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NATIONAL

PRESIDENT’S RULE IN INDIA -

- The extension of President’s Rule in Manipur has drawn attention to the historical use of Article 356 across India, showing how its imposition not only suspends state democracy but also reshapes political power dynamics.

What is the President's Rule?

- **About:** President's Rule refers to the suspension of a state government and its legislative assembly, placing the state under the direct control of the central government.
- It is imposed under Article 356 of the Constitution in case of failure of constitutional machinery in States. President’s Rule is also called State Emergency or Constitutional Emergency.
- The Constitution does not clearly define “failure of constitutional machinery,” leading to subjective interpretations by the Centre, which can result in misuse.

Constitutional Basis:

- **Article 355:** Mandates the central government to ensure that states function according to the Constitution.
- **Article 356:** Allows the President to impose President’s Rule if the state government fails to function constitutionally, either on the Governor’s recommendation or at the President’s discretion.
- **Article 365:** If a state does not comply with the Centre’s directions, the President can declare that its government cannot function constitutionally.

SUPREME COURT DIRECTS REGISTRATION OF SIKH ANAND MARRIAGE -

- The Supreme Court of India recently directed 17 states and eight Union Territories to frame rules for registering Sikh marriages under the Anand Marriage Act, 1909, within four months. Until then, states must register Anand Karaj marriages under existing laws. This move aims to ensure Sikh couples can legally register their marriages according to their religious tradition. However, critics argue that the Act remains inadequate



and fails to address key legal issues faced by the Sikh community.

The Anand Marriage Act and Its Significance

- **The Anand Marriage Act was enacted in 1909 to legally recognise marriages solemnised through the Anand Karaj ceremony, a sacred Sikh ritual. The ceremony involves the couple circling the Guru Granth Sahib four times, symbolising their spiritual journey together. The Act sought to distinguish Sikh marriages from Hindu rituals. However, the original Act lacked provisions for marriage registration, limiting its practical application.**

CURBING FAKE NEWS IN INDIA -

- The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology in the Parliament has proposed several measures aimed at curbing the spread of ‘fake news’ and misinformation, highlighting the potential harm such content can cause to public order and democratic processes.

What are the Key Recommendations to Curb Fake News?

- **Fact-checking Mechanisms:** The committee favors making it mandatory for all media organizations to have a fact-checking mechanism and an internal ombudsman to oversee editorial content.
- **Penal Provisions:** It suggests amendments to laws to increase fines and hold media accountable for editorial content and discourage the spread of misinformation.
- The panel supports a clear definition of 'fake news' and incorporates it into existing media regulations while ensuring that such efforts do not infringe on freedom of speech or individual rights.
- **Strengthening the Press Council of India:** Create a complaint portal and an independent monitoring body for better oversight
- **Regulation of AI-generated Content:** Licensing for AI content creators and mandatory labeling of AI-generated

material, such as videos, to enhance transparency and reduce the spread of deceptive material.

What is the Need to Curb Fake News?

- **Threat to Democracy:** Fake news can manipulate public opinion, especially during elections, undermining the democratic process.
- Fake news undermines citizens’ right to information, which is protected under Article 19 as upheld by the Supreme Court of India in Raj Narayan vs. Uttar Pradesh Government (1975).
- **Disruption of Public Order:** Misinformation can lead to violence and unrest, threatening social stability.
- In 2018, WhatsApp rumors about child kidnappers in India led to mob lynchings across several states, causing deaths and public disorder.

INDIA MARKS 60 YEARS OF 1965 WAR VICTORY -

- India is solemnly observing the 60th anniversary of the 1965 India–Pakistan War, a defining moment in its military history. This month marks six decades since the valiant efforts of India’s armed forces resulted in a strategic victory that reinforced the nation’s resolve to defend its sovereignty. The Ministry of Defence is leading a series of commemorative events to honour those who fought, suffered, and triumphed in one of the most intense and large-scale conflicts post-Independence.

The 1965 War: A Test of Will and Weaponry

- The India-Pakistan War of 1965 lasted for 22 days, from August to September, and involved fierce battles on land, air, and sea. It is widely remembered for its intense tank warfare, dogfights between fighter jets, and the resilience of Indian troops across multiple fronts.

Major theatres of battle included

- **Jammu and Kashmir:** Where hostilities were first triggered following Pakistan’s Operation Gibraltar.
- **Punjab Sector:** Site of decisive tank battles, including the famous clash at Asal Uttar.
- **Rajasthan Front:** Where Indian forces countered Pakistani advances in the desert terrain.

PM MODI INAUGURATES PM MITRA PARK IN DHAR -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM Mitra) Park in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, marking a significant step in revitalising India’s textile sector. The launch was coupled with a heartfelt tribute to the legacy of Maheshwari sarees, rooted in the vision of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to empowering artisans, weavers, and women in rural India.



PM Mitra Park: A Textile Powerhouse in the Making

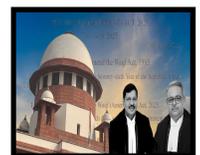
- The PM Mitra scheme, announced earlier by the central government, aims to establish seven integrated textile parks across India. These parks are designed to strengthen India’s textile value chain by bringing together spinning, weaving, processing, designing, and garment production under one roof.

The newly inaugurated PM Mitra Park in Dhar will,

- Function as a self-contained textile ecosystem
- Support spinning, dyeing, designing, processing, and exports
- Facilitate cotton (kapas) and silk (resham) availability at one location
- Offer quality checks and market expansion opportunities for local producers
- Enhance India’s competitiveness in the global textile market
- This is expected to create thousands of employment opportunities, particularly for rural and semi-urban youth in Madhya Pradesh.

SUPREME COURT INTERIM STAY ON WAQF (AMENDMENT) ACT 2025 -

- The SC passed an interim order staying select provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025, while refusing to impose a blanket stay on the entire Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.



- **Waqf Amendment Act 2025:** Passed in the Parliament in April 2025, proposes significant changes to the governance and management of Waqf properties in India. This legislation seeks to amend the Waqf Act of 1995.

Challenge to the Act

- **Petitioners:** The case was brought by several political leaders and organisations. In total, around 65 petitions were clubbed together before the Supreme Court.
- **Grounds of Challenge:** The petitioners argued that the law violates Article 26 of the Constitution (the right to manage religious affairs) and encroaches upon the Muslim community's autonomy in administering Waqf properties.

About Waqf

- Waqf (also spelled Wakf) is an Islamic legal concept referring to the permanent dedication of property for religious, charitable, or social welfare purposes.
- Once designated as Waqf, the property cannot be sold, inherited, or gifted, it remains dedicated in perpetuity to serve the community.
- **Purpose:** To serve the community and enhance the welfare of society, with particular emphasis on public welfare projects like mosques, schools, hospitals, or welfare organizations.

How is Waqf Created?

- **Declaration:** A Muslim (Waqif) donates property via a written deed (Waqfnama) or oral declaration.
- **Registration:** Must be registered with the State Waqf Board.
- **Dedication:** Property ownership is transferred to Allah (God) and managed for public good.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INDEX -

- India's economic growth depends on including women fully in the workforce. Today, women contribute just 18% to the country's GDP. Nearly 196 million employable women remain outside the labour force. While female

labour force participation has improved to 41.7%, only a small fraction hold formal jobs.

- This gap limits India's ambition to become a \$30 trillion economy by 2047. Recent steps like the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index in Uttar Pradesh show how gender data can drive change.

Gender-Disaggregated Data

- **India collects many economic and social statistics but rarely separates data by gender. This lack of visibility hides inequalities. Without clear data, reforms stall and exclusion deepens. The WEE Index tracks women's participation across five key areas – employment, education and skilling, entrepreneurship, livelihood and mobility, and safety and infrastructure. It marks where women drop out and the barriers they face. This approach shifts focus from mere participation to structural challenges.**

SHOULD THE 50% RESERVATION CAP BE RAISED? -

- Bihar's Opposition leader has proposed increasing quotas to 85% if voted to power, while the Supreme Court has sought the Centre's response on applying the 'creamy layer' concept to SCs and STs.
- These debates on reservation challenge the 50% constitutional cap and raise concerns about equitable distribution of benefits among marginalised groups.

**What are the Key Provisions Related to Reservations in India?**

- **About:** Reservation is a form of positive discrimination aimed at promoting equality for marginalized groups and addressing social and historical injustices. It provides preferential treatment in education and employment to uplift disadvantaged communities.
- At the central level, reservations include 27% for OBCs, 15% for SCs, 7.5% for STs, and 10% for EWS, making a total of about 59.5%, though the share differs across States as per their policies and demographics.
- **Key Provisions:** The Constitution of India incorporates various provisions to promote social justice and ensure

adequate representation for historically disadvantaged communities.

- These provisions span across Part III (Fundamental Rights) and Part XVI (Special Provisions Relating to Certain Classes).
- Articles under Part III on Reservation:
- **Article 15(3):** Empowers the State to make special provisions for women and children.
- **Article 15(4):** Enables the State to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, including SCs and STs.
- **Article 15(5):** Allows for reservation in educational institutions (including private, unaided institutions but excluding minority institutions) for socially and educationally backward classes, SCs, and STs.
- **Article 15(6):** Introduced via the 103rd Constitutional Amendment (2019), allows the State to make special provisions, including reservations, for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among unreserved categories.
- **Article 16(4):** Permits reservation in appointments/posts for any backward class of citizens not adequately represented in state services.
- **Article 16(4A):** Allows reservation in promotions for SCs and STs (77th Amendment Act, 1995, modified by the 85th Amendment Act, 2001 to include consequential seniority).
- **Article 16(4B):** Allows the State to carry forward unfilled reserved vacancies from previous years without breaching the 50% ceiling (81st Amendment Act, 2000).
- **Article 16(6):** Provides for reservation in public employment for EWS, distinct from the backward class reservations.

HIMACHAL PRADESH DECLARED FULLY LITERATE -

- On International Literacy Day 2025, the Ministry of Education declared Himachal Pradesh the fifth State/UT to achieve full functional literacy with 99.30% literacy, after Tripura, Mizoram, Goa, and Ladakh.

India's literacy rate has increased from 74% in 2011 to 80.9% in 2023-24.

- Definition of Literacy and Full Literacy (As per the Ministry of Education (MoE))
- **Literacy:** Ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension; includes digital literacy, financial literacy, and critical life skills.
- **Full Literacy:** Achieving 95% literacy in a State/UT (considered equivalent to 100%).
- **Assessment:** Under NILP, a non-literate person is officially recognised as literate upon clearing the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT).



INDIA'S FULLY DIGITAL CENSUS 2027 -

- The Census of India 2027 marks transformation. Nearly 34 lakh enumerators will collect data using their own smartphones. This will be the first fully digital Census in the country. The mobile applications developed for this purpose will support multiple languages and work on both Android and iOS platforms. The data will be uploaded directly to a central server, ensuring faster and more accurate processing.

Digital Data Collection and Mobile Applications

- Enumerators will use dedicated apps to record household data. These apps were initially created for the 2021 Census but have been upgraded to match current mobile technologies.
- The use of personal smartphones reduces the need for additional hardware. If data is collected on paper due to any issue, it must later be entered into a web portal, avoiding double data entry or scanning. This approach guarantees that data is digitised at the source.

PM MODI ANNOUNCES ₹1,600 CRORE RELIEF FOR FLOOD-HIT PUNJAB -

- In response to the devastating floods and cloudbursts across Punjab, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted an aerial survey of the affected regions and chaired a high-level review meeting in Gurdaspur. Following the assessment, he announced a significant financial assistance package of ₹1,600 crore, further strengthening

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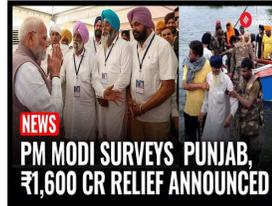


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the state's ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Financial and Scheme-Based Support

- This central aid is in addition to ₹12,000 crore already allocated to Punjab, aimed at ensuring swift and structured recovery. Key measures include,
- Advance release of the second instalment of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
- Continued benefits under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme to support affected farmers.
- Ex-gratia payments of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of deceased individuals and ₹50,000 to those seriously injured in the floods.
- Comprehensive support to orphaned children through the PM CARES for Children initiative.



ARUNACHAL PRADESH HOSTS INAUGURAL SUNRISE FESTIVAL -

- The northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh is set to host its first-ever Sunrise Festival in Dong village, Anjaw district. This event will take place from 29 December 2025 to 2 January 2026. Dong is the easternmost village in India and receives the first rays of the sun every day. The festival aims to promote tourism, adventure, and cultural heritage in this remote border region.



Dong Village

- Dong is situated at 1,240 metres above sea level in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district.
- It lies near the tri-junction of India, China, and Myanmar.
- This geographical position makes Dong the first place in India to witness the sunrise daily.
- The village's unique location offers spectacular views and a rich cultural experience.
- It is accessible by road from airports in Tezu and Dibrugarh, and the railway station in Tinsukia, Assam.

NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX -

- The Chief of the Naval Staff visited the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.

National Maritime Heritage Complex

- **About:** It is an ambitious cultural and tourism project in Lothal, Gujarat that aims to highlight India's rich and diverse 4,500-year-old maritime heritage and establish the largest maritime heritage complex in the world.
- Key projects include a world-class Lighthouse Museum, coastal state pavilions, and a maritime-themed eco-resort.
- **Development and Funding:** Under India's Sagarmala Programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) is developing the NMHC, with its Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) funding the world's tallest Lighthouse Museum.

Lothal

- **About:** It is one of the southernmost sites of the Harappan civilization, located in the Bhal region of Gujarat, between the Bhogavo and Sabarmati rivers near the Gulf of Khambhat.
- The name Lothal in Gujarati means "mound of the dead", similar to Mohenjo-daro in Sindhi.
- The site was discovered in 1954 by S.R. Rao was nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in April 2014.
- **Significance:** It is famous for having the world's earliest known dock, which connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river.
- It was also famous for bead workshops, and maritime trade links with Mesopotamia and Egypt dating back nearly 4,000 years.

PEACE PACT SIGNED WITH KUKI-ZO GROUPS IN MANIPUR -

- Recently, the Centre and Manipur government signed a revised Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups, ahead of the Prime Minister's first post-violence visit on September 13.

