

CONTENTS

1. National News	3
2. International News.....	7
3. Science and Technology.....	12
4. Economy and Finance	15
5. Important Dates and Events	20
6. Awards, Recognitions and Appointments.....	22
7. Government Initiatives	24
8. Reports & Indices	31
9. Defence	36
10. Sports	39
11. Important MCQ for Competitive Exams.....	40

IBS
EMPOWERING YOUTH EMPOWERING INDIA
Leaders in Bank, SSC & CDS Exams since 2007



NATIONAL

BIHAR'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT -

- Bihar is set to become one of the first states in India to establish a nuclear power plant. This initiative is part of the country's new Nuclear Energy Mission. This decision is as it comes ahead of the assembly elections in Bihar.



Nuclear Energy Mission

- The Nuclear Energy Mission aims to expand clean and reliable nuclear power across India. The government has allocated Rs 20,000 crore for this mission in the Union Budget for 2025-26. The objective is to establish at least one nuclear power plant in every state. This is crucial for ensuring energy security as the demand for electricity continues to rise.

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

- **The nuclear plant in Bihar will utilise Small Modular Reactor technology. SMRs are designed to be more flexible and cost-effective compared to traditional reactors. They can be deployed in smaller grids and are considered safer due to their advanced design. This technology represents the future of nuclear energy, focusing on sustainability and reliability.**

RATH YATRA OF LORD JAGANNATH -

- Police personnel have been deployed in Puri to manage security and traffic for the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, starting June 27, which is expected to draw over 30 lakh devotees.
- Puri is revered as one of the char dham (four abodes) where Lord Jagannath is worshipped.



About the Ratha Yatra

- According to Hindu mythology, Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra go on a nine-day sojourn

to their birthplace Gundicha Temple, staying there until the Bahuda Yatra, which falls on July 5 this year.

- The Yatra commemorates their journey from the 12th-century Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple, believed to be their aunt's home.
- Goddess Ardhasini, also known as Mausima, is considered their aunt.
- The Rath Yatra takes place on the second day of the Odia month of Ashadha Shukla Tithi (bright fortnight) every year.

Religious Beliefs

- It is believed that witnessing the deities on their chariots cleanses people of their sins and grants salvation.
- The Bamadeva Samhita states that those who see the deities at Gundicha Temple for a week attain Baikuntha (heaven) along with their ancestors.
- As non-Hindus are not allowed inside the Jagannath Temple, Rath Yatra allows foreign devotees to see the deities.
- The Lord is believed to step out of his sanctum to meet all his devotees during Rath Yatra, symbolising inclusiveness.

SHAKTIPEETH EXPRESSWAY -

- The Shaktipeeth Expressway is infrastructure project in Maharashtra. Approved by the Maharashtra Cabinet on June 24, 2025, it aims to connect 12 districts from Pavnar in Wardha to Patradevi on the Maharashtra-Goa border.
- The project has a budget of ₹20,787 crore, with ₹12,000 crore earmarked for land acquisition. However, it faces strong opposition from farmers in the proposed corridor.

Project Overview

- **The Shaktipeeth Expressway spans 802 kilometres. It is designed to reduce travel time between Nagpur and Goa from 18 hours to 8 hours. The expressway will connect key pilgrimage sites known as Shakti Peethas, enhancing religious tourism. It will link 18 religious shrines across Maharashtra and Goa.**

E-mail : ibs@ibsendia.co.in

Telegram Channel : @IBSPRO

Whatsapp : 93164-88310, 93160-68310

Youtube : /ibsinstitute

FB/Insta/Twitter:@IBSinstitute

App:



IBS Institute App

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIKKIM'S INTEGRATION WITH INDIA -

- The Prime Minister congratulated Sikkim on the 50th anniversary of its integration into the Indian Union, marking its official recognition as the 22nd state of India on 16th May 1975.



- **What are the Key Facts About Sikkim's Integration with India ?**

- **Monarchical Background:** Sikkim was a hereditary monarchy ruled by the Chogyal dynasty from 1642 to 1975.
- **Sikkim's Autonomy:** It maintained its autonomy during British colonial rule and post Indian independence through:
- **Treaty of Tumlong (1861):** Sikkim became a protectorate state of British India.
- **Treaty of Titaliya (1817):** It gave the British authorities several commercial and political advantages in Sikkim.
- **Calcutta Convention (1890):** It demarcated the Sikkim-Tibet border, signed by Viceroy Lord Lansdowne and Qing China's Imperial Associate Resident in Tibet.

The Convention was affirmed by the Lhasa Convention (1904).

- **Indo-Sikkim Treaty (1950):** It made Sikkim an Indian protectorate, with India controlling defence, external affairs, and communication, while Sikkim retained internal autonomy.

ALCOHOL REGULATION IN INDIA -

- India is witnessing a steady rise in alcohol consumption, which, despite its well-documented links to health risks, violence, crime, suicides, and financial distress, remains unregulated by a unified national strategy, prompting urgent calls for a comprehensive National Alcohol Control Policy and Programme.

**What are the Key Driving Factors for Alcohol Consumption in India ?**

- **Alcohol Prevalence in India:** As per the NFHS-5, 14.6% of people aged 10–75 (16 crore) consume alcohol in India with 23% of men and 1% of women.
- **India ranks among the highest globally in heavy episodic drinking, with 2.6 million DALYs (Disability-Adjusted Life Years) and a societal cost of Rs 6.24 trillion (2021).**
- **High-use States:** Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa; High disorder prevalence (>10%): Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh.

WOMEN IN INDIAN ARMED FORCES -

- **For the first time in Indian military history, 17 women cadets graduated from the National Defence Academy (NDA), marking a historic step toward gender-inclusive military leadership and opening the path for future women service chiefs.**

**How did the Entry of Women in the Indian Armed Forces Begin?**

- **Early Military Roles for Women:** Women first joined military service through the Military Nursing Service established in 1888, and later through the Indian Army Medical Corps in 1958, where women doctors received regular commissions.
- **Non-Medical Entry:** Non-medical roles for women began only in 1992 with the introduction of the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES), which inducted women as Short Service Commission officers in select non-combat branches such as the Army Education Corps, Corps of Signals, Intelligence Corps, and Corps of Engineers.
- **Legal Framework:** Entry of women into the Indian Army was initially governed by Section 12 of the Army Act, 1950, which allowed women to serve only in specific corps or branches as notified by the government.

- The government issued notifications allowing women officers in branches like the Army Postal Service, Judge Advocate General's (JAG) department, Army Education Corps (AEC), Ordnance Corps, and Service Corps, initially for five years, and later extended to more branches, including the Corps of Engineers and the Regiment of Artillery.

AIR INDIA FLIGHT AI171 CRASH NEAR AHMEDABAD -

- On June 12, 2025, Air India flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, crashed shortly after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad.



- The flight was headed to London Gatwick Airport with 242 people on board. The pilot issued a mayday call shortly after takeoff, but the aircraft fell just 625 feet into a nearby residential area. The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.

Boeing 787 Dreamliner

- The Boeing 787, introduced in 2007, is a next-generation, long-haul jet designed for efficiency. It features a carbon fibre composite structure, making it lighter than traditional aluminium aircraft. The aircraft consumes 25 per cent less fuel than its predecessors.
- The first commercial flight took place in 2012 after delays due to supply chain issues and technical problems. The 787 comes in three variants – 787-8, 787-9, and 787-10.

HELICOPTER SAFETY ISSUES IN UTTARAKHAND'S CHAR DHAM -

- Recently, a tragic helicopter crash in Uttarakhand resulted in the deaths of five passengers and the pilot. This incident has drawn attention to the safety of helicopter operations during the Char Dham pilgrimage season.
- Helicopter rides in this region are already under scrutiny due to challenging terrain and unpredictable weather patterns. The Directorate General of Civil

Aviation (DGCA) has been monitoring private operators closely, especially after a series of accidents.



Current Regulatory Framework

- The DGCA oversees aviation regulations in India. However, the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) coordinates helicopter operations in the state. UCADA was established in 2013 to manage air traffic and safety. They set rules for operators, including landing fees and the number of flights. Despite these regulations, the absence of an Air Traffic Control system in the Kedarnath area raises concerns about safety.

INDIA'S AVIATION SAFETY STANDARDS -

- India's aviation industry has recently garnered attention for its impressive safety ratings. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) conducted an audit in November 2022.



- The results showcased India's advancements in aviation safety. India surpassed the global average in key categories such as operations and airworthiness.

Effective Implementation Score

- India's Effective Implementation score rose to 85.65% from 69.95% in 2018. This score indicates improvements in aviation safety measures. The ICAO assesses countries on various criteria.
- These include legislation, organisation, licensing, operations, airworthiness, accident investigation, air navigation services, and aerodromes. India scored above the global average in all eight categories during the audit.

CYBER SURAKSHA EXERCISE -

- The Defence Cyber Agency (DCA) of India initiated the 'Cyber Suraksha' exercise on June 16, 2025. This comprehensive cybersecurity drill is organised under

the Integrated Defence Staff headquarters and will run until June 27, 2025.

- Aimed at enhancing national cyber resilience, the exercise involves over 100 participants from various national agencies and defence sectors.



Purpose and Structure of Cyber Suraksha

- The primary goal of Cyber Suraksha is to simulate real-world cyber threats. This exercise focuses on reinforcing secure practices and evaluating the analytical and defensive skills of participants. It is structured in multiple phases, including targeted training sessions and leadership engagement.

SHIPKI LA PASS REOPENS FOR DOMESTIC TOURISTS -

- Himachal Pradesh has opened the Shipki La pass to domestic tourists, a step which locals hope will revitalise tourism and trade.

About the Shipki La Pass

- **Location:** Shipki La is a motorable mountain pass located in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh.
- **Altitude:** It sits at an elevation of 3,930 metres and connects India with Tibet (now part of China).
- The old name of Shipki La was Pema La, or Shared Gate, also known as Shared Pass.

Historical Importance of the Pass

- **Centuries-Old Trade Route:** Functioned as a vibrant Indo-Tibetan trade corridor since at least the 15th century.

Key Commodities Traded:

- **Imports from Tibet:** Wool, yaks, turquoise, gold, religious items.
- **Exports from India:** Grains, spices, copper tools, timber.
- Supported local economies, especially artisans and farmers of Kinnaur.

Strategic & Geopolitical Significance

- **India-China Border Point:** Shipki La is one of the few official border passes between India and Tibet.

- **Border Surveillance:** It serves as a sensitive point for monitoring cross-border movement and maintaining national security.
- **Alternative Route to Kailash Mansarovar:** Reopening the pass could shorten the Delhi-Mansarovar pilgrimage route by 14 days, easing movement for pilgrims

INDUS VALLEY SCRIPT DECIPHERMENT: ASI TO HOST GLOBAL CONFERENCE, \$1 MILLION PRIZE ANNOUNCED -

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is set to host an international brain storming conference from August 20 to 22, aimed at exploring ways to decipher the Indus Valley script.
- **The conference, titled “Decipherment of the Indus Script: Current Status and the Way Forward,”** will bring together experts from India and abroad who are actively researching the Harappan civilization.
- In January 2025, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has also announced a \$1 million prize for deciphering the script.



About the Indus Valley Script

- The Indus script is a collection of symbols that appear primarily on diverse materials, including seals, pottery, bronze tools, stoneware bangles, bones, shells, ivory, steatite, bronze, and copper tablets.
- **Undeciphered Nature:** Despite extensive research and several hypotheses, the script has not been successfully deciphered, and its true meaning and connection to languages remain unknown.
- **Pictogram-Based Writing:** The script is written using pictograms, often accompanied by animal or human motifs.
- Some scholars suggest that the script could be “logo-syllabic,” meaning it may combine both logograms (symbols representing words) and syllabic components (symbols representing sounds).

INTERNATIONAL

BANGLADESH UNVEILS NEW BANK-NOTES, DROPS MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S PORTRAIT -

- The unveiling of these new banknotes comes at a time of deep political transition in Bangladesh. With Sheikh Hasina's government ousted in 2024 and the country currently led by an interim advisory council, the decision to remove Mujibur Rahman's portrait is seen as an attempt to present a more neutral and inclusive national identity.



- The issue also coincides with legal proceedings against Hasina, adding to the relevance and controversy surrounding this monetary redesign.

• Key Highlights of the New Banknotes

- The new banknotes are of three denominations: Taka 1000, Taka 50, and Taka 20.
- The design excludes human portraits entirely.

Instead, they feature,

- Natural landscapes
- Archaeological sites
- Hindu and Buddhist temples, reflecting the country's cultural and historical diversity.

• Leadership & Execution

- Unveiled by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.
- Banknotes were handed over by Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ -

- The Strait of Hormuz is important maritime route. It connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. Recent tensions between Iran and the United States have raised concerns about the possibility of Iran blocking this vital waterway. This action could have implications for global

oil and gas markets, particularly affecting countries dependent on energy supplies from the region.

Geographical Importance of the Strait of Hormuz

- The Strait of Hormuz is only 33 kilometres wide at its narrowest point. It serves as a vital shipping lane for oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG).
- Approximately 20 million barrels of oil flow through the strait each day. This represents over one-quarter of the world's seaborne oil trade. The strait is bordered by Iran and Oman, making its control strategically .



PM MODI TO ATTEND G-7 SUMMIT IN CANADA, SIGNALING THAW IN BILATERAL TIES -

- PM Modi has officially accepted Canadian PM Mark Carney's last-minute invitation to attend the upcoming G-7 Summit in Alberta, Canada, on short notice. The development is highly significant given the recent low point in India-Canada relations and indicates a potential reset in diplomatic ties following political transitions and ongoing international dialogues.



