's first gold medal at the 2025 Senior Asian Wrestling Championships?  
 (a) Antim Panghal      (b) Reetika Hooda  
 (c) Vinesh Phogat      (d) Manisha Bhanwala
- 71.** Which among the following sports personalities was elected as the Chairperson of the Indian Weightlifting Federation's (IWF) Athletes Commission in April 2025?  
 (a) Karnam Malleswari      (b) Sanjita Chanu  
 (c) Mirabai Chanu      (d) Punam Yadav
- 72.** Kumudini Lakhia, who passed away in April 2025, was a pioneer in which Indian classical dance form?  
 (a) Bharatanatyam      (b) Odissi  
 (c) Kuchipudi      (d) Kathak
- 73.** Consider the following statements regarding World Heritage Day:  
 1. It is observed on April 18 to promote the preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world.
- 74.** The theme for World Heritage Day 2025 is "Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 Years of ICOMOS Actions".
- 75.** The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) declared this day in 1982, and it was subsequently approved by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1983.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1, 2 and 3      (b) 1 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only      (d) 3 only
- 74.** Which ministry released India's first Digital Threat Report 2024?  
 (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology  
 (b) Ministry of Communications  
 (c) Ministry of Home Affairs  
 (d) Ministry of Finance
- 75.** Which Indian satellite captured high-resolution images of the destruction caused by the Myanmar earthquake of March 2025?  
 (a) RISAT-2B      (b) Oceansat-2  
 (c) Cartosat-3      (d) GSAT-30

## Answer Key

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b)  | 2. (a)  | 3. (a)  | 4. (b)  | 5. (d)  | 6. (c)  | 7. (b)  | 8. (a)  | 9. (b)  | 10. (b) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (b) | 13. (b) | 14. (c) | 15. (c) | 16. (c) | 17. (c) | 18. (d) | 19. (c) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (a) | 22. (a) | 23. (c) | 24. (b) | 25. (c) | 26. (c) | 27. (c) | 28. (b) | 29. (b) | 30. (a) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (b) | 33. (c) | 34. (a) | 35. (d) | 36. (c) | 37. (c) | 38. (a) | 39. (a) | 40. (d) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (a) | 43. (d) | 44. (a) | 45. (b) | 46. (b) | 47. (b) | 48. (c) | 49. (c) | 50. (c) |
| 51. (b) | 52. (c) | 53. (b) | 54. (c) | 55. (d) | 56. (d) | 57. (b) | 58. (c) | 59. (b) | 60. (a) |
| 61. (b) | 62. (c) | 63. (d) | 64. (b) | 65. (c) | 66. (a) | 67. (a) | 68. (a) | 69. (d) | 70. (d) |
| 71. (c) | 72. (c) | 73. (a) | 74. (a) | 75. (c) |         |         |         |         |         |

Scan or Click Here for Detailed Solutions



# Defence and Military Exercises

## DRDO CONDUCTS MAIDEN FLIGHT-TRIALS OF STRATOSPHERIC AIRSHIP PLATFORM



### Context

DRDO successfully conducted maiden flight-trials of the Stratospheric Airship Platform.

### Date & Location

- Date:** May 03, 2025.
- Location:** Sheopur Trial Site, Madhya Pradesh.
- Developer:** Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra.

### Flight Details

- Reached an altitude of around 17 km.
- Carried an instrumental payload.
- Flight duration: Approximately 62 minutes.
- System was recovered post-flight for further analysis.

### Purpose & Evaluation

- Collected sensor data for developing high-fidelity simulation models for future missions.
- Envelope pressure control system and emergency deflation system were tested in flight for performance.

### Significance

- Enhances India's earth observation and Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.
- Positions India among the few nations with indigenous high-altitude airship technology.

## INS SHARDA ARRIVES MAAFILAAFUSHI, MALDIVES

### Context

INS Sharda arrived at Maafilaafushi Atoll, Maldives for a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise. The exercise is scheduled from **04 to 10 May 2025**.

### Purpose

- To enhance interoperability between the Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).
- To strengthen preparedness for natural disasters and humanitarian challenges.

### Exercise Focus Areas



### Strategic Importance

- Part of India's "MAHASAGAR" (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision.
- Emphasises regional cooperation for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region.

## DRDO & INDIAN NAVY CONDUCT COMBAT FIRING (WITH REDUCED EXPLOSIVE) OF INDIGENOUS MULTI-INFLUENCE GROUND MINE



### Context

DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully conducted combat firing (with reduced explosive) of the Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM).

### Development

- Indigenously designed and developed system.
- Developed by Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam.
- In collaboration with:
  - High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEML), Pune
  - Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh

### Purpose & Capabilities

- Designed to counter modern stealth ships and submarines.
- Enhances India's undersea warfare capabilities.
- MIGM uses multi-influence sensors to detect and respond to enemy naval vessels.

### Production Partners

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Visakhapatnam
- Apollo Microsystems Limited, Hyderabad

## OPERATION SINDOOR

### Context

Launch of 'OPERATION SINDOOR' by the Indian Armed Forces.

### Objective

- Targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).
- The operation aimed at sites from where terrorist attacks against India were planned and directed.

### Target Details

- A total of nine (9) terrorist sites were targeted.

### Nature of Operation

- Focused, measured, and non-escalatory.
- No Pakistani military facilities were targeted.
- India exercised restraint in target selection and method of execution.

### Trigger for Action

- Conducted in response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, where 25 Indian and 1 Nepali citizen were killed.
- Reaffirms India's commitment to hold the perpetrators accountable.

## 'ARNALA'- FIRST ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE SHALLOW WATER CRAFT



### Context

Delivery of 'Arnala', the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), to the Indian Navy.

### Design & Construction

- Indigenously designed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- Built under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between GRSE and L&T Shipyard.
- Constructed as per Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) classification rules.

## Name Significance

- Named after 'Arnala Fort' off Vasai, Maharashtra, reflecting India's maritime heritage.

## Specifications & Capabilities

- Length:** 77 meters
- Propulsion:** Diesel Engine-Waterjet combination – largest Indian Naval warship with this feature.
- Designed for:
  - Underwater surveillance
  - Search & Rescue operations
  - Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)
  - Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) in coastal waters
  - Advanced mine laying capabilities

## INDIAN NAVY TO INDUCT TRADITIONALLY BUILT 'ANCIENT STITCHED SHIP'



- The Indian Navy will induct and unveil the name of the Ancient Stitched Ship on 21 May 2025 at Naval Base, Karwar.

## Historical Inspiration

- The ship is a recreation of a 5th century CE vessel, inspired by a painting from the Ajanta Caves.
- The project was initiated in July 2023 through a tripartite agreement between:
  - Ministry of Culture (funding)
  - Indian Navy (technical oversight)
  - M/s Hodu Innovations (construction)

## Traditional Construction

- Keel laid: 12 September 2023
- Ship launched: February 2025 at Hodu Shipyard, Goa
- Constructed using entirely traditional methods and materials
- Built by artisans from Kerala, led by Master Shipwright Shri Babu Sankaran

- Involved thousands of hand-stitched joints, without modern fasteners

## Technical Complexity

- No blueprints or physical remains; design derived from Ajanta art
- IIT Madras (Ocean Engineering Dept.) assisted with hydrodynamic testing
- Indian Navy conducted in-house structural analysis of wooden mast systems

## Next Phase: Maritime Voyage

- Navy to sail the ship along ancient maritime trade routes
- Planned maiden transoceanic voyage: Gujarat to Oman
- Revives the spirit of ancient Indian seafaring

## LAUNCHING OF SIXTH 25T BOLLARD PULL TUG SABAL (YARD 340)



## Context

'Sabal', the sixth 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, was launched on 27 May 2025 at M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), Kolkata.

These tugs are part of a contract for the construction of six 25T BP Tugs, signed on 12 November 2021 with TRSL.

The tugs are indigenously designed and built in accordance with Naval Rules and Regulations of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).

Four tugs under the contract have already been successfully delivered by the shipyard.

These tugs are used by the Indian Navy to assist in:

- Berthing and un-berthing of naval ships and submarines
- Maneuvering in confined waters

## Additional Capabilities Include

- Afloat fire-fighting support
- Limited Search and Rescue (SAR) operations

## INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR INDIA-MONGOLIA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT



## Context

The Indian Army contingent departed for the 17th edition of India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT.

- Dates: The exercise will be conducted from 31st May to 13th June 2025.
- Venue: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- The exercise is an annual bilateral event, conducted alternately in India and Mongolia.
- The last edition was held in Umroi, Meghalaya in July 2024.
- The Indian contingent consists of 45 personnel, primarily from a battalion of the ARUNACHAL SCOUTS.
- The Mongolian Armed Forces will be represented by a 150 Special Forces unit of similar strength.

## Objective and Scope

- The main aim is to enhance interoperability between the two armies in:
  - Semi-conventional operations
  - Semi-urban and mountainous terrain
  - Under the United Nations mandate
- The exercise will feature a Platoon-level Field Training Exercise (FTX).
- Key training activities include:
  - Endurance training
  - Reflex shooting
  - Room intervention
  - Small team tactics
  - Rock craft training
  - Cyber warfare aspects (introduced in this edition)

- The soldiers will share operational experiences and learn from each other.

## OPERATION KAGAR



## Context

The Telangana Chief Minister has called for a national-level debate on Operation Kagar, highlighting its scale and implications.

### About Operation Kagar

- A large-scale counterinsurgency operation launched by the Indian government in 2024.
- Aimed at dismantling Maoist (Naxalite) insurgency, primarily in the "Red Corridor".
  - Includes Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and other neighbouring states.

## Forces Deployed

- Approx. 1 lakh paramilitary troops involved, including:
  - Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
  - CoBRA units (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action)
  - District Reserve Guards (DRG)
  - State police forces

## Use of Modern Technology

- Drones for surveillance and terrain mapping.
- AI for intelligence gathering and predictive analysis.
- Satellite imagery for real-time movement tracking.

## Strategic Plan (4-Stage Approach)

- Establish forward operating bases deep in Maoist-controlled zones.
- Construct fortified police stations in reclaimed areas to maintain law and order.
- Gather intelligence using advanced technology and monitoring tools.
- Promote a "generous surrender policy", which:
  - Encourages Maoists to lay down arms.
  - Has resulted in thousands of surrenders over the past decade.

## INS TAMIL

### Context

- Induction of INS Tamal comes amid rising tensions with Pakistan following a terror attack in Pahalgam.
- Strengthens the Indian Navy's maritime capabilities.

### About INS Tamal

- A stealth guided missile frigate of the Krivak-III class.
- Part of a \$2.5 billion India-Russia deal for four stealth frigates:
  - Two built in Russia (including INS Tushil and INS Tamal).
  - Two being built at Goa Shipyard Limited (Tripur and Tavasya).
- INS Tushil was commissioned in December 2024.
- INS Tamal is:
  - The second frigate in the series.
  - The last imported warship, as India now designs and builds its own warships.
- The remaining two frigates are under construction in India via technology transfer, costing approx. ₹13,000 crore.

### Design & Performance

- Length: 125 meters
- Displacement: 3,900 tonnes
- Cruising Speed: Up to 30 knots (~55 km/h)
- Operational Range: ~3,000 km per deployment
- Stealth Features: Radar-evading design for reduced detectability
- Indian Contribution: ~26% components sourced from Indian manufacturers
- Combines Russian design with Indian technology

### Combat & Operational Capabilities

- Blue water operations: Suitable for long-range missions and multi-dimensional warfare
- Naval warfare roles:
  - Air warfare
  - Surface warfare
  - Underwater warfare
  - Electronic warfare

### PL-15 MISSILE



### Context

Amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan following a recent terror attack in Pahalgam (J&K), a fully intact PL-15 long-range air-to-air missile of Chinese origin was discovered in Hoshiarpur, Punjab.

- Full Name: PL-15 (Thunderbolt-15)
- Type: Long-range Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)
- Origin: China
- Developer: 607 Institute (China)
- Manufacturer: China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC)

### Key Features of PL-15

- Propulsion:
  - Dual-pulse solid-propellant rocket motor
  - Capable of speeds exceeding Mach 5
- Range:
  - Domestic version: 200–300 km
  - Export version (PL-15E): Declared range of 145 km, practical range 100–120 km (based on launch conditions)
- Warhead:
  - High-explosive fragmentation warhead
  - Weight: 20–25 kg
  - Designed to neutralize highly maneuverable aerial targets

### Guidance and Navigation

- Inertial navigation system (INS)
- Beidou satellite update capability for mid-course navigation
- Two-way datalink for real-time target updates
- Terminal guidance: Active radar seeker using AESA (Active Electronically Scanned Array) radar
- High resistance to electronic jamming
- Effective in contested or EW-heavy environments

### HIGH MOBILITY ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEMS (HIMARS)

- Taiwan recently conducted its first live-firing of the American-supplied HIMARS.
- This comes amid increasing cross-strait tensions and efforts to bolster Taiwan's defensive capabilities.

### Functions of HIMARS

- Type: Lightweight, multiple rocket launcher.
- Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin Corporation, USA.
- Function:
  - Designed for rapid deployment and precision strikes.

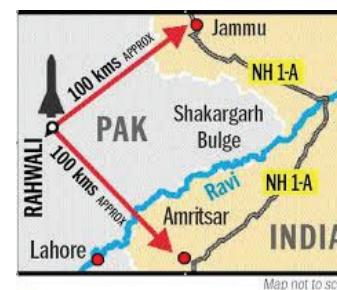
### Context

- Capable of engaging and defeating:
  - Artillery positions
  - Air defence units
  - Light-armoured vehicles
  - Trucks and personnel carriers
  - Troop/supply concentrations

### Key Features of HIMARS

- Mobility:
  - Mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) wheeled chassis.
  - Air-transportable, enhancing rapid deployment.
- Launcher Capacity:
  - Can carry either:
    - 1 pod of 6 rockets (range ≈ 43 miles / ~70 km)
    - OR 1 MGM-140 ATACMS missile (range up to 200 miles / ~300 km)
- Speed & Responsiveness:
  - Requires <20 seconds to prepare for firing.
  - Can launch all 6 rockets within 45 seconds.
  - Capable of "shoot-and-scoot" tactics, moving quickly to avoid enemy counter-fire.
- Crew Protection:
  - Equipped with Increased Crew Protection (ICP) cabin.
  - Shields 3-person crew from:
    - Rocket launch debris
    - Plume gases
    - Small arms fire

### SHAKARGARH BULGE



### Context

Amid rising military tensions between India and Pakistan, there has been a significant build-up

of Pakistani tanks and armoured vehicles in the Shakargarh Bulge region.

- Location:
  - A salient of Pakistani territory that juts into India.
  - Bordered by the Ravi and Chenab rivers.
- Strategic Importance:
  - Features flat terrain ideal for armoured warfare.
  - Close to key Indian cities like Amritsar, Pathankot, Batala, and Gurdaspur.
  - Proximity to road links leading to Jammu, making it crucial for defensive and offensive operations.
- Military Significance:
  - Recent build-up of Pakistani tanks and armoured vehicles has been reported in the region.
  - Acts as a potential corridor for military movement for both India and Pakistan.
- Historical Relevance:
  - Site of the Battle of Basantar during the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
  - The 12-day-long battle was one of the most decisive engagements on the western front.
  - Indian forces successfully repelled Pakistani advances, securing a strategic victory.

### INVAR MISSILE

Context: The Ministry of Defence is in the final stages of clearing a procurement deal for 500 Invar anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) from Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL).

The deal is expected to be valued between ₹2,000 crore and ₹3,000 crore, signaling a major step towards bolstering India's tank-based offensive capabilities.

This procurement aligns with India's ongoing focus on:

- Enhancing indigenous defence production under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- Upgrading armoured corps firepower, especially in border areas.
- Ensuring self-reliance in critical defence technologies through licensed production.

### About Invar Missile

- Type: Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM).
- Launch Platform: Fired from the barrel of 125 mm smoothbore gun of T-90 tanks.
- Origin: Developed by Rosoboronexport (Russia).
- Manufactured in India by: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) under a license agreement.

## Art and Culture

### VIKRAMADITYA I DATED INSCRIPTION FOUND IN DAVANGERE



#### Context

A 7th-century inscription belonging to the time of Vikramaditya I (654-681 AD) of the Badami Chalukya dynasty was recently found in Davangere district, Karnataka.

#### About Chalukya Dynasty of Badami

- The Chalukya Dynasty of Badami, also known as the Early Chalukyas or the Western Chalukyas, was a significant Indian royal dynasty that ruled large parts of southern and central India between the 6th and 8th centuries CE.
- They were known for their administrative prowess, military achievements, and contributions to art and architecture.

### GUNDARAM INSCRIPTIONS IN TELANGANA

#### Context

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has documented eleven Satavahana Era inscriptions during a recent survey in the Gundaram Reserve Forest in Telangana.

#### About the Gundaram Inscriptions

- The Gundaram Inscriptions are a set of two significant epigraphs discovered in the Gundaram Reserve Forest near Gattusingaram village in Peddapalli district, Telangana.

- These inscriptions offer valuable insights into the rise and decline of Buddhism in the Deccan region over a span of 600 years.

### RAMMAN FESTIVAL



#### Context

Recently, the Uttarakhand's traditional festival, Ramman, is celebrated in Salur Dungra village of Jyotirmath.

#### About Ramman Festival

- The Ramman Festival is a unique religious and cultural festival celebrated in the state of Uttarakhand, India.
- It is particularly associated with the village of Saloor Dungra in the Chamoli district, and was recognized by UNESCO in 2009 as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

### REVIVAL OF AYURVEDIC MANUSCRIPTS



#### Context

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRS), under the Ministry of Ayush, has revived two Ayurvedic manuscripts i.e Dravyaratnakara Nighantu and Dravyanamakara Nighantu.

#### About Dravyaratnakara Nighantu

- The Dravyaratnakara Nighantu is an important Ayurvedic text that belongs to the category of Nighantus, which are lexicons or compendiums focusing on medicinal substances (called *dravyas* in Sanskrit).
- These texts typically explain the names, properties, therapeutic uses, and classifications of various herbs, minerals, and animal products used in Ayurveda.