Key Provisions of the Revised SoO Agreement

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- **Verification of Cadres:** Security forces will verify insurgent cadres and de-list foreign nationals. Those identified will be deported.
- **Territorial Integrity:** The pact reiterates the territorial integrity of Manipur, ruling out territorial bifurcation.
- **Political Settlement Clause:** Introduces a new phrase – “negotiated political settlement within the Constitution of India”. This goes beyond the 2008 pact, which only spoke of territorial councils.
- **Relocation of Camps:** Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People’s Front (UPF) agreed to relocate 7 designated camps, move them away from conflict-prone areas, and keep weapons in nearby CRPF/BSF camps.
- **Monitoring Mechanism:** A Joint Monitoring Group will enforce compliance, with provisions for strict action on violations, including review of the SoO.
- **Highway Opening:** The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) agreed to open National Highway-2 (Imphal–Dimapur), a lifeline for the Meitei-dominated valley, for free movement of commuters and essential goods.



LADAKH PROTESTS -

- Recently, protests in Ladakh have intensified, with demonstrators demanding statehood and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
- Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk ended his 15-day hunger strike after appealing to youth to maintain peace in the five-year-long movement for autonomy.



Background of the Issue

- **2019 Reorganisation:** Following the abrogation of Article 370, the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act divided the former state into two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir (with a legislature) and Ladakh (without a legislature).

- **Initial Reaction:** Unlike J&K, which witnessed unrest, Ladakh initially welcomed UT status, hoping for direct representation and greater autonomy from J&K.

Core Demands of the Ladakh Protest

- **Statehood:** Full statehood for Ladakh to restore Legislative Powers and secure Self-Governance.
- **Sixth Schedule:** Inclusion under the Sixth Schedule to protect tribal identity and rights.
- Over 90% of Ladakh’s population belongs to Scheduled Tribes.
- **Employment:** Establishment of a separate Public Service Commission to tackle rising unemployment.
- **Representation:** At present Ladakh has only 1 Lok Sabha seat.
- Demand for two Lok Sabha seats (Leh & Kargil separately) and one Rajya Sabha seat for greater voice at the Centre.

Drivers of the Protest

- **Loss of Autonomy:** reduced autonomy of the Hill Development Councils, the curtailment of decision-making powers under direct central administration.
- Protesters argue existing Hill Development Councils are subordinate to the Lieutenant Governor and lack real autonomy.
- **Environmental Stress:** Fear of indiscriminate mining and industrialisation in ecologically fragile valleys.
- **Border Security:** Chinese presence along the LAC and loss of grazing lands for Pashmina shepherds.
- **Democratic Deficit:** UT status without legislature under direct central administration curtails local participation in governance.
- **Job Shortage:** the shortage of employment opportunities after delinking from J&K’s recruitment boards.
- A government survey shows 26.5% of Ladakh graduates unemployed, the second-highest in India after Andaman & Nicobar (33%).

INTERNATIONAL

RECOGNITION OF PALESTINE BY U.K., AUSTRALIA, AND CANADA -

- Recently, the UK, Australia, Portugal and Canada formally recognised the state of Palestine.
- On the eve of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Portugal confirmed recognition of Palestine, while France pledged to vote in favour, joining nearly 150 UN members already supportive.



Geographic Overview

- Palestine is located in Western Asia, at the crossroads of the Middle East.
- **Geographical Span:** It broadly refers to the territory of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip.

Borders:

- **West:** Mediterranean Sea
- **East:** Jordan
- **North:** Lebanon and Syria
- **Southwest:** Egypt
- **West Bank:** Landlocked, lies west of the Jordan River, bordering Israel and Jordan
- **Gaza Strip:** Narrow coastal enclave along the Mediterranean, bordering Israel and Egypt

Strategic Importance:

- It forms part of the Levant region.
- Controls access routes between Asia and Africa.
- Located near holy sites of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (especially in Jerusalem).

Background of the Palestine Recognition

- **Historical Context:** The Palestinian issue traces back to the British Mandate (1920–48), when conflicting promises to Jews and Arabs culminated in the UN Partition Plan of 1947.
- **Creation of Israel (1948):** Following Israel’s declaration of independence, the Nakba (catastrophe) saw displace-

ment of ~700,000 Palestinians.

- **Wars and Occupations:** The 1967 Six-Day War resulted in Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem—territories considered central to the Palestinian statehood demand.
- **Peace Process Evolution:** From the Oslo Accords (1993) to the Roadmap for Peace (2003), repeated efforts were made, yet settlements, security concerns, and divided Palestinian leadership (Fatah in West Bank, Hamas in Gaza) stalled progress.
- **Fatah:** Secular Palestinian party leading the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank, favors negotiated solutions with Israel.
- **Hamas:** Islamist organization controlling Gaza Strip, combines political and militant wings, opposes Israel’s existence, provides social services locally.
- **Fatah–Hamas Rivalry:** Since 2006 elections, division between West Bank (Fatah) and Gaza (Hamas) causes fragmented governance, complicating peace negotiations.
- **International Recognition:** Over 140 UN member states (mostly Global South) have recognised Palestine, but the absence of recognition by major Western powers had long undermined its legitimacy.
- “Palestine was granted non-member observer state status by UNGA Resolution 67/19 in 2012, and over 140 UN member states recognize it, reflecting broad global support despite hesitation from major Western powers.”

TALIBAN REJECTS US BID TO RETAKE BAGRAM AIR BASE -

- The Taliban government firmly rejected the United States’ recent proposal to re-establish a military presence at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. This development comes four years after the chaotic withdrawal of U.S. forces in 2021, which left the base under Taliban control. Despite



ongoing economic challenges and internal divisions, the Taliban continue to assert Afghanistan’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. The issue has also drawn international attention, with China emphasising that decisions about Bagram should rest with Afghanistan itself.

Background of Bagram Air Base

- **Bagram Air Base was the largest U.S. military facility in Afghanistan. It played a critical role during America’s longest war. The base was abandoned during the U.S. withdrawal in 2021. The Taliban quickly took control of the facility. Since then, it has symbolised the end of direct U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan.**

US IMPOSES \$100,000 FEE ON NEW H-1B VISA ENTRANTS -

- The US government introduced a new \$100,000 entry fee on H-1B visa holders entering the country after 21 September 2025. This unexpected move has caused concern among Indian tech workers and students, who form the largest group using this visa. The fee applies only to future applicants outside the US and excludes those already holding valid H-1B visas or changing their status within the country. The policy’s details remain unclear, sparking debate among immigration experts and major tech firms.



Scope and Applicability of the Fee

- **The fee applies exclusively to new H-1B visa applicants outside the US after the effective date. It does not affect visa holders already in the US or those extending or transferring their status domestically. Individuals with valid H-1B stamps travelling abroad and re-entering may face the fee, but this is still uncertain. The fee is reportedly payable each time a person enters the US, not just once.**

Impact on Current H-1B Visa Holders

- **Current visa holders are exempt from this fee for extensions, transfers, or status changes within the US. They can travel without paying the fee if their visa is valid.**

However, confusion persists about re-entry after international travel. Tech firms like Amazon and Microsoft have advised employees to avoid travel until clarity emerges.

US SANCTIONS ON CHABAHAH PORT -

- **The Trump administration has revoked the sanctions waiver for Chabahar Port, affecting India’s access to Afghanistan and Central Asia and undermining its strategic position in the region.**
- The exemption, granted in 2018 under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA), allowed India to advance its long-term plan to develop Chabahar Port as a gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- **What are the Implications of Revoking Chabahar Port’s Sanctions Waiver for India?**
- **Strategic Implications:** The revocation of Chabahar’s waiver can undermine India’s regional leverage, limiting its ability to counterbalance Gwadar Port, integrate into the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) connecting Russia and Europe, and maintain influence in Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- **Economic and Trade Implications:** India’s exports to Iran and Afghanistan—including textiles, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, and food products—face disruption, while investments of USD 120 million and commitments of USD 250 million are at risk.
- **The revocation coincides with India-US trade talks and 50% duties on labor-intensive goods, pressuring India’s export strategy.**
- **Operational and Legal Risks:** Companies like Indian Ports Global Limited (IPGL) face exposure to US sanctions under the IFCA potentially causing delays or suspension of Chabahar trade and expansion projects.
- **Geopolitical Implications:** The revocation puts pressure on India-US relations and marks a major setback for India’s plan to use Chabahar Port as a vital gateway for trade and humanitarian aid, especially to Afghanistan.



SAUDI ARABIA–PAKISTAN DEFENCE PACT WHAT IS IT? -

- In a move that marks a significant shift in the regional security landscape, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a Mutual Defence Agreement on September 17, 2025. The agreement explicitly states that “any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both,” reflecting a deepened strategic alliance. This pact, signed amid rising instability in West Asia, particularly following escalating tensions involving Israel and Qatar, is being viewed as a turning point in the Saudi–Pakistan relationship. For India, the agreement raises critical geopolitical questions, especially concerning balance of power and regional diplomacy.



What the Defence Pact Entails

- The Saudi–Pakistan defence pact formalises long-standing security cooperation between the two nations and expands it significantly in scope and commitment.

Key features include

- **Mutual Defence Clause:** Any military aggression against one party will be treated as an attack on both.
- **Joint Deterrence Measures:** Enhanced coordination in intelligence sharing, defence logistics, and military preparedness.
- **Possibility of Expanded Military Cooperation:** Including future joint exercises and interoperability of forces.
- **Long-Term Strategic Commitment:** Reflecting a shared vision of defence partnership beyond transactional ties.
- This level of alliance suggests a move towards treaty-level strategic depth, uncommon in the region’s traditionally transactional diplomacy.

INDIA BACKS UN RESOLUTION ON PALESTINE TWO-STATE SOLUTION -

- India recently voted in favour of a United Nations General Assembly resolution endorsing the New York Declaration. This resolution calls for a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the implementation of a two-state solution.

- The resolution was adopted with 142 countries supporting, 10 opposing, and 12 abstaining. India’s vote reflects its longstanding foreign policy stance supporting Palestinian self-determination and dialogue-based peace.

Background

- The New York Declaration was introduced by France and co-chaired with Saudi Arabia during a high-level UN conference in July 2025. It aims to end violence in Gaza and establish a sovereign Palestinian state alongside Israel. The declaration urges collective international action for a lasting peace in the region.

INDIA-ISRAEL SIGN BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENT (BIA) -

- India and Israel have signed a fresh bilateral investment treaty, making Israel the first OECD country to adopt India’s new investment treaty model.
- This replaces the older version of BIT signed between India and Israel in 1996, which was terminated in 2017.



What is a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)?

- **About:** A Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) is a legal agreement between two countries to protect and promote investments in each other’s territories.
- BITs grant rights to investors, allowing them to seek remedies through investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms, or to home states, through state-to-state dispute settlement.
- Recognized under Article 38(1)(a) of the International Court of Justice statute, as a primary source of international obligations.
- **India’s BIT Evolution:** Old Model BIT (1993) replaced by New Model BIT (2015) and recent BITs signed with Uzbekistan (2024), UAE (2024), and Kyrgyzstan (2025).

Key Feature of India- Israel BIT:

- **Investment Boost:** Expected to increase bilateral investments, currently worth around USD 800 million.

- **Balanced Investor Protection:** The agreement safeguards investors against the risk of government expropriation or nationalization of assets and ensures that any such action must be accompanied by fair and prompt compensation.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Includes an arbitration-based mechanism to settle disputes, promoting a stable investment environment.
- **Transparency and Predictability:** Governments are required to maintain clear and predictable investment policies and regulations, reducing uncertainty and strengthening investor confidence.

TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE AND 'BLOOD MOON' -

- A total lunar eclipse is set to occur on the night of 7th September 2025. At this time, the moon will be completely covered by the Earth's shadow, turning copper red (Blood Moon).

Total Lunar Eclipse

- About: A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes entirely through Earth's umbra (darkest part of its shadow), with the Earth, Sun, and Moon perfectly aligned, completely blocking direct sunlight.

Blood Moon

- A Blood Moon refers to the reddish or coppery appearance of the Moon and occurs only during total lunar eclipses, which take place two to three times a year.
- During total lunar eclipses, the Earth blocks direct sunlight from reaching the Moon.
- However, sunlight passes through Earth's atmosphere, where it is bent (refraction) and scattered.

- The blue wavelengths of light are scattered away, while the red and orange wavelengths pass through and fall on the Moon's surface.
- This gives the Moon its distinctive deep red or reddish-orange colour.

SCO CONDEMNS PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK -

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) leaders issued a joint declaration in September 2025 strongly condemning terrorism. The statement explicitly mentioned the April 22 Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 people.
- This marks development as earlier defence minister-level meetings had avoided mentioning the attack. The declaration also condemned terrorist attacks in Pakistan's Balochistan region. The move reflects evolving geopolitics and China's tentative shift in its stance towards terrorism-related issues involving India and Pakistan.

SCO's Declaration

- The SCO leaders' statement condemned terrorism in all forms. It expressed condolences to victims of the Pahalgam attack. The declaration also mentioned the Jaffer Express hijacking and the Khuzdar school bus bombing in Pakistan. Earlier, India had pushed for explicit references to terrorism and cross-border threats in SCO documents.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had refused to sign the June 2025 defence ministers' statement due to Pakistan's objections. The leaders' summit in Tianjin marked a breakthrough with the clear mention of Pahalgam.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VYOMMITRA: ISRO'S AI HALF-HUMANOID FOR GAGANYAAN -

- India's ambitious Gaganyaan space mission is set to achieve a key milestone with the deployment of Vyommitra, an AI-powered half-humanoid robot, in an uncrewed test flight scheduled for December 2025. According to ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan, this robot will simulate human functions during flight, enabling scientists to assess conditions inside the crew module ahead of India's first manned space mission.
- This development underscores India's technological capabilities in robotics, space medicine, AI integration, and human spaceflight—important themes for science and technology sections in competitive exams.



What Is Vyommitra?

- Vyommitra (from Sanskrit: Vyoma meaning sky and Mitra meaning friend) is a half-humanoid female robot developed by ISRO to perform functions similar to that of a human astronaut.

Key Features

- AI-enabled:** Capable of speech, environmental monitoring, system control, and human interaction
- Half-humanoid:** Upper body only—designed to mimic key human functions relevant to space missions
- Sensory capabilities:** Monitors parameters like temperature, pressure, humidity, and CO₂ levels inside the crew module
- Command execution:** Can operate switch panels and interact with ground control
- Vyommitra is part of the preparatory phase of the Gaganyaan mission, India's first human spaceflight program.