Key Highlights

- **Event:** G-7 Summit 2025
- **Location:** Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada
- **Date:** Next week (Mid-June 2025)
- **Invited by:** Canadian PM Mark Carney
- First India-Canada visit by PM Modi since 2015
- **Theme of visit:** Resetting bilateral relations with "renewed vigour"

BANGLADESH DROPS 'FATHER OF THE NATION' TITLE FOR SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN -

- On June 3, 2025, the interim government of Bangladesh, led by Prof. Mohammed Yunus, issued a revised version of the Liberation War Act, omitting Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's title as the 'Father of the Nation'.
- This development follows the earlier release of new currency notes that no longer feature his image. These steps mark a significant shift in how Bangladesh's official narrative now views its founding leader and the legacy of the 1971 Liberation War.**
- A new notification dated June 3, 2025, removed references to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Jatir Pita (Father of the Nation) in relation to the 1971 war of independence.
- New currency notes released recently by the interim government also exclude Mujib's image, which had been featured in earlier series.**
- The Liberation War Act 2022 earlier highlighted Sheikh Mujib's leadership and the Mujib Bahini, but the 2025 version does not mention either.



NEW NON-PERMANENT COUNTRIES TO UNSC -

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has elected Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Latvia, and Liberia as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a 2-year term starting 1st January 2026.
- They will join Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, Somalia (elected in 2024, serving through 2026).
- Also, Pakistan has been appointed as the Chair of the UNSC 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee for 2025 and will also serve as vice-chair of the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee during its 2025–26 tenure as a non-permanent member of the Council.

What is the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) ?

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), established in 1945 under the UN Charter, constitutes one

of the UN's six principal organs, entrusted with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.



- The Council comprises 15 members, including 5 permanent members (P5)- China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—who possess veto power, and 10 non-permanent members elected for 2-year terms by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
- These non-permanent seats are allocated on a regional basis:** 5 for African and Asian States, 1 for Eastern European States, 2 for Latin American and Caribbean States, and 2 for Western European and Other States.
- Elections are held annually through a secret ballot, requiring a two-thirds majority vote, even when candidates are unopposed.
- The UNSC remains the only UN body whose decisions member states are obligated to implement under the UN Charter.
- India's participation in the Security Council has been as a non-permanent member during the periods of 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12, and 2021-22.

ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT ESCALATES: OPERATION RISING LION TARGETS NUCLEAR SITES, IRAN RESPONDS -

- Israel has launched 'Operation Rising Lion' to prevent Iran from building nuclear weapons targeting its nuclear facilities, missile bases.
- **Key Casualties** : Hossein Salami (Iran's IRGC chief) and two top nuclear scientists.



Iran responds with 'Operation True Promise 3' after the Israeli attack.

- **Iran-Israel Relations: Background & Timeline**
- **Phase I: Strategic Cooperation (1948-1979)**
- **1948:** Iran did not recognize Israel officially, but did not join Arab-Israeli wars.
- **1950s:** Iran quietly aligned with Israel under Ben-Gurion's "Periphery Doctrine" — alliance with non-Arab states (Iran, Turkey, Ethiopia) to counter Arab hostility.
- **1958:** Formation of "Trident" intelligence pact (Iran-Israel-Turkey); joint operations against Baathist Iraq.
- **Post-1967 War:** Despite rising criticism in the Muslim world, the Shah of Iran maintained relations with Israel.
- **1970s:** Secret energy and military cooperation peaked:

Phase II: Ideological Confrontation (Post-1979)

- **1979 Islamic Revolution:** The Shah was overthrown; the Islamic Republic of Iran was established under Ayatollah Khomeini.
- Iran severed all ties with Israel and handed its embassy in Tehran to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).
- Israel was labeled the "Little Satan", USA the "Great Satan".
- **1980s: Paradoxical Relations:** Despite hostility, Israel supplied weapons to Iran during the Iran-Iraq War:
- **Iran-Contra Affair (1985-86):** Covert US-Israel-Iran arms-for-hostages deal.
- Both countries opposed Saddam Hussein and viewed Iraq as a bigger threat.

Phase III: Shadow War & Nuclear Tensions (1990-2020)

- Iran emerged as a key backer of Hezbollah (Lebanon) and Hamas (Gaza) — both anti-Israel militant groups.

- Iran was suspected of developing nuclear weapons. Israel viewed this as an existential threat.
- **Cyber warfare era:** Israel and the US launched Stuxnet virus on Iran's Natanz facility (2010).
- **Covert operations:** Multiple Iranian nuclear scientists were assassinated (e.g., Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, 2020).
- **Phase IV: Escalation & Open Conflict (2020-2025)**
- **2021-2023:** Proxy escalation: Iran's proxies — Houthis, Hezbollah — stepped up attacks post-Gaza conflict.
- Israel responded with targeted assassinations in Lebanon and Syria.
- **April 2024:** Iran launches 300 drones and missiles on Israel after its consulate was bombed in Damascus.
- Israel retaliated with strikes on Iranian anti-aircraft systems and IRGC facilities.

June 2025 – Operation Rising Lion

- Israel launched open military strikes on Iran, targeting:
- Natanz nuclear site
- IRGC command chain
- Nuclear scientists
- Iran responded with missile and drone retaliation, no major Israeli casualties reported.
- IAEA censured Iran for secret enrichment; Iran threatened NPT withdrawal.

GLOBAL DISPLACEMENT CRISIS -

- The global displacement crisis has reached alarming levels as of April 2025. **The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 122.1 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide.** This figure marks the urgent need for international attention and support. Despite a slight decrease in numbers from the previous year, the overall situation remains critical.



Current Displacement Statistics

- By April 2025, the number of forcibly displaced people rose by 2.1 million compared to the previous year. The total of 122.1 million includes refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). In 2024, the total peaked at

123.2 million. The ongoing conflicts in various regions continue to drive these numbers higher.

PAKISTAN SECURES KEY ROLES IN UNSC COMMITTEES -

- Recently, Pakistan was elected as the Chair of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee, Vice Chair of the 1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), and a Co-Chair in two informal working groups of the UNSC.



Reasons For Pakistan's Appointment to UNSC Committees

- **Procedurally Inevitable:** As per Article 28 of the UN Charter, the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee and 1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee are subsidiary organs comprising all 15 UNSC members.
- By virtue of its two-year UNSC membership, any elected non-permanent member invariably takes the helm of at least one of the Council's several subsidiary bodies, at some point in their tenure.
- Pakistan being voted as a UNSC non-permanent member from the Asia-Africa grouping in June 2024 already set it up for eventual committee chairmanships.
- **P5:** Permanent members (China, France, Russia, UK, US) avoid chairing such bodies to prevent conflicts of interest. e.g., the US enforces major sanctions but has never chaired the 1988 Committee.
- **Systemic Overload:** The existing system burdens non-permanent members.
- A 2018 UNSC briefing called for a new system for fairer chairmanship distribution.

AUKUS SUBMARINE AGREEMENT -

- The United States has launched a formal review of the AUKUS submarine agreement with Australia and the United Kingdom.

Reasons for the US Review

- "America First" Alignment: The review aims to ensure the agreement aligns with the "America First" priorities of the current US administration.

- **Production and Spending Concerns:** The review will examine the production rate of Virginia-class submarines, which are behind schedule, raising concerns about the US ability to meet its own fleet demands while supplying Australia.
- **Australia's Defense Spending:** The US is pressuring Australia to increase its defense spending from 2% to 3.5% of GDP.



What is Aukus?

- AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The AUKUS pact was officially announced in September 2021.
- **Countering China:** Its primary goal is to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

OPERATION SINDHU EVACUATION FROM IRAN -

- **India announced launching 'Operation Sindhu' to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran through Armenia as fears of an all-out Israeli-American military strikes on Iran increased.**



- It highlighted Armenia's crucial role as a strategic and viable evacuation route, thanks to its geographic position and strong diplomatic ties with India.
- Iran borders Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan to the north. It shares borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan to the east, Iraq to the west, Turkey to the northwest, and has a southern coastline along the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

OPERATION TRUE PROMISE 3: IRAN'S RETALIATORY STRIKE REDEFINES MODERN WARFARE -

- Iran launched Operation True Promise 3 as retaliation against Israeli strikes on nuclear enrichment facilities and high-ranking Iranian military officials. The operation

E-mail : ibs@ibsendia.co.in

Telegram Channel : @IBSPRO

Whatsapp : 93164-88310, 93160-68310

Youtube : /ibsinstitute

FB/Insta/Twitter:@IBSinstitute

App:



IBS Institute App

marks a strategic escalation in the conflict and reveals new offensive tactics with implications for missile defence systems worldwide.

What is Operation True Promise 3?

- A retaliatory military campaign by Iran, targeting Israeli cities and infrastructure.
- **Led by:** Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).
- **Cause:** Triggered by Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear sites (Natanz, Isfahan) and the killing of top generals.
- **Targets:** Major urban centers—Tel Aviv, Haifa, Rehovot.

Damage Inflicted

- Power stations, oil refineries, and scientific research centers.
- Urban and civilian zones disrupted.
- The “New Method” of Missile Warfare
- Introduced by the IRGC to defeat Israeli air defence systems, especially Iron Dome.

EU PROPOSES BAN ON RUSSIAN GAS IMPORTS BY 2027 -

- **The European Commission has recently proposed a legally binding ban on the import of Russian gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) by 2027. This decision follows the EU’s commitment to sever its longstanding energy ties with Russia, a move prompted by the geopolitical tensions arising from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022.**
- The proposal aims to ensure that EU member states cannot block the ban, particularly Hungary and Slovakia, which have expressed opposition.



Implementation Timeline

- The ban will be implemented in stages. Starting from January 1, 2026, all new Russian gas and LNG contracts signed in 2025 will be prohibited. Short-term contracts, defined as those lasting less than one year and signed before June 17, 2025, will face a ban from June 17, 2026. The final phase will see a prohibition on existing long-

term contracts beginning January 1, 2028, effectively ending the EU’s reliance on Russian gas.

51ST G7 SUMMIT -

- India’s Prime Minister attended the 51st G7 Summit at Kananaskis, Canada. Though India is not a part of the G7 grouping, it has been invited for the global summit each year for the last six years and twelve times in total as an outreach country.
- The President of the European Commission was invited to attend the G7 Summit for the first time.

What are the Key Outcomes of the G7 Summit?

- **Kananaskis Wildfire Charter:** It commits to addressing wildfire threats through science-based, local actions and nature-based solutions, aligning with the goal to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030 under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration (2021).
- **G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan:** It focuses on diversifying critical mineral production, boosting investment and local value creation, and promoting innovation, building on the 2023 Five-Point Plan for Critical Minerals Security (also endorsed by India).
- The G7 also committed to strengthening the World Bank-led Resilient and Inclusive Supply Chain Enhancement (RISE) Partnership.
- **Condemned Transnational Repression (TNR):** The G7 condemned Transnational Repression (TNR), which refers to aggressive foreign interference where states or their proxies seek to intimidate, harass, harm, or coerce individuals or communities beyond their own borders.
- **Prevent Migrant Smuggling:** G7 committed to preventing migrant smuggling through the G7 Coalition to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants and the 2024 G7 Action Plan targeting this issue.

What is G7?

- **About:** The G7 (Group of Seven) is an informal forum of the world’s most advanced economies — France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Japan, the US, and Canada.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS POLAR RESEARCH VESSEL -

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), a Government of India undertaking, has signed an MoU with Norway's Kongsberg firm to develop India's first indigenously built Polar Research Vessel (PRV).



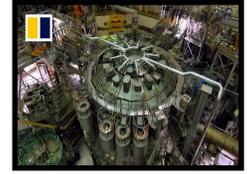
- A PRV is a ship that supports research in the polar regions (around the North and South Poles) and ocean areas, tailored to the needs of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.
- PRV will support India's polar and ocean research missions, strengthening its existing three research stations: Bharati and Maitri in Antarctica, and Himadri in the Arctic.
- Under Sagarmala 2.0, India aims to become a global maritime leader by bridging infrastructure gaps and enhancing shipbuilding, repair, and recycling.

FIRST FUSION-FISSION HYBRID REACTOR: CHINA UNVEILS XINGHUO -

- China has unveiled plans to construct the world's first fusion-fission hybrid nuclear reactor, named Xinghuo ("spark" in Mandarin).
- The fusion-fission hybrid reactor aims to significantly enhance nuclear energy efficiency and sustainability, marking a major shift in global energy production.
- China aims for a Q factor greater than 30 (the ratio of energy produced to energy consumed for plasma heating).
- ITER (France) targets a Q factor of 10.
- U.S. projects have reached a Q factor of 1.5.
- The project is expected to surpass current efforts in nuclear energy development, including those in the United States, by 2030.

About Fusion-Fission Hybrid Reactor

- The Xinghuo fusion-fission hybrid reactor represents a pioneering approach to nuclear energy generation by merging two distinct nuclear processes—fusion and fission:



Concept

- The Xinghuo reactor uses the high-intensity neutron flux produced by a fusion reactor to drive a nuclear fission reaction.
- Additionally, the fusion neutrons help breed fissile fuel from fertile materials, ensuring a sustainable supply of fuel for the reactor.

STARLINK GETS GREEN LIGHT TO LAUNCH SATELLITE INTERNET IN INDIA

- Elon Musk's Starlink received the GMPCS licence from India's Department of Telecommunications. This approval enables Starlink to offer satellite broadband services in India, subject to security and technical compliance. The company is set to receive trial spectrum in 15–20 days for demonstration. It marks a key step in India's growing satellite communication (satcom) industry.

Key Developments

- Starlink has been granted the GMPCS licence, the final regulatory step to operate in India.
- The approval follows the company's agreement to India's stringent security protocols.
- Trial spectrum will be allocated shortly to allow demonstration of service compliance.

Competing Satcom Players

- OneWeb (Airtel-backed) – Received GMPCS licence in August 2021.
- Jio Satellite Communications – Got the licence in March 2022.
- Amazon's Project Kuiper – Still awaiting approvals from DoT.

BHARAT GEN: INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS AI MODEL -

- Recently, The Union Minister of State for Science & Technology has launched 'Bharat Gen' at the BharatGen Summit.