#### About Dravyanamakara Nighantu

- The Dravyanamakara Nighantu is a specialized Ayurvedic lexicon, focusing on the nomenclature and classification of medicinal substances.
- Attributed to Bhimsa Vaidya, this work serves as an appendix to the Dhavantri Nighantu, contributing to the rich tradition of Ayurvedic pharmacology.

### 100 YEARS OF THE ART DECO STYLE



#### Context

It has been 100 years since Art Deco Style was introduced to the world.

#### About Art Deco Style

- Art Deco is a distinctive and influential style of visual arts, architecture, and design that first appeared

in France just before World War I and flourished internationally during the 1920s and 1930s.

- It is known for its bold geometric forms, luxurious materials, and a futuristic aesthetic that represented modernity and progress.

### INDIA'S SACRED RELIC OF SAKYAMUNI BUDDHA TO VIETNAM



#### Context

India is sending the sacred relic of Sakyamuni Buddha from Sarnath to Vietnam for an international exposition marking the United Nations Day of Vesak 12th May 2025, it is organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

#### Significance of Sarnath Relic of Sakyamuni Buddha

- The Sarnath relic of Sakyamuni Buddha holds profound religious, historical, and cultural significance, especially in the context of Buddhism.
- It is closely associated with the life of the Buddha, the spread of Buddhism, and India's ancient Buddhist heritage.

## Environment and Geography

### BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM (BRS) CONVENTIONS 2025

#### Context

An inter-ministerial delegation from India participated in the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions held in Geneva.

#### About The Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions:

##### 1. Basel Convention (1989)

**Full Name:** Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

- **Adopted:** 1989, entered into force in 1992
- **Main Goal:** To reduce the movement of hazardous waste between countries, especially from developed to less developed countries.

##### Key Provisions:

- Prior informed consent (PIC) for hazardous waste shipments
- Minimize waste generation at the source
- Promote environmentally sound management of waste
- **Relevance:** Prevents dumping of toxic waste in poorer countries.

##### 2. Rotterdam Convention (1998)

**Full Name:** Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

- **Adopted:** 1998, entered into force in 2004
- **Main Goal:** To promote shared responsibilities in the import/export of hazardous chemicals.

##### Key Provisions:

- Prior informed consent (PIC) required before export of certain hazardous chemicals
- Informed decision-making in importing countries
- Promotes transparency and information exchange about chemical hazards
- **Relevance:** Protects countries from unwanted or unsafe imports of hazardous chemicals.

### 3. Stockholm Convention (2001)

**Full Name:** Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

- **Adopted:** 2001, entered into force in 2004
- **Main Goal:** To eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Control and phase-out of listed POPs (e.g., DDT, PCBs, dioxins)
  - Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from production, use, and disposal
  - Safe disposal and destruction of POPs stockpiles
- **Relevance:** POPs are long-lasting chemicals that accumulate in the environment and living organisms, posing serious health risks.

#### SAOLA



#### Context

An international research team has mapped the genome of the saola the world's rarest large land mammal, nicknamed the "Asian unicorn".

#### About Saola

- **Scientific Name:** Pseudoryx nghetinhensis
- **Discovery:** First described in 1993.
- **Habitat:** Misty highland forests of Annamite mountains (Vietnam-Laos border).
- **Conservation Status:** Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List).
- **Estimated Population (2015):** ~50–300 individuals

### CLIMATE TAXONOMY' DOCUMENT

#### Context

Recently, the Finance Ministry has made public a draft document, 'Framework of India's Climate Finance Taxonomy'.

#### Climate Finance Taxonomy

A climate finance taxonomy is a system that classifies economic activities as sustainable investments.

It guides investors and banks to direct funds into impactful projects tackling climate change. **India's Climate Finance Taxonomy**

India's initiative is part of a global trend along with the EU, UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada, and Australia.

#### Objectives

- Its aim is to direct investments towards clean-energy projects and climate-resilient infrastructure
- The taxonomy seeks to support India's goal of achieving Net Zero by 2070 while ensuring affordable and reliable energy access.
- It also aims to prevent greenwashing and contribute to India's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047

### INFRACTESCENCE: WORLD'S LONGEST BANANA



#### Context

The World's Longest Banana Infructescence was discovered in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- **Species:** Musa indandamanensis, a wild banana endemic to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. **Record:** The infructescence (fruit bunch) of 4.2 metres was recorded in an endemic species of wild banana, the Musa indandamanensis, the longest recorded globally.
- **Discovery Site:** Campbell Bay, Nicobar Islands.

### VRUTHI' CAMPAIGN

#### Context

Recently a five-day conclave, titled 'Vruthi 2025: The Clean Kerala Conclave' held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

### About 'Vruthi' Campaign

- Kerala launched the 'Vruthi' campaign on October 2, 2024, to tackle the growing waste crisis through community engagement and behavioural transformation.
- Vruthi focuses on cleanliness of mind and environment with participation from bureaucrats, schools, civil society, and sanitation workers.
- The Slogan for the Campaign is "My Waste, My Responsibility."

### MAHADAYI (MHADEI) RIVER



#### Context

A new study by the National Institute of Oceanography found that Karnataka's plan to divert water from the Mahadai river will have minimal impact on Goa's Mandovi estuary. This has brought the long-standing water dispute between Karnataka and Goa back into focus.

#### About the Mahadai (Mhadei) River

- River Mahadai is spread across the Districts of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- **Origin:** The Mahadai River originates in the Western Ghats in Karnataka's Belagavi district (Bhimad Wildlife Sanctuary).
- **Length:** Approximately 111 km long.
- **Drainage Basin:** It covers around 2032 sq. km, with 52 km in Karnataka, 9 km in Maharashtra, and the remaining 50 km in Goa.
- **Flow:** It flows westward and drains into the Arabian Sea at Panaji (Goa), where it is known as the Mandovi River.
- **Tributaries:** Kalasa Nala, Surla Nala, Haltar Nala, Poti Nala, Mahadai Nala, Pansheer Nala, Bail Nala, Ander Nala

#### Mahadai Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT)

- Mahadai Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) was set up in 2010.
- **Tribunal's 2018 Verdict:** The tribunal allocated 13.42 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic Feet) of water to Karnataka. "1.72 TMC from Kalasa" TMC from Bhandura

"Remaining for in-basin use and hydro projects Goa and Karnataka both challenged the verdict in the Supreme Court, where the matter is sub judice.

## BROOKLYN BRIDGE



A Mexican navy tall sailing ship Cuauhtemoc reportedly hit the New York City's Brooklyn Bridge.

### About

- The Brooklyn Bridge is a large-scale steel and stone cable-stayed suspension bridge with a central span of 1,595 feet (486 m) and a total length of 5,989 Feet (1,25 m).
- It was completed in 1883.
- It spans the East River to connect the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn.

## MASS NESTING OF OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES

### Context

In March 2025, a record-breaking arribada (mass nesting event) of over seven lakh Olive Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) was observed at Rushikulya beach, Odisha

### About Olive Ridley Turtles:

- Scientific Name:** *Lepidochelys olivacea* Conservation
- Status:** Vulnerable (IUCN Red List)
- Global Distribution:** They are found in warm tropical and subtropical waters, with primary nesting sites along the Pacific coasts of Mexico and Central America.
- Indian Context:** Odisha is a critical nesting site, with three major rookeries: Gahirmatha, Devi, and Rushikulya.

## ASIATIC LIONS



### Context

The Union government announced a significant rise in the Asiatic lion population in India, which has increased from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025. This 32% growth is being hailed as a major milestone in India's wildlife conservation efforts, attributed to the proactive implementation of Project Lion and coordinated conservation strategies led by the Government of India

### Asiatic Lions

- The Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*), also known as the Persian lion or Indian lion, is a subspecies of lion that is found exclusively in India.
- Its natural habitat is confined to the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the state of Gujarat.
- Historically, Asiatic lions were distributed across West Asia and the Middle East.
- However, due to widespread hunting and habitat destruction, they have become extinct in these regions, making India the last remaining refuge for this species

### Major Conservation Areas

#### Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary

- Established:** 1965 "Area: Core area of 1,412 sq. km, with a buffer zone of 470 sq. km, amounting to a total protected area of 1,882 sq. km".
- Significance:** The only natural habitat of the Asiatic lion in the world.

## GLOBAL CALL TO BAN CHLORPYRIFOS

### Context

- The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions in Geneva proposed the banning of toxic pesticide Chlorpyrifos by listing it under Annex A of Stockholm Convention (complete global ban without exemptions).
- However, India opposed the move, citing the absence of viable alternatives and the potential threat to food security.

### What is Chlorpyrifos?

- Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate (formed by esterifying phosphoric acid with alcohol) insecticide used in agriculture, public health to control pests like termites, mosquitoes, and roundworms.
- It works by inhibiting an acetylcholinesterase enzyme essential for nerve function, affecting both target pests and non-target species, including humans.

**Health Impact:** Exposure (via skin, inhalation, or ingestion) can cause headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle cramps, and in severe cases, paralysis and breathing difficulty.

## ASTEROID 2024 YR4



### Context

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has updated its assessment of Asteroid 2024 YR4, initially considered a potential Earth threat, now indicating a 3.8% chance of it colliding with the Moon on December 22, 2032.

### About

- This collision with the Moon could result in the formation of a large crater and pose a significant risk to lunar missions.
- Asteroid 2024 YR4: It was first discovered in December 2024, by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) telescope in Chile.
- It is a Near-Earth asteroid (NEA) with an orbit that brings it within 1.3 Astronomical Units (1 AU is the average distance from Earth to the Sun) of Earth.
- It is estimated to be 53-67 meters wide, about the size of a 15-story building.

## AI-ENABLED WATER ATLAS

### Context

Haryana has launched the Haryana Water Resource Atlas 2025, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered geospatial platform that monitors, manages, and conserves the state's rapidly depleting water reserves.

### AI-Enabled Water Atlas

- The platform offers real-time insights into groundwater levels, surface water bodies, aquifers, recharge zones, canal systems, and cropping patterns.
- It provides real-time, data-driven support for water conservation, sustainable farming, and infrastructure

planning by integrating satellite data, GPS surveys, IMD meteorological inputs, and data from Central Groundwater Board (CGWB), Irrigation, and Agriculture Departments.

- India is taking strides in effective water management with the help of AI.
- Recently, researchers from IIT Kharagpur have also developed an AI-based prediction model for detecting Arsenic pollution in drinking water.

## VEMBANAD LAKE



### Context

Vembanad Lake, India's longest lake, is facing severe degradation from encroachment, pollution, and invasive species, leading to a 66% decline in fish catch and reduced flood control capacity.

### Vembanad Lake

- Vembanad Lake, largest in Kerala also known as Vembanad Kayal, and Kochi Lake (in Kochi), spanning 96.5 km across Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Ernakulam.
- It has been a Ramsar wetland (second-largest Ramsar site after Sundarbans) since 2002 and is part of the National Wetlands Conservation Programme.
- It is fed by 4 rivers-Meenachil, Achankovil, Pampa, and Manimala, and separated from the Arabian Sea by a narrow barrier island.
- It hosts the annual Vallam Kali (Nehru Trophy Boat Race) in August.
- The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary lies on its eastern shore. In 2019, Kochi's Willingdon Island was formed from the lake.

# Economy

## FOREIGN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS (FIIs)

### FIIs turnaround

This comes amid volatility in global markets after Trump's tariff announcement



### Context

FIIs became **net buyers of Indian equities** in April 2025 for the first time in four months.

- Total net inflow: ₹4,223 crore.

### About Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)

- FIIs are a subset of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- Includes large institutional investors like:
  - Mutual Funds
  - Pension Funds
  - Insurance Companies
  - Hedge Funds
- Adopt a strategic and long-term investment approach.
- Bring stable capital inflows to emerging markets.
- However, rapid FII outflows can destabilise domestic financial markets.
- Thus, regulatory oversight is essential.

### Regulatory Framework in India

- FIIs are governed by:
  - Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999
  - SEBI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI):
  - Monitors sectoral investment ceilings on a daily basis.

### Investment Ceilings and Eligibility

- Investment limit per FII:** Up to 10% in a single Indian company.
- Combined limit (FIIs + NRIs + PIOs):** 24%.
- Eligible FII entities now include:
  - University funds
  - Charitable endowments
  - Trusts (with minimum 5-year operational history)
- FIIs can:
  - Invest in unlisted securities
  - Use proprietary funds for investment

### Macroeconomic Drivers

- Softening of U.S. Dollar Index:**
  - Declined from 104–105 to 99–100.
  - Resulted in strengthening of Indian rupee, attracting FIIs.
- RBI's accommodative monetary policy and macroeconomic stability** boosted investor confidence.

### INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

- Established in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference.
- A specialised agency of the United Nations.
- Created to ensure **global monetary stability** after the Great Depression.

### Purpose and Objectives

- Promotes **monetary cooperation** among nations.
- Ensures **financial stability**.
- Facilitates **international trade**.
- Supports **high employment** and **sustainable economic growth**.
- Aims to reduce **global poverty**.  
**Functions of the IMF**
  - Economic Surveillance:**
    - Monitors global and individual country economies.
    - Provides **policy advice** to promote stability and growth.
  - Financial Assistance:** Offers loans to countries facing balance-of-payments crises.

- Technical Assistance & Capacity Building:** Helps countries improve **economic governance**, tax systems, budgeting, financial regulation, etc.

- Conditional Lending:** IMF loans come with conditions, requiring countries to undertake economic reforms for fiscal discipline and long-term growth.

### Membership and Voting Power

- The IMF has **190 member countries**.
- Each country contributes a **quota**, based on its:
  - Economic size
  - Performance
- Voting Power** is based on:
  - Basic votes** (same for all members)
  - Quota-based votes:** 1 vote per **100,000 SDRs** of quota

### Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)

- SDRs are **international reserve assets** created by the IMF.
- Not a currency, but can be **exchanged for freely usable currencies**.
- Used to supplement member countries' **official reserves**.

### Organisational Structure

- Board of Governors:**
  - Highest decision-making body.
  - Composed of **finance ministers or central bank governors** of member countries.
- Executive Board:** 24 members responsible for **day-to-day operations**.
- Managing Director:**
  - Heads the IMF and chairs the Executive Board.
  - Traditionally a **European** national.
  - Leads the IMF staff and operations.

### Headquarters

- Located in **Washington, D.C., United States**.

## INDIA EXTENDED A USD 50 MILLION TREASURY BILL TO THE MALDIVES



### Context

India extended a USD 50 million Treasury Bill to the Maldives for another year. This support is routed through the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. The move reflects India's ongoing commitment to assist the Maldives in **maintaining economic stability**.

### Definition & Purpose

- T-Bills are **short-term debt instruments** issued by the **Government of India**.
- Managed by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on behalf of the Government.
- Primary objective: **Meet short-term financial requirements** of the central government.
- Also used by RBI under **Open Market Operations (OMO)** to manage liquidity and inflation.

### Key Features

- Zero Coupon Instruments:**
  - Do not carry interest.
  - Issued at a **discount** and redeemed at **face value**.
  - Example: A ₹100 T-Bill may be issued at ₹98.
  - Return = ₹100 (maturity value) – ₹98 (issue price) = ₹2.
- Tenure Options:**
  - 91 days
  - 182 days
  - 364 days
- Minimum Investment:** ₹25,000 or in multiples thereof.
- Highly Liquid & Safe:**
  - Considered one of the **safest and most liquid** government securities.

### Issue Process

- T-Bills are issued through a **competitive auction** conducted by **RBI**.
- Auctions are held on the **E-Kuber platform**, the RBI's Core Banking Solution.

### Eligible Investors

- Open to **all types of entities** registered in India, including:
  - Banks
  - Financial Institutions
  - Primary Dealers
  - Corporates
  - Mutual Funds
  - State Governments
  - Trusts
  - Individual investors**
- Available in both **primary and secondary markets**.

## STAGFLATION

- According to the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)**, banks are holding **\$482.4 billion in unrealized losses** from securities investments — a **32.5% increase** from the previous quarter.
- Definition:** A rare economic condition where the following three occur **simultaneously**:
  - High inflation (rising prices),
  - Stagnant or slow economic growth,
  - High unemployment.
- Historical Origin:**
  - The term originated in the **1960s**.
  - Gained global attention during the **1970s oil crisis**.

### Why Stagflation is Problematic

- Policy Dilemma:** Measures to fix one issue can **worsen the others**.
  - E.g., **Raising interest rates** to curb inflation can slow down growth and increase unemployment.

### Causes of Stagflation

- Supply Shocks:**
  - Sudden increases in prices of key inputs (like oil) raise production costs.
  - This leads to **higher inflation and lower output**.
- Policy Errors:**
  - Uncoordinated fiscal and monetary policies, such as:
    - Excessive government spending,
    - Delayed or aggressive interest rate changes.
  - These can create inflation without stimulating real growth.
- Tariff Increases:**
  - Trade barriers (e.g., U.S. tariffs) raise costs for imported inputs.
  - Result: **Cost-push inflation** and reduced consumer/business demand.

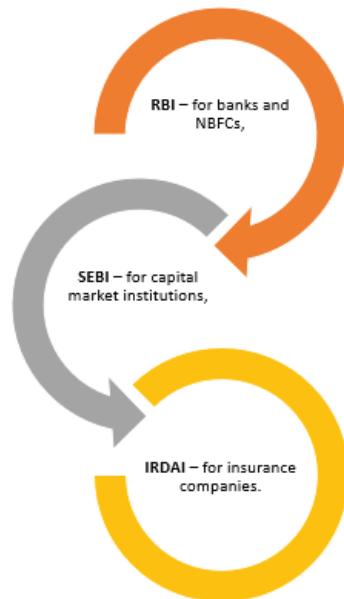
## ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUNDS (AIFS)

### Context

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently released revised draft directions concerning the **investments made by Regulated Entities (REs)** in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). Here's a contextual explanation based on the background you provided:

### Who are Regulated Entities (REs)?

Regulated Entities (REs) are financial institutions that function under the strict oversight of regulatory bodies such as:



These entities play a crucial role in:

- Maintaining financial system stability,
- Ensuring adherence to financial laws and regulations,
- Preventing financial malpractices like money laundering and fraud.

Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) are investment vehicles that pool money from investors and invest in non-traditional asset classes, such as:

- Private equity,
- Hedge funds,
- Venture capital,
- Infrastructure,
- Real estate, etc.

### Key Facts

- Regulated by SEBI under the AIF Regulations, 2012.
- Generally cater to **sophisticated investors**, including HNIs and institutional investors.
- Can be formed as a **trust, company, LLP, or body corporate**.
- Come in **three categories**:
  - Category I:** Socially/economically beneficial areas like start-ups, SMEs, infrastructure.

- Category II:** Private equity, debt funds (not using leverage).
- Category III:** Hedge funds, complex strategies (may use leverage).

## RBI DIVIDEND

### Context

The RBI transferred ₹2.69 lakh crore as dividend for FY 2024-25 — a record-high amount that reflects strong financial performance. This is 27% higher than the ₹2.10 lakh crore transferred in FY 2023-24.

### What Is a Dividend in Public Finance?

In the context of public finance, a **dividend** is the share of profits or surplus income that a **public institution** like the RBI returns to its **sole shareholder** — the **Government of India**.

- Unlike private companies where dividends go to shareholders, the **RBI transfers surplus to the government**, which becomes part of the **non-tax revenue**.
- This helps the government:
  - Bridge fiscal deficits** (reduce the gap between its revenue and expenditure),
  - Fund welfare programs** or infrastructure,
  - Manage borrowing requirements more efficiently.

### DARK PATTERNS

- The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution has directed all e-commerce companies to conduct self-audits to identify and eliminate **dark patterns**.
- This step is aimed at ensuring **compliance with consumer protection regulations** and enhancing transparency and fairness in online transactions.
- Definition:** User interface designs intentionally crafted to **mislead, manipulate**, or trick users into actions they might not take under normal circumstances.
- Coined by:** Harry Brignull, a UK-based user experience designer, in 2010.
- Purpose:** Exploit cognitive biases and psychological tendencies to **benefit the company**, often at the expense of the consumer.

### Common Types of Dark Patterns

- Sneak into Basket:** Automatically adding items to the cart without user consent.
- Hidden Costs:** Revealing additional charges only at the final checkout step.
- Trick Questions:** Confusing language designed to mislead user choices.

- Confirmshaming:** Guilt-tripping users into opting in (e.g., "No, I don't want to save money").
- Disguised Ads:** Making advertisements look like normal content.
- Roach Motel:** Easy to sign up for a service but hard to cancel.
- Pre-selected Options:** Options like insurance or add-ons already ticked by default.
- Visual Trickery:** Using bright colours for "Accept" and hiding "Reject" options for cookies or terms.

### Legal and Regulatory Aspects in India

- No dedicated law specifically bans dark patterns yet.
- Covered under **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** as part of **unfair trade practices**.
- Enforcement is **challenging in digital platforms** due to the rapid pace of user interaction and difficulty in proving intent.
- In November 2023, the **Department of Consumer Affairs** issued guidelines identifying **13 specific dark patterns**.
  - Using these amounts to misleading advertisements, unfair trade practices, or violations of consumer rights.

### Government Measures

- Companies are now instructed to:
  - Conduct internal audits of UI/UX designs.
  - Identify and eliminate any use of dark patterns.
  - Ensure compliance with the November 2023 guidelines.
- The objective is to **protect digital consumers** and ensure **fairness and transparency** in the online marketplace.

### OPEN INTEREST

- SEBI has recently announced a **major reform** in its **equity Futures & Options (F&O)** framework.
- Introduced a new method called **Future Equivalent (FutEq)** to assess **Open Interest (OI)** more accurately.
- Aim: To improve **transparency, risk management, and market integrity** in derivatives trading.
- Definition:** The total number of active (**open**) **Futures and Options (F&O)** contracts that **haven't been settled** (i.e., not squared off).
- Each contract involves **two parties** — a **buyer** and a **seller** — and remains "open" until either party exits the trade.
- Tracks **contracts outstanding**, not total volume traded.

## How It Works

- Open Interest increases when new contracts are created (i.e., more traders entering the market).
- Open Interest decreases when existing contracts are squared off or closed by either party.
- It changes daily depending on how many new contracts are opened vs. how many are closed.

## Importance of Open Interest in the Stock Market

1. Liquidity Indicator:
  - ♦ High OI = High liquidity.
  - ♦ Makes it easier to enter/exit trades with minimal price impact.
2. Market Sentiment Gauge:
  - ♦ Rising OI + Rising price → Bullish trend confirmation.
  - ♦ Falling OI + Rising price → Possible weakening of trend or profit-taking.
3. Trend Prediction Tool:
  - ♦ Rising OI indicates new money flowing into the market → supports trend continuation.

- Declining OI suggests position unwinding → indicates possible trend reversal or market consolidation.

### 4. Supports Trading Decisions:

- ♦ Helps traders understand commitment levels of market participants.
- ♦ Useful in determining entry/exit points along with price and volume analysis.

### 5. Bullish/Bearish Signal:

- ♦ After sustained rally, a plateau or drop in OI may signal the end of a bullish phase.

### SEBI's New 'FutEq' Method

- Introduces Future Equivalent (FutEq) units to standardize how Open Interest is calculated across various derivative instruments.
- Makes position monitoring and margin calculation more accurate.
- Aims to enhance risk assessment by providing a uniform benchmark across instruments.

# 5

## Schemes in News

### 2. Port Connectivity Enhancement:

- ♦ Rail, road, and inland waterways.
- ♦ Last-mile connectivity projects.

### 3. Port-led Industrialization:

- ♦ Establish CEZs and Coastal Employment Units.
- ♦ Encourage industries in proximity to ports.

### 4. Coastal Community Development:

- ♦ Skill development.
- ♦ Fisheries and coastal tourism promotion.

## PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA (PMSBY)

### Context

Recently, PMSBY completed 10 years of providing social security cover.

### About Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

#### Introduction

- Launched: March 2015
- Ministry: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- Objective: To promote port-led development in India through modernization of ports, connectivity enhancement, and coastal community development.
- Aims to harness the potential of India's 7,500 km coastline, 14,500 km of navigable waterways, and 200+ ports.

#### Vision and Objectives

- Reduce logistics cost and time for domestic and EXIM cargo.
- Modernize ports and integrate them with industrial and transport corridors.
- Develop coastal economic zones (CEZs) and promote port-linked industrialization.
- Enhance coastal shipping and inland water transport.
- Improve livelihoods in coastal communities.

#### Four Pillars of Sagarmala

1. Port Modernization & New Port Development:
  - ♦ Upgrade existing ports.
  - ♦ Develop new Greenfield ports.

## SAGARMALA PROGRAMME

### Sagarmala Project:

Unlocking the potential of coastline & waterways

As part of the Sagarmala project, the Centre has prepared a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for the comprehensive development of India's 7,500km coastline, 14,500km of potentially navigable waterways and the maritime sector.



### Objective

To offer a renewable accident insurance cover at a nominal premium to ensure financial security for low-income individuals and their families in case of accidental death or disability.

### Target Beneficiaries

- Poor and vulnerable groups
- Workers in the unorganized sector
- People without access to formal insurance

## PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA (PMJJBY)

### Context

Recently, PMJJBY completed 10 years of providing social security cover.

## Introduction

- Launched: 9th May 2015
- Ministry: Ministry of Finance
- Part of the **Jan Suraksha Scheme** trio (with PMSBY and APY)
- Provides **affordable life insurance** to ensure financial protection to low-income families.

## Objective

To offer **low-cost life insurance coverage** to individuals, especially from the **underprivileged and unorganized sectors**, thereby reducing their financial vulnerability in case of untimely death.

## Target Beneficiaries

- Individuals from **low-income groups**
- Workers in the **unorganized sector**
- People without existing life insurance coverage

## ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY)

### Context

Recently, APY completed 10 years of providing social security cover.

- Launched with the aim of creating a universal social security net, the Atal Pension Yojana focuses on providing a guaranteed monthly pension to workers in the unorganized sector after retirement.
- It promotes long-term saving habits among low-income individuals who are typically outside the purview of formal pension systems.

### Who Can Enroll?

Age limit: 18 to 40 year Must have a savings account in a bank or post office Applicable only to non-income tax payers

**Pension Options:** Upon reaching 60 years of age, subscribers receive a fixed monthly pension of ₹1,000, ₹2,000, ₹3,000, ₹4,000, or ₹5,000, depending on their contribution and age at entry.

### Post-Retirement Benefits

- Pension continues to the spouse after the subscriber's death
- After the spouse's demise, the accumulated corpus is transferred to the nominee
- In case of premature death, the spouse can opt to continue the scheme or exit with benefits.

## NATIONAL SCHEME FOR UPGRADATION OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTES (ITIS)

### Context

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the National Scheme for Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

## About the National Scheme for Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)

It is a major vocational education scheme to revamp 1,000 ITIs and establish five Centres of Excellence for Skill Development.

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- **Funding:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Multi-Stakeholder Funding Model.
- **Budget:** The scheme will have a total outlay of ₹60,000 crore with contributions from the Centre (₹30,000 crore), States (₹20,000 crore), and Industry (₹10,000 crore).
- **International Support:** 50% of the Central Government's share will be co-financed equally by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

### Hub-and-Spoke Model

- 1,000 Government ITIs will be upgraded in a hub-and-spoke model with industry-aligned courses and modern infrastructure.
- "Hub" ITIs are top-performing institutes upgraded with advanced infrastructure and training capabilities to act as central resource centers.
- "Spoke" ITIs are nearby smaller institutes linked to these hubs to access training, faculty development, and technology.

## PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA

### Context

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, 97% of all reported claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) have been settled across India.

### Introduction

- Launched: 18th February 2016
- Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- Replaced earlier schemes like **NAIS** (National Agricultural Insurance Scheme) and **MNAIS**
- Aims to provide **comprehensive crop insurance** to farmers against non-preventable natural risks.

### Objective

To provide **financial support** to farmers in the event of **crop failure** due to natural calamities, pests, or diseases, thereby ensuring **stability in farm income** and encouraging them to adopt **innovative agricultural practices**.

### Coverage Inclusions

- Sowing risk
- Post-harvest losses (up to 14 days after harvesting)

- Localized calamities
- Mid-season adversity

## SVAMITVA SCHEME

### Context

At the World Bank Land Conference 2025, India showcased its pioneering initiatives in land governance—the SVAMITVA Scheme and the Gram Manchitra platform as part of the plenary session on "Good Practices and Challenges in Land Tenure and Governance Reform".

### About

- The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in 2020.
- It is a central sector scheme to provide legal ownership of residential properties in rural areas using drone and GIS technology.
- It aimed at creating a Record of Rights for rural property owners, focusing on abadi areas (inhabited regions).

## Index and Reports

### WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2025



#### Context

- World Press Freedom Index 2025 published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

#### Key Highlights

- RSF has, for the first time, described the global press freedom situation as a "difficult situation".
- The report highlights worsening conditions due to:
  - Economic hardship
  - Media ownership concentration
  - Political repression and censorship

#### India's Ranking and Situation

- Rank in 2025: 151st (Improved from 159th in 2024)
- Global Score: 32.96 out of 100
- Key Issues in India:
  - Violence against journalists
  - Use of sedition and anti-terror laws to suppress dissent
  - Censorship, especially in digital media
  - Restrictions on journalists reporting from conflict-prone regions, such as Kashmir.

#### Top 10 Countries for Press Freedom in 2025

- Norway remains at the top of the index, followed by Estonia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Ireland, Portugal, Switzerland, and Czechia.

### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2025



#### Context

- India has made progress in the 2023 Human Development Index (HDI), rising to rank 130 out of 193 countries, an improvement from rank 133 in 2022.
- This advancement is supported by gains in health, education, income, and gender equality.
- India's HDI value now stands at 0.685, placing it in the medium human development category, and nearing the high development threshold of 0.700.
- Top-ranked countries in the HDI include Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland, with very high development values.
- On the other end, South Sudan ranks last, with countries like Somalia, Central African Republic, and Chad also occupying the lowest positions.

### NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA (NITI AAYOG'S NEW REPORT AIDS TO BOOST MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES) COMPETITIVENESS IN INDIA



#### Context

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness, released a report to boost the

competitiveness of India's MSMEs by addressing key challenges in credit access, skill development, technology adoption, and market integration.

#### Key Points

- **Credit:** Formal credit access rose from 14% to 20% for micro/small enterprises and 4% to 9% for medium enterprises (2020–2024).
- Only 19% of credit demand is met; the report proposes reforms to the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust (CGTMSE) to close this gap.
- **Skills:** Urges stronger vocational training, especially in R&D and innovation.
- **Technology:** Calls for better infrastructure and support for tech adoption.
- **Markets:** Recommends digital marketing, logistics support, and global market access, with focus on eastern and northeastern India.
- **Policy:** Advocates a flexible, cluster-based state policy to foster growth and innovation.

## International Affairs

### INDIA-US MARITIME DEAL

#### Context

Recently, The U.S. State Department has approved a potential Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to India, valued at \$131 million, for maritime surveillance under the IPMDA initiative.

#### About Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) Initiative

- Launched in 2022 by the Quad countries during the Tokyo Summit.
- Designed as a technology and training-based initiative to enhance maritime security and transparency in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Foreign Military Sales (FMS)** is a program managed by the **U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)** that allows foreign governments and international organizations to purchase defense equipment, services, and training from the U.S. government.

### ARCTIC COUNCIL



### ARCTIC COUNCIL

#### Context

Denmark assumed the rotating chairmanship of the Arctic Council, taking over from Norway

#### About the Arctic Council

- The **Arctic Council** is a high-level intergovernmental forum established in 1996 to promote cooperation among the eight Arctic States—Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States—along with six Indigenous organizations known as Permanent Participants.

- Focused on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection, the Council addresses challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, marine safety, and pollution through scientific research and policy collaboration.
- It does not deal with military or security matters and operates by consensus, with decisions that are non-binding.
- The Arctic Council includes observers such as non-Arctic states, intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs, making it a key platform for international dialogue on the rapidly changing Arctic region.

### 1267 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE

#### Context

- An Indian technical team is in New York interacting with the Monitoring Team of the 1267 Sanctions Committee.
- India has accused The Resistance Front (TRF) of carrying out the deadly April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, and is working towards getting the TRF banned under the 1267 Committee.

#### About 1267 Sanctions Committee/ Daesh and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee

- Establishment:** Set up in 1999 through UN Security Council Resolution 1267.
- Composition:** The Committee comprises all 15 members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and makes its decision by consensus.
- The 1267 List:** The 1267 list is a global list of terrorists with a UNSC stamp. It discusses UN efforts to limit the movement of terrorists, especially those related to travel bans, the freezing of assets and arms embargoes for terrorism.

### COLOMBIA JOINS CHINA'S BRI

#### Context

China and Colombia signed a joint cooperation plan under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

#### What is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

##### Launched in: 2013

- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is China's flagship global infrastructure and economic development project.

- It aims to enhance connectivity and economic integration across Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America by: “**Building roads, railways, ports, pipelines, and power plants.**” Boosting trade and investment flows.
- “Encouraging people-to-people ties and tourism.” Creating global supply chain links centered on China.
- The idea is inspired by the ancient Silk Road trade routes, hence the name.

### WHO PANDEMIC AGREEMENT

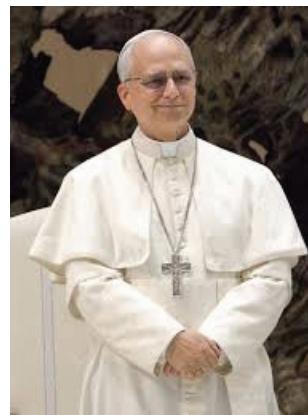
#### Context

In response to the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) have adopted a landmark WHO Pandemic Agreement at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva. This legally binding resolution aims to strengthen global pandemic preparedness, ensure equitable access to medical resources, and prevent future health emergencies

#### About the WHO Pandemic Agreement

- The WHO Pandemic Agreement aims to prevent and respond effectively to future pandemics by strengthening international cooperation, ensuring equitable access to health tools, and creating a fairer global health security framework.
- The pandemic treaty, which has been adopted without the United States, is the only the second legally binding accord (under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution) in the WHO's 75-year history, the first being the 2003 tobacco control treaty. There is no binding enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance.

### POPE LEO XIV



### Context

Robert Francis Prevost, 69, has become the 267th occupant of the throne of St Peter and he will be known as Leo XIV. He is the first American to fill the role of pope. Although American by birth, Prevost has strong ties to Latin America, particularly Peru, where he served as a missionary and church leader for many years.

#### About

- The Pope is the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church, which has over 1.3 billion followers worldwide.
- He also holds the title of Bishop of Rome and is considered the successor to Saint Peter, one of Jesus Christ's apostles.
- The Roman Catholic Church is the largest denomination within Christianity.
- This means the papacy plays a significant role in how Christianity is perceived globally. The office of the pope is referred to as the papacy.
- The Pope is the supreme authority in doctrinal, moral, and administrative matters within the Church.
- He presides over the Holy See, the central governing body of the Church, and the Vatican City State, a sovereign city-state enclave within Rome.

### US PLACES INDIA ON 'PRIORITY WATCH LIST'

#### Context

The United States Trade Representative's (USTR) has placed India on its 'Priority Watch List' (PWL) under 2025 Special 301 Report, citing persistent challenges in intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and enforcement.

**PWL:** It is a classification used in the USTR Special 301 Report that flags countries with major shortcomings in IP protection and enforcement, posing risks to US innovation and businesses. **Possible impact:** The USTR may initiate formal trade investigations or impose sanctions if countries fail to demonstrate significant improvements. India's placement on the priority watch list may impact trade talks with the US, but India maintains that its IP laws align with WTO TRIPS compliance

### UN Security Council Elections

On June 3, 2025, the UN General Assembly elected five countries—Bahrain, Congo, Liberia, Colombia, and Latvia—to serve two-year terms on the UN Security Council starting in January 2026. Latvia's election marks its first time on the council

### Hungary's Withdrawal from the ICC

On May 20, 2025, Hungary's parliament approved a bill to withdraw from the International Criminal Court, making it the first EU member state to take such action. This move has raised concerns about the EU's commitment to international justice standards.