ISRO TRANSFERS SSLV TECHNOLOGY TO HAL FOR INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION -

- India's space sector reached a historic milestone as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed its

100th technology transfer agreement, enabling Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to independently manufacture Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs).



- The agreement was formalised with the participation of ISRO, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPaC), and HAL. It represents a significant step in building India's self-reliant space ecosystem while tapping into the booming global small-satellite launch market.

Key Details of the Agreement

- Outcome:** Two SSLV missions will be executed during the agreement period under ISRO guidance.
- The deal ensures that HAL will gradually transition to full-scale independent SSLV production, strengthening the private-sector role in India's space programme.

Why SSLVs Matter

- Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) are designed for launching small satellites (500 kg or less) into low Earth orbit.

INDIA LAUNCHES HYDROGEN-POWERED TRAIN -

- The Indian Railways successfully tested a hydrogen-powered train developed at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai. This train will soon operate between Jind and Sonapat in Haryana. It is part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which aims to produce five million metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030. The mission supports India's goal of net zero emissions by 2070.



Hydrogen Train Technology

- The train uses hydrogen fuel cells to generate electricity. Hydrogen is produced by a 1-MW polymer electrolyte

membrane electrolyser in Jind. This electrolyser splits water into oxygen and hydrogen using electricity from renewable sources.

- The hydrogen is stored and used in fuel cells on the train. The fuel cells convert hydrogen back into water, producing electricity to power the train's motors. This process emits zero carbon dioxide.

INDIGENOUS VIKRAM 32-BIT MICRO-PROCESSOR -

- India recently revealed the Vikram 3201, its first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor designed for space applications. Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh, this chip marks step towards self-reliance in semiconductor technology. The processor is built to withstand extreme space conditions and will power critical functions in launch vehicles.



Vikram 3201 Microprocessor

- The Vikram 3201 is a semiconductor microprocessor specifically designed for rockets and satellites.
- It is the first Indian microprocessor fabricated at this scale and specification for launch vehicle avionics.
- Unlike consumer processors, it operates under harsh space conditions such as extreme temperatures, radiation, and vibration.
- It succeeds the Vikram 1601, a 16-bit chip used by ISRO since 2009.

ISRO'S KULASEKARAPATTINAM SPACE-PORT TO BE READY BY DEC 2026 -

- In a significant development for India's space ambitions, ISRO announced that the Kulasekarapattinam launch complex in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district is expected to be fully operational by December 2026. The upcoming facility will become India's second spaceport,



complementing the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, and will be dedicated primarily to launching Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs).

About the Kulasekarapattinam Launch Complex

- **Location:** Coastal village of Kulasekarapattinam in Tuticorin district, Tamil Nadu
- **Area:** Spread across 2,300 acres
- **Expected Completion:** December 2026
- **Foundation Stone:** Laid in February 2024 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conferencing
- **Target:** Around 20–25 SSLV launches per year once operational
- **This facility will allow India to decentralize its space operations, easing the pressure on Sriharikota and increasing its overall launch frequency.**

INDIA TESTS AGNI-PRIME MISSILE FROM RAIL LAUNCHER -

- India recently achieved milestone by successfully test-launching the Agni-Prime intermediate-range ballistic missile from a rail-based mobile launcher system. This launch is the first of its kind in the country and marks India's advancing strategic deterrence capabilities.

Significance of Rail-Based Missile Launch

- The Agni-Prime missile was launched from a specially designed mobile platform integrated with India's national railway network. This innovation enables the missile to move across the country without restrictions. It offers cross-country mobility, faster reaction times, and reduced visibility, enhancing strategic flexibility and survivability.

Technical Features of Agni-Prime

- Agni-Prime is a next-generation missile with a strike range of up to 2,000 kilometres. It is solid-fuelled and three-staged, which allows for quicker launch readiness and better control. The missile uses a canister launch system, improving storage, handling, and rapid deployment.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

INDIA POST TO SELL BSNL SIMS VIA 1.65 LAKH POST OFFICES -

- In a major step towards enhancing rural telecom connectivity, the Department of Posts (DoP) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 17 September 2025 in New Delhi. This agreement aims to transform India’s vast postal network into last-mile service points for SIM sales and mobile recharge services, aligning with the objectives of Digital India and financial inclusion.



Key Objectives of the MoU

- Expanding BSNL’s Reach
- The MoU enables BSNL to leverage the 1.65 lakh+ post offices across India—most of which are in rural and semi-urban areas—to offer,
- BSNL SIM card sales
- Mobile recharge services
- Customer onboarding for BSNL services
- The move is designed to address the digital divide, especially in remote and underserved regions.

PM MODI LAUNCHES NEXT-GENERATION GST REFORMS: A NEW ERA OF SAVINGS AND SELF-RELIANCE -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on 21 September 2025, unveiling Next-Generation GST reforms that come into effect from 22 September. Announcing the beginning of a “GST Bachat Utsav”, the Prime Minister emphasized that the new system will enhance savings for households, reduce costs of essential goods, and strengthen Aatmanirbhar Bharat by boosting MSMEs and local manufacturing.

Key Highlights of the Address

- The Prime Minister described the reforms as citizen-centric and a landmark step in India’s economic journey,
- **New GST Structure:** Only 5% and 18% slabs will remain.

- **Lower Costs:** Everyday items like food, medicines, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, health and life insurance will now attract either 0% or 5% tax.
- **Savings Festival:** Citizens expected to save over INR 2.5 lakh crore annually due to GST and income tax reforms combined.
- **Support to MSMEs:** Simplified tax structures to help small businesses, cottage industries, and entrepreneurs.
- **Swadeshi Push:** Citizens encouraged to buy and sell Made in India products to promote self-reliance.



INDIA EMERGES AS WORLD’S THIRD-LARGEST AUTOMOBILE MARKET -

- At the International Value Summit 2025, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways stated that India is the third-largest automobile market, aiming for No. 1 globally in five years.
- In 2025, India surpassed Japan to emerge as the world’s 3rd largest automobile market, after China and the United States.



Key Data & Facts

- **Global Contribution:** India’s automotive sector contributes 7.1% to global GDP.
- **Market Size:** The Indian automobile sector, including vehicles and auto components, is valued at nearly ₹22 lakh crore, making it one of the largest industries in the economy.
- **Passenger Vehicle Sales (2023):** India sold 4.11 million units, overtaking Japan’s ~4 million sales, marking a major shift in global rankings.
- **Exports Performance:** In FY24, India exported 6.62 million vehicles, making it a global hub for two-wheelers and small cars.
- **Two-Wheeler Dominance:** More than 50% of India’s two-wheeler production is exported, reflecting

India's global competitiveness and cost advantage in this segment.

- **Auto Components:** With a turnover of ₹6.14 lakh crore (\$74.1 billion) in FY24, the auto component sector contributes 2.3% to GDP, with exports worth \$21.2 billion, projected to reach \$30 billion by 2026.
- **EV Penetration:** By August 2024, 4.4 million EVs were registered, accounting for 6.6% penetration, signalling the beginning of India's green mobility revolution.
- **Future Scope:** With targeted reforms and stronger GVC integration, India aims to raise its global auto component trade share from 3% to 8% by 2030.

STARTUP INDIA REVOLUTION -

- The Startup India initiative has been instrumental in transforming India's innovation ecosystem, fostering the growth of numerous startups.
- According to the Future Unicorn Report 2025, 11 new startups have joined India's unicorn club in 2025.

How has Startup India Transformed India's Innovation Ecosystem?

- **Building the Innovation Stack:** Digital India, Aadhaar, UPI, and BharatNet have built a digital public infrastructure that lowers startup barriers, expands access, cuts costs, and drives an inclusive innovation ecosystem.
- **Fund of Funds for Startups** and credit guarantee schemes provided critical capital support for early-stage startups e.g., Fashinza (B2B marketplace streamlining the apparel and fashion supply chain).
- **Ease of Doing Business** reforms like single-window clearances and online systems have streamlined approvals, significantly reducing the time and cost of starting a business.
- These reforms created a layered innovation ecosystem, or innovation stack, enabling startups to scale rapidly.
- **Unicorn Surge:** By mid-2025, India had 118 unicorns (4 in 2014), with firms like Zomato, PhonePe, Razorpay, Ola, Meesho, and Delhivery solving local challenges and going global.
- A unicorn is a privately held startup company with a valuation of over USD 1 billion.

Diversified Startup Ecosystem:

- **FinTech:** UPI established India as a global leader in digital payments.
- **SpaceTech:** Post-2020 reforms enabled private players like Skyroot Aerospace and Agnikul Cosmos; India now has 300+ startups in space.
- **DefenceTech:** Over 600 startups under iDEX and schemes like ADITI are driving indigenisation in defence manufacturing.
- **Startup Dividend:** Startups have generated over 12 lakh direct jobs and millions of indirect roles, while reducing import dependence and boosting exports, strengthening India's global economic standing.

What is the Startup India Initiative?

- **About:** Launched in 2016, the Startup India initiative supports entrepreneurs by fostering a strong innovation ecosystem through tax benefits, simplified compliance, and funding access to drive economic growth and employment.

INDIA TO REMAIN FASTEST-GROWING MAJOR ECONOMY IN 2025 -

- India continues to outshine other major economies with a robust GDP growth projection of 6.5% for the current fiscal year. According to a recent report by Standard and Poor's (S&P), the American credit rating agency, India is set to remain the fastest-growing major economy globally in FY 2025.
- This forecast reinforces India's economic strength amid global economic uncertainties, making it a crucial topic for current affairs, especially under sections such as Indian economy, global rankings, and international reports.



Key Highlights of the S&P Report

- The S&P Global Ratings report emphasized India's resilience and growth momentum, even in the face of global headwinds such as slowing exports, geopolitical tensions, and tight monetary policies worldwide.

Main Observations

- **GDP Growth Forecast:** India's economy is projected to grow at 6.5% in FY 2025.
- **Global Standing:** India will continue to be the fastest-growing economy among the major global economies.
- **Policy Resilience:** The report cites economic reforms, policy stability, and infrastructure investments as key drivers of sustained growth.
- **Shock Absorption:** Despite external shocks such as supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions, India managed to maintain economic stability.
- **Future Outlook:** India is expected to further integrate with global trade, leading to increased employment opportunities and higher productivity gains.

INDIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 5.1% IN AUGUST 2025 -

- India's job market showed encouraging signs in August 2025, with the country's overall unemployment rate declining to 5.1%, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- This marks the second consecutive monthly decline, down from 5.6% in June and 5.2% in July, signaling resilience in both urban and rural employment trends.



Key Highlights of the PLFS Data

- **Overall Unemployment Rate (15+ years):** Declined to 5.1% in August 2025, lowest in three months.
- **Male Unemployment:** Dropped to a five-month low of 5.0%.
- **Urban male UR:** 6.6% (July) → 5.9% (August)
- **Rural male UR:** 4.5% (lowest in 5 months)
- **Rural Employment Recovery:** Rural unemployment rate fell from 5.1% in May → 4.3% in August.

INDIA, AS IT GROWS AS THE WORLD'S FASTEST-GROWING ECONOMY, FACES DEBATES OVER ITS GREAT POWER ASPIRATIONS, WITH CRITICS HIGHLIGHTING WEAK STRATEGY AND

ITS LIMITED GLOBAL INFLUENCE WHEN COMPARED TO CHINA AND THE US - What are the Key Constraints Hindering India's Global Power Aspirations?

- **Ambition vs. Strategic Capacity:** While India aspires to global power status, critics argue it lacks the strategic clarity and institutional capacity to translate ambition into influence.
- For example, India's military expenditure in 2024 stood at USD 86 billion, far behind China's USD 314 billion, limiting its power projection capability.
- **India remains one of the largest arms importers globally, accounting for 9.5% of global imports (2016–2020), highlighting its dependency and underdeveloped indigenous defence capabilities.**
- India's dependence on global supply chains for critical sectors like electronics and energy exposes it to external shocks and geopolitical tensions.
- **Strategic Ambiguity in Global Alliances:** India's emphasis on strategic autonomy, demonstrated by its cautious stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its balancing act between the Quad and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), has been beneficial in preserving its independence.
- However, critics argue that this approach may undermine India's image as a reliable partner in times of crisis.
- **Human Development Constraints:** In 2023, India ranks 130 out of 193 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI), indicating significant deficits in education, health, and income distribution.
- Its Inequality-Adjusted HDI (IHDI) drops further to 0.475, reflecting high social and regional inequality that impedes holistic development.
- **Economic Power vs. Per Capita Strength:** Despite being the 4th largest economy globally, in 2024, India's per capita GDP was just USD 2,711, placing it among lower middle-income countries.
- Globally, India ranked 144th (out of 196) in per capita GDP at market exchange rates, and 127th in Purchasing Power Parity terms.



- This limits India's global leverage in economic diplomacy and soft power influence.
- Technological Gaps and Innovation Challenges: India ranked 39th on the Global Innovation Index 2024, compared to China's 11th and the US's 3rd.
- While India has made digital strides (e.g., UPI, Aadhaar), gaps remain in cutting-edge sectors like semiconductors, quantum computing, and biotech.
- **Internal Social Fault Lines:** India's rank in the World Press Freedom Index 2024 was 159 out of 180 countries, impacting its global democratic credibility.
- Within India, states like Goa (HDI ~0.75) and Uttar Pradesh (~0.60) show stark development gaps.
- Such disparities weaken national coherence and limit India's ability to act as a unified global actor.

INDIA'S BLUE REVOLUTION TRANSFORMS FISHERIES SECTOR -

- India's fisheries sector has witnessed a remarkable transformation under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), launched in 2020. As the scheme completes five years, it has strengthened the sector's ecological sustainability, economic viability, and social inclusiveness. Production has surged, infrastructure has improved, and thousands of livelihoods have been empowered. The government's decision to extend the scheme through 2025-26 signals continued commitment to this vital sector.



Fish Production

- Since 2013-14, fish production in India has more than doubled, reaching 195 lakh tonnes in 2024-25. Inland fisheries have grown even faster, by 142%. This growth positions India as the world's second-largest fish producer. The surge reflects improved farming methods, better infrastructure, and effective policy support.