About BharatGen

- It is India's first indigenously developed, government-funded, multilingual and multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) focused on Indian languages and culture.
- **Multilingual:** The platform integrates text, speech, and image modalities, offering seamless AI solutions in 22 Indian languages.
- **Developed By:** BharatGen is developed under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) and implemented through TIH Foundation for IoT (Internet of Things) and IoE (Internet of Everything) at IIT Bombay
- The initiative is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- **Aim:** Bharat Gen aims to revolutionize AI development across India's linguistic and cultural spectrum.
- **Execution:** The BharatGen initiative is being executed through a network of 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) established under NM-ICPS.
- **Pillars:** The Mission's four pillars include technology development, entrepreneurship, human resource development, and international collaboration.

**Significance:**

- This initiative will empower critical sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance, delivering region-specific AI solutions in 22 Indian Languages
- To integrate multilingual feedback systems into platforms like CPGRAMS to enhance citizen engagement and grievance redressal.

AXIOM MISSION 4 RESCHEDULED: INDIAN ASTRONAUT SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA TO FLY ON JUNE 22 -

- Axiom Space and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that the Ax-4 mission has been delayed to June 22 to ensure crew safety and operational readiness following repairs to the Zvezda module of the ISS.



- The mission marks a historic step for India's participation in private spaceflight, with Shubhanshu Shukla serving as pilot on an international crew.

Mission Overview

- **Mission Name:** Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)
- **New Launch Date:** June 22, 2025
- **Launch Vehicle:** SpaceX Falcon 9
- **Spacecraft:** Dragon capsule
- **Launch Site:** Likely Kennedy Space Center, Florida
- **Destination:** International Space Station (ISS)

Crew Members

- **Peggy Whitson (USA)** – Mission Commander (Veteran NASA astronaut)
- **Shubhanshu Shukla (India)** – Pilot (ISRO-affiliated, debut mission)
- **Slawosz Uznański (Poland)** – Mission Specialist
- **Tibor Kapu (Hungary)** – Mission Specialist

INDIA MOVES TO 'ONE NATION, ONE TIME': IST TO BECOME MANDATORY -

- **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** announced that the **Legal Metrology (IST) Rules, 2025** will soon be notified. This initiative will institutionalise IST as the only official legal time in India. Aims to prevent digital mismatches, cybercrime, and ensure national security by ending dependency on foreign time sources like GPS.

**Aim and Objectives**

- To ensure uniform timekeeping across all sectors using Indian Standard Time (IST).

- To reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities linked to foreign time sources.
- To enable accurate billing, secure transactions, and traceable timestamps in digital infrastructure.
- To enhance national time sovereignty and ensure fairness and transparency.

INDIA'S FIRST 3NM CHIP DESIGN CENTRES -

- **The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology launched India's first 3-nanometre (3nm) chip design centres in Noida and Bengaluru, positioning the country among a select few nations at the forefront of chip technology.** 
- In another development, the Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a display driver chip manufacturing unit in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- **This is the first semiconductor fabrication unit in UP and the 6th approved under Phase I of the Indian Semiconductor Mission (ISM), with production set to begin by 2027.**
- The launch of a new semiconductor learning kit designed to strengthen practical hardware skills among engineering students was also announced.
- Over 270 academic institutions, which have already received access to advanced Electronic Design Automation (EDA) software tools through the India Semiconductor Mission, will also receive these hands-on kits.

RUDRASTRA ADVANCED HYBRID VTOL DRONE -

- **The Rudrastra drone represents advancement in India's military technology. Developed by Solar Aerospace and Defence Limited, it was recently tested by the Indian Army, marking a very important moment in unmanned aerial warfare. This drone combines vertical take-off and landing capabilities with long-range precision strike capabilities.**

About Rudrastra

- Rudrastra is a hybrid drone designed for battlefield operations. It can take off like a helicopter and fly long distances like a jet. This versatility makes it difficult to detect. The drone is engineered for anti-personnel roles, targeting enemy soldiers with high accuracy. 

SARVAM TO BUILD INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS AI MODEL -

- The Indian government has selected Bengaluru-based start-up Sarvam to develop the country's first homegrown Artificial Intelligence (AI) Large Language Model (LLM) under the IndiaAI Mission. 
- **The company is developing three model variants: Sarvam-Large (advanced reasoning), Sarvam-Small (real-time applications), and Sarvam-Edge (compact on-device tasks).**
- Sarvam will receive 4,000 Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) for six months under the IndiaAI Mission to build a 70 billion parameter AI model.
- The AI model is not expected to be open-sourced, but aims for population-scale deployment, designed to reason and be fluent in Indian languages.
- This comes at a time when China's Deep Seek model known for its low-cost and open-source nature, has significantly disrupted global AI markets, highlighting the urgency for India to establish its own AI infrastructure.
- **IndiaAI Mission:** Approved in 2024 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the IndiaAI Mission seeks to drive responsible and inclusive growth of India's AI ecosystem.
- IndiaAI Mission includes democratizing computer access, enhancing data quality, developing indigenous AI models, nurturing AI talent, fostering industry collaboration, supporting startup funding, and promoting ethical, socially impactful AI.

E-mail : ibs@ibsendia.co.in

Telegram Channel : @IBSPRO

Whatsapp : 93164-88310, 93160-68310

Youtube : /ibsinstitute

FB/Insta/Twitter:@IBSinstitute

App:



IBS Institute App

ECONOMY & FINANCE

INDIA TO OVERTAKE JAPAN AS WORLD'S 4TH LARGEST ECONOMY IN 2025: IMF FORECAST -

- India is projected to become the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025 by nominal GDP, surpassing Japan, according to IMF estimates.

Current Status of Indian Economy

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2025 is estimated at \$4,187.03 billion, marginally higher than Japan's GDP.
- By market exchange rate (MER) GDP, India is now the fourth largest economy, behind the United States, China, and Germany.
- The per capita GDP in India was \$2,711 in 2024 in current dollar terms, which placed it at the lower end of the list of "lower middle-income countries".

RBI UPDATE: ONLY 1.74% OF ₹2,000 NOTES REMAIN IN CIRCULATION -

- The RBI, on June 3, 2025, announced that only ₹6,181 crore worth of ₹2,000 notes remain in circulation out of the original ₹3.56 lakh crore as of May 19, 2023. The withdrawal process was initiated in May 2023, with facilities available at RBI Issue Offices and India Post to ensure a smooth phase-out.



Background & Purpose of ₹2,000 Note

- Introduced in November 2016 after demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes.
- Aimed to meet urgent currency requirements.
- Most notes (89%) were printed before March 2017, nearing the end of their 4-5-year lifespan.

INDIA'S FDI INFLOWS SURGE TO \$8.8 BILLION IN APRIL 2025: RBI BULLETIN -

- The news is significant as it highlights a notable increase in FDI inflows into India in April 2025. Strong

performances in greenfield investments, NRI deposits, and foreign portfolio investments (FPI).



- India's emergence as a major investment destination, especially in the digital economy and capital goods sectors. Strengthening of the Indian rupee and external balance, contributing to macroeconomic stability.

Key Highlights from RBI Bulletin

- FDI Inflows
- April 2025: \$8.8 billion
- March 2025: \$5.9 billion
- April 2024: \$7.2 billion

Sectors Receiving FDI

- Manufacturing and Business Services: ~50% of total inflows
- Telecommunication, Capital Goods, and Services also prominent

RBI ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25 -

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its Annual Report 2024-25, providing a comprehensive overview of the country's monetary policy, financial stability, regulatory initiatives, and key economic developments.



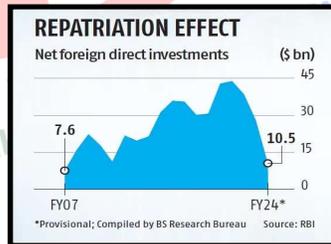
What are the Key Takeaways from RBI Annual Report 2024-25 ?

- Global Economic Growth:** Global growth slowed to 3.3% in 2024, below the historical average of 3.7% (2000-19). Growth in 2025 expected at 2.8% and 3.0% in 2026 amid geopolitical tensions, trade protectionism, and elevated public debt.
- Global inflation moderated to 5.7% in 2024 from 6.6% in 2023, but services inflation remained sticky in major advanced economies.**

- **Indian Economy Resilience:** India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth moderated to 6.5% in 2024-25, yet it remained the fastest-growing major economy globally.
- Agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 4.6% (up from 2.7% in previous year), driven by record foodgrain production and favourable weather.
- Industrial sector growth slowed to 4.3% and the services sector remained strong with a 7.5% growth and accounted for 64.1% of GVA.
- **RBI Balance Sheet:** As of March, 2025, the RBI's balance sheet grew by 8.2% year-on-year. Its income rose by 22.77% (driven by a ~33% surge in forex transaction gains and higher returns from investments), while expenditure increased by 7.76%.
- This led to a record surplus of Rs 2.68 lakh crore, up 27.37% from Rs 2.11 lakh crore in the previous year.

ACCORDING TO THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI), INDIA'S NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) CRASHED FROM USD 10.1 BILLION IN 2023-24, AND JUST USD 0.4 BILLION IN 2024-25 -

- The sharp decline in net FDI is mainly due to increased repatriation and disinvestment by foreign firms, totaling USD 51.5 billion in 2024-25, coupled with a rise in Outward FDI (OFDI) by Indian companies.



What is Foreign Direct Investment?

- **About:** FDI refers to investment made by a person residing outside India through capital instruments in either an unlisted Indian company or in at least 10% of the post-issue paid-up equity capital (on a fully diluted basis) of a listed Indian company.
- It is typically a long-term investment and mainly represents a non-debt capital flow.
- **FDI Routes:** Under the FDI Scheme, non-residents can invest in shares, fully convertible debentures,

and preference shares of Indian companies through two routes:

- **Automatic Route:** An overseas investor is only required to inform the RBI after the investment is made.
- E.g., Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, Air-Transport Services, Auto-components, Automobiles, Biotechnology (Greenfield) etc.
- **Government Approval Route:** A foreign investor must obtain prior approval from the relevant Ministry or department before proceeding.
- Banking & Public Sector, Broadcasting Content Services, Food Products Retail Trading, Uploading/Streaming of 'News & Current affairs' through digital media etc.

RBI ANNOUNCE 55TH MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING (JUNE 2025) -

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) convened its 55th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting from June 4 to 6, 2025, under the chairmanship of Governor Shri Sanjay Malhotra.



- This meeting was of significant importance as it came amid a changing global economic environment and evolving domestic macroeconomic conditions. The key outcomes of the meeting signal a policy recalibration aimed at supporting growth while maintaining price stability.

Key Updates from RBI's 55th Monetary Policy Meeting (June 2025)

1. Policy Rate Cut

- Repo Rate: Reduced by 50 basis points (bps), from 6.00% to 5.50%.
- Reason: To support growth while CPI inflation is well below target.
- This is the second cut in 2025, totaling 100 bps since February.

2. Adjusted Policy Corridor

- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate: Cut to 5.25% (25 bps below repo rate).

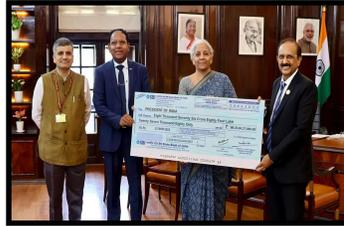
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate and Bank Rate: Lowered to 5.75% (25 bps above repo rate).

3. Shift in Policy Stance

- From “Accommodative” to “Neutral”.
- RBI indicates it will now take a data-dependent approach, reducing scope for further aggressive rate cuts.

SBI PAYS ₹8,076.84 CRORE DIVIDEND TO GOVERNMENT FOR FY25 -

- In a major boost to the government’s non-tax revenue, the State Bank of India (SBI), the country’s largest public sector lender, has paid a dividend of ₹8,076.84 crore for the financial year 2024-25.



- The dividend cheque was formally handed over to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by SBI Chairman C.S. Setty on Monday, underscoring the bank’s robust financial performance and its key role in supporting the government’s fiscal resources.

Dividend Payout: A Generous Contribution to the Exchequer

- The ₹8,076.84 crore dividend represents SBI’s share of profits distributed to its majority shareholder—the Government of India. This payment is significantly higher than the ₹6,959.29 crore paid last year for FY24.
- The increase in dividend reflects the bank’s improved earnings and its commitment to shareholder value creation. SBI declared a dividend of ₹15.90 per share for FY25, compared to ₹13.70 per share in the previous fiscal year.

GIG ECONOMY IN INDIA TO REACH 62 MILLION WORKERS BY 2047: GOVT STUDY -

- Gig workforce in India to grow to 62 mn by 2047, according to study by the labour ministry.
- The study by the labour ministry-affiliated VV Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) used estimates from

a 2022 NITI Aayog report on gig workers.

About Gig Economy

- A gig economy is a labor market that relies on independent contractors and freelancers rather than full-time permanent employees.
- In recent years, the global job market has witnessed a transformative shift with the rise of ‘gigification’ or adoption of the gig model – reshaping how we work.



They include the following:

- freelancers who get paid per task;
- independent contractors who perform work and get paid on a contract-to-contract basis;
- project-based workers who get paid by the project;
- temporary hires who are employed for a fixed amount of time; and
- part-time workers who work less than full-time hours.
- **Gig worker:** Individual who engages in short-term, flexible, or task-based work, typically as an independent contractor or freelancer, rather than as a full-time employee with a traditional employer-employee relationship.

INDIA’S RETAIL INFLATION TRENDS IN 2025 -

- India’s retail inflation rate fell below 3 per cent for the first time in over six years. This decline is primarily attributed to falling food prices, despite an increase in some vegetable costs.



- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) data indicated a multi-year low of 3.16 per cent in April 2025, with forecasts suggesting a further drop to 2.7 per cent in May.

Current Inflation Context

- Retail inflation in India has shown changes recently. The CPI has been on a downward trend, marking its seventh consecutive month of decline. Economists

predict that the CPI will remain below 3 per cent for the first time since April 2019.

- The decrease in inflation is largely driven by a reduction in the prices of cereals and pulses, despite rising costs for some vegetables like potatoes and tomatoes.