## MOU and Agreements

### DOSJE-UNDP AGREEMENT SIGNED TO ENABLE IMPROVED ACCESS TO FINANCE AND RELEVANT TECHNOLOGIES



#### Context

On 1st May 2025 (Labour Day), the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE), Government of India, signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to empower wastepickers in India.

#### About

Objective of the Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve access to finance, technology, and safe work environments for wastepickers</li> </ul>
Implementation Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNDP to fund State Project Management Units (PMUs) under NAMASTE Scheme</li> </ul>
Inclusion in NAMASTE Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wastepickers formally included in FY 2024 under National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)</li> </ul>
Digital Profiling Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5 lakh wastepickers to be enumerated and digitally profiled</li> </ul>
ID & Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of occupational photo ID cards for formal recognition and benefit access</li> </ul>
Welfare Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY (health insurance) - Skill training, PPE kits, capital subsidy for vehicles</li> </ul>

Livelihood Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of wastepicker collectives to run Decentralized Waste Collection Centers (DWCCs)</li> </ul>
Progress Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 5,000 wastepickers digitally profiled via NAMASTE mobile app</li> </ul>
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major step towards formal recognition, integration, and upliftment of wastepickers</li> </ul>

### INDIA AND U.K. SIGNED 'MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL' FREE TRADE AGREEMENT



#### Context

India and the UK finalized a landmark Free Trade Agreement on May 6, 2025, after three years of negotiations, aiming to deepen economic ties and boost bilateral trade.

Aspect	Details
Trade Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bilateral trade projected to rise by £25.5 billion annually - UK GDP to gain by £4.8 billion - <b>15% annual growth</b> in trade expected till 2030</li> </ul>
Tariff Reductions - India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tariffs reduced/eliminated on <b>90% of UK product lines</b> - 85% of products to become tariff-free <b>within 10 years</b></li> </ul>
Tariff Reductions - UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tariffs eliminated on <b>99% of Indian goods</b> - Includes textiles, gems, processed foods, footwear, etc.</li> </ul>

Key Indian Export Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Textiles, marine products, leather, sports goods, toys, gems and jewelry, engineering goods, auto parts, organic chemicals</li> </ul>
Key UK Export Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scotch whisky (duty cut from 150% to 75% immediately, and to 40% over 10 years) - Medical devices, cosmetics, automotive, and advanced machinery</li> </ul>
Sensitive Sectors Protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India excluded: dairy, apples, cheese, plastics, diamonds, silver, smartphones, and some electronics - ICE &amp; EVs: phased and quota-limited duty cuts</li> </ul>
Services & Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced access for Indian IT, finance, professional services - FDI cap of 74% in insurance locked in - Provisions for temporary movement &amp; mutual recognition of qualifications</li> </ul>
Social Security Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian professionals in UK (up to 3 years) will pay social security <b>only in India</b> - lowering costs for employers/employees</li> </ul>
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires Union Cabinet approval (India) and UK Parliament ratification - Full implementation in 15 months</li> </ul>
Strategic Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boosts Comprehensive Strategic Partnership - Encourages job creation, investment, innovation - May serve as template for future FTAs</li> </ul>

### Timeline of India UK Free Trade Agreement



### C-DOT AND SYNERGY QUANTUM SIGN MOU TO JOINTLY DEVELOP QUANTUM KEY DISTRIBUTION TECHNOLOGY



#### Context

On May 12, 2025, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and Synergy Quantum India Private Limited signed an MoU to jointly develop drone-based Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology.

#### About the Agreement

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop quantum-safe communication systems using drones for defence, emergency, and secure governance.</li> </ul>
Technology Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decoy-based BB84 protocol with polarization encoding. Achieve TRL 6+ (real-world readiness)</li> </ul>
National Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotes Atmanirbhar Bharat by boosting indigenous R&amp;D in quantum and telecom technologies.</li> </ul>
Joint Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop QKD systems for drones - Submit research proposals - Publish papers and white papers - Organize seminars, conferences, symposia</li> </ul>
Strategic Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes foundation for quantum-safe telecom infrastructure; strengthens India's global leadership in secure communication.</li> </ul>
Leadership Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasized synergy of public R&amp;D and private innovation for digital security and self-reliance.</li> </ul>

## DST & DRDO INSTITUTES SIGNED MOU TO STRENGTHEN GROUND-BASED SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



### Context

- In May 2025, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) signed a landmark agreement to jointly enhance India's space surveillance capabilities.
- This collaboration aims to address the growing threats posed by space debris, anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons, and the need for secure, resilient space assets.

### About

<b>Integrated SSA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of an indigenous SSA system through pooled resources and expertise. - Focus on real-time tracking of satellites, debris, and threats.</li> </ul>
<b>Technology Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint R&amp;D for radar systems, optical telescopes, and AI analytics. - Creation of early warning systems for collision avoidance.</li> </ul>
<b>Data Sharing &amp; Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unified national database integrating ISRO, DRDO, DST, and academic data. - Coordination with international SSA networks for space traffic.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of India's civilian and military satellites. - Enhanced resilience against jamming, spoofing, and ASAT threats.</li> </ul>
<b>Significance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boosts India's space security and autonomy in space surveillance.</li> </ul>

## MICROSOFT JOINS INDIA'S YOTTA DATA SERVICES TO BOOST AI INNOVATION IN COUNTRY



### Context

- In May 2025, Microsoft and Yotta Data Services announced a strategic partnership to accelerate artificial intelligence (AI) adoption across India by integrating Microsoft's Azure AI services with Yotta's Shakti Cloud platform.

### About

<b>Integration of AI Platforms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Microsoft will integrate Azure AI's advanced models and tools with Yotta's <b>Shakti Cloud</b>, a sovereign, high-performance AI compute infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Support for IndiaAI Mission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports <b>IndiaAI Mission</b> under MeitY; over <b>500 proposals</b> received (as of May 2025) for developing indigenous AI models.</li> </ul>
<b>Sector-Wide Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enables deployment of real-time, low-latency AI across sectors: <b>agriculture, healthcare, education, finance, manufacturing, retail, and media</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Data Sovereignty &amp; Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures data stays within India, supporting sovereignty and compliance while offering secure, scalable AI infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation &amp; DPI Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boosts <b>homegrown innovation</b>, strengthens AI infra, and supports <b>Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)</b> by enabling local LLM and SLM development and use.</li> </ul>

## MOU FOR DEEPENING COOPERATION & PEACE AS ENSHRINED IN THE TEACHINGS OF THE BUDDHA



### Context

On May 7, 2025, during the UN Day of Vesak celebrations in Vietnam, a significant MoU was signed between the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS).

### About

<b>Promotion of Peace and Harmony</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasizes peace, non-violence, compassion, and mutual respect aligned with the core teachings of the Buddha.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural and Academic Exchange</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates exchange of scholars, monks, students, and cultural delegations to enhance Buddhist studies and research.</li> </ul>
<b>Joint Celebrations and Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Vesak (Buddha Purnima) celebrations, Buddhist conferences, and exhibitions to highlight shared heritage.</li> </ul>
<b>Heritage Preservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperation in protecting and restoring Buddhist sites, manuscripts, and artifacts in India (e.g., Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar) and partner nations.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism and Pilgrimage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotes Buddhist tourism and pilgrimages, strengthening people-to-people ties and local economies.</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives of the MoU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deepen cooperation between Indian and Vietnamese Buddhist communities.</li> <li>Promote universal Buddhist values of compassion, wisdom, and peace.</li> <li>Foster international understanding and harmony through cultural, educational, and humanitarian programs.</li> <li>Enable representation of Vietnam's Buddhist community in IBC-coordinated global forums.</li> </ul>

## GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI SIGNS MOU WITH CAPACITY BUILDING COMMISSION AND KARMA YOGI BHARAT FOR MISSION KARMA YOGI



### Context

- On May 29, 2025, the Government of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and Karma Yogi Bharat for the implementation of Mission Karma Yogi, marking a major step towards strengthening governance and public service delivery in Delhi.

### About

<b>Comprehensive Capacity Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to equip all Delhi government officials with <b>digital tools, behavioral insights, and core competencies</b> to improve governance outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Onboarding on iGOT Karma Yogi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All officials will be onboarded onto the <b>iGOT Karma Yogi platform</b>, marking one of the largest state-level rollouts under Mission Karma Yogi.</li> </ul>
<b>Support from CBC &amp; Karma Yogi Bharat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBC and Karma Yogi Bharat will help in drafting <b>Capacity Building Plans (CBPs)</b> for departments and strengthen <b>ULB officials' service delivery</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Large Scale Interventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes initiatives to instill '<b>Sewa Bhav</b>' (spirit of service) among officials, aligning with the core values of <b>public service and citizen focus</b>.</li> </ul>

## Polity and Governance

### DIGITAL ACCESS AS A PART OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO LIFE AND LIBERTY



#### Context

- The Supreme Court in *Amar Jain v. Union of India (2025)* held that inclusive digital access is part of the fundamental right to life and liberty under Article 21.
- The ruling arose from Public Interest Litigations filed by acid attack survivors and visually impaired persons who faced challenges with digital KYC processes that rely on facial recognition and visual tasks.

#### About

- The Court directed the Reserve Bank of India and other entities to revise digital KYC norms to include accessible alternatives for PwDs.
- All public and private digital platforms must appoint accessibility officers and conduct audits to ensure inclusivity.
- Digital access is linked to Articles 14 (Equality), 15 (Non-discrimination), and 38 (Directive Principles), making digital inclusion a constitutional obligation.
- Bridging the digital divide is necessary to ensure dignity, autonomy, and equal participation for marginalized groups such as rural populations, elderly, and economically weaker sections.

- The Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mandates digital accessibility, which the Court reinforced.
- Digital exclusion amounts to socio-economic deprivation and violates the right to a dignified life.
- The judgment expands the interpretation of Article 21 to include digital access as vital for meaningful life and participation in public life.

### 65TH STATEHOOD DAY OF MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT



#### Context

- Maharashtra and Gujarat celebrated their 65th Statehood Day on 1st May 2025, marking their formation in 1960 after the bifurcation of the erstwhile Bombay State along linguistic lines.

#### About Formation of Gujarat and Maharashtra

Linguistic Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Samyukta Maharashtra Movement:</b> For Marathi-speaking Maharashtra (incl. Mumbai &amp; Vidarbha)</li> <li><b>Mahagujarat Movement:</b> For Gujarati-speaking Gujarat (incl. Saurashtra &amp; Kutch)</li> </ul>
Legal Basis	Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960
Date of Formation	May 1, 1960
Capitals	<b>Maharashtra:</b> Mumbai <b>Gujarat:</b> Initially Ahmedabad, later Gandhinagar

### NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD



#### Context

- The Union Government has reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board, appointing former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Alok Joshi as its new Chairman.

#### About

New Members (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air Marshal P.M. Sinha (Former Western Air Commander)</li> <li>Lt Gen A.K. Singh (Former Southern Army Commander)</li> <li>Rear Admiral Monty Khanna</li> <li>Rajiv Ranjan Verma (Retired IPS)</li> <li>Manmohan Singh (Retired IPS)</li> <li>B. Venkatesh Varma (Former Ambassador to Russia, IFS)</li> </ul>
Role of NSAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory body under National Security Council (NSC); provides independent, long-term analysis and policy advice on national security.</li> </ul>
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers guidance on external threats, internal stability, and emerging security challenges.</li> <li>Non-binding recommendations; has no statutory/constitutional status.</li> <li>Functions under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).</li> </ul>

#### Context

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the inclusion of caste enumeration in the upcoming national population census.
- This marks a significant policy shift, as caste data (other than for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) has not been collected in the decennial census since 1931.
- The decision was made by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) on April 30, 2025, and announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- The government aims to collect caste data in a transparent and structured manner as part of the main census, rather than through separate state-level surveys that have sometimes lacked uniformity and transparency.
- Legal Backing:** The census, including caste enumeration, will be conducted under the Census Act, 1948. Census is a Union subject under Article 246 of the Constitution (Entry 69, Union List, Seventh Schedule).

### WATER SHARING DISPUTE BETWEEN PUNJAB AND HARYANA

#### DRAGGING ON FOR DECADES

► 1966   Reorganisation of Punjab; it is decided that Haryana will get share of Sutlej water	portion. Punjab skips deadlines, moves SC repeatedly
► 2004   SC orders Punjab to complete canal. State govt passes Act terminating water-sharing pacts.	Bakra dam
► 1977   Land acquisition starts for 214km Sutlej Yamuna link - 122km of it in Punjab and 92km in Haryana	Chandigarh
► 1980   Haryana completes its	PUNJAB Sutlej Yamuna link canal HARYANA UP Yamuna

#### Context

##### Current Crisis (April–May 2025)

- Haryana demanded 8,500 cusecs of water from the Bhakra-Nangal project—4,500 cusecs more than its current allocation—citing severe drinking water shortages in districts like Hisar, Sirsa, and Fatehabad.
- The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), which manages water distribution, approved Haryana's request after Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi voted in favour; Punjab voted against and Himachal Pradesh abstained.
- Punjab refused to open the additional sluice gates at the Nangal dam, calling the BBMB's move "unprecedented" and "forcible", and cited its own water crisis due to low reservoir levels in Bhakra, Pong, and Ranjit Sagar dams.
- Haryana has threatened to approach the Supreme Court under Article 131 to enforce its allocation, while

### CABINET APPROVES CASTE ENUMERATION IN UPCOMING CENSUS

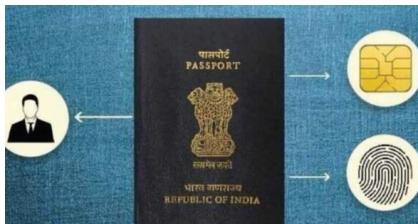


Punjab is also exploring legal options to challenge the BBMB's decision.

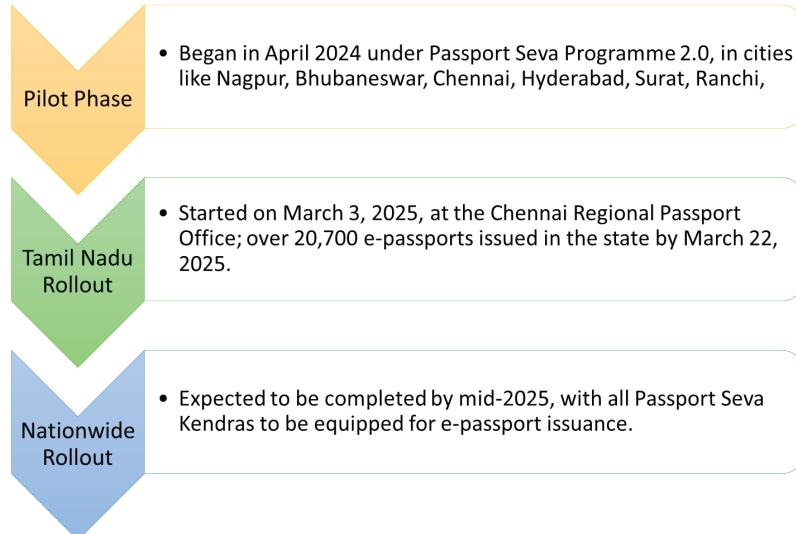
#### Background

- The dispute began in 1966, when Haryana was carved out of Punjab and was promised a share of the Ravi and Beas river waters under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966.
- The Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal was proposed to deliver Haryana's share, but its construction remains incomplete due to sustained resistance from Punjab

#### INDIA'S CHIP-BASED E-PASSPORTS



#### Implementation Timeline



#### Context

To enhance identification and security, the Indian e-passport has been introduced, combining cutting-edge electronic passport technology with conventional paper passports.

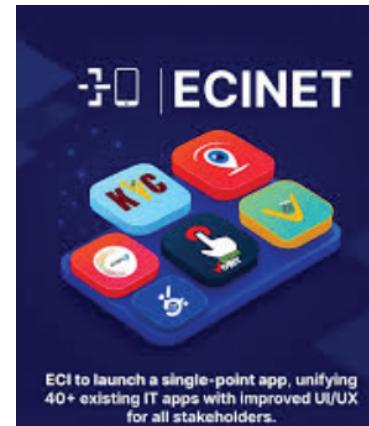
#### What Are Chip-Based e-Passports?

- An e-passport is a conventional passport enhanced with an embedded Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip and antenna in its cover.
- The chip securely stores the passport holder's personal and biometric data (such as fingerprints and facial recognition), in addition to the printed information.
- A gold symbol on the front cover indicates an e-passport

#### Key Features

- Security:** Data is encrypted using global standards (Basic Access Control, Passive Authentication, Extended Access Control, and Public Key Infrastructure), making it extremely difficult to forge or tamper with.
- Privacy:** Personal information is accessible only to authorized officials, and the system is designed to prevent duplication, misuse, and identity fraud.
- Global Standards:** Aligns India with over 120 countries already using biometric e-passports, meeting International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) norms.

#### NEW ECINET PLATFORM



ECI to launch a single-point app, unifying 40+ existing IT apps with improved UI/UX for all stakeholders.

#### Context

- The Election Commission of India is developing a new user-friendly digital interface for the electors and its other stakeholders such as the election officials, political parties and the civil society.
- The new one-stop platform, ECINET, will integrate and reorient over 40 of ECI's existing mobile and web applications.

#### About

Feature/Objective	Details
Unified Access	Merges apps like Voter Helpline, Voter Turnout, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham, and KYC App (5.5 crore+ downloads).
Single Sign-On (SSO)	One login provides access to all electoral services—no need for multiple passwords.
User Interface (UI/UX)	Modern, aesthetic design; accessible on desktop and mobile; user-friendly for voters, officials, political parties, and civil society.