Infrastructure and Financial Investment

- The scheme has approved projects worth over ₹21,274 crore. Central government funding accounts for ₹9,189

crore, with ₹5,587 crore already released for implementation. Infrastructure development includes harbours, cold storage, and markets, with ₹17,210 crore allocated. These investments reduce post-harvest losses and improve supply chain efficiency.

GST 2.0 WITH NEXT-GENERATION REFORMS -

- The 56th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, unveiled GST 2.0 with next-generation reforms to make the tax regime citizen-centric, boost agriculture, health, manufacturing, and improve ease of doing business.
- The changes in GST rates on services will be implemented with effect from 22nd September 2025.

What are the Key Tax Reforms Under GST 2.0?

- **Simplified GST Structure:** GST 2.0 replaces four GST slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%) with a two-slab system (5% (merit rate) for essential items and 18% (standard rate) for others), plus a 40% demerit rate for luxury, sin, and demerit goods like tobacco and pan masala.
- **Tax Relief for the Essential Goods:** Full GST exemption on individual life and health insurance policies. Essential goods such as Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) milk, paneer, and Indian breads now carry nil GST.
- **Consumer Goods:** GST on small cars, TVs, air conditioners, cement, and auto parts has been reduced from 28% to 18%. GST on renewable energy devices has been reduced from 12% to 5%.
- These cuts are expected to stimulate manufacturing, promote green energy adoption, and boost domestic demand.
- **Medical and Health Devices:** GST on 33 lifesaving drugs has been reduced from 12% to nil. GST on three critical drugs used for cancer and rare diseases has been reduced from 5% to nil, strengthening healthcare access.
- **Support for Agriculture and Rural Sectors: Machinery like tractors, harvesters, and composters:** GST reduced from 12% to 5%.

- Fertilizer inputs such as sulphuric acid, nitric acid, and ammonia: GST reduced from 18% to 5%.
- Labour-intensive goods like handicrafts, marble, and leather items: GST reduced from 12% to 5%.
- **Trade Facilitation and Dispute Resolution:** The Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) will be operational by December 2025.
- Process reforms for refunds and registration will improve dispute resolution, reduce litigation, and provide predictability for businesses, especially MSMEs.

FDI IN INDIA RISES 15% IN Q1 FY26 -

- India recorded a 15% rise in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during April–June FY26, with inflows reaching USD 18.62 billion compared to USD 16.17 billion in the same period last year. The United States emerged as the largest source of FDI, nearly tripling its investments despite tariff disputes.

**Key FDI Highlights (Apr–June FY26)**

- **FDI Inflows:** USD 18.62 billion (15% rise YoY).
- Total FDI (equity + reinvested earnings + other capital): USD 25.2 billion, up from USD 22.5 billion in Q1 FY25.
- **Previous Trend:** In the March 2024-25 quarter, FDI inflows had declined by 24.5% year-on-year.

Top Sources of FDI

- **United States:** USD 5.61 billion (vs. USD 1.5 bn last year).
- **Singapore:** USD 4.59 billion.
- **Mauritius:** USD 2.08 billion.
- **Cyprus:** USD 1.1 billion.
- **UAE:** USD 1 billion.
- **Other contributors:** Cayman Islands, Netherlands, Japan, and Germany.

MAKE IN INDIA MARKS 11 YEARS OF ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION -

- On September 25, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Nation marked the 11th anniversary of the Make in India initiative, reflecting on its contributions to India's economic resilience and self-reliance. Launched on the same day in 2014, Make in India aimed to position India as a global manufacturing hub, boost entrepreneurship, and reduce dependency on imports.

**Why Make in India Was Launched**

- When launched in 2014, Make in India had three key objectives,
- Increase the share of manufacturing in GDP from around 16% to 25%
- Create 100 million jobs in the manufacturing sector by 2022
- Attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and improve ease of doing business
- The initiative targeted 25 priority sectors, including automobiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, defence manufacturing, and textiles.

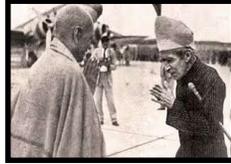
Achievements Over the Past 11 Years

- Manufacturing and Exports Growth
- Despite global disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic, India's manufacturing sector has shown resilience:
- India's merchandise exports crossed \$450 billion in FY2024, with engineering goods, electronics, and chemicals leading the growth.
- The PLI (Production-Linked Incentive) schemes, introduced under Make in India's broader umbrella, have attracted investments across electronics, semiconductors, and pharma.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

OPERATION POLO -

- The 77th anniversary of Operation Polo, marked on 13 September 2025, recalls the decisive military campaign that integrated Hyderabad into the Indian Union. This brief but decisive operation ended the Nizam's bid for independence and shaped India's territorial unity soon after independence.

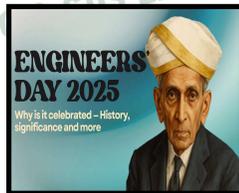


Background

- At independence in 1947, Hyderabad was one of the largest princely states. Ruled by the Muslim Nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan, it covered over 80,000 square miles with a population of about 16 million. The majority were Hindus speaking Telugu, Kannada, and Marathi. The Nizam sought to remain independent rather than join India or Pakistan, a stance that alarmed Indian leaders. Hyderabad's central location meant its independence could disrupt national unity.

ENGINEERS DAY 2025: CELEBRATING INNOVATION & SIR M. VISVESVARAYA -

- Engineers Day 2025 will be observed across India on 15 September, paying tribute to the unparalleled contributions of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, one of the nation's most respected engineers. Marking his 164th birth anniversary, the day honours the engineering community's vital role in shaping the nation's infrastructure, technology, and future. The 2025 celebrations are anchored in the theme "**Deep Tech & Engineering Excellence: Driving India's Techade.**" reflecting the country's ambition to lead the next decade of global tech innovation.



National Engineers Day 2025 & Why Observed on 15th September?

- The date marks the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, born in Muddenahalli, Karnataka, on 15 September 1861. A pioneer in civil engineering, Visvesvaraya's contributions to dam construction, flood management, and industrial development have had lasting national impact. He was awarded Bharat Ratna in 1955, India's highest civilian honour, for his work in engineering and public service.
- India first observed Engineers Day in 1967, and it has since become a day to recognize engineering innovation and inspire future generations.

Engineers Day 2025 Theme

- The official theme for the 58th Engineers Day is: "Deep Tech & Engineering Excellence: Driving India's Techade"
- Selected by the Institution of Engineers India (IEI), this theme highlights the vital role of deep technologies—including AI, quantum computing, robotics, advanced materials, and space engineering—in powering India's transformation into a global tech leader.
- It encourages professionals and students to adopt cutting-edge tools while staying rooted in socially impactful, sustainable innovation.

WHY HINDI DIWAS IS CELEBRATED? HOW IT IS CELEBRATED -

- Every year, September 14 is celebrated as Hindi Diwas in India. It marks the day in 1949 when the Constituent Assembly decided that Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, would be the official language of the Union Government. Since 1953, this day has been observed to highlight the importance of Hindi and promote its use across the country.



History of Hindi Diwas

- In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi first suggested Hindi as the language of the people at the Hindi Literature Conference.

- On 14 September 1949, the Constituent Assembly formally declared Hindi as the official language under Article 343 of the Constitution.
- The date was also the 50th birth anniversary of Vyohar Rajendra Singh, a respected Hindi scholar.
- To honor this decision, Hindi Diwas began in 1953 and has been celebrated every year since then.

INDIA–SRI LANKA FISHING DISPUTE AND WAY FORWARD -

- The India–Sri Lanka fishing dispute highlights the need for a “humane approach” that balances fishing livelihoods with ecological conservation in the Palk Strait and around Katchatheevu island.



What is the India–Sri Lanka Fishing Dispute?

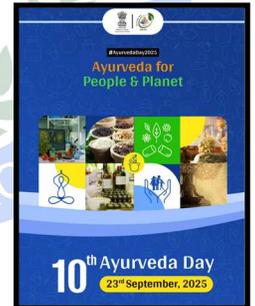
- **Location:** The dispute centers around the Palk Strait, the narrow body of water separating Tamil Nadu (India) and the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Palk Strait connects the Palk Bay to the Bay of Bengal.
- **Katchatheevu is a tiny, uninhabited islet in the Palk Strait. The dispute concerns this 285-acre island, which was ceded to Sri Lanka under the 1974 Maritime Boundary Agreement.**
- While sovereignty is legally settled in Sri Lanka’s favour, Indian fishermen are allowed to visit the islet for drying nets and for religious purposes.
- Fishing rights remain a separate matter governed by historic practice, international law (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982), and bilateral agreements.
- **Communities involved:** Traditional Tamil Nadu fishers and Sri Lanka’s Northern Province fishers have shared these waters for centuries.
- **Key conflict:** Indian mechanised trawlers enter Sri Lankan waters, engaging in bottom trawling, which is

banned in Sri Lanka since 2017. This damages coral reefs, shrimp habitats, and depletes fish stocks.

- Small-scale artisanal fishers struggle to survive as mechanised trawlers pursue commercial profit, often damaging shared marine resources.
- The conflict is thus both cross-border (India–Sri Lanka) and intra-community (artisanal vs trawler operators in Tamil Nadu).
- **High Seas Issues:** Due to depleted fish stocks, Indian fishermen are increasingly venturing into the High Seas, leading to arrests in Maldivian waters and by the British Navy near Diego Garcia for allegedly crossing maritime boundaries.

NATIONAL AYURVEDA DAY 2025 -

- The 10th National Ayurveda Day was celebrated in 2025 at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa. The event marked a decade of efforts to promote Ayurveda as a holistic health system. Dignitaries including the Governor of Goa, Chief Minister of Goa, and Union Ministers participated. The theme, Ayurveda for People and Planet, aligned with global sustainability goals and brought into light Ayurveda’s growing global influence.



Global Recognition and Expansion

- Ayurveda has expanded beyond India to over 150 countries. It is now recognised as a comprehensive healthcare system rather than just an alternative therapy. The celebration of Ayurveda Day worldwide reflects this growth. The use of digital platforms such as the NAMASTE portal and Ayush HMIS is increasing accessibility and supporting evidence-based practices.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

SUSHILA KARKI: NEPAL'S FIRST FEMALE PM -

- Sushila Karki appointed as Nepal's first female Prime Minister, after Gen Z-led protests toppled KP Sharma Oli's government.
- She was chosen via Discord public vote to lead the transitional government, gaining support of both youth & traditional parties.
- Nepal's stability is crucial for India due to open borders, trade, Gorkha recruitment, hydropower & China factor.



About Sushila Karki

- **Born:** 07 June 1952, Biratnagar.
- **Education:** Master's (Banaras Hindu University, India), LL.B. (Tribhuvan University, 1978).

Career milestones:

- Practised law since 1979; Bar leadership roles.
- **2009:** Supreme Court Justice.
- **2016:** First woman Chief Justice of Nepal, known for anti-corruption verdicts & judicial independence
- Faced 2017 impeachment attempt (political retaliation).
- **Reputation:** Integrity, Gandhian lifestyle, anti-corruption stance.
- **Significance:** First woman to hold both top judicial & executive posts in Nepal.

NATIONAL TEACHERS 'AWARDS 2025: 45 TEACHERS SELECTED ACROSS INDIA -

- The Ministry of Education has announced the winners of the National Teachers' Awards 2025. A total of 45 teachers from across the country have been selected for their remarkable contribution to school education. These awards will be presented on September 5, celebrated as Teachers' Day in India.

National Teacher's Day Awards 2025

- The award ceremony will be held on September 5, 2025, as part of the Teachers' Day celebrations. Every year, the Ministry of Education organizes this event to acknowledge the nation's best educators.

How were the Teacher Selected?

- The Ministry stated that the teachers were chosen through a transparent three-stage online process at the district, state, and national levels. The selection was based on their innovative teaching methods, dedication, and role in improving the quality of education.
- **Total Awardees:** 45 teachers
- **Male Teachers:** 24
- **Female Teachers:** 21
- **Representation:** 27 states, 7 union territories, and 6 national-level organizations



RAJIT PUNHANI APPOINTED CEO OF FSSAI -

- Shri Rajit Punhani, a 1991-batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre, officially took charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on 1st September 2025.
- **His appointment marks a major administrative transition at a time when India is intensifying its focus on food safety, public health, and regulatory modernization.**



RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD -

- The Foundation to Educate Girls Globally, known as Educate Girls, received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2025. It is the first Indian organisation to be honoured with this prize.
- The award recognises their efforts to fight cultural stereotypes by educating girls and young women. The organisation empowers them with skills and confidence to overcome illiteracy and realise their potential. Alongside Educate Girls, Shaahina Ali from the



Maldives and Flaviano Antonio L Villanueva were also recipients for their public service contributions.

About the Ramon Magsaysay Award

- Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia’s equivalent to the Nobel Prize.
- It honours outstanding leadership and community service across Asia.
- The award was created by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Philippine government.
- Winners are announced annually on August 31, the birth anniversary of former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay.
- A formal ceremony is held in Manila each November to present the medallion and certificate.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

- NDA candidate C.P. Radhakrishnan won the Vice-Presidential election on September 9, 2025, securing 452 votes against Opposition nominee B. Sudershan Reddy, who received 300 votes.

About the Vice-President of India

- **Constitutional Provision:** The office of the Vice-President is provided under Article 63 of the Constitution.
- **Position:** Holds the second-highest constitutional office after the President of India.

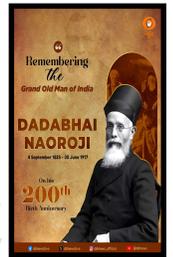
Powers and Functions of the Vice-President

- Ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- Presides over Rajya Sabha proceedings with powers similar to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Draws salary and allowances in this capacity.
- Holds the authority to cast a decisive vote in case of a tie.
- Acting as the President of India: Performs the duties of the President when:
 - The office of President falls vacant due to resignation, impeachment, death, or any other reason (for a maximum of six months, until a new President is elected).
 - The President is temporarily unable to discharge duties due to absence, illness, or other causes.
 - During this period, the Vice-President does not act as Chairman of Rajya Sabha; those duties are performed by the Deputy Chairman.

- When functioning as President, the Vice-President receives the salary and allowances of the President, not those of the Rajya Sabha Chairman.
- **Succession in Rajya Sabha:** In case of the Vice-President’s resignation, removal, or death, the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha discharges the functions of the Chairman.

200TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DADABHAI NAOROJI -

- On 4 September 2025, the nation paid tribute to Dadabhai Naoroji, remembered as the “Grand Old Man of India” and pioneer socialist, on his 200th birth anniversary.



Early Life and Career of Dadabhai Naoroji

- **Birth & Background:** Born on September 4, 1825, in Bombay (Mumbai) into a priestly Parsi family.
- **Education:** Graduated from Elphinstone College; earned the Clare Scholarship and became the first Indian professor at Elphinstone College in 1845.
- **Professional Journey:** Moved to London, joined Cama & Co., and established his own firm, Naoroji & Co., in 1859.
- **Academic Role:** Served as Professor of Gujarati at University College London.

Political Contributions

- **Indian National Congress:** Served as President thrice— 1886 (Calcutta), 1893 (Lahore), 1906 (Calcutta, where he declared the demand for Swaraj).
- **Moderate leader:** Advocated constitutional and peaceful methods like petitions, prayers, and protests.
- **East India Association (1867):** Founded in London to highlight Indian grievances before the British public.
- **First Indian MP (1892):** Represented Finsbury Central in the British Parliament, raising issues of taxation, administrative reforms, and Indian representation.

JAPAN PM SHIGERU ISHIBA RESIGNS AFTER ELECTION DEFEAT -

- In a significant political development, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced his resignation on September 7, 2025, just weeks after his party’s historic

electoral defeat in the July polls. Ishiba's departure as President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) comes less than a year after he took office, plunging Japan into a phase of renewed political uncertainty.



The Context Behind the Resignation

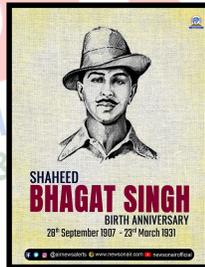
- The decision follows growing pressure from within the Liberal Democratic Party, after the ruling coalition, under Ishiba's leadership, suffered its worst electoral setback in decades. Initially resistant to calls for resignation, Ishiba had cited the need to oversee the implementation of a crucial Japan-US tariff agreement as his priority.

118TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BHAGAT SINGH -

- The nation paid homage to revolutionary Bhagat Singh on his 118th birth anniversary on 28th September, 2025.

What are Key Facts Related to Bhagat Singh?

- **Early Life:** Bhagat Singh, born on 28th September 1907 in Banga, Punjab (now Pakistan), came from a Sikh family active in the freedom struggle.
- His father Kishan Singh and uncle Ajit Singh were notable revolutionaries, with his uncle deported to Mandalay and later associated with the San Francisco-based Ghadar Party.
- **Formative Experiences:** At the age of 12, Bhagat Singh witnessed the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, shaping his resolve for independence. He later joined National College, Lahore, founded by Lala Lajpat Rai, where he was exposed to Swadeshi and revolutionary ideas.
- **Revolutionary Politics:** In 1924, Bhagat Singh joined the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), which in 1928 became the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).



- In 1926, he founded the Naujawan Bharat Sabha to mobilize youth for the freedom movement.
- In 1929, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw low-intensity bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly to protest the Public Safety Bill (suppressing political activities and deporting individuals) and the Trade Dispute Bill (curbing workers' right to strike).
- **Trial, and Execution:** Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were convicted in the Lahore Conspiracy Case (1928), which involved the murder of British police officer J.P. Saunders in Lahore, carried out to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- All three were hanged on 23rd March 1931 in Lahore Central Jail.

CENTRE EXTENDS GENERAL ANIL CHAUHAN'S TENURE AS CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF TILL 2026 -

- In a significant development aimed at ensuring continuity and stability in India's military leadership, the Central government has extended the tenure of General Anil Chauhan as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The decision, announced on September 24, 2025, allows General Chauhan to continue in the crucial post till May 30, 2026, or until further orders. This extension reaffirms the government's focus on strengthening jointness, coordination, and modernization across the three armed forces.



Background on General Anil Chauhan

- General Anil Chauhan is India's second Chief of Defence Staff, succeeding General Bipin Rawat.
- He was appointed as CDS in September 2022.
- As CDS, he also serves as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs (DMA) under the Ministry of Defence.
- General Chauhan is a veteran officer with decades of experience in strategic planning, operational command, and defence modernization.

PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

SELF-HELP GROUPS -

- Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are driving rural empowerment through financial inclusion, women's leadership, and entry into non-traditional sectors like fuel retail, transport, and solar power as seen in Telangana's Indira Mahila Shakti (IMS).



About Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

- **Definition:** Informal associations of 10–20 members, largely women, pooling savings and enabling access to formal credit.
- It represents voluntary association of people, usually from similar socio-economic backgrounds.
- **Scale:** With over 90.9 lakh SHGs covering 10.05 crore women households (as on January 2025) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), SHGs now form the largest community institution network in the world.

Integration with Government Schemes:

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** SHG members involved as mates, social auditors, and project implementing agencies.
- Other departments (Rural Development, Women & Child, Agriculture) also integrate SHGs for livelihood projects.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONSTITUTIONAL BODY AND STATUTORY BODY? -

- In India, several important institutions work to maintain democracy, transparency, and good governance. These institutions are mainly of two types – Constitutional Bodies and Statutory Bodies. While both perform crucial roles, they are created in different ways and have different levels of authority. Understanding the difference between them is very important for general knowledge as well as for competitive exam preparation.

What is a Constitutional Body?

- A Constitutional Body is an organization that is directly mentioned and created by the Constitution of India. Its powers, functions, and structure are clearly written in the Constitution itself.
- These bodies are permanent in nature.
- Any change in their powers or structure requires a constitutional amendment, which is a long and difficult process.
- They enjoy higher autonomy since they are protected by the Constitution.
- **Examples of Constitutional Bodies**
- **Election Commission of India (ECI):** Established under Article 324 to conduct free and fair elections.
- **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):** Created under Article 148 to audit government expenditure.
- **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):** Established under Article 315 for recruitment to civil services.
- **Finance Commission:** Established under Article 280 to distribute financial resources between the Union and States.

What is a Statutory Body?

- A Statutory Body is created by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature. Unlike Constitutional Bodies, these are not mentioned in the Constitution. Instead, they exist because of specific laws.
- Their powers and functions are defined by the enabling Act.
- They can be changed, modified, or abolished by simply passing another law.
- They usually work in specialized areas such as finance, environment, or human rights.

Examples of Statutory Body

- **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):** Established under the Human Rights Act, 1993.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):** Created under the RBI Act, 1934; India's central bank.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):**

Established under the SEBI Act, 1992 to regulate the securities market.

- **University Grants Commission (UGC):** Set up under the UGC Act, 1956 to regulate higher education.

SWACHHATA HI SEVA 2025 -

- The Government of India launched the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 campaign, conducting cleanliness drives nationwide.
- Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 continues the momentum of the Swachh Bharat Mission (2014), reinforcing India’s commitment to sanitation and hygiene.



- SHS 2025 theme, “Swachhotsav”, blends the spirit of festive celebrations with the responsibility of cleanliness.
- The campaign focuses on voluntarism, collective action, and public participation, promoting the three R’s – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to engage citizens in maintaining clean surroundings.

Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM)

- **Launch & Objective:** SBM (Grameen) and SBM (Urban) were launched in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve sanitation in rural and urban India.

SBM-Grameen:

- **Phase I (2014-2019):** Achieved 100% sanitation coverage, over 10 crore household toilets, and declared all villages ODF.
- **Phase II (2020-2025/26):** Focuses on sustaining ODF, solid and liquid waste management, and transforming villages to ODF Plus Model.

SBM-Urban (SBM-U):

- **Phase I (2014-2021):** Targeted ODF cities and 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste across 4,041 statutory towns.
- **Phase II / SBM-U 2.0 (2021-2026):** Aims for “Garbage Free” cities, institutionalizing Swachh behavior, and contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

- **Impact:** SBM has significantly improved sanitation, hygiene, and waste management infrastructure, contributing to public health, quality of life, and urban-rural transformation.

2ND ANNIVERSARY PM VISHWAKARMA YOJANA -

- The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) organised a ‘PM Vishwakarma and National SC-ST Hub Mega Conclave’ in Bodh Gaya, Bihar to mark the 2nd anniversary of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- **About:** Launched on 17th September 2023, it is a Central Sector Scheme offering comprehensive support to traditional artisans and craftspeople involved in manual and tool-based work.
- **Implementation:** The scheme will be jointly implemented by the Union Ministries of MSME, Skill Development, and Finance.
- **Eligibility:** The applicant must be an artisan or craftsman in one of the 18 traditional trades in the unorganized sector, self-employed, above 18 years, and actively working at the time of registration.
- **The 18 eligible trades include Carpenter, Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith, Locksmith, Goldsmith, Potter among others.**
- **Exclusion:** Beneficiaries who have availed loans under similar credit-based schemes of the Centre or State for self-employment or business development in the past 5 years.
- **Achievements:** Over two years, 23 lakh people received free skill training, 8 lakh toolkits were provided, and ₹4,100 crore in collateral-free loans were disbursed.

ELECTION COMMISSION REVAMPS EVM BALLOT PAPER DESIGN -

- In a major step toward improving the voting experience and ballot clarity, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced a revision in the design of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) Ballot Papers. The updated

guidelines focus on enhanced visibility, uniformity, and readability to benefit voters across India.

- This change is part of a broader set of 28 initiatives introduced by the Election Commission in the past six months, aimed at streamlining electoral processes and making voting more accessible and user-friendly. For government exam aspirants, this update is important under topics like electoral reforms, EVMs, and governance improvements.

What Has Changed in the EVM Ballot Paper Design?

- The Election Commission has revised the rules under the Conduct of Elections Rules to bring consistency and better design standards to the EVM Ballot Paper used during elections.

Key Features of the New Design

- **Coloured Candidate Photographs:** Candidate photos will now be printed in colour, enhancing visual identification for voters.
- **Enhanced Photo Space:** The candidate's face will occupy three-fourths of the photo space, making it easier to recognize individuals.
- **Uniform Font and Style:** Names of all candidates, including the NOTA (None of the Above) option, will appear in the same font type and size, ensuring standardized presentation and easy readability.
- **Layout for Candidates:** A maximum of 15 candidates will be displayed on a single sheet of the ballot paper.
- **Placement of NOTA:** The NOTA option will always appear after the last candidate's name, clearly visible at the end of the list.

UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME (UPS) -

- The government has given central government employees the option to switch to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) by 30th September 2025. However, the adoption has been slow, with only 40,000 out of 23.94 lakh eligible employees opting for the UPS so far.



What is the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)?

- **About:** The UPS, recommended by the T.V. Somanathan committee (2023) to review the National Pension System (NPS), was announced in August 2024 and came into effect on 1st April 2025 as an optional pension scheme for Central Government employees under the NPS.
- It provides assured, inflation-indexed, and adequate retirement benefits, addressing concerns related to longevity protection and pension predictability.
- UPS is regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), and is available to both serving and retired employees, subject to specific conditions.

Eligibility:

- Central Government employees under NPS as on 1st April 2025.
- New recruits joining Central Government service on or after 1st April 2025.
- Retired NPS subscribers who superannuated or retired on or before 31st March 2025, with at least 10 years of qualifying service, provided retirement was not a penalty under Fundamental Rules (FR) 56(j) (relates to the premature retirement of government servant).
- Legally wedded spouse of a deceased NPS subscriber (who retired before opting for UPS).
- Contributions under UPS

Employee Contribution: 10% of Basic Pay + Dearness Allowance (DA).

- **Government Contribution:** Matching 10% of Basic Pay + DA.
- **Additional Government Contribution (Pool Corpus):** Around 8.5% of Basic Pay + DA, used to ensure assured payouts.
- **PRAN (Permanent Retirement Account Number):** All contributions and transactions are recorded under the employee's PRAN account.

MIZORAM'S FIRST RAILWAY LINE -

- The inauguration of Mizoram's first railway line marks a historic milestone in India's northeastern infrastructure development. The Bairabi-Sairang broad-gauge railway,

spanning 51.38 km, was opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2025. This project is a key enabler of the government's Act East Policy and enhances connectivity for the region's capital, Aizawl, linking it directly to India's vast railway network for the first time.



Project Overview

- The railway line was sanctioned in 2008-09 and construction began in 2015. It cost approximately Rs 8,070 crore. The route includes 45 tunnels, 55 major bridges, and 87 minor bridges. About 54% of the alignment runs through tunnels and bridges, reflecting the difficult terrain.
- Bridge No. 144 near Sairang stands as the tallest pier railway bridge in India at 114 metres. Engineers faced complex Himalayan geology, including the need to stabilise loose sand into rock for tunnel safety.

PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA EXPANDS LPG CONNECTIONS -

- The Union Government in September 2025 approved the release of 25 lakh additional LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for the financial year 2025-26. This move raises the total LPG connections distributed under the scheme to 10.58 crore since its launch in 2016. The scheme aims to provide clean cooking fuel to women from economically weaker households without upfront costs.

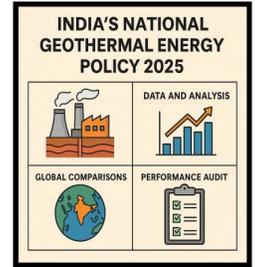


Overview of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- PMUY was launched in 2016 to replace traditional cooking fuels like firewood and coal with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). It targets women from poor households, providing them free LPG connections. The government and oil marketing companies (OMCs) bear the cost of installation, first refill, stove, hose, and regulator. This initiative aims to improve health, reduce pollution, and empower women.

NATIONAL POLICY ON GEOTHERMAL ENERGY 2025 -

- India has taken step towards clean energy by notifying the National Policy on Geothermal Energy in 2025. This policy aims to tap into the country's largely unexplored geothermal resources. It aligns with India's commitment to achieve its Net Zero target by 2070. The policy provides a framework to promote exploration, development, and utilisation of geothermal energy for power generation and direct applications.



Overview

- The policy was notified by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). It focuses on using geothermal energy as a reliable and clean source. The policy encourages research, innovation, and international collaboration. It also promotes inter-ministerial coordination to support geothermal projects. The goal is to integrate geothermal energy with India's broader renewable energy targets.

Applications of Geothermal Energy

- Geothermal energy can be used beyond electricity generation. The policy marks its use in district heating, agriculture, aquaculture, and space cooling through Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs). Other applications include greenhouse farming, tourism, desalination, and cold storage. These uses can reduce dependence on fossil fuels and support sustainable development.