CRISIS IN INDIA'S MICROFINANCE SECTOR -

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao has said that the Microfinance sector suffers from a vicious cycle of over-indebtedness, high interest rates and harsh recovery practices.



About Microfinance

- As per the Task Force on Supportive Policy and Regulatory Framework for Microfinance set up by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 1998:
- Microfinance refers to the “provision of thrift, credit and other financial services and products of very small amounts to the poor in rural, semi-urban and urban areas for enabling them to raise their income levels and improve living standards”.

Regulatory Framework:

- MFIs are governed by the RBI's Non Banking Financing Company-microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs)- Directions, 2022.
- The Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) was started as a self regulatory body for the sector and all the NBFC-MFI are eligible for membership.
- In 2014, MFIN was formally recognized as a self regulatory body by the RBI.

GDP BASE YEAR REVISED TO 2022-23 -

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that the government is revising the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The revised data will be released on 27th February 2026.
- The base year for Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will

also be revised to 2022-23 while the base year for Consumer Price Index will be revised to 2023-24.



- **Note:** In June 2024, MoSPI set up a 26-member Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) to decide the base year for GDP data, under the chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar. It also focused on aligning GDP with other key macro indicators such as the WPI, CPI, and IIP.

What is the GDP Base Year?

- **About GDP Base Year:** GDP is the key metric for measuring a country's annual economic growth or its overall economic size, and the “base year” serves as the reference point for these calculations.
- Currently, 2011-12 is the base year, meaning the GDP of 2011-12 is used as the benchmark to compute the growth of subsequent years.
- **Need:** The base year revision ensures the inclusion of new industries, removal of outdated ones, adoption of better data sources and methods, and more accurate measurement of real economic growth after adjusting for inflation.
- **Features:** The base year should be a normal year i.e., it must not experience any abnormal incidents such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, pandemic, etc. Also, it should not be too distant in the past.
- The base year should ideally be updated every 5 to 10 years to ensure national accounts reflect the most recent data.
- **Frequency of GDP Base Year Revision:** The upcoming 2026 revision will be the eighth base year update, following seven earlier revisions, starting from 1948-49 to 1960-61 in August 1967 and most recently from 2004-05 to 2011-12 on 30th January 2015.
- The first national income estimates for India were compiled by the National Income Committee (chaired by P.C. Mahalanobis) in 1949.
- **2017-18 Base Year Update Deferred:** The plan to revise the base year to 2017-18 was dropped due to:

- Data quality concerns in Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) (showed 45-year high unemployment).
- Rejection of Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) 2017-18 data (indicated rising poverty).
- Impact of demonetisation (2016) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) introduction (2017) and Covid-19 made the subsequent years abnormal for economic assessment.

INDIA'S LARGEST GATI SHAKTI CARGO TERMINAL -

- The Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar facility was inaugurated by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. This terminal is India's largest automobile cargo terminal. It enhances logistics for automobile transportation.
- The terminal connects to Patli railway station via a dedicated 10 km rail link. This link is part of the larger 121.7 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor. The project involved substantial investment, with ₹800 crore allocated for its construction.



Investment and Infrastructure Development

- The Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation funded ₹684 crore. Maruti Suzuki contributed the remaining amount. The terminal can handle 4.5 lakh automobiles per year. This capacity is among the highest in the country. The development is part of a broader initiative to improve railway infrastructure in India.

FASTAG ANNUAL PASS SCHEME -

- The FASTag Annual Pass scheme was introduced in June 2025 by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. This initiative aims to enhance convenience for non-commercial private vehicle owners travelling on national highways. The scheme is designed to address long-standing issues at toll plazas, providing a streamlined and cost-effective solution for frequent travellers.



What is FASTag?

- FASTag is an electronic toll collection system managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Launched in 2014, it became mandatory in 2021 for all toll plazas across India. The system uses a sticker affixed to the vehicle's windscreen, allowing automatic toll payments.

Details of the Annual Pass

- The FASTag Annual Pass is priced at Rs 3,000 and is valid for one year or up to 200 trips, whichever occurs first. The pass allows free passage at National Highway (NH) and National Expressway (NE) toll plazas. Users can save approximately Rs 7,000 compared to regular toll payments, as the average cost per crossing is reduced to Rs 15.

GOLD BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST RESERVE ASSET AFTER U.S. DOLLAR -

- The European Central Bank's June 2025 report has highlighted a paradigm shift in global reserve compositions. Gold, once a traditional store of value, has now overtaken the euro in terms of share in central bank reserves. Its ascent has been driven by price surges and elevated geopolitical risks, but analysts now indicate that the buying frenzy might plateau, reflecting a maturing phase in reserve diversification.



Key Highlights

- **Gold's Reserve Share:** Rose from around 16.5% in 2023 to 19% in 2024, overtaking the euro, which dropped to 16%.
- **Top Reserve Asset:** The U.S. dollar still dominates at 47% of global reserves.
- **Central Bank Demand:** Central banks now account for over 20% of global gold demand, doubling from a decade ago.
- **Geopolitical Drivers:** The Russia-Ukraine war, inflation, and U.S. economic sanctions prompted increased gold accumulation.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

50 YEARS OF THE 1975 EMERGENCY -

- On the 50th anniversary of the 1975 Emergency, the Indian Prime Minister paid tribute to Indians who defended democracy during a dark period in India's history.
- June 25th is observed as Samvidhan Hatya Diwas.



About 1975 Emergency

- **Date of Declaration:** June 25, 1975
- **Duration:** The Emergency lasted for 21 months, from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977.
- **Declared by:** President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed under Article 352, on the advice of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- **Reason for Declaration:** Cited as a response to "internal disturbances" threatening national security.

Key Reasons for the Emergency of 1975:

- **Electoral and Legal Challenges:** Indira Gandhi's 1971 election was challenged by Raj Narain.
- The Allahabad High Court in State of Uttar Pradesh v. Raj Narain (1975) found her guilty of electoral malpractices, disqualifying her from Parliament and barring her from re-election for six years.
- **Political Instability and Opposition Movements:** Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) led a "Total Revolution" movement.
- Widespread student protests in Gujarat and Bihar against inflation, unemployment, and corruption created political chaos.
- **External Geopolitical Factors:** The Bangladesh War (1971) led to economic strain.
- The US aid cessation and rising global oil prices worsened India's financial challenges.
- **Economic Crisis:** High inflation (23% in 1973, 30% in 1974) caused hardship.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) 2025 IS BEING CELEBRATED ON 5TH JUNE 2025, WITH SOUTH KOREA (REPUBLIC OF KOREA) SERVING AS THE GLOBAL HOST -

- Additionally, the Prime Minister will plant a Banyan sapling under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative as part of the 'Aravalli Green Wall project'.

What is World Environment Day 2025?

- **About:** WED was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972, coinciding with the opening day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment—the first major global summit focused on environmental issues.
- The event has been led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), since its inception in 1973.
- This landmark conference marked a turning point in the global environmental movement.
- **Theme:** The theme "Beat Plastic Pollution," aims to raise awareness about the production, use, and disposal of plastics, and promote solutions like refusing, reducing, reusing, and recycling plastic use.
- **Significance:** Plastic pollution worsens pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change. Annually, 11 million tonnes of plastic enter water bodies, while microplastics from landfills and sewage pollute soil.
- The global cost of plastic pollution is estimated at USD 300–600 billion per year. India produces approximately 9.3 million tonnes of plastic waste each year, accounting for nearly 20% of the global total.
- Burning over 5.8 million tonnes yearly releases toxic pollutants.



WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY 2025 -

- World Food Safety Day 2025 (7th June), themed "Food Safety: Science in Action," highlights India's shift from

an adulteration-focused regime to a science-based food safety system led by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- Despite progress, regulatory gaps and outdated practices persist, warranting renewed scrutiny.



- **Note:** World Food Safety Day, observed annually on 7th June since 2019 following a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly, is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness and inspiring action to prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks

How has India's Food Safety Framework Evolved?

- **Initial Legal Framework (1954–2006):** The Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 treated food safety in binary terms: food was either adulterated or not, without distinguishing between different types of contaminants or considering the levels of exposure.
- It did not account for consumption quantity, dietary patterns, or varying risk profiles of contaminants.
- **Reform with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006:** It established the FSSAI, aligning India's standards with global benchmarks.
- FSSAI introduced a risk-based framework aligned with international best practices (Codex Alimentarius), incorporating Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides, Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) for food additives, and setting standards for veterinary drug residues and naturally occurring toxins.
- By 2020, India's food safety regulations were nearly on par with advanced economies.

11TH INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY 2025 -

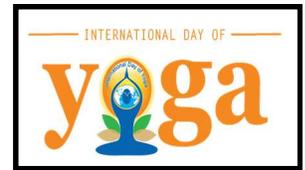
- **The 11th International Yoga Day (IYD) is celebrated worldwide on 21st June with the theme 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'.**

What is International Yoga Day ?

- **About:** International Yoga Day, celebrated to raise awareness about yoga's benefits for health, well-being,

and peace.

- Its objectives are to promote physical, mental, and spiritual health, spread awareness of yoga as a gift of ancient Indian tradition, and encourage global harmony and peace through its practice.
- **Origin & UN Declaration:** It was proposed by India at the 69th UN General Assembly (2014), leading to declaration of 21st June as International Day of Yoga (IDY).
- The first IDY was celebrated in 2015 with the theme "Yoga for Harmony and Peace".
- **Significance of 21st June:** International Yoga Day on 21st June coincides with the Summer Solstice — the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere — when the sun's rays fall directly on the Tropic of Cancer, bringing maximum daylight and marking a transition to spiritual awakening in yogic traditions.
- **Global Recognition:** UNESCO inscribed Yoga as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes Yoga as a tool for mental and physical well-being, combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and included it in its Global Action Plan (2018–30).
- In 2015, India's Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports classified Yoga as a 'Priority' sports discipline.



What is Yoga?

- **About:** Yoga, derived from Sanskrit "Yuj" (to unite), symbolizes mind-body harmony.
- It traces its roots to the Indus Valley Civilization through seals (yogic posture on Pashupati seal) and fossils, is mentioned in the Vedas, and was systematically compiled in Patanjali's Yogasutra (2nd century BC).
- Yoga is one of the six orthodox schools of Indian philosophy (along with Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Sankhya, Mimamsa, Vedanta).

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA BECOMES 634TH ASTRONAUT TO REACH SPACE -

- **Shubhanshu Shukla**, a pilot from the Indian Air Force, has become the latest Indian to enter space, joining an elite group of global astronauts. His successful docking at the ISS marks a significant event in India's expanding participation in international human space missions, especially as it anticipates future missions like Gaganyaan.



Key Details of the Axiom-4 Mission

- **Mission Name:** Axiom-4 (Ax-4)
- **Launch Date:** June 25, 2025
- **Docking at ISS:** June 26, 2025
- **Duration:** 14 days
- **Launch Vehicle:** SpaceX Crew Dragon
- **Partner Organization:** Axiom Space (U.S.)
- **Destination:** International Space Station (ISS)

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTED PADMA VIBHUSHAN, PADMA BHUSHAN AND PADMA SHRI AWARDS FOR THE YEAR 2025 TO 139 DISTINGUISHED PERSONS WHOSE NAMES WERE ANNOUNCED ON THE EVE OF THE 76TH REPUBLIC DAY 2025 -

What are Padma Awards-

- **About:** Instituted in 1954, the Padma Awards are among India's highest civilian honours, announced annually on Republic Day (26th January).
- Their objective is to honour excellence in various fields involving public service.
- **Categories:** The Awards are given in 3 categories:
- **Padma Vibhushan:** For exceptional and distinguished service
- **Padma Bhushan:** For distinguished service of high order
- **Padma Shri:** For distinguished service.

- The Padma Vibhushan is the highest among the Padma Awards, followed by the Padma Bhushan and then the Padma Shri.

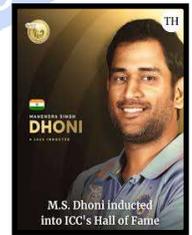


Presentation and Recognition: Padma

- Awards are conferred by the President of India in March/April, with recipients receiving a Sanad, medallion, and a replica for ceremonial use.
- **Disciplines:** The awards are presented across diverse fields such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, and more.
- **Eligibility:** All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards.

MS DHONI INDUCTED INTO ICC HALL OF FAME -

- In a moment that further cements his place among cricket's all-time greats, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, former India captain and one of the most iconic cricketers of his generation, was officially inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame during a prestigious event held in London.



- **With this honour, Dhoni becomes the 11th Indian cricketer, and the ninth Indian male player, to be recognised by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for his extraordinary contributions to the game.**

A Career Built on Calm, Leadership, and Glory

- Debuting for India in 2004, Dhoni's rise to stardom was swift and impactful. He took over as India's captain in 2007, ushering in a golden era marked by major ICC tournament victories:
- 2007 ICC T20 World Cup (India's first-ever win in the format)
- 2011 ICC ODI World Cup (after 28 years, on home soil)
- 2013 ICC Champions Trophy (India remained unbeaten)

under his leadership)

- These victories made him the only captain in world cricket to win all three major ICC trophies, a feat still unmatched.

PM MODI CONFERRED WITH CYPRUS ' HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOUR — ORDER OF MAKARIOS III -

- PM Narendra Modi received Cyprus' top civilian award during his first-ever official visit to the Mediterranean nation. The award, Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, recognizes his efforts in strengthening India-Cyprus relations and promoting global cooperation.
- Modi's visit marks a historic milestone, as he is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Cyprus.



About the Award

- **Name:** Order of Makarios III
- **Country:** Republic of Cyprus
- **Named after:** Archbishop Makarios III, first President of Cyprus.
- **Purpose:** Awarded for meritorious service to the nation and strengthening diplomatic ties.

RAJIV MEMANI TAKES CHARGE AS CII PRESIDENT FOR FY26 -

- In a significant leadership transition, Rajiv Memani, Chairman and CEO of EY India, has officially assumed charge as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the financial year 2025–26.
- The announcement, made by CII on June 1, 2025, marks the beginning of a new term under one of India's most prominent financial and strategic advisors.