#### Data Accuracy & Security

Data entry restricted to authorized ECI officials; ensures integrity and compliance with Representation of People Act; statutory forms prevail.

#### Nationwide Reach

Serves ~100 crore electors and lakhs of officials/agents across the country.

#### Transparency & Efficiency

Consolidates services to enhance transparency, real-time data access, and resolve issues like voter roll anomalies

#### GOA AND MIZORAM ACHIEVES FULL FUNCTIONAL LITERACY



#### Context

- Mizoram was officially declared India's first fully literate state on May 20, 2025, achieving a literacy rate of 98.2% under the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative, also known as the New India Literacy Programme (NILP).
- Goa was officially declared fully functionally literate on May 30, 2025, during its 39th Statehood Day celebrations by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant.

# 10

## Summit and Conferences

### About

Parameter	Mizoram	Goa
Literacy Rate (PLFS 2023-24)	98.2%	93.6% (PLFS), but state survey reported up to 99.7%
Functional Literacy Status	First state in India to achieve full functional literacy	Second state to cross the 95% benchmark
Programme Name	ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram	ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram
Target Group	Adults aged 15+ who missed formal schooling	Adults aged 15+ who missed formal schooling
Implementation Highlights	- Door-to-door survey found 3,026 non-literates- 1,692 enrolled- 292 volunteer teachers	- Covered smallest villages- 82 panchayats reported 100% literacy- Focus on 80+ age group
Cultural Role	Driven by Tlawmngaihna (Mizo value of selflessness & community service)	Strong community participation in adult literacy
Recognition	National benchmark setter for functional literacy	Commended for exceeding 95% benchmark despite lower PLFS rating

- What Is Full Functional Literacy?



### INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO)



#### Context

The 83rd session of the MEPC, under the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), adopted a landmark decision on shipping emissions, signaling stronger global efforts to curb environmental pollution from maritime transport.

#### Specialised agency of the United Nations (UN)

- **Mandate:** Ensures safety and security of international shipping and prevents marine and atmospheric pollution from ships.
- Supports UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Conservation and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources.
- **Establishment:**
  - ♦ Created as Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO) in 1948.
  - ♦ Became a UN specialised agency in 1959.
  - ♦ Renamed IMO in 1982.
- **Headquarters:** London, UK.
- **Membership:** 174 member states.
- **Function:**
  - ♦ Develops regulations on safety, security, and environmental protection.
  - ♦ Does not enforce regulations; they are implemented by member states through domestic law.
  - ♦ Also addresses legal matters: liability, compensation, and maritime traffic facilitation.

#### Organisational Structure of IMO

- **Assembly:**
  - ♦ Supreme governing body.
  - ♦ Includes all member states.
  - ♦ Meets every two years to approve work programmes and budgets.
- **Council:**
  - ♦ Executive body between Assembly sessions.
  - ♦ Oversees day-to-day work of the IMO.
- **Major Committees (5 total):**
  - ♦ Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) is one of them – deals with pollution and environmental regulation.
- **Funding Sources:**
  - ♦ Mandatory member contributions.
  - ♦ Voluntary donations.
  - ♦ Commercial revenue.

#### About MARPOL Convention

- **Full form:** International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.
- **Adopted:** 1973, with the 1978 Protocol added post-tanker accidents.
- Administered by: IMO.
- Aim: Prevent pollution from operational or accidental causes.
- **India:** Signatory to MARPOL and implements it via domestic regulations.

#### MARPOL's Six Technical Annexes

- **Annex I:** Prevention of oil pollution (e.g., spills, bilge water).
- **Annex II:** Control of noxious liquid substances in bulk (e.g., chemicals).
- **Annex III:** Control of harmful substances in packaged form (e.g., dangerous goods).
- **Annex IV:** Sewage pollution from ships.
- **Annex V:** Garbage disposal into the sea.
- **Annex VI:** Air pollution (e.g., sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides).

## 10TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF NITI AAYOG



### Context

The 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, chaired by the Prime Minister, was recently held in New Delhi under the theme:

**"Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047" (Developed States for a Developed India by 2047)**

This reflects the vision to make India a fully developed nation by the time it completes 100 years of independence in 2047. The focus is on empowering states and Union Territories to become engines of growth, ensuring state-led development through cooperative federalism.

### What Is NITI Aayog and Why Was It Formed?

- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was created in January 2015 to replace the Planning Commission.
- It functions as the central policy think-tank of the Indian government, providing strategic, technical, and developmental advice.

### Purpose of Its Creation

- The Planning Commission followed a top-down approach to development planning.
- NITI Aayog was formed to strengthen bottom-up planning, involving states and UTs directly in national development goals.

### Significance of the Governing Council

- The Governing Council is NITI Aayog's highest decision-making body.
- It brings together the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, Lt. Governors, and Union Ministers to collaborate on national development goals.
- It is a platform for resolving Centre-State issues, sharing best practices, and building consensus on key reforms.

The 10th meeting focused on:

- Strengthening cooperative federalism,
- Supporting state-specific development plans,
- Aligning state policies with the broader goal of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047.

## SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE



### Context

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan is visiting Singapore to attend the 22nd edition of the Shangri-La Dialogue.

- Asia's premier defence and security summit.
- Brings together defence ministers, military chiefs, policymakers, and strategic experts from around the world.
- Held annually in June at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore.

### Organisers

- Organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), based in London, UK.
- Co-organised by the Ministry of Defence, Singapore.

### History & Evolution

- First held in 2002.
- Has evolved into the most influential multilateral security dialogue platform in the Asia-Pacific region.

### Agenda & Focus Areas

- Covers both traditional and non-traditional security issues:
  - Territorial disputes
  - Military cooperation
  - Terrorism
  - Cybersecurity
  - Climate change
- Closely aligned with the security dynamics and developmental trends in the Asia-Pacific region.

### Format of Dialogue

- Open General Assembly:**
  - Delegates deliver speeches.
  - Discussions on shared regional/global security issues.
  - Aims to enhance transparency, mutual understanding and trust.
- Closed-Door Breakout Sessions:**
  - Focused, in-depth discussions.
  - Explore specific challenges, negotiations, and cooperative solutions.

# 11

## Science and Technology

### DBT & BIRAC JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS: ESTABLISHING मूलांकुर (MOOLANKUR) HUBS UNDER BIOE3 POLICY

**BIOE<sup>3</sup>**  
Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India  
And  
Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

**JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
(for fostering high performance Biomanufacturing)

**IN THE AREA OF**  
**BIOFOUNDRIES AND BIOMANUFACTURING HUBS**

**Under following categories**

Bio-based chemicals, Bioplastics, APIs and Enzymes	Climate Resilient Agriculture
Functional Foods and Smart Proteins	Biofuels and Carbon Capture
Precision Biotherapeutics	Futuristic Marine and Space Research

Projects involving academic partners will be supported by DBT  
Projects involving academia and industries OR only industries will be supported by BIRAC

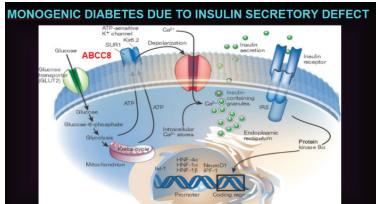
### Context

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) have jointly announced a call for proposals focusing on the integration of Bio-AI (Biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence).
- The initiative aims to establish मूलांकुर (Moolankur) Hubs under the BioE3 Policy for Biomanufacturing.

### About

<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote innovation at the intersection of biotechnology and artificial intelligence for next-generation biomanufacturing in India.</li> </ul>
<b>BioE3 Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stands for Bio-manufacturing, Bio-economy, and Bio-entrepreneurship—a government policy framework to boost India's bioeconomy.</li> </ul>
<b>मूलांकुर Hubs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centers of excellence for research, development, and translation of Bio-AI technologies into scalable biomanufacturing solutions.</li> </ul>
<b>Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invites proposals from academic institutions, startups, and industry players working on AI-driven solutions in the biotech sector.</li> </ul>
<b>Significance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boosts Atmanirbhar Bharat: Supports self-reliance in biotech manufacturing and reduces dependence on imports.</li> <li>Promotes Innovation: Encourages the convergence of AI and biotechnology, fostering cutting-edge research and indigenous technology development.</li> <li>Supports Startups: Provides funding and infrastructure support for startups and innovators in the biomanufacturing space.</li> </ul>

## MDRF, U.S. RESEARCHERS DISCOVER NEW MODY SUBTYPE: CALL FOR PRECISION TREATMENT



### Context

- Researchers from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai, and Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, have jointly discovered a new subtype of Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY), a rare, inherited form of diabetes.
- This discovery is based on loss-of-function (LOF) mutations in the ABCC8 gene, which contrasts with the previously known gain-of-function (GOF) mutations in this gene.

### About

<b>Key Findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly identified MODY subtype is caused by <b>loss-of-function (LOF) mutations</b> in the ABCC8 gene.</li> <li>ABCC8 gene is crucial for insulin production by pancreatic beta cells.</li> <li>Traditionally, <b>gain-of-function (GOF)</b> mutations in ABCC8 are linked to <b>neonatal diabetes and MODY 12</b>.</li> <li>LOF mutations usually cause <b>congenital hyperinsulinism (CHI)</b> in childhood (hypoglycemia), which later transitions to <b>diabetes in adulthood</b>.</li> <li>This is the <b>first reported MODY subtype</b> with disease progression from hypoglycemia to diabetes.</li> </ul>
<b>Significance for Diagnosis and Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlike other MODY types (e.g., MODY 1, MODY 3, MODY 12), patients with this LOF subtype do not respond to sulphonylurea medications.</li> <li>Highlights the need for <b>personalized, precision-based treatment strategies</b>.</li> <li>Stresses the importance of <b>genetic testing</b> for accurate diagnosis and to prevent <b>mild diagnosis and inadequate treatment</b>.</li> </ul>

## KOSMOS 482: SOVIET VENUS PROBE CRASHES TO EARTH AFTER 53 YEARS



### Context

- Kosmos 482, a Soviet-era spacecraft originally launched in 1972 as part of the Venera program to study Venus, made headlines in May 2025 when it re-entered Earth's atmosphere after more than five decades in orbit.

### About

<b>Launch and Mission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Kosmos 482</b> was launched on <b>31 March 1972</b> for a <b>Venus landing mission</b>. A malfunction in the rocket's upper stage prevented it from escaping Earth's gravity, leaving it in low Earth orbit.</li> </ul>
<b>Re-entry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>500-kg lander</b> made an <b>uncontrolled re-entry</b> into Earth's atmosphere on <b>10 May 2025</b>. The descent was monitored by ESA and Roscosmos.</li> </ul>
<b>Crash Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reportedly crashed in the <b>northeastern Indian Ocean</b>, approximately <b>560 km west of Middle Andaman Island (India)</b>. The exact site remains unconfirmed.</li> </ul>
<b>Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constructed with a <b>robust titanium shell</b> to endure Venus's extreme conditions, likely allowing parts to survive re-entry.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No damage or injuries were reported. The risk to human life from such events is considered <b>extremely low</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Legal Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per <b>international space law</b>, any debris remains the <b>property of Russia</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Significance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlights the <b>legacy of Cold War-era space missions</b>.</li> <li>Reflects challenges due to <b>aging space debris</b>.</li> <li>Emphasizes the importance of <b>monitoring orbital debris</b> amid rising human space activity.</li> </ul>

## INDIA LAUNCHES INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY (IICT) TO REVOLUTIONIZE AVGC-XR SECTOR



### Context

- On May 3, 2025, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in partnership with FICCI and CII, launched the **Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)** in Mumbai as a **National Centre of Excellence** dedicated to the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector.
- The launch took place at the **WAVES 2025 Summit** and was officiated by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who emphasized IICT's ambition to become a world-class institution, modeled after the IITs and IIMs.

### Key Features of IICT

<b>Global Industry Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IICT has partnered with major global tech and media companies such as <b>Google, Microsoft, Meta, NVIDIA, Apple, Adobe, YouTube, JioStar, Wacom, and Star India</b>.</li> <li>These partnerships will support <b>curriculum development, internships, scholarships, startup funding, and job placements</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>World-Class Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The institute will have <b>virtual production setups, immersive studios, animation and gaming labs, edit and sound suites, and smart classrooms</b>.</li> <li>The permanent campus will be built on <b>10 acres</b> in Mumbai's <b>Film City</b>, with regional centers planned across India.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding and Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The central government has allocated <b>₹400 crore</b>, and the <b>Maharashtra government</b> has provided <b>land</b> for the campus.</li> </ul>

<b>Education &amp; Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IICT will serve as a national hub for AVGC-XR professionals, focusing on education, training, incubation, innovation, research, and policy development.</li> </ul>
<b>Sector Significance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's AVGC-XR sector currently holds <b>&lt;1%</b> of the global market. It is projected to reach <b>\$26 billion</b> by 2030, driven by the growing OTT user base, increased internet access, and investments in AR/VR technologies.</li> </ul>

## GENOMEINDIA



### Context

- The **GenomeIndia project**, funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, has achieved a major scientific milestone by completing the **whole genome sequencing (WGS)** of over **10,000 individuals** representing all major population groups across the country.
- The national database was officially dedicated to researchers by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 9, 2025, and is now accessible for research through the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC).

### About

<b>Objectives and Significance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Comprehensive Genetic Catalogue:</b> Catalogues genetic variations unique to India for better understanding of disease predispositions and drug responses.</li> <li><b>Boost to Research and Healthcare:</b> Supports genomics research, precision medicine, and informed health policies.</li> <li><b>Global Standing:</b> Positions India as a leader in genomics with one of Asia's largest genome databases.</li> </ul>
------------------------------------	---

<b>Data Details and Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Scale:</b> 10,000+ whole genome sequences; data archived at IBDC.</li> <li><b>Data Types:</b> FASTQ (~700 TB), gVCF (~35 TB), joint call (~3.5 TB), and phenotypic data for 9,330 individuals (27 variables).</li> <li><b>Access Protocol:</b> Through managed cloud, as per Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines (2021) and FeED Protocols.</li> <li><b>Open Access:</b> Available to all researchers, including independent requests.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure and Implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>IBDC:</b> Indian Biological Data Centre (est. 2020); secure, high-end computational infrastructure.</li> <li><b>Collaborative Effort:</b> 20 academic and research institutions involved.</li> </ul>
<b>Broader Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Healthcare:</b> Facilitates affordable diagnostics and precision medicine for the Indian population.</li> <li><b>Innovation and SDGs:</b> Contributes to SDG 3 (health) and SDG 9 (innovation &amp; infrastructure).</li> <li><b>Knowledge Hub:</b> Promotes biotech research, innovation, and startups.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Roadmap</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Expansion:</b> Plans to scale up to 10 million genome sequences.</li> <li><b>Collaborations:</b> Ongoing efforts with major institutions for data enrichment and translational research.</li> </ul>

## INDIA'S GAGANYAAN MISSION ENTERS FINAL PHASE



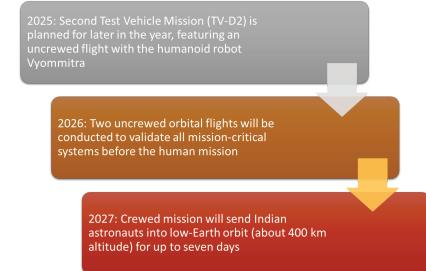
### Context

- India's first human spaceflight mission**, Gaganyaan, has entered its final phase, with the first crewed flight now scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.
- This marks a significant milestone in India's space ambitions and technological progress.
- Gaganyaan's crewed mission will send a team of up to three astronauts into low-Earth orbit (about 400 km altitude) for up to seven days, demonstrating India's independent human spaceflight capability.
- The mission will follow a series of uncrewed test flights, including flights with the humanoid robot Vyommitra, to validate all critical systems and safety protocols.

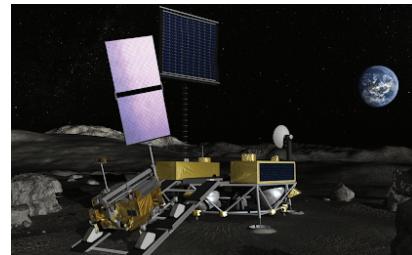
### Technological Progress

- Human-Rated LVM3:** The Gaganyaan mission will use the human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle, which is in the final stages of integration and testing.
- Crew Systems:** The Crew Module, Service Module, and Crew Escape System are all undergoing advanced testing.
- Recovery Trials:** The Indian Navy has conducted successful sea recovery simulations for astronaut retrieval.

### Mission Timeline and Milestones



## LUPEX MISSION ENTERS DESIGN PHASE



### Context

- The **India-Japan Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission**, also known as Chandrayaan-5, has officially entered its design phase following the Indian government's approval and financial sanction in March 2025.
- This marks a major step forward in the two countries' collaboration for advanced lunar exploration.

### Mission Overview

<b>Collaborators</b>	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
<b>Objective</b>	Explore the Moon's south pole, focusing on the presence and distribution of water and water-ice in permanently shadowed regions (PSRs) for future human missions
<b>Spacecraft</b>	ISRO's 6.2–6.5 tonne lander carrying a 350–400 kg rover built by JAXA/Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
<b>Launch Vehicle</b>	Japan's H3 rocket
<b>Planned Launch</b>	2027–28
<b>Mission Duration</b>	Proposed 100 days on the lunar surface
<b>Design Phase</b>	Detailed design and hardware development phase initiated after configuration and instrument selection
<b>Technical Meetings</b>	Held in Bengaluru (May 2025) with officials from ISRO, JAXA, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to finalize design, technical interfaces, and landing site
<b>International Input</b>	Scientific instruments to be contributed by ESA and NASA, in addition to ISRO and JAXA

## GS1 TO ROLL OUT NEXT-GENERATION BARCODES BY 2027



### Context

- GS1**, the global standards organization for barcodes, has announced that traditional one-dimensional (1D) barcodes will be replaced by next-generation QR code-based formats starting in 2027 under the "Sunrise 2027" initiative.
- This marks a major shift in how products are identified, tracked, and managed across global supply chains.
- GS1 standards are already widely adopted in India, including in government programmes like **FASTag** and **Ayushman Bharat**.
- GS1 India is working with both public and private sectors to ensure a smooth transition to the new system.