INDIA'S FIRST BAMBOO-BASED ETHANOL PLANT -

- India recently inaugurated its first bamboo-based bioethanol plant in Golaghat, Assam. This milestone marks boost to the country's green energy ambitions and industrial growth. The plant will source bamboo from Assam and northeastern states, benefiting farmers and tribal communities. Alongside, a polypropylene plant foundation was laid to strengthen regional manufacturing.

These developments reflect India's shift towards renewable energy and self-reliance.

Significance

- **Bioethanol is a renewable, high-octane biofuel produced from biomass such as bamboo, sugarcane, and grains. Bamboo offers a sustainable raw material due to its fast growth and wide availability in the Northeast. The new plant will process about 5 lakh tonnes of bamboo annually. This development supports India's goal to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and promote cleaner energy sources.**



- **Boiling Point:** 78.37 °C
- Soluble in water, making it highly versatile in applications.

Major Uses of Ethanol

1. Alcoholic Beverages
2. Fuel and Energy
3. Industrial Applications
4. Medical and Sanitation

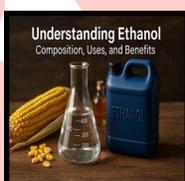
INDIA'S FIRST VULTURE KNOWLEDGE PORTAL LAUNCHED IN ASSAM -

- In a landmark initiative for wildlife conservation, India's first online vulture knowledge portal was launched on September 2, 2025, in Assam, coinciding with International Vulture Awareness Day. Developed by students and researchers of Assam, the platform is designed as a knowledge hub and outreach tool to provide scientific resources, raise awareness, and engage both experts and local communities in vulture conservation efforts.



UNDERSTANDING ETHANOL: COMPOSITION, USES, AND BENEFITS

- Ethanol, commonly known as ethyl alcohol, is one of the most widely used alcohols in the world. From being a key ingredient in alcoholic beverages to playing a vital role in industries and renewable energy, ethanol has become an important compound in modern life. For government job aspirants and curious readers, understanding ethanol's composition, uses, and benefits is highly relevant, especially as questions related to energy, health, and industry often appear in exams.



The Vulture Portal: A First-of-Its-Kind Resource

- The portal, titled The Vulture Network, is a cloud-based platform offering,
- Scientific data on vulture species and conservation status
- Freely downloadable campaign materials for awareness drives
- Tools to support citizen science initiatives
- Resources tailored for students, researchers, and conservationists
- **The project is supported by We Foundation India, in collaboration with Gauhati University's Department of Zoology, along with the Assam Bird Monitoring Network, LASA Foundation, Surksha Samitee, and contributions from individual conservationists.**

What is Ethanol?

- Ethanol is a simple alcohol with the chemical formula C_2H_5OH . It is a clear, colorless, and volatile liquid with a distinct odor. Ethanol is naturally produced through the fermentation of sugars by yeast, making it one of the oldest known alcohols to humankind.

Key Properties of Ethanol

- **Chemical Formula:** C_2H_5OH
- **Molecular Weight:** 46.07 g/mol

REPORTS & INDICES

INDIA ADDS 7 NATURAL SITES TO UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST -

- India has added seven natural sites to UNESCO’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites (WHS), taking its total to 69 (49 cultural, 17 natural, and 3 mixed properties). This highlights the country’s commitment to preserving its rich natural and cultural heritage.

What is UNESCO’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites?

- **About:** It is the first step toward UNESCO World Heritage nomination. Countries identify cultural or natural sites of outstanding universal value and submit them to UNESCO at least a year before nomination.
- Only sites on the Tentative List can be considered for full inscription. In India, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) compiles and submits these nominations.

India’s Newly Added Sites:

- **Deccan Traps at Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra :** Home to some of the best-preserved and studied lava flows in the world, these sites form part of the massive Deccan Traps and are located within the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary (already a UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- **Geological Heritage of St. Mary’s Island Cluster, Karnataka:** Known for its rare columnar basaltic rock formations, this island cluster dates back to the Late Cretaceous period (101 to 66 million years ago).
- **Meghalayan Age Caves, Meghalaya:** The stunning cave systems of Meghalaya, particularly the Mawmluh Cave, serve as the global reference point for the Meghalayan Age in the Holocene Epoch (last 11,000 years of the Earth’s history till date), reflecting significant climate and geological transitions.
- **Naga Hill Ophiolite, Nagaland:** A rare exposure to ophiolite rocks of , these hills represent oceanic crust uplifted onto continental plates (offering deep insights into tectonic processes and mid-ocean ridge dynamics).

- **Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Hills), Andhra Pradesh:** Red sand formations near Visakhapatnam showcase unique paleo-climatic and coastal geomorphological features that reveal Earth’s climatic history and dynamic evolution.
- Erra Matti Dibbalu was declared a GeoHeritage Monument by Geological Survey of India (GSI) in 2016.
- **Natural Heritage of Tirumala Hills, Andhra Pradesh:** Featuring the Eoparchaean Unconformity and the iconic Silathoranam (Natural Arch), this site holds immense geological significance, representing over 1.5 billion years of Earth’s history.
- They are part of Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve and Venkateswara National Park.
- **Varkala Cliffs, Kerala:** Cliff along Kerala’s coastline expose the Warkalli Formation of the Mio-Pliocene age, along with natural springs and striking erosional landforms, offering both scientific and touristic value.

INDIA’S URBAN SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES AND SDG 11 PROGRESS -

- India’s ranking in the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025 improved to 99th among 167 countries. Yet, urban sustainability under Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) remains a major challenge. SDG 11 aims for cities that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. India’s progress on key urban indicators has been slow or negative. This marks persistent issues in urban living conditions, infrastructure and governance.



India’s Performance on SDG 11 Indicators

- SDG 11 covers four major urban indicators – slum population proportion, PM 2.5 pollution levels, access to improved piped water, and public transport availability.

- India’s scores for slum population and air pollution have stagnated.
- Access to piped water declined in 2025.
- Only about 65% of urban households had improved piped water in 2022.
- Water supply is irregular and often of poor quality. For example, Mumbai’s average water supply lasts just over five hours daily.
- Many urban households treat water before use, indicating contamination risks.

BLOOMBERG BILLIONAIRES INDEX 2025: LARRY ELLISON BRIEFLY SURPASSES ELON MUSK AS WORLD’S RICHEST -

- In a dramatic turn of events, Oracle co-founder and Chief Technology Officer Larry Ellison briefly overtook Tesla CEO Elon Musk to become the world’s richest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index (September 11, 2025). Ellison’s wealth skyrocketed by a record \$89 billion in a single day, driven by Oracle’s stellar quarterly earnings report. Although Musk reclaimed the top spot the next morning by a slim margin, Ellison’s meteoric rise has reshaped the billionaire rankings landscape.



Key Highlights of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index (September 2025)

- Larry Ellison’s Surge
- Net worth surged to \$383.2 billion after Oracle’s stock price jumped on positive earnings.
- Achieved the largest single-day wealth gain ever recorded (\$89 billion).
- Momentarily surpassed Elon Musk to become the world’s richest.
- Elon Musk’s Status
- Maintained his long-held position as world’s richest person, with a net worth of \$384 billion.
- First crossed the \$400 billion mark last year.
- Has held the top spot for 16 consecutive months.

PM MODI LAUNCHES ‘GYAN BHARATAM PORTAL ’TO BOOST MANUSCRIPT DIGITISATION -

- In a landmark step towards preserving India’s ancient knowledge systems, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12th September 2025 launched the ‘Gyan Bharatam Portal’, a dedicated digital platform for manuscript digitisation, preservation, and public access. The launch took place at the International Conference on Gyan Bharatam, held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, underscoring the government’s commitment to reclaiming and safeguarding India’s rich manuscript heritage.



About the Gyan Bharatam Portal

- The Gyan Bharatam Portal has been developed as a national platform with multiple objectives,
- **Digitisation & Preservation:** Identifying, documenting, conserving, and digitising India’s vast manuscript heritage.
- **National Digital Repository:** Creating a centralised digital library accessible to scholars and the public.
- **AI-driven Access:** Leveraging modern technologies like artificial intelligence for search, translation, and annotation of manuscripts.
- **Research & Publication:** Facilitating research, translation, and publication of rare and ancient manuscripts.
- **Capacity Building:** Training scholars, conservators, and institutions in manuscript preservation techniques.
- **Public Participation:** Collaborative programs to involve the wider public in heritage conservation.
- **Global Collaboration:** Establishing international partnerships for knowledge exchange and preservation best practices.

FIRST TFR DIP IN 2 YEARS -

- The Sample Registration Survey (SRS) Statistical Report 2023, released by the Office of the Registrar General of India, reveals a notable decline in India’s birth rate and fertility trends.

Key Findings of the SRS 2023



- **Demographic Implications:** For the first time in two years, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has dropped, raising significant demographic and policy implications.
- **Crude Birth Rate (CBR):** Declined from 19.1 (2022) to 18.4 (2023) per 1,000 population.
- **Highest CBR:** Bihar (25.8).
- **Lowest CBR:** Tamil Nadu (12).
- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** Fell to 1.9 in 2023, down from 2.0 in 2021 and 2022.
- **Highest TFR:** Bihar (2.8), followed by Uttar Pradesh (2.6), Madhya Pradesh (2.4), Rajasthan (2.3), and Chhattisgarh (2.2).
- **Lowest TFR:** Delhi (1.2), West Bengal (1.3), Tamil Nadu (1.3), Maharashtra (1.4).
- **Crude Death Rate (CDR):** Reduced from 6.8 (2022) to 6.4 (2023).
- **Highest CDR:** Odisha (8.3).
- **Lowest CDR:** Delhi (4.1).
- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** National IMR stands at 25 per 1,000 live births, a one-point decline from 2022 and a 7-point fall over the last five years.
- **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):** Stood at 917 females per 1,000 males in 2023, improving by three points over the previous year.
- **SRB:** Highest in Chhattisgarh (974) and Kerala (971); lowest in Uttarakhand (868). Bihar's SRB declined from 964 (2020) to 897 (2023).
- **Ageing Population:** Elderly proportion rose to 9.7% in 2023, up by 0.7 percentage points in one year.
- **Elderly Population Share:** Highest in Kerala (15%), lowest in Assam, Delhi, and Jharkhand (~7.6–7.7%).



- For the seventh year in a row, IIT-Madras secured the top position in the overall category, followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru and IIT-Mumbai. The 10th edition of the rankings highlighted excellence across 17 categories, including engineering, management, law, medicine, agriculture, research, and sustainable development.



Highlights of NIRF Rankings 2025

- **Top Overall Institutions**
- **1st Place:** IIT-Madras
- **2nd Place:** IISc Bengaluru
- **3rd Place:** IIT-Mumbai

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2025 -

- The 2025 Global Peace Index (GPI) by the Institute for Economics & Peace offers a hopeful view amid global turmoil. It ranks countries based on peace, governance, social trust, and security. Iceland tops the list for the 18th consecutive year. Other peaceful nations include Ireland, New Zealand, and Switzerland. Singapore stands out as Asia's sole representative in the top 10. India ranks 115th, reflecting ongoing challenges.

Iceland

- Iceland remains the world's most peaceful country since 2008. Low crime and minimal militarisation define its society. Police do not carry firearms, denoting public safety and trust. Community bonds are strong. Everyday life reflects calmness, with public spaces safe enough for children to be unattended.

Other Countries

- Austria is fourth, supported by strong governance and low crime.
- Switzerland holds fifth place, maintaining neutrality and effective social policies.
- Singapore ranks sixth and is Asia's only top 10 country. Its strict laws and efficient governance keep crime rates very low.
- Portugal (7th) is known for warm culture and low crime.

IIT-MADRAS TOPS NIRF RANKINGS 2025 FOR SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR -

- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, released by the Ministry of Education on September 4, has once again reaffirmed IIT-Madras as India's leading educational institution.



- Denmark (8th) impresses with welfare and inclusive policies.
- Slovenia (9th) achieves stability through social harmony.
- Finland (10th) combines education, equality, and transparent governance to ensure peace.

India's Position and Challenges

- India is placed 115th in 2025.
- Regional disputes, urban crime, and internal tensions impact its peace ranking.
- Despite rich cultural diversity, India faces hurdles in achieving higher safety and harmony.

GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2025 -

- India has climbed to the 38th position among 139 economies in the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, improving from 48th place in 2020.



Global Innovation Index

- The Global Innovation Index (GII), introduced in 2007, was developed to provide comprehensive metrics and methodologies for assessing the wide spectrum of innovations across economies.
- **Published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the GII has become a key benchmark for evaluating an economy's innovation ecosystem.**
- Recognized by the UN General Assembly as an authoritative reference for shaping Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policies.

What are the Key Highlights of the GII 2025?

- **India Related Findings:** India rose from 81st (2015) to 38th (2025), ranking 1st among lower-middle-income economies and in Central & Southern Asia.

- Its strengths are Knowledge & Technology Outputs (22) and Market Sophistication (38); weaknesses lie in Business Sophistication (64), Infrastructure (61), and Institutions (58).

- **Top-Ranked Economies:** The top five most innovative economies are Switzerland (1st), Sweden (2nd), USA (3rd), South Korea (4th), and Singapore (5th). China ranked in the top 10 for the first time, securing the 10th position.

- **Top Innovation Clusters:** The world's top innovation clusters are Shenzhen–Hong Kong–Guangzhou (1st) in China and Hong Kong, and Tokyo–Yokohama (2nd) in Japan.

- **Positive Socioeconomic Impact:** Labor productivity rose 2.5% in 2024, global life expectancy reached 73 years, and extreme poverty fell to 817 million, under half of 2004 levels.

- **Rapid Technological Advancement:** In 2024, technology advanced with notable gains in supercomputing efficiency and battery prices. However, adoption slowed, progress in wind power and genome sequencing lagged, and novel drug development regressed.

What is the Current Status of India's Innovation Landscape?

- **Funding Mechanism:** As per the latest available R&D statistics, India invested 0.65% of GDP in R&D, compared to China (2.43%), Brazil (1.15%), and South Korea (2.5%).

- **Patent Filings:** India now ranks 6th globally in terms of patent applications. Meanwhile, India's patent-to-GDP ratio—a measure of the economic impact of patent activity—grew significantly, from 144 in 2013 to 381 in 2023.