Why in News-

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announced a new leadership lineup for FY2025–26 on June 1, 2025.
- The appointment of Rajiv Memani, a key figure in India's

economic and consultancy sectors, signals a strategic move aimed at strengthening industry-government collaboration, driving inclusive economic growth, and enhancing India's global competitiveness amid dynamic economic conditions.

LT COMMANDER YASHASVI SOLANKEE BECOMES FIRST WOMAN ADC TO PRESIDENT OF INDIA -

- Yashasvi Solankee became the first woman ADC to the President of India, taking charge on May 9, 2025. Her appointment reflects President Droupadi Murmu's commitment to women's empowerment in the armed forces. The move is a significant step toward gender parity in ceremonial and military positions at the highest levels of government.



Background & Selection Process

- ADCs are elite officers selected from the Army (3), Navy (1), and Air Force (1).
- For the first time, women Naval officers were considered for the role.

Selection criteria included,

- Physical fitness and minimum height of 173 cm.
- Evaluation of intelligence, adaptability, presence, and communication.
- 15-day evaluation at the Presidential Estate and a personal interview with the President.
- Solankee was among three shortlisted women officers, all from the Navy.

Role of an ADC

- Acts as liaison officer between the President and external visitors or officials.
- Prepares the President's briefing for each engagement.
- Accompanies the President during ceremonial, diplomatic, and official events.
- Assigned a duty room near the President's office and is on call 24x7.
- Coordinates with various military branches and government agencies.

PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES TURMERIC BOARD HQ IN NIZAMABAD -

- The inauguration of the National Turmeric Board's headquarters in Nizamabad is a significant development, especially since it was a long-standing demand of local farmers. The board's launch fulfills a key poll promise made by BJP during the 2019 elections and reflects the Centre's renewed push to promote Indian spices in international markets.



- **Aims and Objectives**
- To boost turmeric exports to \$1 billion by 2030
- Ensure remunerative prices to turmeric farmers
- Promote branding, packaging, and marketing
- Facilitate research and development for quality improvement

Background and Context

- Nizamabad is a key turmeric-growing region in Telangana.
- Farmers had long demanded a dedicated Turmeric Board to address their issues.
- BJP MP D. Arvind promised the board in 2019 and defeated K. Kavitha, daughter of ex-CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao, largely riding on this issue.
- PM Modi earlier announced the board's creation; now it has been formally launched.

INDIA SENDS SECOND ASTRONAUT TO SPACE -

- India achieves a historic milestone as Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla becomes the second Indian to travel to space, after Rakesh Sharma in 1984, and the first Indian to set foot on the International Space Station (ISS).
- He is part of the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission, a commercial spaceflight to the ISS.

What is the Axiom-4 Mission ?

- **About:** Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) is the fourth private spaceflight to the International Space Station (ISS), operated by Axiom Space, a US-based space infrastructure company. It marks the fourth collaboration between NASA and Axiom Space, following the successful Ax-1, Ax-2, and Ax-3 missions.



Crew Composition:

- **Peggy Whitson (USA):** Mission Commander and former NASA astronaut with 675+ days in space.
- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (India)**
- **Slawosz Uznański-Wiśniewski (Poland):** ESA reserve astronaut.
- **Tibor Kapu (Hungary):** Payload specialist.

Key Objectives of Axiom-4:

- **Commercial Space Initiatives:** Promotes space tourism and private research in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), supporting Axiom Space's goal of building the first commercial space station and transitioning operations from the ISS to private infrastructure.
- **Scientific Research & Experiments:** Enables microgravity research in materials science, biology, Earth observation, and space agriculture.

Key studies include:

- **Human factors:** Impact of screen exposure in microgravity.

INDIA TO CONDUCT POPULATION CENSUS 2027 IN TWO PHASES WITH CASTE ENUMERATION -

- The Ministry of Home Affairs recently announced that the Population Census 2027 will include caste enumeration and will be conducted in two phases, reaffirming the government's intent to modernize and update demographic data crucial for governance, planning, and social welfare schemes.

- The notification of the census will be published in the Official Gazette on June 16, 2025, under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948.
- **Background of Census in India**
- The Census of India is governed by the Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990.
- The last full population census was conducted in 2011, with over 1.2 billion people enumerated.
- The 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite all preparatory work being completed.

SCHEME TO PROMOTE MANUFACTURING OF ELECTRIC PASSENGER CARS IN INDIA (SPMEPCI) -

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries has unveiled detailed guidelines for the “Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India” (SPMEPCI).



About the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India

- This scheme aims to attract global EV manufacturers, strengthen India’s position as a global EV hub, and support the country’s net-zero emissions goal by 2070.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- **Launched in:** 2024
- **Implementation:** Project Management Agency (PMA) is responsible for providing secretarial, managerial and implementation support.

Objectives of the Scheme

- **Attract Foreign Investment:** Encourage global automakers to set up EV manufacturing units in India.
- **Boost ‘Make in India’:** Promote domestic production with mandatory local value addition (DVA) requirements.
- **Reduce Carbon Footprint:** Accelerate the shift to electric mobility for a sustainable future.

RARE DONOR REGISTRY INTEGRATED WITH E-RAKT KOSH -

- The Union Health Ministry is integrating the Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI) with e-Rakt Kosh to enable real-time access to rare blood types (such as Bombay, Rh-null, P-Null) and improve nationwide coordination among blood banks.



What is Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI)?

- **About:** The Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI) is a national database of rare blood group donors.
- **It was developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Immunohaematology (ICMR-NIIH) in collaboration with leading medical institutes.**
- **Purpose and Need:** RDRI supports patients who require specially matched transfusions, particularly those suffering from thalassemia, sickle cell disease, and other rare conditions.
- **Scope & Coverage:** The registry includes over 4,000 screened donors, tested for more than 300 rare blood markers.
- It focuses on blood groups that either lack high-frequency antigens or have uncommon antigen combinations.
- **Significance for People with Rare Blood Types:** Rare blood groups are difficult to match. Transfusing incompatible blood may cause alloimmunisation, where the patient develops antibodies against transfused blood, complicating future treatments.

UDHAMPUR-SRINAGAR-BARAMULL RAIL LINK FULLY OPERATIONAL AFTER 28 YEARS -

- **On June 6, 2025, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the final phase of the USBRL project — the Sangaldan to Katra section, making the entire rail line fully operational.**
- This marked the completion of a project first approved in 1997, aimed at connecting Kashmir with the rest of India via railway. The last link included iconic engineering

marvels like the Chenab Bridge, Anji Bridge, and 12.75 km Pir Panjal tunnel.

Project Timeline and Phased Commissioning

- **1997:** USBRL project sanctioned.
- **April 2005:** First segment (Jammu–Udhampur, 55 km) completed.
- **October 2008:** Anantnag–Mazhom section (68 km) inaugurated.
- **February 2009:** Mazhom–Baramulla section (32 km) operational.
- **October 2009:** Anantnag–Quazigund extended.
- **June 2013:** Quazigund–Banihal section opened; included the Pir Panjal Tunnel.
- **July 2014:** Udhampur–Katra line inaugurated.
- **February 2024:** Banihal–Sangaldan section operational.
- **June 6, 2025:** Final phase, Sangaldan–Katra, inaugurated by PM Modi.



Engineering Marvels

- **Chenab Bridge:** World's highest railway bridge (359 m above riverbed).
- **Anji Bridge:** India's first cable-stayed rail bridge.
- **Pir Panjal Tunnel:** India's longest rail tunnel at 12.75 km.
- Multiple long tunnels and difficult terrain were tackled using advanced technologies and manpower.

INDIA'S EXTREME POVERTY RATE FALLS TO 5.3% IN 2022-23: WORLD BANK REPORT -

- **The World Bank's recent report on poverty reduction in India draws global attention as it reveals substantial progress amid economic challenges. The updated poverty line of \$3 per day reflects a more realistic measure of deprivation, making India's success even more significant.**



- With continued economic uncertainties and global risks looming, the report serves as a vital indicator of India's developmental trajectory and the effectiveness of its policies in addressing poverty and inequality.

Aim and Objectives

- To highlight India's substantial reduction in extreme poverty over the last decade.
- To understand the factors and policies contributing to this success.
- To analyze the updated poverty thresholds and their implications for policy and planning.

CHENAB RAIL BRIDGE: TEAM BEHIND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE -

- The Chenab Rail Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir is the world's highest railway arch bridge. It took over 20 years to build due to tough challenges like steep mountains, deep valleys and difficult weather. To make this dream come true, many expert teams from India and abroad worked together. This article explains who built this amazing bridge and how they did it.

Tough Location and Early Challenges

- The area where the Chenab Bridge stands is surrounded by the Himalayas. There were no proper roads. So, the project team had to use horses and mules to move people and materials in the early days. Engineers also walked on foot to reach the site.
- **Building the bridge without stopping the Chenab River's flow was one of the biggest challenges. Also, bad weather, landslides and legal problems made the work harder. But the teams never gave up.**

Time Take for the Construction

- The government approved the Chenab bridge in 2003. However, because of the region's rough terrain and security concerns, the work took more than 20 years. Still, the team's hard work paid off and the bridge finally opened in 2025.

Special Features of the Chenab Rail Bridge

- The Chenab Rail Bridge is not only strong but also smartly designed. It can handle:
- High winds up to 260 km/h

- Earthquakes
- Extreme heat and cold
- Rising water levels

INDIA HALTS RARE EARTH EXPORTS TO JAPAN TO BOOST DOMESTIC CAPACITY -

- The Indian government has asked IREL to halt rare earth shipments under a bilateral agreement with Japan's Toyotsu Rare Earths India, citing rising domestic demand and the need to develop indigenous processing capacity.
- **This comes amid global disruptions triggered by China's export restrictions on rare earths, which are key inputs for electric vehicles, wind turbines, and electronics. India seeks to establish a self-reliant rare earth supply chain and reduce dependence on imported magnets, especially from China.**



Background & Agreement Details

- **Agreement Year:** 2012
- **Parties Involved:** IREL (India) & Toyotsu Rare Earths India (subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho, Japan)
- **Nature:** IREL mined rare earths, and Toyotsu processed them for export to Japan.
- **Materials Involved:** Mostly Neodymium, used in magnets for EV motors.

CENTRE APPROVES ₹2,006.40 CRORE ASSISTANCE TO HIMACHAL PRADESH FOR 2023 DISASTER RECOVERY -

- **The Union Government has approved a ₹2,006.40 crore recovery plan for Himachal Pradesh. The aid is meant to support reconstruction after severe natural disasters that struck during July–August 2023. Over 550 lives were lost, and extensive damage to infrastructure was recorded.**



Total Sanctioned Amount

- ₹2,006.40 crore, out of which ₹1,504.80 crore is the Centre's share from the Recovery and Reconstruction

funding window of the NDRF.

Purpose

- To carry out recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation activities in affected areas.
- Rebuilding damaged infrastructure, resettlement of victims, and strengthening disaster resilience.

Committee Involved

- Headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Includes,
- Union Finance Minister
- Union Agriculture Minister
- Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog

CLOUDBURST AND FLASH FLOODS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH -

- Heavy monsoon rains due to multiple cloudbursts triggered the flash floods in Himachal Pradesh, causing widespread damage to properties and loss of life.
- The Indira Priyadarshini Hydroelectric Project has been impacted.



About Cloudburst

- A cloudburst is defined as "Rainfall of 10 cm or more in one hour over a roughly 10 km x 10 km area."
- **Mechanism:** Common in hilly areas due to a process called orographic lift:
 - Warm air rises along mountain slopes.
 - It expands due to low pressure at altitude and cools.
 - Cooling causes condensation and release of moisture.
 - If warm moist air keeps rising, it may delay rainfall until a large volume suddenly condenses and falls as torrential rain.
- **Occurrence in India:** In India, cloudbursts are frequently observed during the monsoon season, particularly over regions like the Himalayas, the Western Ghats, and the northeastern hill states.
- **Linkage with Flash floods:** Cloudbursts often result in flash floods and have become increasingly common from May-September when the southwest monsoon season prevails in much of the country.

Impacts:

- Sudden, localized heavy rain.
- Often leads to flash floods and landslides due to drainage overload and rapid water accumulation.
- **Prediction:** Difficult to detect due to the small area and short time frame.

REGULATION UNDER ARTICLE 240 AND LADAKH'S DEMAND FOR 6TH SCHEDULE -

- **To address the long-standing demands for job reservations, language recognition, and political representation of Ladakh's people, the Centre has issued few regulations for Ladakh under Article 240, rather than granting the Sixth Schedule status as was widely requested.**
- Article 240 empowers the President to make regulations for the peace and good governance of certain Union Territories, with these rules having the same force as Acts of Parliament and the power to amend or repeal existing laws.

What are the Demands of the People of Ladakh and the Regulations Notified by the Government?

- **Key Demands:** After the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, Ladakh was designated as a Union Territory without a legislature.
- In response, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have been advocating for Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to safeguard their land, jobs, and cultural identity.

Key Demands Included:

- Inclusion under the Sixth Schedule for constitutional protection.
- Land ownership restrictions to prevent outsider influx.
- Legislative Assembly for representative governance.
- As an alternative, the Union government proposed extending Article 371-like protections to the region.

TAMIL NADU DECLARES DHANUSHKODI AS GREATER FLAMINGO SANCTUARY -

- **Tamil Nadu notified Dhanushkodi as a Greater Flamingo Sanctuary on June 5, 2025. The decision was announced during the World Environment Day celebration via video conference by CM M.K. Stalin.**



- A Government Order (G.O.) issued on June 4, 2025, formalized the designation. The sanctuary supports over 10,700 wetland birds and lies on the Central Asian Flyway, making it a globally important bird habitat.

Objectives and Significance

- Protect and conserve migratory wetland birds, especially Greater Flamingos.
- Strengthen India's commitment to international conventions like the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
- Promote responsible ecotourism, local livelihoods, and biodiversity awareness.