### Key Features of Next-Gen QR Codes

<b>More Data, More Transparency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GS1 QR codes (2D/GS1 Digital Link) can store batch numbers, serial numbers, expiry dates, sourcing data, recall alerts, and brand/marketing content—unlike traditional barcodes.</li> </ul>
<b>Dual Functionality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scannable both at retail checkouts and by consumers via smartphones for product info, authenticity verification, and promotions.</li> </ul>
<b>Enhanced Traceability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improves product tracking, recall management, and supply chain transparency, benefiting businesses, regulators, and consumers.</li> </ul>
<b>Global Rollout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition begins in 2027; full adoption will take time as systems are upgraded.</li> </ul>
<b>Why the Change?</b>	
<b>Limitations of 1D Barcodes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1D barcodes carry limited data, unsuitable for modern, data-rich supply chains.</li> </ul>
<b>Consumer Demand</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consumers increasingly seek detailed product information about origin, sustainability, and safety.</li> </ul>
<b>Regulatory &amp; Industry Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structured data is critical for food safety, recalls, inventory control, and anti-counterfeit measures.</li> </ul>

## BHARAT FORECAST SYSTEM: WORLD'S HIGHEST RESOLUTION FORECASTING MODEL



### Context

- On May 26, 2025, the **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences** launched the **Bharat Forecasting System (BFS)**, making India the first country in the world to operate a weather forecasting model with an unprecedented spatial resolution of 6 km × 6 km.

### Key Features of BFS Applications

<b>World's Highest Resolution</b>
BFS operates at a 6-km grid, surpassing global models from the US, UK, and EU, which use 9–14 km grids
<b>Supercomputer Powered</b>
The system is powered by the 'Arka' supercomputer (11.77 petaflops, 33 petabytes storage), allowing forecasts to be generated in just 4 hours, compared to 10–14 hours previously
<b>Ultra-Localized Forecasts</b>
BFS provides highly localized, short-term weather forecasts down to the panchayat and village level, a significant upgrade from the previous 12-km grid models
<b>Nowcasting Capability</b>
Offers real-time, two-hour forecasts (nowcasts) for immediate weather events, using data from 40+ Doppler Weather Radars, with plans to expand to 100
<b>Open Data Access</b>
BFS data will be accessible to global researchers, promoting international collaboration in meteorological science

- Disaster Management:** Enables quicker evacuation and more precise flood, cyclone, and heatwave alerts, improving public safety and disaster risk reduction.
- Agricultural Resilience:** Assists farmers with timely rainfall, drought, and heatwave warnings, supporting better irrigation, crop planning, and food inflation management.
- Technological Leap:** BFS integrates AI and machine learning for enhanced prediction accuracy and is a major step in India's self-reliance in meteorological science.
- Global Leadership:** With BFS, India is now at the forefront of high-resolution weather prediction, especially for tropical regions, and sets a new global benchmark in forecast precision.

## INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS STROKE TREATMENT DEVICE MANUFACTURING



### Context

- India is set to manufacture its **first indigenously developed mechanical thrombectomy device**, marking a major milestone in the country's medical technology sector.
- This initiative is led by **Mysuru-based S3V Vascular Technologies**, with financial support from the Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science and Technology.

### What is a Thrombectomy Device?

- A mechanical thrombectomy device is a specialized tool used to **remove blood clots from large vessels in the brain**, primarily to treat acute ischemic stroke.
- The procedure is minimally invasive and offers faster, more effective recovery compared to traditional clot-busting drugs, significantly reducing the risk of paralysis or permanent brain damage.

### Key Features

- Integrated Manufacturing:** S3V Vascular will set up a state-of-the-art production facility at the Medical Devices Park in Oragadam, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- Range of Devices:** The facility will produce a full suite of neuro-intervention tools, including microcatheters, guidewires, aspiration catheters, and stent retrievers—devices that were previously imported.
- Indigenous Innovation:** The company is filing patents for several innovations, such as a proprietary clot retriever head and advanced braid-over-coil aspiration catheter structures.
- Global Standards:** S3V is seeking CE and USFDA certifications to enable exports to Asia, Latin America, Europe, and the US.

## GOOGLE'S AI MATRYOSHKA



### Context

- At the 2025 I/O Developers Conference, **Google unveiled "AI Matryoshka"**, a transformative, AI-first restructuring strategy that embeds artificial intelligence deeply and uniformly across all its platforms.
- This initiative is powered by the new Gemini 2.5 models and Ironwood TPUs, aiming to revolutionize how users, developers, and enterprises interact with technology.
- AI Matryoshka - Named after Russian nesting dolls (Matryoshka), symbolizing a multi-layered AI ecosystem developed by Google.

### About

<b>Core Principle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Multi-Layered AI Ecosystem</b> – Core AI acts as the "central brain", embedded across all layers—from infrastructure and APIs to end-user services.</li> </ul>
<b>Central Intelligence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Google's foundational AI model (<b>Gemini 2.5</b>) powers all services, enabling intelligent, autonomous, and seamless interactions across the platform.</li> </ul>
<b>Layered Integration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI is integrated into all levels—search, shopping, content creation, cloud services, and enterprise tools—to offer a <b>unified and agentic user experience</b>.</li> </ul>

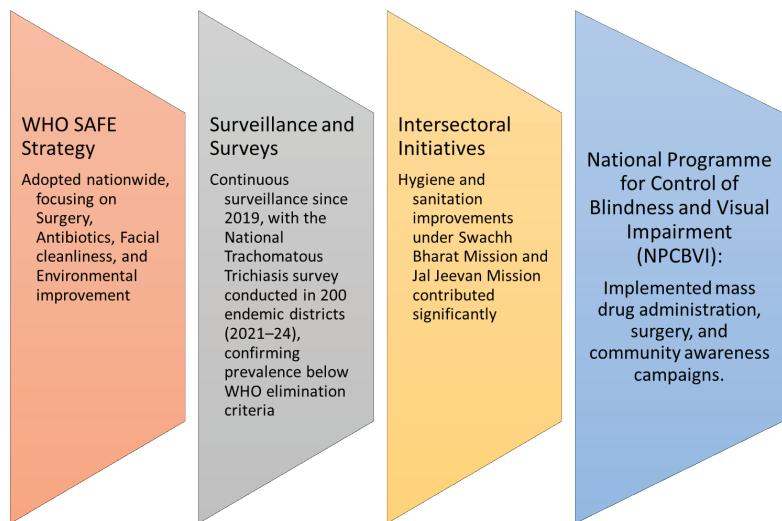
## INDIA RECEIVES WHO CERTIFICATION FOR ELIMINATION OF TRACHOMA AS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM



### Context

- India has officially received the World Health Organization (WHO) Certificate of Elimination of Trachoma as a Public Health Problem at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2025.
- This recognition marks a major public health achievement and makes India the third country in the WHO South-East Asia Region, after Nepal and Myanmar, to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem.

### India's Elimination Strategy



## WORLD'S FIRST GENE-EDITING THERAPY SAVES A BABY WITH RARE DISORDER



### Context

- In May 2025, doctors at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Penn Medicine achieved a historic medical breakthrough by successfully treating a baby with a rare genetic disorder with CPS-1 deficiency, a life-threatening genetic disorder using a personalized CRISPR gene-editing therapy.
- This is the first time a gene-editing therapy has been custom-designed and administered to a single patient to treat a unique mutation causing a rare disease.

### What is CPS-1 Deficiency?

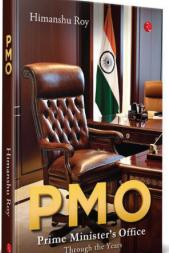
- Carbamoyl Phosphate Synthetase 1 (CPS-1) deficiency is a rare and severe urea cycle disorder.

- Cause:** Mutation in the CPS1 gene impairs the liver's ability to convert toxic ammonia into urea for safe elimination.
- Prevalence:** Extremely rare, with an infant mortality rate approaching 50%.
- Symptoms:**
  - Lethargy
  - Respiratory distress
  - Vomiting
  - Seizures
  - Coma (in severe cases)
  - All due to dangerous ammonia buildup in the blood.
- Conventional Treatment Limitations:**
  - Strict dietary protein restriction and medications to lower ammonia.
  - Liver transplant is the only long-term solution, but most infants are too young or fragile for surgery.

### Therapeutic Breakthrough: CRISPR-Based "k-abé" Gene-Editing

- Doctors designed a custom CRISPR-based gene-editing therapy, called "k-abé", specifically for baby KJ's unique mutation.
- In-vivo Editing: The therapy was delivered directly inside the body (in-vivo), not in cells outside the body.
- Targeted Delivery:
- The gene-editing tool was encapsulated in lipid nanoparticles for safe and precise targeting of liver cells.
- This method minimized immune reactions and off-target effects.

## Books and Authors

Book	Author	Explanation
<b>PMO Through the Ages</b> 	Himanshu Roy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new book titled "PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years" by author and academician <b>Himanshu Roy</b> has been released, offering a comprehensive examination of the evolution and growing influence of India's most powerful administrative institution—the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).</li> <li>Published by Rupa Publications on <b>April 15, 2025</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Janta Ki Kahani</b> 	Bandaru Dattatraya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar formally unveiled the autobiography of <b>Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya</b>, titled "Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha", at a special ceremony held at Maharashtra Sadan, New Delhi.</li> <li>The event was a tribute to Dattatraya's life marked by simplicity, dedication, and public service.</li> </ul>

## Sports

### MMA DEBUTS AND CRICKET RETAINED FOR ASIAN GAMES 2026



#### Context

- The 2026 Asian Games will be held in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4.
- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has confirmed that **Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)** will make its debut with six medal events, reflecting its growing popularity in Asia. **Cricket** will also return in the **T20 format** for both men and women, continuing its inclusion after the 2023 edition.

#### Key Highlights

- MMA will be part of the Combat Sports category alongside Kurash and jujitsu.
- Cricket was first included in 2010, dropped in 2018, and returned in 2023.
- The re-inclusion of cricket and the debut of MMA highlight Asia's evolving sports landscape.
- The decision was finalized at the OCA board meeting on April 28, 2025.

### FIFA ANNOUNCES HOST CITIES FOR 2027 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP IN BRAZIL



#### Context

- Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has confirmed that **Brazil** will host the **2027 FIFA Women's World Cup** from June 24 to July 25, 2027, across **eight cities**, all of which previously hosted matches in the 2014 Men's World Cup.

#### Key Highlights

- Host Nation: Brazil
- Dates: June 24 – July 25, 2027
- Teams: 32
- Host Cities (8):
  - Belo Horizonte (Estádio Mineirão)
  - Brasília (Estadio Nacional)
  - Fortaleza (Arena Castelão)
  - Porto Alegre (Estádio Beira-Rio)
  - Recife (Arena de Pernambuco)
  - Rio de Janeiro (Estádio do Maracanã)
  - Salvador (Arena Fonte Nova)
  - São Paulo (Arena Itaquera)

### DEEPIKA KUMARI CLINCHES BRONZE AT ARCHERY WORLD CUP STAGE 2



#### Context

- India's top archer **Deepika Kumari** won **bronze** at the **Archery World Cup Stage 2** in Shanghai on May 11, 2025.

#### Key Highlights

- Event: Archery World Cup Stage 2
- Venue: Shanghai

- Medal: Bronze (Recurve)
- Semifinal Loss: To Lim Siheyon (World No. 1, Korea)
- Bronze Match: Beat Kang Chae Young (Korea) 7-3

#### SRIHARI LR BECOMES INDIA'S 86TH CHESS GRANDMASTER



##### Context

- 19-year-old Srihari LR, from Chennai, has become India's 86th Grandmaster after securing his third GM norm at the Asian Individual Chess Championship 2025 in Al-Ain, UAE.

#### NEERAJ CHOPRA CROSSES 90M MARK, FINISHES SECOND IN DOHA DIAMOND LEAGUE 2025



##### Context

- Indian Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra made history on May 16, 2025, by recording his first-ever 90m+ throw in javelin — an impressive 90.23m — at the Doha Diamond League.

#### Key Highlights

- Neeraj's Best Throw: 90.23m (3rd attempt)
- Final Position: 2nd place
- Winner: Julian Weber (Germany) - 91.06m (6th attempt, world-leading throw)

- 3rd Place: Anderson Peters (Grenada) - 84.65m
- Other Indian Participant: Kishore Jena - 78.60m (8th place)

#### PRAGGNANANDHAA CLINCHES FIRST GRAND CHESS TOUR TITLE AT SUPERBET CLASSIC



##### Context

- Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa clinched his first-ever Grand Chess Tour title.
- He triumphed in a blitz tiebreaker against top-ranked opponents Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Alireza Firouzja.

#### Victory Highlights

- Final Classical Score: 5.5 points (tied with Firouzja & Vachier-Lagrave)
- Tiebreak Format: Blitz (5 min + 2 sec increment)

#### INDIA CLINCHED THE SOUTH ASIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION (SAFF) UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP 2025



##### Context

- India's U-19 football team clinched the SAFF U-19 Championship 2025 trophy following a thrilling penalty shootout victory over Bangladesh in the final held at Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yopia, Arunachal Pradesh.

#### About South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)

- It is an association of the football playing nations in South Asia. Incorporated in 1997, it is a regional subsidiary of Asian Football Confederation.
- The members of the association are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

#### SHIVPAL SINGH SUSPENDED FOR 8 YEARS DUE TO SECOND FAILED DRUG TEST



##### Context

- Indian javelin thrower Shivpal Singh, aged 29 and a Tokyo 2020 Olympian, has tested positive for a banned substance for the second time.

#### Athletic Achievements

- Silver medal at the 2019 Asian Athletics Championships (PB: 86.23m)
- Gold at 2023 National Games, Bronze at 2023 National Inter-State Championships

#### KANAK BUDHWAR WINS GOLD IN 10M AIR PISTOL AT ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CUP 2025



##### Context

- Kanak Budhwar, a 17-year-old Indian shooter, won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup 2025 held in Suhl, Germany.
- She scored 239.0 points, defeating Moldova's seasoned Olympian Anna Dulce, while Chen Yen-Ching of Chinese Taipei won bronze.

#### Key Highlights

- Event: ISSF Junior World Cup 2025, Suhl, Germany
- Gold Medalist: Kanak Budhwar (India) - 239.0 points
- Silver: Anna Dulce (Moldova)
- Bronze: Chen Yen-Ching (Chinese Taipei)

#### INDIA TO HOST KHELO INDIA NORTHEAST GAMES ANNUALLY



##### Context

- At the Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025, Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the Khelo India Northeast Games will now be hosted annually, rotating among the eight northeastern states.
- This initiative is part of a broader government strategy to develop the Northeast as a national sports hub.

#### Key Highlights

- New Annual Event: Khelo India Northeast Games to rotate across:
- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura.

#### INDIA'S MAHENDRA GURJAR SETS WORLD RECORD IN WORLD PARA ATHLETICS GRAND PRIX IN SWITZERLAND



**Context**

- India's **Mahendra Gurjar**, aged 27, created history by setting a **world record** in the **men's javelin F42 category** at the Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland.
- He secured the **gold medal** with a throw of **61.17 meters**, surpassing the previous world record of **59.19 meters** held by Brazil's Roberto Floriani Edenilson (2022).

**Key Achievements**

- Event:** Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 (Switzerland)
- Category:** F42 Men's Javelin
- World Record Throw:** **61.17 meters** (3rd attempt)
- Previous Record:** 59.19 m (Brazil, 2022)
- Other Throws:** 56.11m, 55.51m, 58.54m, 57.54m, 58.07m

**GALLANTRY AWARDS 2025****Context**

- President of India, Droupadi Murmu, conferred Gallantry Awards including **6 Kirti Chakras** (**4 posthumously**) and **33 Shaurya Chakras** (**7**

**posthumously**) to personnel from the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State/UT Police.

- These awards were announced on the eve of the 76th Republic Day and presented at the Defence Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on May 22, 2025.
- Kirti Chakra: 6 recipients (4 posthumous)**
  - Recognizes exceptional courage away from the battlefield.
  - Recipients included members of the Indian Army and Jammu & Kashmir Police.
- Shaurya Chakra: 33 recipients (7 posthumous)**
  - Awarded for acts of valour, courageous action, or self-sacrifice not in the face of the enemy.
  - Recipients included personnel from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Central Armed Police Forces, and State/UT Police.

**Notable Recipients****Kirti Chakra (Living)**

- Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu – Indian Army
- Major Manjit – Indian Army.

**Kirti Chakra (Posthumous)**

- Rifleman Ravi Kumar – Indian Army
- Colonel Manpreet Singh – Indian Army
- Deputy Superintendent of Police Himayun Muzzammil Bhat – J&K Police
- Naik Dilwar Khan – Indian Army

**Shaurya Chakra**

- Included 26 living and 7 posthumous awardees, such as Squadron Leader Deepak Kumar (Air Force), recognized for his courageous decision-making during a critical flight emergency.

## BANU MUSHTAQ



### Context

- Banu Mushtaq is a renowned Indian writer, lawyer, activist, and a prominent voice in Kannada literature.
- In 2025, she made history by becoming the first author writing in Kannada to win the International Booker Prize for her short story collection *Heart Lamp*, translated into English by Deepa Bhasthi.
- She is only the second Indian author to win this prestigious international award (after Geetanjali Shree's win in 2022 for *Tomb of Sand*)
- **About the Book:** *Heart Lamp* is a collection of 12 short stories written between 1990 and 2023, focusing on the lives of women and girls in patriarchal Muslim communities in southern India.

## 58TH JNANPITH AWARD

### Context

- President of India, Droupadi Murmu, presented the 58th Jnanpith Award on May 16, 2025, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The award, India's highest literary honour, was conferred upon two eminent literary figures:
  - Jagadguru Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit)
  - Gulzar (Sampooran Singh Kalra) (Urdu)

### About the Jnanpith Award

#### Instituted:

- 1961 by Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust.