- **Strategic Policy Support:** Programs like Startup India, Make in India, and Production Linked Initiative (PLI) scheme offer foundational support.

DEFENCE

SAMUDRA PRADAKSHINA -

- Defence Minister flagged off ‘Samudra Pradakshina’, the world’s first-ever Tri-service all-women sailing circumnavigation expedition, symbolising Nari Shakti, jointness of Armed Forces, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and India’s maritime vision.
- It builds on India’s earlier circumnavigation milestones by Captain Dilip Donde (2009–10), Commander Abhilash Tomy (2012–13), and the Indian Navy’s Navika Sagar Parikrama (2017–18) and Navika Sagar Parikrama-II (2024–25).
- **Expedition:** The crew, led by Lt Col Anuja Varudkar, consists of 10 women officers who will sail on the indigenously built Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni for 9 months, covering 26,000 nautical miles.
- Their route crosses the Equator twice and rounds the three great Capes (Leeuwin, Horn, and Good Hope), including the challenging Southern Ocean and Drake Passage.
- **They will make international port calls at Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Canada), and Cape Town (South Africa), strengthening India’s maritime diplomacy.**
- It also has a scientific component, with collaboration from the National Institute of Oceanography to study microplastics, marine biodiversity, and ocean health.
- **Global Standards:** The expedition adheres to the World Sailing Speed Record Council, requiring the crossing of all longitudes, Equator crossings and completion of over 21,600 nautical miles under sail alone, without use of canals or powered transit, making it a true test of endurance.



INDIAN ARMY LEADS MAJOR FLOOD RELIEF OPERATIONS 2025 -

- The Indian Army’s Western Command has been at the forefront of extensive Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions in flood-affected

regions of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir. Since mid-August 2025, the Army has executed 82 relief missions, evacuating over 6,000 people and delivering essential supplies to devastated communities. These efforts demonstrate a well-coordinated response to one of the season’s worst natural disasters in northern India.



Scope of Relief Operations

- **The Army deployed 59 columns including 17 Engineer Task Forces to assist flood victims. More than 13,000 people received medical aid including emergency evacuation of critical cases. Supplies such as medicines, water, and 48 tons of rations were delivered through air drops and ground transport. Air assets included Advanced Light Helicopters, MI 17s, Cheetah helicopters, and a Chinook, flying over 250 hours to support relief.**

Coordination and Integrated Approach

- Operations were conducted in close coordination with civil administration, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and State Disaster Response Forces (SDRF). This integrated approach ensured efficient use of resources and timely assistance. The joint effort reflects India’s resilience and unity in crisis management.

INDIA’S MISSION SUDARSHAN CHAKRA AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM -

- India’s Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has made stride by successfully testing an integrated air defence system. This development is part of Mission Sudarshan Chakra, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aimed to be fully operational by 2035.
- The system demonstrated the ability to intercept targets at multiple altitudes and ranges. This marks a major step towards a multi-layered air defence shield combining



legacy and modern weaponry to counter evolving aerial threats.

Recent Developments

- DRDO's recent tests showcased the engagement of three targets simultaneously at different heights and distances. This marks the multi-tiered nature of the system, integrating Indian Air Force and Army air defence capabilities. It reflects India's strategic focus on preparing for future warfare, which is expected to be fought at stand-off distances using advanced technologies.

INDIAN ARMED FORCES JOIN EXERCISE ZAPAD 2025 IN RUSSIA -

- A contingent of the Indian Armed Forces has departed for Russia to participate in the multilateral military exercise ZAPAD 2025, scheduled to be held from September 10 to 16 at the Mulino Training Ground in Nizhny. The exercise underscores India's commitment to deepening military cooperation and enhancing strategic interoperability with global partners.

Composition of the Indian Contingent

- The Indian delegation comprises 65 personnel, distributed as follows,
- 57 from the Indian Army
- 7 from the Indian Air Force
- 1 from the Indian Navy
- The Army component is led by a battalion from the KUMAON Regiment, supported by soldiers from various arms and services, representing a balanced mix of operational capabilities.

EXERCISE MAITREE-XIV -

- The 14th edition of Exercise MAITREE commenced on 1 September 2025 at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya. This bilateral military exercise between India and Thailand runs until 14 September 2025.



It aims to enhance cooperation, interoperability and mutual understanding between the Indian Army and the

Royal Thai Army. The exercise reflects growing defence collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region.

Background

- **Exercise MAITREE began in 2006 as a key military-to-military exchange programme. It promotes joint tactical capabilities and trust. The exercise focuses on counter-terrorism and regional security challenges. Both nations share a commitment to peace, stability and security in South and Southeast Asia.**

Participating Forces

- India is represented by a battalion of the Madras Regiment with 120 personnel. The Madras Regiment is known for expertise in counter-insurgency and jungle warfare. Thailand contributes 53 personnel from the 1st Infantry Battalion, 14th Infantry Brigade. This unit specialises in light infantry tactics and internal security.

L&T, BEL JOIN RACE TO BUILD INDIA'S STEALTH FIGHTER JET -

- India's push for indigenous defense manufacturing took a major leap with the L&T-Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) consortium formally entering the race to develop the country's first 5th-generation stealth fighter jet — the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). This move challenges the longstanding monopoly of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in combat aircraft production and marks a paradigm shift in how India approaches high-end defense platforms. The ₹15,000 crore AMCA programme, developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under DRDO, aims to produce five prototypes of a next-gen stealth jet within the next five years.



What is AMCA?

- The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is envisioned as India's fifth-generation fighter jet, featuring,
 - A. Stealth capabilities
 - B. Supercruise engines
 - C. Internal weapons bay

- D. Sensor fusion
- E. Advanced avionics
- Designed to complement the existing Rafale and Su-30MKI fleets, AMCA will play a crucial role in future Indian Air Force operations.
- The project was formally approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in March 2024, with an initial outlay of ₹15,000 crore.

EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR 2025 -

- Indian Armed Forces personnel are participating in the 19th edition of Exercise Bright Star 2025, which is being held in Egypt.
- **About:** It is a biennial multilateral military exercise, recognized as one of the largest and longest-running tri-service drills in the Middle East–North Africa (MENA) region.
- Hosted by Egypt in partnership with the US since 1980, it has evolved from a bilateral US-Egypt initiative into a full-scale multilateral military exercise.
- **Objective:** It aims to enhance jointness and interoperability among participating nations, promote regional peace, security, and stability, and strengthen multi-domain warfare preparedness through joint training.

Other Key Multilateral Military Exercises Involving India:

Exercise Name	Hosting/Lead Countries (Along with India)
Malabar (Naval)	US, Japan, Australia
MILAN (Nval)	Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and several others
RIMPAC (Naval)	US, Australia, Canada, Japan, India and several others
IBSAMAR (Naval)	Brazil & South Africa

EXERCISE ACHOOK PRAHAR 2025 -

- The Indian Army’s Spear Corps and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) conducted a major joint firepower exercise named Achook Prahar in central Arunachal Pradesh from 25 to 28 August 2025.
- This drill tested their combat readiness and operational

synergy under simulated battlefield conditions. The exercise demonstrated integrated use of mortars, machine guns, rockets, and grenades, denoting the forces’ ability to operate cohesively in high-altitude terrain.



Background

- The ITBP was established in 1962 following the Sino-Indian War to guard India’s border with Tibet. Initially part of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), it became an independent central armed police force under the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2004. Its motto is Shaurya-Dridhata-Karma Nishtha meaning Valour, Determination, and Devotion to Duty. The ITBP is specialised in mountain warfare and operates across a 3,488 km border with China at altitudes from 9,000 to 18,750 feet.

INDIA-US JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS 2025 -

- The 21st edition of the India–USA joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025 commenced in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Scheduled from 1st to 14th September 2025, this exercise involves troops from the Indian Army’s Madras Regiment and the US 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment Bobcats of the Arctic Wolves Brigade Combat Team, 11th Airborne Division.
 - The exercise takes place amid ongoing bilateral trade tensions but marks the continuing strategic defence partnership between the two nations.
- Yudh Abhyas 2025**
- Yudh Abhyas is one of the largest joint military exercises between India and the US.
 - This year’s edition focuses on integrated warfare tactics and high-altitude operations.
 - The two-week event includes training in heliborne operations, mountain warfare, rock craft, casualty evacuation, and combat medical aid.
 - It also emphasises the combined use of artillery, aviation, and electronic warfare systems to enhance operational synergy.

INDIA'S FIRST OVERSEAS DEFENCE FACILITY IN MOROCCO -

- The Defence Minister of India inaugurated Tata Advanced Systems Limited's (TASL) defence manufacturing facility in Morocco and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation with Morocco, marking a historic milestone in India-Morocco defence ties.
- **Significance:** It is the first overseas defence facility by an Indian private company; largest defence manufacturing plant in Morocco.
- The facility supports India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and represents India's Make in India, Make with Friends, Make for the World strategy.
- It strengthens India-Morocco strategic partnership, local capacity, and contributes to regional security.
- Morocco's strategic location as gateway to Africa and Europe enhances export potential and bilateral defence cooperation.
- **Facility Purpose:** Production of Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8, jointly designed by TASL and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The WhAP is an indigenously developed modular combat vehicle offering advanced protection, mobility, and versatility.
- It can be configured as an infantry fighting vehicle, reconnaissance vehicle, command post, mortar carrier, or ambulance, with options for remote weapon stations and anti-tank missiles.



RUSSIA TO COMPLETE S-400 MISSILE SYSTEM DELIVERIES TO INDIA BY 2026 -

- India's long-awaited S-400 missile deal with Russia is heading toward completion, with the final delivery scheduled for 2026. Signed in 2018, the agreement includes five S-400 Triumf air defence systems aimed at significantly strengthening India's airspace defence capabilities. With four systems already delivered, the upcoming final unit underscores the enduring defence

partnership between India and Russia—despite geopolitical tensions and external pressures such as the threat of U.S. sanctions.

What Is the S-400 Deal About?

- India inked a US\$5.43 billion contract with Russia for the procurement of five S-400 Triumf systems, among the most advanced long-range air defence systems globally. The deal was strategic, aimed at countering threats from adversaries across land borders and maritime zones.
- These systems are capable of detecting, tracking, and neutralising multiple airborne targets, including fighter jets, UAVs, cruise missiles, and ballistic threats, at ranges up to 400 km and altitudes up to 30 km.

FAREWELL TO THE MIG-21 -

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) bid farewell to the legendary Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21, marking the end of over six decades of service and celebrating its enduring legacy in India's defence journey.
- **MiG-21:** It is a single-engine, single-seater, multi-role supersonic fighter jet developed by the Soviet Union's Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau. Initially inducted into the Indian Air Force in 1963 as an interceptor, it was later upgraded for ground attack and other fighter roles.
- **Versatility:** known as the "bird of all seasons", the MiG-21 excelled as an interceptor, ground-attack aircraft, frontline air defence jet, and trainer, shaping generations of Indian fighter pilots and shaped India's air strategy.
- **Upgrades & Adaptability:** Evolved into variants like Trishul, Vikram, Badal, and Bison. MiG-21 was continuously upgraded with modern radars, avionics, and weapons.
- **Legacy & Significance:** The MiG-21 symbolized courage, discipline, and patriotism, inspiring platforms like Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and the upcoming Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
- It played decisive roles in the Indo-Pak War (1971), Kargil conflict, Balakot airstrike, and Operation Sindoor.
- However, It is also known as flying coffin due to its high rate of operational losses and crashes throughout its decades-long service.

SPORTS

ANANDKUMAR VELKUMAR CREATES HISTORY WITH GOLD AT WORLD SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 -

- In a landmark moment for Indian sports, Anandkumar Velkumar, a 22-year-old skater from India, scripted history at the 2025 World Speed Skating Championships in China. He clinched gold in the men's 42km marathon, marking India's first-ever world championship title in speed skating.



Anandkumar Velkumar's Medal Tally at the Event

- Velkumar's performance at the ongoing championships has been nothing short of extraordinary. He has so far secured,
- Gold in the 42km marathon
- Gold in the 1000m event, with a record time of 1:24.92
- Bronze in the 500m sprint
- This brings his total medal count to two golds and one bronze, cementing his status as one of the finest speed skaters in the world.

INDIA BEATS SWITZERLAND, QUALIFIES FOR 2026 DAVIS CUP -

- India has scripted a remarkable chapter in its tennis history by defeating ninth-seeded Switzerland 3-1 in their Davis Cup 2025 World Group I tie held at the Swiss Tennis Arena in Biel. This win not only earns India a spot in the 2026 Davis Cup Qualifiers, but also ends a 32-year wait for an away win against a European nation.



Sumit Nagal Seals the Tie

- India's top singles player Sumit Nagal delivered the final blow in the reverse singles match, defeating Henry Bernet in straight sets 6-1, 6-3, sealing the tie for India. His composed and aggressive performance under pressure showcased India's growing confidence on the global tennis stage.

- The Indian team had already built momentum through earlier singles and doubles matches, and Nagal's victory ensured the team crossed the finish line with a 3-1 overall result.

INDIA TO HOST 5TH COAST GUARD SUMMIT IN 2027 -

- **India is set to host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) in Chennai in 2027, reinforcing its leadership in international maritime cooperation. The announcement came during the 4th CGGS, held in Rome, Italy, from 11-12 September 2025, where delegates from 115 countries and international organisations unanimously supported India's proposal.**
- The 2027 Summit will coincide with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), adding national significance to a globally relevant event.



What is the Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS)?

- The CGGS is an international forum that brings together coast guards, maritime safety agencies, and related stakeholders from across the world. It serves as a platform for,
- Discussing emerging maritime security challenges
- Enhancing international cooperation
- Promoting interoperability and information exchange
- Strengthening search and rescue (SAR), marine environmental protection, and law enforcement at sea

NEW DELHI TO HOST 2026 BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS -

- In a major announcement that excites Indian sports fans, New Delhi will host the 2026 Badminton World Championships in August next year, marking the tournament's return to India after 17 years. The Badminton World Federation (BWF) made the declaration during the closing ceremony of the 2025

Championships in Paris, signalling India's growing prominence as a global sporting destination.



infrastructure in India. The championship is being held under the aegis of Asia Aquatics, with the Swimming Federation of India overseeing operations and support from the Sports Authority of Gujarat.