Sanctuary Details

- **Location:** Dhanushkodi, Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu
- **Area:** 524.7 hectares across revenue and forest lands
- **Part of:** Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve

Ecosystems

- Mangroves (Avicennia, Rhizophora)
- Sand dunes
- Mudflats
- Marshes

WIND ENERGY IN INDIA: 100 GW TARGET BY 2030, CHALLENGES IN CYBERSECURITY, INNOVATION AND LOCALISATION -

- India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil-based electric installed capacity by 2030, including 100 GW from wind energy.
- While scaling is essential, the bigger challenges lie in cybersecurity, localisation, and innovation in the wind sector.

About Wind Energy

- Wind energy is a form of renewable energy that is generated by converting the kinetic energy of moving air (wind) into electrical energy using devices called wind turbines.
- As the wind turns the blades of the turbine, it spins a generator to produce electricity.



Types of Wind Energy:

- **Onshore Wind Energy:** Turbines installed on land
- **Offshore Wind Energy:** Turbines installed in sea or ocean waters, usually more efficient due to stronger, steadier winds

Current Status of Wind Energy in India

- **Installed Wind power capacity:** 50.04 GW (as per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, 2025 April Data)
- **Share in India's Energy Mix:** Wind power accounts for around 10% of India's total installed utility power generation capacity.
- **India's Rank (Global):** 4th largest in installed wind capacity, behind China, the United States, and Germany.
- **State-wise Wind Capacity Additions:** India added 3.4 GW of new wind capacity in 2024, with Gujarat (1,250 MW), Karnataka (1,135 MW), and Tamil Nadu (980 MW) leading the way.
- These states accounted for 98% of the new wind capacity additions.
- COP-26 (Glasgow, 2021)- Panchamrit Commitment: India committed to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil-based electric capacity by 2030
- Over 100 GW of this is targeted from wind energy (onshore + offshore).

INDIA'S FIRST UNDERWATER MUSEUM TO BE BUILT AROUND INS GULDAR IN MAHARASHTRA -

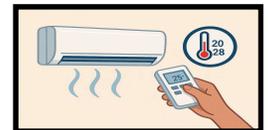
- On June 11, 2025, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis virtually attended the launch of India's first underwater

museum project, marking a significant step in promoting sustainable tourism and marine ecosystem restoration.

- **The decommissioned INS Guldar, which served the Indian Navy until January 2024, has been handed over to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) to transform it into a submerged attraction.**
- **Aims and Objectives**
- Convert INS Guldar into an underwater museum to promote marine tourism.
- Create an artificial coral reef to support marine biodiversity.
- Offer new tourism opportunities including scuba diving and future submarine tours.
- Preserve naval heritage by repurposing a historic vessel.
- **About INS Guldar**
- INS Guldar was a 1,120-ton Landing Ship Tank (LST) in the Indian Navy.
- It was decommissioned in January 2024 after years of service.
- The ship has undergone environmental cleaning to make it suitable for submersion without harming marine ecosystems.

WHY REGULATE AC TEMPERATURE? GOV PLANS 20°C–28°C LIMIT -

- The Union Ministry of Power has proposed a move to restrict the temperature range of new air conditioners (ACs) between 20°C and 28°C.



Why Regulate AC Temperature ?

- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation:** Every 1°C increase in AC temperature setting reduces energy use by ~6%.
- If India adopts a 24°C default setting, it could save 20 billion units of electricity annually (BEE data).
- With AC demand projected to create a 200 GW load by 2030, controlling temperature is crucial for grid stability and energy security.
- **Public Health and Thermal Safety:** Settings below 18°C can increase blood pressure, trigger asthma, and

worsen respiratory infections.

- **Vulnerable groups** — infants, the elderly, and those with chronic diseases — face higher risks in excessively cold environments.
- Studies link low indoor temperatures with mental health issues, including anxiety and depression.
- **Climate and Environmental Responsibility:** The rise in AC usage is fueling energy demand and emissions.
- Promoting a standardized temperature range supports India's climate goals under the Paris Agreement.
- Efficient cooling reduces the carbon footprint, helping India balance development with environmental sustainability.

KARNATAKA LEADS INDIA IN WIND POWER CAPACITY GROWTH -

- Karnataka has emerged as a frontrunner in wind energy production in India. In the financial year 2024-25, the state added an impressive 1,331.48 MW of wind power capacity. This achievement was recognised during the Global Wind Day 2025 celebrations in Bengaluru.



Karnataka's Renewable Energy Milestones

- Karnataka's total installed wind power capacity now stands at 7,351 MW. This positions the state as a leader in India's renewable energy sector. The recent addition of over 1,300 MW in a single year puts stress on Karnataka's momentum in harnessing wind energy.
- The state aims to support India's national target of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

GFW 2024 REPORT ON INDIAN FORESTS -

- The Global Forest Watch (GFW), an open-source forest monitoring platform developed by the US-based research organisation World Resources Institute (WRI), has recently released data highlighting India's deforestation and forest degradation trends from 2001 to 2024.



Key Findings of the WRI Report on India's Forests:

- **Extent of Forest & Tree Cover Changes (2001–2024):**
- Between 2001 and 2024, India lost 2.31 million hectares of tree cover, a 7.1% decline since 2000, causing 1.29 gigatonnes of CO₂ emissions.
- In 2024 alone, India lost 150,000 hectares of natural forest, resulting in approximately 68 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions.
- Primary forest loss increased from 17,700 hectares in 2023 to 18,200 hectares in 2024.
- Between 2002 and 2024, 348,000 hectares (5.4%) of humid primary forests (mature tropical forests not recently cleared) were lost, accounting for 15% of total tree cover loss.
- Tree cover loss due to fires amounted to 36,200 hectares from 2001 to 2024, peaking at 2,770 hectares in 2008.
- **Despite losses, India gained 1.78 million hectares of tree cover between 2000 and 2020, contributing 1.4% to global net gains (Top 3 Gainers: Russia, Canada, US).**

REPORTS & INDICES

10TH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2025 -

- According to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025, India ranks 99th in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, marking its first time in the top 100 out of 167 countries with a score of 67.



- The score measures progress on a scale of 0 to 100 where 100 indicates a country has achieved all 17 goals and 0 means no progress has been made.
- This shows a significant improvement from its previous rankings (e.g., 109th in 2024, 112th in 2023) in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index.

What are Key Findings of the 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025 ?

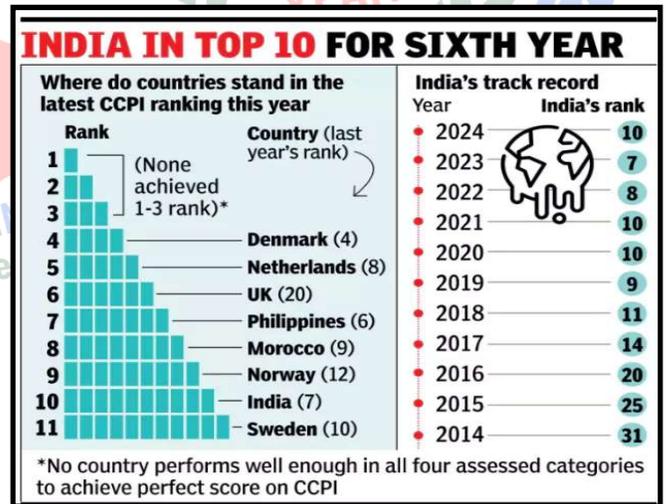
- **Global SDG Progress Status:** Projections show that only 17% of SDG targets are on track to be met by 2030, highlighting a significant slowdown in global progress.
- This stagnation is driven by conflicts, structural vulnerabilities, and limited fiscal space, which continue to hinder effective SDG implementation.
- **Top Performers:** Nordic countries lead the SDGs rankings, with Finland (1st), Sweden (2nd), and Denmark

(3rd); notably, 19 out of the top 20 countries are European.

- East and South Asia have shown the fastest regional progress since 2015—India ranks ahead of Bangladesh (114th) and Pakistan (140th) but trails Bhutan (74th), Nepal (85th), Sri Lanka (93rd), and Maldives (53rd).

CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX 2025: WHERE DOES INDIA STAND ?

- Climate change is no longer a future concern, it's a present global emergency. The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025 underscores this reality with sobering clarity.



- Designed to monitor the climate protection performance of 64 countries and the EU, responsible for over 90% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the CCPI aims to shine a spotlight on both progress and failure in international climate mitigation efforts.
- Despite decades of negotiations, emissions continue to rise, global temperatures edge dangerously close to tipping points, and only a fraction of countries are taking adequate action.

GLOBAL TOBACCO EPIDEMIC REPORT -

- India has emerged as a leader in tobacco control, as brought into light by the World Health Organisation's Global Tobacco Epidemic report. The report identifies India's graphic health warnings on tobacco products as among the most effective globally. This reflects commitment to public health and the fight against tobacco-related illnesses.

**Overview of Tobacco Control Measures**

- The WHO's MPOWER framework outlines six essential measures to combat tobacco use. These include monitoring tobacco use, protecting people from tobacco smoke, offering help to quit, warning about the dangers of tobacco, enforcing bans on advertising, and raising taxes on tobacco products. India has made notable progress in several of these areas.

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) -

- Iran's Parliament is drafting a bill to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty due to escalating tensions with Israel and IAEA scrutiny over its nuclear program.

**About Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

- The NPT is an international treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting peaceful nuclear energy, and encouraging disarmament.
- It was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970.
- As of 2025, 191 countries are signatories.
- Four states—India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Sudan—have never signed the treaty.
- The U.N. nuclear watchdog, IAEA, polices the global nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Objectives of the NPT

- Non-Proliferation:** Prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.
- Disarmament:** Work toward nuclear disarmament.

- Peaceful Use:** Promote nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under safeguards.

Structure of the NPT

- Nuclear Weapon States (NWS):** The treaty defines nuclear-weapon states as those that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 1967;
- These are the United States (1945), Russia (1949), the United Kingdom (1952), France (1960), and China (1964) but must work toward disarmament.
- Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS):** Countries that agree not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons.
- They can use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under IAEA safeguards.
- NNWS must conclude a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) with the IAEA, which ensures that their nuclear programs are used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

INDIA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 3 -

- India has made strides in health under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3). This goal focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages. Recent reports indicate that India is on track to achieve several health targets. Key indicators show improvements in maternal and child health, immunisation rates, and disease control.

**Human Development Index Growth**

- India's Human Development Index (HDI) has risen by over 53 per cent since 1990. This increase surpasses both global and South Asian averages. Economic growth and welfare initiatives like the National Rural Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat have driven this progress. As of 2023, life expectancy in India reached 72 years, the highest recorded since the HDI's inception.

NITI Aayog's SDG 3 Score

- According to the NITI Aayog SDG Index, India's score rose from 52 in 2018 to 77 in 2023. Several states have emerged as "front-runners" in health outcomes. Maternal

mortality has decreased to 97 per 100,000 live births. States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already met the 2030 target of 70.

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) -

- Iran's Parliament is drafting a bill to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty due to escalating tensions with Israel and IAEA scrutiny over its nuclear program.



About Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

- The NPT is an international treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting peaceful nuclear energy, and encouraging disarmament.
- It was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970.
- As of 2025, 191 countries are signatories.
- Four states—India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Sudan—have never signed the treaty.
- The U.N. nuclear watchdog, IAEA, polices the global nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- **Objectives of the NPT**
- **Non-Proliferation:** Prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.
- **Disarmament:** Work toward nuclear disarmament.
- **Peaceful Use:** Promote nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under safeguards.

Structure of the NPT

- **Nuclear Weapon States (NWS):** The treaty defines nuclear-weapon states as those that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 1967;
- These are the United States (1945), Russia (1949), the United Kingdom (1952), France (1960), and China (1964) but must work toward disarmament.
- **Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS):** Countries that agree not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons.
- They can use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under IAEA safeguards.

- NNWS must conclude a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) with the IAEA, which ensures that their nuclear programs are used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

GERMANY BECOMES THE WORLD'S TOP CREDITOR, OVERTAKING JAPAN AFTER 34 YEARS -

- In a major shift on the global financial stage, Germany has overtaken Japan as the world's top creditor country in 2024, ending Japan's 34-year reign. This change, driven by current account surpluses, exchange rate dynamics, and structural economic trends, reflects broader transformations in global trade and investment patterns.



Why in News ?

- Germany became the world's largest net creditor, surpassing Japan for the first time since 1990. Despite Japan reaching record-high net external assets, Germany outpaced it in growth and valuation. Currency fluctuations and trade surpluses played a critical role in this reversal.

What Are Net External Assets?

- Net External Assets = What a country owns abroad – What foreigners own in that country.
- Components include foreign investments, bonds, equities, and property holdings.

Reasons for Japan's Slip to Second Place

- Germany's Surging Current Account Surplus,
- Reached €240 billion in 2024 (~\$250 billion).
- Imports declined more than exports, widening the trade surplus.

INDIA MAKES HISTORIC ENTRY INTO TOP 100 IN GLOBAL SDG RANKINGS -

- India has entered the top 100 SDG rankings for the first time, achieving a score of 67 out of 100. The 2025 SDG Index comes at a critical juncture ahead of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville. It reflects India's

progress in basic infrastructure, health, education, and digital access, despite global SDG slowdowns.

Background on the SDG Index

- Introduced in 2015, the SDGs consist of 17 goals aimed at ending poverty, protecting the environment, and ensuring prosperity by 2030.
- The SDG Index ranks countries based on their progress toward these goals.

India's 2025 Rank

- **India Rank:** 99th (up significantly from previous years)
- **Score:** 67.0

This marks a significant leap in India's global sustainability reputation.

- Neighbouring Country Rankings
- China 49th
- Bhutan 74th
- Nepal 85th
- Sri Lanka 93rd
- Bangladesh 114th

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2025: A DEEP DIVE INTO GLOBAL STABILITY AND RISING TENSIONS -

- The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025, now in its 19th edition, remains the world's leading measure of national and regional peacefulness. Developed by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the index offers invaluable insight into the peacefulness of 163 countries, covering 99.7% of the global population.
- In a world experiencing an uptick in geopolitical instability, the GPI serves as a crucial indicator of current global trends in conflict, safety, and militarisation.