#### Purpose and Components

- To honour outstanding contributions to Indian literature in any of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- Citation, cash prize, and a bronze idol of Vagdevi (Saraswati), the goddess of learning.

## About the Recipients

### Jagadguru Rambhadracharya

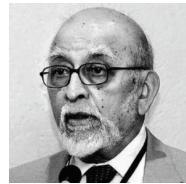


- Renowned Sanskrit scholar, poet, and Hindu spiritual leader.
- Despite being visually impaired since infancy, he has authored over 240 books, including four Sanskrit epics, and contributed significantly to Sanskrit, Hindi, Awadhi, and other languages.
- Founder of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, he is celebrated for both literary and social service contributions.
- This is only the second time the Jnanpith Award has been given for Sanskrit literature.

### Gulzar

- Celebrated poet, lyricist, and filmmaker, known for his profound impact on Hindi and Urdu literature.
- Has written acclaimed collections of poetry, short stories, and novels in Urdu, in addition to his renowned work in Hindi cinema.
- This marks the fifth time the award has been given for Urdu literature.
- Gulzar could not attend the ceremony due to health reasons.

## M R SRINIVASAN



### Context

- Dr. Malur Ramasamy Srinivasan, a key architect of India's nuclear energy program, passed away on May 20, 2025, in Ooty, Tamil Nadu.
- He was 95 years old and was a former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

## Major Contributions

Early Career	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joined Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1955. Worked with Dr. Homi Bhabha on Apsara, India's first nuclear research reactor (went critical in 1956).</li> </ul>
PHWR Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key role in development and indigenization of Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology</li> </ul>
Leadership Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director, Power Projects Engineering Division, DAE (1974) Chairman, Nuclear Power Board (1984) Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (1987) Secretary, DAE (1987) Founder-Chairman, NPCIL (1987)</li> </ul>
Nuclear Power Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversaw development of 18 nuclear power units (operational, under construction, and in planning)</li> </ul>
Global & National Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Advisor to International Atomic Energy Agency Member, Planning Commission Member, National Security Advisory Board</li> </ul>
Awards & Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Padma Shri (1984) Padma Bhushan (1990) Padma Vibhushan (2015)</li> </ul>

## JUSTICE SURYA KANT



- Justice Surya Kant has been appointed as the **Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**, a statutory body established under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.

- This position is typically held by the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of India, as per the provisions of the Act.

## About NALSA

Full Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)</li> </ul>
Established On	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 November 1995</li> </ul>
Established Under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987</li> </ul>
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide free and competent legal services to weaker sections of society.</li> <li>• Organize Lok Adalats for speedy and amicable settlement of disputes</li> </ul>
Patron-in-Chief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Justice of India</li> </ul>
Executive Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serving or retired Supreme Court Judge (usually second senior-most), appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI</li> </ul>
Key Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide free legal aid to eligible persons (as per Section 12 of the Act)</li> <li>• Organize Lok Adalats for ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)</li> <li>• Spread legal literacy and awareness - Coordinate and monitor State and District Legal Services Authorities</li> </ul>

## WARREN BUFFETT



### Context

- Warren Buffett is stepping down as **CEO of Berkshire Hathaway**, effective January 1, 2026, after 55 years at the helm.

- His successor will be Greg Abel, the current Vice Chairman of Non-Insurance Businesses at Berkshire Hathaway.
- Buffett will remain as chairman of the board, continuing to provide guidance and mentoring, and intends to stay involved in the company's activities
- In 2008, Buffett became the richest person in the world, garnering a total net worth estimated at \$62 billion by Forbes and at \$58 billion by Yahoo.

#### B.R. GAVAI



#### Context

- Justice B.R. Gavai took office as the 52nd Chief Justice of India.

#### About

- He is the first Buddhist to occupy the post. Also, he is only the second Chief Justice of India from the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) community, following Justice K.G. Balakrishnan.
- Justice Gavai comes from a strong Ambedkarite legacy—his father, R.S. Gavai, a politician, had embraced Buddhism along with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1956. Justice Gavai has often spoken about how his choice of profession was inspired by Ambedkar and his father's dream of Dalit upliftment by the study of law.

#### JAYANT NARLIKAR



#### Context

- Eminent Indian astrophysicist, science communicator, and Padma Vibhushan awardee Jayant Narlikar passed away in Pune on Tuesday (May 20) at the age of 87.

#### About Hoyle-Narlikar Theory of Gravity

- The Hoyle-Narlikar theory of gravity is a significant alternative to Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, developed by English astronomer Fred Hoyle and Indian astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar in 1964.
- It is best known for its attempt to incorporate Mach's principle into gravitational theory and for providing a theoretical foundation for the steady-state model of the universe.

#### Comparison with Einstein's Theory

Aspect	Einstein's General Relativity	Hoyle-Narlikar Theory of Gravity
Source of Gravity	Curvature of spacetime by mass/energy	Machian: Mass and inertia from all other matter
Gravitational Constant (G)	Fixed universal constant	Determined by mean density of the universe
Universe's Origin	Big Bang (finite age)	Steady-state (eternal, no beginning or end)
Inertia	Not directly explained	Arises from interaction with all matter
Creation of Matter	None (fixed amount since Big Bang)	Continuous via C-field

#### JOSEPH NYE

#### Context

- Joseph Nye, a prominent American political scientist and Harvard professor, passed away on May 6, 2025, at the age of 88. He is best known for introducing the concept of "soft power" to international relations theory.
- Nye's work significantly impacted how nations exert influence without relying on coercion.

#### About Nye

- Nye first articulated the concept in his 1990 book **Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power** and further developed it in *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics* (2004).
- He argued that in an interconnected world, the ability to attract and persuade is as important—if not more so—than the ability to compel.
- Soft power is considered crucial for a nation's long-term influence, especially in the context of globalization, cultural exchange, and public diplomacy.
- Nye also introduced the idea of "smart power", which is the effective combination of both hard and soft power.

#### About Soft Power

##### Definition of Soft Power:

Soft power is a nation's ability to achieve its goals and influence others not through coercion ("hard power" like military force or economic sanctions), but through attraction and persuasion

##### Pillars of Soft power:

- Culture: When it is attractive to others.
- Political Values: When it lives up to them at home and abroad.
- Foreign Policy: When others see them as legitimate and morally authoritative

##### Contrast with Hard Power:

While hard power uses "sticks" (threats) and "carrots" (inducements), soft power "gets others to want the outcomes that you want" by co-opting rather than coercing them

#### BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS, SHRADDHA KAPOOR APPOINTED AS BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR EUREKA FORBES



#### Context

- Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Eureka Forbes Ltd's iconic range of vacuum cleaners.
- The collaboration aims to promote cleaner and healthier living across Indian households, leveraging Kapoor's popularity and influence among young, urban consumers

#### NEERAJ CHOPRA BECOMES BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR AUDI INDIA

#### Context

- Olympic gold medallist and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been appointed as the new brand ambassador for Audi India.

#### About Neeraj Chopra

- Neeraj Chopra is renowned for his gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020, as well as top finishes in the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and World Athletics Championships. He also won a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics and became the first Indian javelin thrower to breach the 90-metre mark at the Doha Diamond League.

## Places in News



### ANGOLA (CAPITAL: LUANDA)

- India has announced a \$200 million defense credit line for Angola.

#### Political Features

- Located in southwestern Africa.
- Borders:** Republic of the Congo (north), Democratic Republic of the Congo (northeast), Zambia (southeast), Namibia (south).
- Maritime boundary:** Atlantic Ocean (west).

#### Geographical Features

- Rich in natural resources like petroleum, diamonds, iron ore, copper, gold, uranium, and more.
- Major rivers include Zambezi, Cuango (Kwango), and Cuanza (Kwanza), with Cuango forming part of the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Climate is tropical with a distinct dry season, influenced by the cold Benguela Current flowing northward along the west coast.



### EGYPT (CAPITAL: CAIRO)

- India and Egypt strengthened their counter-terrorism cooperation during the 4th Joint Working Group Meeting.

#### Political Features

- Location:** Egypt is located in the northeastern corner of Africa.
- Bordering Countries:** Libya (west), Sudan (south), and Israel (northeast).
- Bordering Water Bodies:** Mediterranean Sea (north), Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba (east).

#### Geographical Features

- Major mountain ranges:** Red Sea Hills, Sinai Mountains etc.
- Highest Peak:** Mount Catherine (2,642 m)
- Major River:** Nile River
- Major Deserts:** Western Desert (Arabic Al-Sahra al-Gharbiyyah), the Eastern Desert (Al-Sahra al-Sharqiyyah).



### CHILE (CAPITAL: SANTIAGO)

- 7.4 magnitude earthquake hits Southern Chile, Tsunami Alert Issued.

#### Political Features

- Situated along the western seaboard of South America.

#### Boundaries

- Peru and Bolivia (North); Argentina (East) Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean in the West.
- The Argentina-Chile border is the longest international border of South America and the third longest in the world after the Canada-United States border and the Kazakhstan-Russia border.

#### Geographical Features

- Landscape dominated by Andes mountains.
- Atacama Desert in the North- driest nonpolar desert in the world.
- Extreme natural events volcanic eruptions, violent earthquakes, and tsunamis, due to lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire.

#### Highest Peak:

- Ojos del Salado, the highest active volcano in the world.



### IRAN (CAPITAL: TEHRAN)

- Iran's foreign minister is visiting India to mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

#### Political Features

- Location:** West Asia
- Land Boundaries:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan (North); Afghanistan, Pakistan (East); Iraq (West); Türkiye (Northwest)
- Maritime Borders:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia
- Surrounding Water Bodies:** Caspian Sea (North), Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman (South)

#### Geographical Features

- Climate:** Arid, semi-arid to subtropical
- Major Rivers:** Dez, Karkheh, Karun, Diyalah
- Mountain Ranges:** Zagros, Alborz
- Highest Peak:** Mount Damavand (Alborz Range)
- Natural Resources:** Oil, natural gas, coal, copper, iron ore, zinc, lead, sulphur, etc.



### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) (CAPITAL: KINSHASA)

- Severe floods struck eastern DRC near Lake Tanganyika.

#### Political Features

- Location:** Central Africa; 2nd largest African country after Algeria
- Land Boundaries:** CAR, South Sudan (North); Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania (East); RoC, Angola (West); Zambia (South)
- Maritime Boundary:** Atlantic Ocean (West)

#### Physical Features

- Climate:** Tropical; Equator passes through
- Part of Congo Basin:** Forest spans ~500 million acres across 6 countries (Cameroon, CAR, DRC, RoC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon); includes world's largest tropical peatlands (with Brazil and Indonesia)
- Major River:** Congo River (crosses Equator twice)
- Major Minerals:** Cobalt, gold, copper, coal, iron ore, lithium



### COLOMBIA (CAPITAL: BOGOTÁ)

- China and Colombia have signed a Belt and Road cooperation agreement.

#### About Colombia

- Location:** Northwestern South America
- Political Borders:** Bordered by Panama (NW), Ecuador and Peru (South), Venezuela (East), Brazil (Southeast)
- Bounded by:** Caribbean Sea (North), Pacific Ocean (West)

#### Geographical Features

- Terrain:** Andes Mountains in the west; Amazon Forest in the southeast
- Natural Resources:** Petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, nickel, gold, copper, emeralds, hydropower



### HONDURAS (CAPITAL: TEGUCIGALPA)

- Honduras has opened its embassy in New Delhi.

#### Political Boundaries

- Location:** Central America
- Land Borders:** Guatemala, El Salvador (West); Nicaragua (South and East)
- Surrounding Water Bodies:** Caribbean Sea (North), Pacific Ocean (South)

#### Geographical Features

- Major Rivers:** Patuca, Ulúa
- Highest Peak:** Mount Las Minas



### MOZAMBIQUE (CAPITAL: MAPUTO)

- Over 25,000 people have fled northern Mozambique due to armed conflict, extreme weather, and post-election unrest.

#### Political Features

- Location:** Southeast Africa, with a long coastline along the Indian Ocean
- Mozambique Channel:** Separates it from Madagascar
- Bordering Countries:** Tanzania (North), Malawi & Zambia (Northwest), Zimbabwe (West), South Africa & Eswatini (Southwest)

#### Geographical Features

- Major Rivers:** Zambezi, Limpopo, Ruvuma (all flow into the Indian Ocean)
- Highest Peak:** Mount Binga (Chimoio Highlands)



### PANAMA (CAPITAL: PANAMA CITY)

- Panama has supported India's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.

#### Political Features

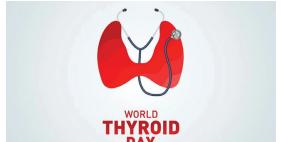
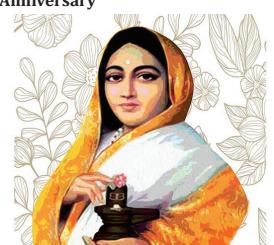
- **Location:** Central America, on the Isthmus of Panama connecting North and South America
- **Territorial Boundaries:** Costa Rica (West), Colombia (East)
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Caribbean Sea (North), Pacific Ocean (South)

#### Geographical Features

- **Panama Canal:** A strategic man-made waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, similar in importance to the Suez Canal

Day	Date	Theme	Important Pointers
International Labour Day	May 1st	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Labour Day, also known as May Day.</li> <li>• The first Labour Day celebration was held in Chennai (then Madras) in 1923 by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan.</li> </ul>
World Press Freedom Day	May 3rd	Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media.	Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993. Organized by UNESCO annually.
World Athletics Day	May 7th	-	-
World Red Cross Day	May 8th	Keeping Humanity Alive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marks birth anniversary of <b>Jean Henry Dunant</b>, founder of the Red Cross and first Nobel Peace Prize laureate.</li> <li>• Initiated in <b>1948</b> to honor Dunant (born May 8, 1828).</li> </ul>

<p><b>World Migratory Bird Day</b></p>  <p>WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY</p>	May 10th	Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities	-
<p><b>National Technology Day</b></p>  <p>NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY</p>	May 11th	Empowering a Sustainable Tomorrow Through Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marks Pokhran-II nuclear tests (<b>May 11, 1998</b>) under <b>Operation Shakti</b>.</li> <li>Declared in 1999 by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.</li> <li>Key 1998 events: Hansa-3 test flight, Trishul missile test.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Dengue Day</b></p>  <p>National Dengue Day</p>	May 16th	-	-
<p><b>International Day of Living Together in Peace: Fostering Global Harmony</b></p>  <p>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE MAY 16</p>	May 16th	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proclaimed by the <b>United Nations General Assembly</b> through Resolution 72/130 in 2017.</li> <li>Inspired by the <b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</b>'s belief: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed".</li> </ul>
<p><b>International Museum Day</b></p>  <p>18 MAY INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY</p>	May 18th	The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities	-
<p><b>World Bee Day</b></p>  <p>WORLD BEE DAY 20 MAY</p>	May 20th	Bee Inspired by Nature to Nourish Us All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>United Nations</b> established World Bee Day to raise awareness and protect pollinators.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Anti-Terrorism Day</b></p>  <p>Anti-Terrorism Day</p>	May 21st	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observed annually to commemorate the <b>death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi</b> (assassinated on 21 May 1991 by an Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) suicide bomber in Sripurumbudur, Tamil Nadu).</li> </ul>
<p><b>International Day for Biological Diversity</b></p>  <p>INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY MAY 22</p>	May 22nd	Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Originates from the <b>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</b>, adopted on 22 May 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio; date shifted from Dec 29 to May 22 in 2000.</li> <li>Supports key <b>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)</b> – sustainable agriculture</li> <li><b>SDG 3 (Health)</b> – medicinal biodiversity</li> <li><b>SDG 6 (Water)</b> – healthy ecosystems</li> <li><b>SDG 13 (Climate)</b> – carbon regulation</li> <li><b>SDG 15 (Life on Land)</b> – terrestrial conservation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>World Turtle Day</b></p>  <p>World Turtle Day</p>	May 23rd	Dancing Turtles Rock	-

<p><b>World Football Day</b></p> 	May 25th	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declared by the <b>United Nations General Assembly</b> on 7 May 2024, with support from 160+ countries, led by Libya's Ambassador Taher El-Sonni.</li> </ul>
<p><b>World Thyroid Day</b></p> 	May 25th	-	-
<p><b>World Hunger Day</b></p> 	May 28th	-	-
<p><b>Hindi Journalism Day</b></p> <p><b>Hindi Journalism Day</b></p> 	May 30th	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commemorates the birth of Hindi-language journalism with the publication of '<b>Udant Martand</b>' on 30 May 1826 by Pt. Jugal Kishor Shukla in Kolkata — the first Hindi newspaper in India.</li> </ul>
<p><b>International Everest Day</b></p> 	May 29th	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marks the <b>first successful ascent of Mount Everest</b> on 29 May 1953 by Sir Edmund Hillary (New Zealand) and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa (Nepal).</li> </ul>
<p><b>World No Tobacco Day</b></p> 	May 31st	Unmasking the Appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started by <b>World Health Organization (WHO)</b> in 1987.</li> <li>First observed in <b>1988</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ahilyabai Holkar's 300th Birth Anniversary</b></p> 	May 31st	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1996:</b> Indian Government issued a <b>postal stamp</b> in her honor.</li> <li>Indore Airport is named <b>Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport</b>.</li> <li>Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV) in Indore is named after her.</li> </ul>

## Practice Set

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Chalukya Dynasty of Badami:

- They ruled over large parts of southern and central India between the 6th and 8th centuries CE.
- Vikramaditya I belonged to this dynasty and his inscription was recently found in Telangana.
- The dynasty is known for contributions to administration, military, and art.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to the Gundaram Inscriptions, consider the following statements:

- These inscriptions belong to the Satavahana Era.
- They were discovered in a reserve forest located in Karnataka.
- They offer insights into the history of Buddhism in the Deccan over a span of 600 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 3 only
- 2 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2 and 3

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Ramman Festival:

- It is celebrated in the village of Saloor Dungra in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand.
- It is part of India's Intangible Cultural Heritage as recognized by UNESCO.