A Long-Awaited Return

- India last hosted the BWF World Championships in 2009 at Hyderabad. The 2026 edition will not only bring the event back to India but also mark its return to Asia after 8 years, the last Asian host being Nanjing, China in 2018.
- Hosting this flagship event reaffirms India's stature in international badminton and reflects the country's capabilities in organizing large-scale global sporting events.

AHMEDABAD TO HOST 11TH ASIAN AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIP 2025 -

- The city of Ahmedabad is set to host the 11th Asian Aquatics Championship from September 28 to October 11, 2025, marking the first time India is organizing this prestigious continental event. The venue, Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Narangpura, was recently inaugurated and now joins the ranks of international-standard sports

A Major Event in the Asian Sporting Calendar

- The championship will feature competitions in four aquatic disciplines,
- Swimming
- Diving
- Artistic Swimming
- Water Polo
- More than 900 athletes from 29 Asian countries are expected to participate, making this one of the largest aquatic sporting events ever held in India.
- Crucially, the event also serves as a qualifier for the 2026 Asian Games, giving Indian athletes a rare opportunity to compete at home under international standards.

IBS
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IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. Project Vijayak is an initiative of which organisation ?
a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
b) Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
c) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
d) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- Q2. Indrayani River, that was recently seen in news, is located in which state ?
a) Tamil Nadu b) Maharashtra
c) Gujarat d) Odisha
- Q3. Clean Plant Programme (CPP) is conceptualized by which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
b) Ministry of Science and Technology
c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
d) Ministry of Rural Development
- Q4. The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is being developed at which ancient site in Gujarat ?
a) Dholavira b) Lothal
c) Bhadra fort d) Rani Ki Vav
- Q5. How many Rafale fighter jets has the Indian Air Force proposed to acquire under the ₹2 lakh crore 'Made in India' plan ?
a) 36 b) 26
c) 114 d) 176
- Q6. Where was the 44th meeting of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held ?
a) Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
b) Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyz Republic
c) Dushanbe, Tajikistan
d) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Q7. The NE-SPARKS programme has been launched to promote awareness about which field among students of the North Eastern Region ?
a) Renewable Energy
b) Space Science and Technology
c) Digital literacy
d) Agriculture
- Q8. Where was the Harbour Phase of Jal Prahar Exercise 2025 conducted ?
a) Kolkata b) Visakhapatnam c) Chennai d) Kochi
- Q9. Which ministry has introduced the National Geothermal Energy Policy, India's first policy focused on harnessing geothermal energy ?
a) Ministry of Power
b) Ministry of Science and Technology
c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
d) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- Q10. The foundation stone of India's first PM MITRA Park was laid in which state ?
a) Uttar Pradesh b) Madhya Pradesh
c) Rajasthan d) Gujarat
- Q11. Which organizations jointly launched the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 campaign ?
a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs & Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
b) Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation & Ministry of Panchayati Raj
c) Reserve Bank of India & Ministry of Jal Shakti
d) NITI Aayog & Ministry of Rural Development
- Q12. As of now, the base year for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) calculation in India is:
a) 2004 b) 2012 c) 2015 d) 2018
- Q13. The Penna River, that was recently seen in news, flows through which states ?
a) Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
b) Jharkhand and Bihar
c) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
d) Gujarat and Rajasthan
- Q14. What is the rank of India in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 ?
a) 25th b) 38th c) 47th d) 56th
- Q15. Which district secured the 1st rank in the Inspire Award 2025 with the highest number of innovative student idea submissions ?
a) Bengaluru Urban b) Bagalkot
c) Lucknow d) Muzaffarpur

- Q16. Which organization will absorb the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) technology in the first two years, as per the recent technology transfer agreement?
a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
c) NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)
d) Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)
- Q17. Which two sites from Andhra Pradesh were recently added to the UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites ?
a) Tirumala Hills and Borra Caves
b) Erra Matti Dibbalu and Pulicat Lake
c) Tirumala Hills and Erra Matti Dibbalu
d) Araku Valley and Kolleru Lake
- Q18. The Ho tribe is mostly concentrated in which region ?
a) Kolhan region b) Malwa Plateau
c) Western Ghats d) Dooars region
- Q19. Zircon is a scramjet-powered hypersonic cruise missile developed by which country ?
a) United States b) Russia c) Ukraine d) India
- Q20. INS Androth is an Anti-Submarine Warfare-Shallow Watercraft (ASW-SWC) built by which shipyard ?
a) Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi
b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai
c) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Visakhapatnam
d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata
- Q21. The Ho tribe is mostly concentrated in which region ?
a) Kolhan region b) Malwa Plateau
c) Western Ghats d) Dooars region
- Q22. Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?
a) Maharashtra b) Gujarat
c) Andhra Pradesh d) Rajasthan
- Q23. What is the name of the portal launched at the Gyan Bharatam International Conference to digitise and preserve India's manuscript heritage ?
a) Manuscript India Portal
b) Gyan Bharatam Portal
c) Bharat Gyan Portal
d) Knowledge Heritage Portal
- Q24. What is the top speed of India's fastest train, Namo Bharat, operating on the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) ?
a) 120 km/h b) 140 km/h
c) 160 km/h d) 180 km/h
- Q25. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of France by President Emmanuel Macron, replacing François Bayrou ?
a) Sébastien Lecornu b) Élisabeth Borne
c) Gabriel Attal d) Jean Castex
- Q26. Who has been given additional charge as the Governor of Maharashtra after C.P. Radhakrishnan demitted office to assume the role of Vice-President of India ?
a) Thawar Chand Gehlot
b) Ramesh Bais
c) Arif Mohammed Khan
d) Acharya Devvrat
- Q27. As per the Sep'25, Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was posthumously honoured with which award in recognition of his role in India's 1991 economic reforms ?
a) C. Rangarajan Award for Economic Policy
b) PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics
c) Amartya Sen Award for Development Studies
d) National Economic Reforms Award
- Q28. The Bonda tribe is mainly found in which state ?
a) Madhya Pradesh b) Odisha
c) Jharkhand d) Bihar
- Q29. What is the name of the world's first Digital Tribal University launched in New Delhi ?
a) Janjatiya Kala Kendra
b) Adi Sanskriti
c) Vanvasi Vishwavidyalaya
d) Aadi Mahotsav
- Q30. Which city topped the list of million-plus-population cities in the Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2025 ?
a) Lucknow b) Indore
c) Surat d) Varanasi
- Q31. Which city topped the list of million-plus-population cities in the Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2025 ?
a) Lucknow b) Indore
c) Surat d) Varanasi

- Q32. What is the theme of Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) 2025 ?
a) Year of Reforms – Transforming for the Future
b) Defence Preparedness in a New Era
c) Technology and Strategy for Future Conflicts
d) Self Reliance in Defence Production
- Q33. Which state has become the fifth State/Union Territory (UT) to achieve full functional literacy ?
a) Himachal Pradesh b) Lakshadweep
c) Uttarakhand d) Manipur
- Q34. Hilsa Fish, that was recently seen in news, is the national fish of which country ?
a) India b) Myanmar
c) Bangladesh d) Sri Lanka
- Q35. Which state has become the fifth State/Union Territory (UT) to achieve full functional literacy ?
a) Himachal Pradesh b) Lakshadweep
c) Uttarakhand d) Manipur
- Q36. Which team did India defeat to win the 2025 Men's Hockey Asia Cup at Rajgir Sports Complex, Bihar ?
a) Japan b) Malaysia
c) South Korea d) Pakistan
- Q37. A total lunar eclipse requires which of the following alignments ?
a) Moon – Earth – Sun
b) Earth – Moon – Sun
c) Sun – Earth – Moon
d) Sun – Moon – Earth
- Q38. Rattle Hydroelectric Project, which was recently seen in news due to landslide, is located in which state/UT?
a) Jammu and Kashmir
b) Uttarakhand
c) Assam
d) Himachal Pradesh
- Q39. According to the 56th GST Council Meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, simplified the GST structure into how many main rates (excluding the special de-merit rate) ?
a) Two (5%, 18%)
b) Three (5%, 12%, 18%)
c) Four (5%, 12%, 18%, 28%)
d) Five (0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%)
- Q40. The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) recently developed the Signal Star Naval Flare for which class of Indian Navy submarines ?
a) Kalvari-class b) Arihant-class
c) Scorpene-class d) Shishumar-class
- Q41. Which of the following countries is NOT a member of the expanded BRICS+ grouping as of 2025 ?
a) Indonesia b) Iran
c) Saudi Arabia d) Ethiopia
- Q42. Which of the following is NOT a pulse crop targeted under the 'Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses' ?
a) Pigeonpea (Tur) b) Black gram (Urad)
c) Chickpea (Chana) d) Lentil (Masoor)
- Q43. Where was National Ayush Mission (NAM) Summit 2025 held ?
a) New Delhi b) Hyderabad
c) Bengaluru d) Chennai
- Q44. According to Sample Registration Survey Statistical Report 2023, what is India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR)?
a) 2.1 b) 2.0 c) 1.9 d) 1.8
- Q45. Where was India's largest lithium-ion battery manufacturing plant launched ?
a) Gujarat b) Rajasthan
c) Madhya Pradesh d) Haryana
- Q46. What is the name of the biggest anti-Naxal operation conducted on Karregutta hill along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border ?
a) Operation Green Hunt
b) Operation Prahar
c) Operation Black Forest
d) Operation Thunder
- Q47. The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has announced that the 2026 Badminton World Championships will be hosted by which city ?
a) Hyderabad b) New Delhi c) Nanjing d) Paris
- Q48. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) ?
a) Debasish Panda b) T.V. Somanathan
c) Rajiv Mehrishi d) Ajay Seth

- Q49. The Kartarpur Corridor, recently in the news due to flooding, connects Dera Baba Nanak in India to which of the following Gurudwaras in Pakistan ?
a) Gurdwara Panja Sahib
b) Gurdwara Darbar Sahib
c) Gurdwara Nankana Sahib
d) Gurdwara Dera Sahib
- Q50. The 21st edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025 between India and the USA is being held at which location ?
a) Fort Bragg, North Carolina
b) Fort Wainwright, Alaska
c) Fort Hood, Texas
d) Fort Irwin, California
- Q51. During PM Narendra Modi's Japan visit, he was presented with a Daruma Doll, a cultural symbol in Japan. The Daruma Doll is modeled after which Indian monk, regarded in Japan as Daruma Daishi ?
a) Nagarjuna
b) Bodhidharma
c) Adi Shankaracharya
d) Ashvaghosha
- Q52. Recently, India's Current Account Balance slipped into a deficit of \$2.4 billion (0.2% of GDP) in Q1 FY26. What was the surplus recorded in Q4 FY25 ?
a) \$8.6 billion (0.9% of GDP)
b) \$5.7 billion (0.5% of GDP)
c) \$13.5 billion (1.3% of GDP)
d) \$10.9 billion (1.0% of GDP)
- Q53. What is the name of India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor launched at Semicon India 2025 ?
a) Aryabhata 3201
b) Chandrayaan 3201
c) Bhaskara 3201
d) Vikram 3201
- Q54. Why did the Department of Posts suspend the booking of all categories of mail to the USA ?
a) Rising postage costs
b) Trade restrictions by the USA
c) Inability of carriers to transport U.S.-bound mail and lack of defined regulatory mechanisms
d) Security concerns regarding international parcels
- Q55. As per the report, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for Q1 FY 2025-26 stood at 7.8%. According to projections, by which year is India expected to achieve a \$5 trillion economy ?
a) 2025
b) 2027
c) 2029
d) 2028
- Q56. The Srivilliputhur–Meghamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) is located in which state ?
a) Tamil Nadu
b) Andhra Pradesh
c) Maharashtra
d) Odisha
- Q57. As per the report, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra recently stated that India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy. Which scheme did he credit as a key driver of financial inclusion and inclusive growth ?
a) Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
b) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
c) Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)
d) Stand Up India Scheme
- Q58. Which Indian organisation became the first to win the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2025 for its work in girls' education ?
a) Pratham Foundation
b) Educate Girls (Foundation to Educate Girls Globally)
c) Smile Foundation
d) Teach For India
- Q59. The Sujalam Bharat Summit is a national initiative led by which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Agriculture
b) Ministry of Jal Shakti
c) Ministry of Environment
d) Ministry of Tourism
- Q60. Which ministry launched Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025, India's largest school hackathon ?
a) Ministry of Education
b) Ministry of Skill Development
c) Ministry of Science and Technology
d) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- Q61. Which is the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme that completed seven years on September 23, 2025 ?
a) Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
b) National Health Mission
c) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
d) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
- Q62. Which region of India has been recognized as India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve ?
a) Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu
b) Pulicat Lake, Andhra Pradesh

- c) Chilika Lake, Odisha
d) None of the Above
- Q63. What significant research facility has IIT-Madras recently commissioned at its Discovery campus in Thaiyur ?
a) Asia's largest shallow wave basin
b) Asia's largest wind tunnel
c) India's largest earthquake simulation lab
d) India's largest solar testing facility
- Q64. Where is the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) located ?
a) Beijing, China b) New Delhi, India
c) Islamabad, Pakistan d) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Q65. Every year, National Sports Day 2025 will be celebrated across India from August 29 to 31. The Fit India Movement was launched on National Sports Day in which year ?
a) 2017 b) 2018 c) 2019 d) 2020
- Q66. Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing a next-generation launch vehicle that will be over 120 meters tall, making it one of the tallest rockets ever built. What is the name of India's planned space station, expected to be completed by 2035 ?
a) Bharat Space Station (BSS)
b) Bhartiya Anthariksha Station (BAS)
c) Indian Orbital Platform (IOP)
d) Gaganyaan Station
- Q67. Who is the current Chairman of SEBI who announced additional incentives for women who are first-time mutual fund investors ?
a) Ajay Tyagi b) M. Damodaran
c) U.K. Sinha d) Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- Q68. The Kaushalya Dam, which is important for flood control in the Ghaggar river basin, is situated in which Indian state ?
a) Punjab b) Himachal Pradesh
c) Rajasthan d) Haryana
- Q69. The Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called the "Asian Nobel Prize," was established in which year ?
a) 1957 b) 1959
c) 1962 d) 1970
- Q70. According to the 2025 Global Peace Index, what is India's rank among 163 countries ?
a) 108th b) 115th
c) 120th d) 102nd

ANSWERS

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