What is the Global Peace Index?

- The Global Peace Index is an annual quantitative analysis that evaluates peace based on 23 indicators across three main domains:
- Societal Safety and Security
- Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict
- Degree of Militarisation

- Published by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)—a non-partisan, independent think tank based in Sydney—the GPI has become a widely respected benchmark for governments, researchers, and institutions working towards sustainable peace and security reforms.

INDIA SLIPS TO 131ST IN WEF GENDER GAP INDEX 2025 -

- The 19th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report was released on June 12, 2025 by the WEF. India dropped two spots to 131st out of 148 nations. The report shows mixed results for India, with some improvement in economic participation but a decline in political empowerment, especially in Parliament and ministerial representation.



Global Snapshot

- Global gender gap closed to 68.8%, the strongest progress since COVID-19.
- Full global gender parity is still 123 years away at the current pace.
- Top 5 countries: Iceland (1st), Finland, Norway, UK, and New Zealand.
- India's Gender Parity Performance
- Overall Rank: 131st (Decreased 2 ranks from 129 in 2024).
- Parity Score: 64.1%, among the lowest in South Asia.

WORLD BANK'S GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS REPORT -

- Recently, The World Bank released its biennial Global Economic Prospects report.

About the Global Economic Prospects report

- It provides insights into global economic trends, forecasts, and risks and provides growth projections for different countries and regions

Key findings of the report

- **India's Growth Projections**
- **Fastest Growing Large Economy:** India is expected to remain the fastest-growing large economy in the world.

- **FY2025/26:** Growth is projected at 6.3%, though this forecast was slightly reduced (by 0.4 percentage points) from earlier predictions due to:
 - The FY2026-27 projection was cut by 20 basis points to 6.5%, while FY2027-28 growth is expected to reach 6.7%.
 - Strong services sector performance is expected to boost exports and sustain economic activity.
- **India's Domestic Policy and Debt**
- **RBI's Role:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut its key interest rate by 50 basis points (total 100 bps in 2025) to 5.50%.
 - This was done to encourage domestic spending and investment, as inflation is low (projected 3.7% for FY26).
- **Growth Forecast Discrepancies:** While the RBI expects 6.5% growth for FY26, many economists outside the government predict closer to 6%. The Indian government forecasts 6.3-6.8%.
- **Previous Year's Growth:** India's GDP growth slowed to 6.5% in FY25 (from 9.2% in the previous year) due to slower industrial production, despite strong services and agriculture.
- **Fiscal Consolidation:** The World Bank expects India to continue reducing its government debt.
 - Growing tax revenues and lower spending are expected to help reduce the public debt-to-GDP ratio.
 - The Indian government aims to reduce this ratio to 50% (49-51%) by FY31 from an estimated 56.1% in FY26.

INDIA RANKS 13TH GLOBALLY IN INVESTMENT CURIOSITY -

- **BrokerChooser** released a global ranking of countries based on investment-related online searches. India ranked 13th globally, recording 2,629 monthly searches per million people.



The report shows that India's stock market interest is over four times higher than South Africa's. Global leaders in this domain include Australia, Singapore, and Kenya.

Key Highlights of the Report

- The report analyzed search volume data across five categories: stocks, crypto, forex, general investing, and ETFs.
- **India's top search category:** Stocks (1,138 monthly searches per million)
- Followed by Forex (625), Crypto (501), General investing (259), and ETFs (106)
- India's stock investment interest surpasses Malaysia by over 50%.
- Despite strong volumes, India is still in the middle tier of global rankings.

Top 5 Countries by Investment-Related Searches

- Rank/Country/Total Searches (per million)
- Australia/29,359
- Singapore/22,527
- Kenya/17,288
- New Zealand/16,061
- Canada/14,566

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2025: INDIA RISES TO RANK 115 AMID GROWING GLOBAL UNREST -

- The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025, released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), measures the relative peacefulness of 163 countries based on 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators.
- The 2025 report notes a continued decline in global peace, with the average peacefulness deteriorating by 0.36% – the highest decline since World War II.
- **Key Highlights India Performs better in Region: India ranks 115th, improving its position over previous years and placing ahead of Pakistan (146), Bangladesh (124), and Afghanistan (163).**
- This reflects improvements in domestic conflict, terrorism-related incidents, and growing regional stability in India.

DEFENCE

INDIA'S ARTILLERY MODERNIZATION: DHANUSH VS BOFORS VS ATAGS -

- For a long time, India faced problems in getting modern artillery due to issues like:
- Delays in buying new weapons
- Corruption cases like the Bofors scandal
- Dependence on foreign countries



Now, under the “Make in India” and “Atmanirbhar Bharat” initiatives, India is focusing on building weapons at home. Dhanush and ATAGS are two such Indian-made artillery systems.

- Bofors FH-77B: The Old But Trusted Gun
- Bofors is a Swedish-made artillery gun that India bought in the 1980s.
- It became famous for its performance in the 1999 Kargil War.
- Important points about Bofors:
 - It uses 155 mm shells
 - It can fire up to 30 kilometers
 - It needs 6 to 8 people to operate
 - It is partly automatic and works well in mountainous areas

MINIRATNA STATUS TO 3 DPSUS -

- The Ministry of Defence has approved the conferment of “Miniratna (Category-I)” status to three key Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs): Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), and India Optel Limited (IOL).
- **Transformation of DPSUs:** MIL, AVNL, and IOL are three of the seven PSUs carved out of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in 2021 as part of the Government of India's defence sector reforms.
- MIL products include ammunition (small to high calibre), mortars, rockets, grenades, and in-house explosives.



- AVNL products include MBT Arjun, T-90 tanks, BMP-II Sarath (amphibious Infantry Combat Vehicle), and Defence mobility solutions (Stallion, LPTA etc.)
- IOL specializes in Opto-electronic systems and vision equipment for tanks, artillery and naval weapons.
- **Miniratna Category-I Status:** The CPSEs which have made profit in the last three years continuously, pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-I status.
- Miniratna companies get more autonomy to invest, raise capital, and make quick decisions. This boosts efficiency, competitiveness, and global reach.

DRDO OFFERS 28 INDIGENOUS WEAPONS FOR EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT BY ARMED FORCES -

- **DRDO has released a list of 28 indigenous weapon systems for emergency procurement.** Comes after successes in Operation Sindoor, where Indian-made systems performed exceptionally. It supports the ongoing military readiness following Pakistan's retaliation and terror activities in Pahalgam. Aligned with the Government of India's self-reliance and indigenisation goals in defence.

Objective and Significance

- To strengthen operational preparedness across all three defence services.
- To streamline procurement under emergency conditions, ensuring rapid deployment and replenishment.
- Reduces dependence on foreign arms while empowering Indian defence manufacturers (both private and PSUs).

List of Offerings

- **Total:** 28 weapon systems
- **Army:** 14 systems
- **Navy:** 8 systems
- **Air Force:** 6 systems

Includes

- Rockets, missiles, grenades

- Anti-drone systems, air defence systems, and more

INDIAN ARMY PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE KHAAN QUEST 2025 IN MONGOLIA -

- The Indian Army joined over a dozen nations in Mongolia for Exercise Khaan Quest 2025, a prominent multinational training drill focused on U.N. peacekeeping operations. The exercise begins on June 14, 2025, and comes at a time when the importance of global peacekeeping missions is growing due to geopolitical instability.



Aims and Objectives

- Enhance peacekeeping capabilities of participating nations in a multinational environment.
- Improve interoperability, coordination, and combat readiness for operations under U.N. mandates.
- Provide hands-on training in real-world conflict simulation scenarios.

Background of Khaan Quest

- Started in 2003 as a bilateral drill between the U.S. and Mongolia.
- Became a multinational peacekeeping exercise in 2006.
- Khaan Quest 2025 is the 22nd edition.
- Held annually in Mongolia; the 2024 edition ran from July 27 to August 9.

INDIA-US AIR FORCE SPECIAL FORCES CONCLUDE FIRST JOINT EXERCISE 'TIGER CLAW' -

- The first-ever joint special forces exercise between the Indian Air Force and the US Air Force, named Tiger Claw, successfully concluded on June 10, 2025. It marked a new chapter in India-US defence collaboration, specifically focusing on Air Force Special Forces interoperability.

Aim of Exercise Tiger Claw

- Strengthen interoperability between Indian and US Air Force Special Forces.

- Promote exchange of best practices in special operations.
- Enhance combat readiness and joint operational capability in varied terrains.
- About Exercise Tiger Claw
- Participating Forces
- Indian Air Force Special Forces (Garud Commandos)
- US Air Force Special Forces



INDIAN ARMY SUCCESSFULLY TESTS RUDRASTRA VTOL DRONE FOR PRECISION STRIKES -

- The Rudrastra VTOL drone has recently cleared successful field trials at the Pokhran firing range, showcasing India's capability to deploy indigenous unmanned aerial systems for strategic battlefield operations.
- As tensions along the border and threats from cross-border infiltration persist, the deployment of such drones is part of India's effort to strengthen its stand-off strike capabilities using advanced indigenous defence technology.



Trial Highlights

- Conducted at the Pokhran firing range.
- Demonstrated precision targeting capabilities with live feed relay and automated return.
- Target range during Army-led VTOL drone trials: up to 50 km.
- Rudrastra UAV by SDAL successfully tested with extended range and payload capabilities.
- Rudrastra VTOL Drone – Capabilities
- **Range:** Total range of 170 km, including loitering time.
- **Endurance:** Up to 1.5 hours of flight time.
- **Warhead:** Equipped with airburst munitions, effective for anti-personnel roles.
- **Strike Mechanism:** High-altitude deployment to maximize destruction over a wide radius.
- **Features:** Can operate autonomously, relay real-time video, and return to base.

THE 8TH EDITION OF EXERCISE SHAKTI, A JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIA AND FRANCE, IS SCHEDULED FROM 18TH JUNE TO 1ST JULY 2025 AT LA CAVALERIE, FRANCE -

- It is a biennial training engagement between the Indian and French Armies, aimed at enhancing interoperability, operational coordination, and military-to-military connect.
- This edition will focus on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, with training being conducted in semi-urban terrain.
- UN Chapter VII authorizes military/non-military actions (sanctions, blockades, troop deployment) for international peace enforcement.
- Other joint exercises between France and India: Exercise Varuna (Navy), Exercise Garuda (Air), and Exercise Desert Knight (India, France, and UAE).

HAL WINS ₹511 CRORE DEAL TO MANUFACTURE AND COMMERCIALIZE SSLV LAUNCHES -

- HAL emerged as the winning bidder among three shortlisted contenders for the SSLV ToT programme. The deal is worth ₹511 crore and includes technology transfer, handholding, and training by ISRO over two years.
- HAL will manufacture at least two SSLVs with ISRO's support before independently producing them. The agreement reflects India's strategic push to commercialise space technologies through its public and private sector partnerships.

Background & Objectives

- **The SSLV is a three-stage vehicle designed to launch satellites of up to 500 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).**
- The aim is to enable private sector participation and create a robust commercial launch ecosystem in India.
- ISRO's focus is shifting towards R&D, while production and operation of routine vehicles like SSLV is being handed over to industry.

IRAN'S FORDOW NUCLEAR FACILITY -

- **The ongoing conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran has intensified, particularly concerning Iran's Fordow nuclear facility.** This site, located approximately 95 km from Tehran, is crucial due to its advanced uranium enrichment capabilities. The situation escalated following recent Israeli airstrikes, which targeted various Iranian nuclear sites. As tensions rise, the possibility of direct US military intervention looms large.

Fordow Nuclear Facility Overview

- The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant began construction in 2007 and became operational in 2009. It houses about 2,000 centrifuges that enrich uranium to 60%. This level of enrichment is step towards weapons-grade uranium, which requires 90% enrichment. The facility is deeply buried, making it resistant to conventional airstrikes.

INS TAMAL TO BE COMMISSIONED ON JULY 1 -

- The commissioning of INS Tamal is significant as it is the last foreign-built warship to be inducted into the Indian Navy.



- **Built at the Yantar Shipyard in Russia, the ship symbolizes the transition from foreign procurement to domestic production under the Government of India's 'Make in India' push. The ceremony will be presided over by Vice Admiral Sanjay J. Singh, signalling the end of a two-decade-long era of warship imports from Russia.**

Key Features and Capabilities of INS Tamal

- **Class:** Krivak/Tushil class frigate
- **Length:** 125 metres
- **Displacement:** 3,900 tons
- **Stealth Design:** Enhanced low radar signature and stability
- **Missile Arsenal:** Equipped with BrahMos long-range cruise missiles
- **Crew Strength:** 250+ personnel
- **Sea Trials:** Successfully completed 3-month-long rigorous tests

SPORTS

INDIA FINISHES SECOND AT ASIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 WITH 24 MEDALS -

- **India's impressive medal haul at the 26th edition of the Asian Athletics Championships has attracted national attention due to standout individual and team performances, several national records, and successful title defenses in key events.**
- The championships also served as a preparatory stage for Indian athletes eyeing qualification for the Paris 2026 Olympics.