3. The festival commemorates the birth of Buddha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

4. Which of the following correctly describes the Shakargarh Bulge?

- A disputed territory between India and Nepal
- A salient of Indian territory into Pakistan near the Sir Creek region
- A Pakistani land projection bordered by Ravi and Chenab rivers into Indian territory
- A river delta region in eastern India

5. The term "MAHASAGAR", in the context of India's foreign policy, stands for

- Maritime Authority for Humanitarian and Security Growth Across Regions
- Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
- Multinational Alliance for Humanitarian Aid and Strategic Governance
- Maritime Alliance for Holistic Security and Geopolitical Resilience

6. With reference to the Ayurvedic texts revived by the Ministry of Ayush, consider the following statements:

- Dravyaratnakara Nighantu deals with the nomenclature and classification of medicinal substances.
- Dravyanamakara Nighantu is an appendix to the Dhanvantari Nighantu.
- Both are classical texts used for Ayurvedic pharmacology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3
- 1 and 2 only

7. The Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM) enhances India's naval capabilities by:

- Providing anti-satellite strike capability.
- Countering stealth ships and submarines.
- Enabling long-range ballistic missile launches.
- Facilitating underwater mining for rare minerals.

8. With reference to **Operation Sindoor**, recently conducted by the Indian Armed Forces, consider the following statements:

- The operation specifically targeted Pakistani military installations across the Line of Control (LoC).
- It was launched in response to a terrorist attack in Pahalgam which caused the death of several civilians.
- The operation was described as focused, non-escalatory, and avoided targeting civilian or military infrastructure.
- A total of nine terrorist locations were targeted in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1 and 4 only

9. The maiden voyage of the Ancient Stitched Ship will be from Gujarat to which country?

- Sri Lanka
- Indonesia
- Oman
- Egypt

10. The recently launched 'Sabal' tug, built under the Make in India initiative, is primarily designed to:

- Patrol India's maritime borders
- Support amphibious warfare operations
- Assist naval ships in berthing and un-berthing
- Carry long-range anti-submarine missiles

11. With reference to the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant, consider the following statements:

- The 17th edition of the exercise in 2025 is being held in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability in mountainous terrain under the United Nations mandate.
- Cyber warfare aspects have been included for the first time in the 2025 edition.
- The Indian Army contingent includes troops from the Ladakh Scouts regiment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 4 only
- 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only

12. With reference to **Operation Kagar**, consider the following statements:

- It was launched in 2024 as a large-scale counterinsurgency operation targeting Maoist insurgents in the Red Corridor.
- The operation involves the deployment of paramilitary forces such as CRPF, CoBRA, and District Reserve Guards.
- Advanced technologies like AI and satellite imagery are used for surveillance and intelligence gathering.
- The operation follows a three-stage approach: clearance, containment, and consolidation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

13. INS Tamal is a type of:

- Nuclear-powered submarine
- Aircraft carrier
- Stealth guided missile frigate
- Amphibious assault ship

14. With reference to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, consider the following statements:

- The Basel Convention aims to restrict the movement of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries.
- The Rotterdam Convention enforces a mandatory ban on all hazardous chemical exports.
- The Stockholm Convention focuses on eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) globally

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

15. Which of the following country is the host of the Asian Games 2026?

- China
- South Korea
- Japan
- India

16. Consider the following statements regarding the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative:

- It was launched by the ASEAN countries in 2022 to counter China's influence in the South China Sea.
- It aims to enhance maritime security and transparency through technology and training.
- India is participating in the initiative as a part of the Quad grouping.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

17. With reference to the Arctic Council, consider the following statements:

- It includes both Arctic and non-Arctic states as full members.
- It operates by consensus and its decisions are non-binding.
- It deals with environmental protection and sustainable development but excludes military and security issues.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

18. Which of the following is the theme for World Red Cross Day 2025?

- Humanity for All: Our Mission Continues
- Red Cross: Global Solidarity in Action
- Keeping Humanity Alive
- Compassion Without Borders

19. National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed on which of the following dates?

- May 18
- May 19
- May 20
- May 21

20. Consider the following statements about Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*):
- It is found primarily in the Himalayan foothills of India and Bhutan.
  - It is among the rarest large land mammals and is nicknamed the “Asian unicorn”.
  - It was first described by scientists in the year 1993.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 2 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
21. With reference to the Climate Finance Taxonomy proposed by India, consider the following statements:
- It aims to support India's net-zero goal by 2050 through sustainable investments.
  - It seeks to classify economic activities to prevent greenwashing.
  - The taxonomy aligns India with global trends in countries like the EU and Singapore.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
22. Which of the following statements regarding the Mahadayi (Mahadevi) River is/are correct?
- It originates in Maharashtra and flows eastward into Karnataka.
  - The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal was set up in 2010.
  - The river is known as the Mandovi River in Goa.
- Select the correct answer using the code below:
- 1 and 2 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 2 and 3 only
23. With reference to the Olive Ridley turtles in India, consider the following statements:
- They are classified as Endangered in the IUCN Red List.
  - Rushikulya in Odisha is a significant mass nesting site.
  - Arribada refers to the mass hatching of sea turtle eggs.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
24. With reference to the proposed global ban on Chlорpyrifos, consider the following statements:
- Chlorpyrifos works by inhibiting acetylcholinesterase, affecting nerve function.
  - India supported the global ban citing public health concerns.
  - Chlorpyrifos is used in agriculture and vector control.

- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 3 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 2 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
25. HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) was developed by which country?
- Russia
  - Israel
  - United States
  - France
26. Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs):
- FIIs are governed under both the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 and SEBI regulations.
  - FIIs can invest in both listed and unlisted securities in India.
  - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has no role in monitoring the sectoral investment ceilings of FIIs.
  - Softening of the U.S. Dollar Index typically discourages FII inflows into India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 3 and 4 only
  - 1, 2, and 4 only
  - 2, 3, and 4 only
27. India extended a USD 50 million Treasury Bill to which country in 2025 to support its economic stability?
- Sri Lanka
  - Nepal
  - Maldives
  - Bangladesh
28. Recently, India's top archer Deepika Kumari won the bronze medal in the Women's Recurve event at the Archery World Cup (Stage II). Where was this World Cup competition held?
- Tokyo
  - Shanghai
  - Paris
  - Jakarta
29. Which country formally joined China's Belt and Road Initiative in May 2025?
- Brazil
  - Argentina
  - Colombia
  - Chile
30. Consider the following statements regarding the SAFF U-19 Championship 2025:
- India's U-19 football team won the championship by defeating Nepal.
  - The final match was played at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2

31. Consider the following statements regarding National Technology Day:
- It is observed on May 12th every year in India.
  - The day commemorates the Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted in 1998 under Operation Shakti.
  - The theme for National Technology Day 2025 is “Empowering a Sustainable Tomorrow Through Innovation”.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
  - 2 only
32. What is the rank of India in the World Press Freedom Index 2025?
- 151st
  - 149th
  - 127th
  - 148th
33. Match the List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below:
- | List-I (Days)               | List-II (Dates) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| A. World Migratory Bird Day | 1. 1st May      |
| B. International Labour Day | 2. 30th May     |
| C. World Football Day       | 3. 25th May     |
| D. Hindi Journalism Day     | 4. 10th May     |
- A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1
  - A-4, C-1, C-2, D-3
  - A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2
  - A-1, B-4, C-3, D-2
34. Which of the following correctly describes the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the United Nations?
- It was established through a UN General Assembly resolution in 1999.
  - It includes all permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.
  - It can impose travel bans, asset freezes, and arms embargoes on listed individuals and entities.
- Select the correct answer using the code below:
- 1 and 2 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2, and 3
35. With reference to the WHO Pandemic Agreement, consider the following statements:
- It is the first legally binding treaty adopted by WHO since its inception.
  - It was adopted at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
  - The agreement has binding enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 2 and 3 only
36. In the 2025 Supreme Court case Amar Jain v. Union of India, the Court held that inclusive digital access is an integral part of which Fundamental Right?
- Right to Constitutional Remedies
  - Right to Freedom of Speech
  - Right to Life and Personal Liberty
  - Right to Education
37. Angola shares its maritime boundary with which ocean?
- Indian Ocean
  - Southern Ocean
  - Atlantic Ocean
  - Pacific Ocean
38. Consider the following statements about World No Tobacco Day:
- It is observed annually on May 31st.
  - It was observed in 1987.
  - The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2025 is “Unmasking the Appeal”.
- Which of the above statements is/are **not** correct?
- 2 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 only
39. Which country is hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027?
- Spain
  - Australia
  - United States
  - Brazil
40. Which of the following statements regarding the Gallantry Awards 2025 is correct?
- Only Army personnel were recipients of the Kirti Chakra in 2025.
  - The Shaurya Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award.
  - The Kirti Chakra was awarded to six individuals, four of them posthumously.
  - All Shaurya Chakra awardees in 2025 were from the Indian Air Force.
41. In 2025, Banu Mushtaq made history by winning the International Booker Prize for which of the following works?
- Fire and River
  - Shadowed Lines
  - Heart Lamp
  - The Silence of Rain
42. Who were the recipients of the 58th Jnanpith Award, conferred by President Droupadi Murmu in May 2025?
- Gulzar and Girish Karnad
  - Amrita Pritam and Mahadevi Verma
  - Gulzar and Rambha Charcharya
  - Pratibha Ray and Sampoorn Singh Kalra

43. Who emerged as the winner of the Superbet Chess Classic 2025 held in Bucharest, Romania?

- (a) Pentala Harikrishna
- (b) Fabiano Caruana
- (c) Gukesh Dommaraju
- (d) Praggnanandha Rameshbabu

44. Consider the following statements about Treasury Bills (T-Bills):

- 1. T-Bills are short-term debt instruments issued by the Reserve Bank of India in its own capacity.
- 2. T-Bills are issued at a discount and redeemed at face value.
- 3. T-Bills carry a fixed rate of interest payable semi-annually.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

45. Which international organization is collaborating with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) to empower wastepickers in India as per the 2025 agreement?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (c) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- (d) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

46. When was caste data last comprehensively collected and published in the Indian Census?

- (a) 2011
- (b) 1951
- (c) 1931
- (d) 1941

47. Which among the following is the main objective of the ECINET platform developed by the Election Commission of India?

- (a) To conduct electronic voting
- (b) To replace Voter ID cards with digital IDs
- (c) To monitor social media campaigns
- (d) To provide a single-point digital interface for all electoral stakeholders

48. Which among the following state became the first in India to achieve full functional literacy under the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Meghalaya

49. He was a key architect of India's nuclear energy programme and played a pivotal role in the development of the country's Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology. He served as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and was awarded the Padma Vibhushan. Identify the personality from the description given above:

- (a) Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha
- (b) Dr. Anil Kakodkar
- (c) Dr. Malur Ramasamy Srinivasan
- (d) Dr. R. Chidambaram

50. With reference to the Sagarmala Programme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to modernize ports and reduce logistics costs for both domestic and EXIM cargo.
- 2. One of its pillars focuses on developing Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs) to promote ported industrialization.
- 3. The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

51. Which of the following correctly matches the social security scheme with its objective?

Scheme	Objective
1. PMSBY	Provides accident insurance coverage
2. PMJJBY	Offers guaranteed pension after 60 years
3. APY	Provides life insurance to the unorganized sector

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

52. Consider the following features about the National Scheme for Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs):

- 1. The funding model includes contributions from the central government, state governments, and the private industry.
- 2. The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank are involved in co-financing the entire budget.
- 3. The scheme will follow a hub-and-spoke model for revamping vocational training infrastructure

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

53. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), consider the following statements:

- 1. It covers post-harvest losses for up to 30 days after harvesting.
- 2. It replaced older schemes like NAIS and MNAIS.
- 3. The scheme covers risks such as pests, localized calamities, and mid-season adversity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

54. Consider the following pairs:

Feature	Description
1. Musa indandamanensis	Longest banana infructescence
2. Vembanad Lake	Largest freshwater lake in India
3. Kumarakom Sanctuary	Located near Vembanad Lake

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

55. India has finalized a landmark Free Trade Agreement on May 6, 2025 with which among the following nations?

- (a) Australia
- (b) Japan
- (c) UK
- (d) Italy

56. The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) recently signed an MoU with which company to jointly develop Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology for drone-based systems?

- (a) Tata Advanced Systems
- (b) Synergy Quantum India
- (c) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (d) DRDO

57. On May 7, 2025, India has signed a significant MoU for deepening cooperation & peace as enshrined in the teachings of the Buddha with which among the following countries?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Vietnam
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Myanmar

58. Which of the following can be considered as Regulated Entities (REs) under the RBI's oversight?

- 1. Scheduled Commercial Banks
- 2. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)
- 3. Insurance Companies
- 4. Venture Capital Funds

Select the correct option:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

59. Consider the following statements about IMO:

- 1. It was originally established as IMCO in 1948 and renamed IMO in 1982.
- 2. It directly enforces maritime regulations through its own enforcement wing.
- 3. The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) is responsible for pollution-related regulations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

60. Who is the author of the book titled "PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years"?

- (a) Sanjaya Baru
- (b) Himanshu Roy
- (c) Rajmohan Gandhi
- (d) Shashi Tharoor

61. Which of the following statements regarding the SVAMITVA scheme is/are correct?

- 1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- 2. The scheme provides legal ownership of rural residential properties using drone and GIS technology.
- 3. It focuses primarily on agricultural land and crop insurance for rural areas.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

62. Shivpal Singh, who recently tested positive for a banned substance for the second time, is associated with which sport?

- (a) Shot Put
- (b) Javelin Throw
- (c) Discus Throw
- (d) Long Jump

63. Which organizations partnered with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to launch the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) in May 2025?

- (a) NASSCOM and TCS
- (b) NITI Aayog and ISRO
- (c) FICCI and CII
- (d) UNESCO and UNICEF

64. With reference to the GenomeIndia Project, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a national initiative funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

2. The project has completed whole genome sequencing of over 10,000 individuals representing diverse population groups in India.
3. The data collected under this project will be used exclusively for agricultural genome research.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
65. Which of the following statements about Gaganyaan mission is incorrect?
- (a) It is India's first human space mission.
  - (b) Five astronauts will be sent into space under this mission.
  - (c) It will use the human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle.
  - (d) If successful, India will become the fourth country to launch a human space mission, after the US, Russia, and China.
66. With reference to the Bharat Forecast System, recently launched in India, which of the following statements is NOT correct?
- (a) BFS was developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.
  - (b) It operates on a  $6\text{ km} \times 6\text{ km}$  grid, making it the world's highest-resolution weather forecasting model.
  - (c) BFS aims to provide hyperlocal forecasts, enhancing disaster preparedness and agricultural planning.
  - (d) The system was developed with support from NASA and is operational only in northern India.
67. Which of the following is NOT covered under MARPOL's six annexes?
- (a) Oil spills from tankers
  - (b) Radioactive waste disposal
  - (c) Sewage pollution from ships
  - (d) Air pollution by sulfur oxides
68. The theme of NITI Aayog's 10th Governing Council Meeting was:
- (a) "Atmanirbhar Bharat through Cooperative Federalism"
  - (b) "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047"
  - (c) "Digital India for Inclusive Growth"
  - (d) "Sustainable Development Goals 2030"
69. Honduras shares its land borders with which of the following countries?
- (a) Nicaragua and Costa Rica
  - (b) Guatemala and El Salvador
  - (c) Mexico and Belize
  - (d) Panama and Colombia

70. Which Indian shooter won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 held in Germany?
- (a) Kanak Budhwar
  - (b) Manu Bhaker
  - (c) Elavenil Valarivan
  - (d) Tilottama Sen
71. Justice B.R. Gavai, who assumed office as the 52nd Chief Justice of India in 2025, is notable for which of the following?
- (a) He is the first Buddhist and second Dalit Chief Justice of India.
  - (b) He is the first Chief Justice of India from the Scheduled Castes (SC) community in post-Independence India.
  - (c) He is the youngest judge to be appointed as the Chief Justice of India.
  - (d) He is the first Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court to be elevated to this position.
72. Consider the following statements regarding Joseph Nye:
1. He coined the term "soft power" in the 1990s to describe a nation's ability to influence others through attraction rather than coercion.
  2. The term "soft power" was introduced in the book *Bound to Lead* (1990), authored by him.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
73. Which of the following is the theme for World Press Freedom Day 2025?
- (a) Safeguarding Truth in the Digital Age
  - (b) Reporting in the Brave New World: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media
  - (c) Freedom of the Press: Democracy in Action
  - (d) Voices Uncensored: Journalism for Justice
74. What is the rank of India in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2025?
- (a) 128th
  - (b) 130th
  - (c) 131st
  - (d) 140th
75. India's first fully indigenous mechanical thrombectomy device for stroke care is being developed by:
- (a) Meril Life Sciences
  - (b) BETiC, IIT Bombay
  - (c) S3V Vascular Technologies
  - (d) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

## Answer Key

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b)  | 2. (a)  | 3. (a)  | 4. (c)  | 5. (b)  | 6. (a)  | 7. (b)  | 8. (b)  | 9. (c)  | 10. (c) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (a) | 13. (c) | 14. (b) | 15. (c) | 16. (b) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (d) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (d) | 23. (b) | 24. (a) | 25. (c) | 26. (a) | 27. (c) | 28. (b) | 29. (c) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (b) | 32. (a) | 33. (c) | 34. (c) | 35. (b) | 36. (c) | 37. (c) | 38. (a) | 39. (d) | 40. (c) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (c) | 43. (d) | 44. (b) | 45. (b) | 46. (c) | 47. (d) | 48. (b) | 49. (c) | 50. (a) |
| 51. (b) | 52. (b) | 53. (c) | 54. (b) | 55. (c) | 56. (b) | 57. (b) | 58. (a) | 59. (b) | 60. (b) |
| 61. (a) | 62. (b) | 63. (c) | 64. (a) | 65. (b) | 66. (d) | 67. (b) | 68. (b) | 69. (b) | 70. (a) |
| 71. (a) | 72. (c) | 73. (b) | 74. (b) | 75. (c) |         |         |         |         |         |

[Scan or Click Here for Detailed Solutions](#)