Overview of India's Participation

- **Total Indian athletes:** Over 60
- **Events contested:** 30 (15 men's, 14 women's, 1 mixed)
- **Championship dates:** May 27–31, 2025
- **Host city:** Gumi, Republic of Korea
- **India's position:** 2nd overall
- **China:** Topped the medal table

INDIA SHINES AT 2025 ISSF WORLD CUP LIMA WITH 7 MEDALS, FINISHES THIRD OVERALL -

- India's shooting squad wrapped up a strong performance at the 2025 ISSF World Cup held in Lima, Peru, securing a total of seven medals—two gold, four silver, and one bronze—to finish third in the overall medal tally, just behind China and the United States.
- **The competition, hosted from April 13 to 22, featured over 400 shooters from 43 countries. India's 42-member squad was one of the largest at the event. Key performers like Suruchi Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary helped India qualify for the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 to be held in Doha, Qatar, in December.**

Highlights of India's Campaign

- **Location:** Lima, Peru
- **Dates:** April 13–22, 2025
- **Participants:** Over 400 shooters from 43 nations

- **India's Squad:** 42-member team, second largest after China
- **India's Medal Tally:** 2 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze
- **India's Rank:** 3rd on the medal table
- **Significance:** Gold medalists qualify for 2025 ISSF World Cup Final in Doha (Dec 4–9)

NEERAJ CHOPRA HONOURED WITH HONORARY LT. COLONEL RANK IN TERRITORIAL ARMY -

- The Ministry of Defence's Department of Military Affairs issued a notification on May 13, 2025, announcing that Ex-Subedar Major Neeraj Chopra will receive the honorary Lieutenant Colonel rank in the Territorial Army, effective April 16, 2025. This comes as part of the government's effort to honour distinguished civilians and service members for their national contributions.

Who is Neeraj Chopra?

- Born in Khandra village, Panipat, Haryana.
- Olympic Gold Medalist in Tokyo 2020 (held in 2021).
- Silver Medalist at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- World Champion in 2023 (Budapest World Athletics Championships).
- Formerly held the post of Subedar Major in the Indian Army.

About the Honorary Rank

- Conferred under Para-31 of the Territorial Army Regulations, 1948.
- Recognizes exceptional individuals contributing to national pride.
- The honorary title allows limited ceremonial participation in military events.

Territorial Army (TA) Overview

- Established on October 9, 1949.
- Functions as a part-time volunteer force supporting the regular Indian Army.
- Involved in war support, disaster relief, and nation-building.
- Celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2024.

IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme is an initiative of which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
b) Ministry of Women and Child Development
c) Ministry of Rural Development
d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- Q2. Which of the following statements is correct with reference to the QS World University Rankings 2026?
a) India has a total of 8 IITs ranked in the rankings this year.
b) The number of Indian universities in the 2026 rankings has almost doubled as compared to 2015.
c) India ranks third in terms of the number of universities in the QS 2026 rankings.
d) IIT Delhi has secured 123rd rank globally in 2026, the highest in India.
- Q3. Which of the following statements is correct about the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?
a) IMF provides loans only to developing countries in the form of grants.
b) The main objective of IMF is to maintain stability in international trade and deal with the problems of Balance of Payments.
c) IMF only fixes the currency exchange rates of member countries.
d) The headquarters of IMF is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Q4. Which ministry launched the “Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub” to support gender-sensitive planning across India ?
a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
b) Ministry of Women and Child Development
c) Ministry of Law and Justice
d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Q5. As per the new directive aligned with NEP 2020, which language will be the default third language in Marathi and English medium schools in Maharashtra from Classes 1 to 5 ?
a) Sanskrit
b) Hindi
c) Urdu
d) Tamil
- Q6. What is India’s rank in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2025, released by the World Economic Forum ?
a) 63rd
b) 67th
c) 71st
d) 58th
- Q7. Which of the above countries announced the world’s largest marine protected area at UNOC 2025?
a) France
b) French Polynesia
c) New Zealand
d) Spain
- Q8. On which date is World Refugee Day observed every year ?
a) June 18
b) June 19
c) June 21
d) June 20
- Q9. What is the currency of Ukraine ?
a) Hryvnia
b) Euro
c) Ruble
d) Zloty
- Q10. What was IndiGo’s ranking in the World’s Best Low-Cost Airlines 2025, as per Skytrax ?
a) 1st
b) 2nd
c) 4th
d) 3rd
- Q11. The NISAR mission is a joint Earth-observing satellite mission between which two space agencies?
a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and European Space Agency (ESA)
c) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and China National Space Administration (CNSA)
d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Space Agency (ESA)
- Q12. Extended Trajectory-Long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile (ET-LDHCM) is developed by which organization ?
a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
d) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
- Q13. Kali Tiger Reserve is located in which state ?
a) Andhra Pradesh
b) Karnataka
c) Odisha
d) Tamil Nadu

- Q14. What is the name of the operation launched by Iran in retaliation against Israel's Operation Rising Lion ?
a) Operation Desert Storm
b) Operation Silent Thunder
c) Operation True Promise 3
d) Operation Iron Dome
- Q15. Which state government has launched the Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan for water conservation in 2025 ?
a) Madhya Pradesh b) Gujarat
c) Rajasthan d) Haryana
- Q16. SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme is an initiative of which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
b) Ministry of Women and Child Development
c) Ministry of Rural Development
d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- Q17. Which two countries have the largest number of nuclear weapons, as per the SIPRI Yearbook 2025 ?
a) France and United Kingdom
b) Russia and United States
c) China and India
d) Israel and North Korea
- Q18. The NISAR mission is a joint Earth-observing satellite mission between which two space agencies ?
a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and European Space Agency (ESA)
c) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and China National Space Administration (CNSA)
d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Space Agency (ESA)
- Q19. Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is a government agency established under which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Home Affairs
b) Ministry of Civil Aviation
c) Ministry of Defence
d) Ministry of Science and Technology
- Q20. Totapuri mangoes are primarily cultivated in which states ?
a) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu
b) Assam, Sikkim and Nagaland
c) Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
d) Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab
- Q21. Which two countries are the co-hosts of the fourth UN Ocean Conference in 2028 ?
a) China and Colombia b) South Korea and Chile
c) New Zealand and Peru d) India and Brazil
- Q22. Who is the current President of Sri Lanka as of 2025 ?
a) Anura Kumara Dissanayake
b) Mahinda Rajapaksa
c) Ranil Wickremesinghe
d) Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Q23. What is India's rank in the 2025 Global Gender Gap Report ?
a) 129th b) 130th c) 131st d) 135th
- Q24. What is the name of the Singaporean container vessel that caught fire off the Kerala coast on June 9, 2025 ?
a) MV Wan Hai 503 b) MV Ocean Pearl
c) MV Wan Hai 501 d) MV Sunrise Glory
- Q25. Banas River, that was recently seen in news, is located in which state ?
a) Gujarat b) Rajasthan
c) Madhya Pradesh d) Haryana
- Q26. Which organization has developed the Rudrastra, a Hybrid Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle ?
a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
b) Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)
c) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
d) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Q27. Fuego Volcano, that was recently seen in news, is located in which country ?
a) Guatemala b) Indonesia
c) Japan d) Philippines
- Q28. Which one of the following best describes the role of the iDEX initiative ?
a) A procurement portal for defence PSUs
b) A startup-based innovation platform for defence R&D
c) A testing mechanism for imported arms

- d) A scheme for skill development in armed forces
- Q29. Shahed drones are developed by which country ?
a) Iran b) Israel c) Ukraine d) India
- Q30. Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple is located in which state?
a) Karnataka b) Maharashtra
c) Kerala d) Odisha
- Q31. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) was launched by which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
c) Ministry of Rural Development
d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Q32. Which government body is primarily responsible for conducting the Census in India ?
a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
b) National Sample Survey Office
c) Ministry of Home Affairs
d) Ministry of Planning
- Q33. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) was launched by which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
c) Ministry of Rural Development
d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Q34. The main body (fuselage) of future Rafale fighter jets will be produced in Hyderabad for the first time, outside France. Which French aircraft maker is partnering with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) to produce the Rafale fuselage in India ?
a) Airbus b) Dassault Aviation
c) Safran d) Thales Group
- Q35. Who is the Chief Election Commissioner leading the Election Commission of India (ECI) during the introduction of the digitized system for post-election data ?
a) Sunil Arora b) Sushil Chandra
c) Gyanesh Kumar d) Om Prakash Rawat
- Q36. The term 'nominal GDP' refers to:
a) GDP adjusted for inflation
- b) GDP measured at current market prices without adjusting for inflation
c) GDP growth rate excluding government expenditure
d) GDP growth rate after subsidies and taxes
- Q37. Menar and Khichan wetlands, that were recently seen in news, are located in which state ?
a) Karnataka b) Rajasthan
c) Maharashtra d) Odisha
- Q38. Lee Jae-myung has been elected as the president of which country in June 2025 ?
a) South Korea b) Japan
c) Singapore d) Vietnam
- Q39. Raigad Fort, that was recently seen in news, is located in which state ?
a) Telangana b) Maharashtra
c) Karnataka d) Andhra Pradesh
- Q40. On June 5, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked World Environment Day by launching the second phase of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' tree plantation campaign at Mahavir Jayanti Park, New Delhi. What is the symbolic theme behind the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign ?
a) Honour teachers b) Honour mothers
c) Honour the environment d) Honour farmers
- Q41. What is the exact height of the Chenab Railway Bridge above the Chenab River, making it taller than the Eiffel Tower ?
a) 300 meters b) 320 meters
c) 340 meters d) 359 meters
- Q42. What is the new policy repo rate as per the June 6, 2025 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision ?
a) 6.00% b) 5.75% c) 5.50% d) 5.25%
- Q43. Which state government has established the Greater Flamingo Sanctuary ?
a) Karnataka b) Maharashtra
c) Tamil Nadu d) Kerala
- Q44. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a credit-linked subsidy scheme managed by which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- b) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
c) Ministry of Finance
d) Ministry of Urban Development
- Q45. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Waste Picker Enumeration App under which scheme ?
a) NAMASTE Scheme b) Swachh Bharat Mission
c) AMRUT Scheme d) Green India Mission
- Q46. Which state government has launched Majhi Vasundhara Campaign 6.0 to strengthen environmental conservation efforts ?
a) Telangana b) Maharashtra
c) Karnataka d) Jharkhand
- Q47. Tomahawk is a subsonic cruise missile developed by which country ?
a) United States b) Russia
c) Ukraine d) India
- Q48. Where is the Indian Navy set to commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate "Tamal" ?
a) India b) Russia
c) Vietnam d) Malaysia
- Q49. Which ministry launched the Krishi Nivesh Portal ?
a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
b) Ministry of Rural Development
c) Ministry of Finance
d) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Q50. Bayraktar TB2 is an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) developed by which country ?
a) Israel b) Ukraine
c) India d) Turkey
- Q51. Dibang River, that was recently seen in news, flows through which states ?
a) Mizoram and Tripura
b) Arunachal Pradesh and Assam
c) Assam and Nagaland
d) Manipur and Nagaland
- Q52. The Price Support Scheme (PSS) is part of which umbrella scheme ?
a) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
b) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
c) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
d) Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)
- Q53. What is the rank of India in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2025 ?
a) 77th b) 88th c) 95th d) 99th
- Q54. The Ambubachi festival is celebrated in which state annually ?
a) Assam b) West Bengal
c) Arunachal Pradesh d) Sikkim
- Q55. What is the objective of ISRO's SpaDeX-2 mission ?
a) To test a reusable launch vehicle landing
b) To dock two satellites in an elliptical orbit
c) To launch India's first crewed mission
d) To demonstrate lunar sample return
- Q56. Which of the following statements is correct about INS Tamal, the Indian Navy's new stealth frigate to be commissioned in July 2025 ?
a) It will be commissioned at the Mazagon Dock in Mumbai.
b) It is the sixth Krivak-class frigate inducted from Russia.
c) INS Tamal is the first ship of the Tushil class.
d) It is equipped with indigenous BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.
- Q57. Who has become the first woman officer from the Indian Navy to be appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India ?
a) Yashasvi Solanki b) Tanya Shergill
c) Shivangi Singh d) Shubhangi Swaroop
- Q58. Recently, Valmik Thapar, noted wildlife and tiger conservationist passed away. Which tiger reserve was especially associated with Valmik Thapar's work ?
a) Sundarbans b) Jim Corbett
c) Ranthambore d) Kaziranga
- Q59. What is the name of the cloud infrastructure RBI plans to launch in 2025-26 to promote data localisation and reduce dependence on foreign cloud providers ?
a) Bharat Cloud
b) Indian Financial Services (IFS) Cloud
c) FinTech Cloud
d) Reserve Bank Cloud

- Q60. Recently, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions reached an all-time high of 18.68 billion in volume and ₹25.14 trillion in value in May 2025. By what percentage did the volume of UPI transactions increase from April 2025 to May 2025 ?
a) 2% b) 3% c) 4% d) 5%
- Q61. The Kheer Bhawani festival is celebrated in which state/UT ?
a) Jammu and Kashmir b) Uttarakhand
c) Andaman and Nicobar d) Himachal Pradesh
- Q62. Which authority issued the 2025 guidelines to regulate illegal online sales of radio equipment like walkie-talkies ?
a) TRAI
b) Ministry of Electronics and IT
c) Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)
d) Department of Telecommunications (DoT)
- Q63. Who assumed charge as the Director General of Defence Estates on May 31, 2025 ?
a) Shailendra Nath Gupta b) Dinesh Singh Rana
c) Rajiv Memani d) Jasvir Singh Mann
- Q64. The Passport Seva Portal was established by which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Home Affairs
b) Ministry of External Affairs
c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Q65. Which expressway in India is the first to be equipped with an AI-powered Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) ?
a) Purvanchal Expressway b) Yamuna Expressway
c) Mumbai-Pune Expressway d) Dwarka Expressway
- Q66. Tawi River, that was recently seen in news, is a major tributary of which river ?
a) Ganga b) Yamuna
c) Chenab d) Godavari
- Q67. Which ministry has launched the Honorary Rank Promotion Scheme for retiring personnel of CAPFs and Assam Rifles ?
a) Ministry of Defence
b) Ministry of Home Affairs
c) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- Q68. World No Tobacco Day is observed every year on which day ?
a) May 28 b) May 29
c) May 30 d) May 31
- Q69. Which ministry has launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2025, India's largest rural sanitation survey ?
a) Ministry of Rural Development
b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
c) Ministry of Agriculture
d) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Q70. What is meant by "asymmetric threats" in the context of national security ?
a) Threats that require UN Security Council approval to counter
b) Low-cost, high-impact threats like terrorism, cyberattacks, and proxy wars
c) Threats that involve direct conventional war between nuclear states
d) Natural disasters and pandemics affecting national morale

ANSWERS

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