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NATIONAL

BAJRANG SETU: INDIA'S FIRST 132-METRE CABLE GLASS BRIDGE SET TO OPEN IN RISHIKESH SOON -

- India is preparing to inaugurate its first-ever 132-metre cable glass bridge, Bajrang Setu, in Rishikesh. Estimated to cost around ₹70 crore, the bridge is poised to become an architectural and spiritual landmark, seamlessly merging modern design with divine symbolism. Once open, it will be the first cable suspension bridge with glass flooring in India and only the second of its kind in Asia.



Design and Structural Innovation

- Bajrang Setu's design stands out for its fusion of cutting-edge engineering and sacred architecture. The twin towers of the bridge are modelled after the sanctum of Kedarnath Temple, representing the spiritual essence of Uttarakhand. One side of the bridge bears a figure of Lord Kedarnath, while the other depicts Lord Badrinath, reflecting the dual spiritual significance of the region. The bridge spans 132 metres and offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Ganga flowing below.

KERALA TO BUILD FIRST UNDERWATER TUNNEL LINKING VYPIN AND FORT KOCHI -

- In a historic infrastructure initiative, Kerala is set to build its first underwater tunnel, connecting Vypin and Fort Kochi, as part of the state's ambitious coastal highway development project. This engineering marvel will significantly reduce the current 16 km road distance to a 3 km sub-sea journey beneath the Arabian Sea, redefining connectivity in Kochi — one of India's busiest port cities.
- Project Overview:** A Sub-Sea Engineering Feat
- The underwater tunnel will be developed by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) with an



estimated cost of ₹2,672 crore. Key design and construction features include,

- Total Length:** 2.75 km (1.75 km bored tunnel + 1 km cut-and-cover)
- Twin-Tube Structure:** Separate tunnels for each direction
- Dimensions:** 12.5 m outer diameter; 11.25 m inner width
- Depth:** 35 metres below sea level

AYODHYA SETS GUINNESS RECORDS WITH 26 LAKH DIYAS AT DEEPOTSAV 2025

- Ayodhya once again lit up the world stage with a record-breaking celebration of Deepotsav 2025, illuminating the sacred city with over 26 lakh oil lamps. This year's grand festival not only captivated attendees but also set two new Guinness World Records, reaffirming Ayodhya's cultural and spiritual prominence.



Guinness World Records Set

- On October 21, Deepotsav 2025 achieved the following records,
- Most Oil Lamps Lit Simultaneously
- 26,17,215 diyas lit across the banks of the Saryu River.
- Verified using drone imaging and certified by Guinness World Records.
- Largest Aarti Participation
- 2,128 priests and devotees performed Maa Saryu Aarti in synchrony.
- Conducted with strict coordination and ritual accuracy.

Festival Highlights

- The event was a blend of spirituality, technology, and culture,
- Ram Leela Performances: Dramatic retelling of Lord Ram's life drew large crowds.
- Laser and Drone Shows: High-tech visuals at Ram ki Paidi, believed to be Lord Ram's nirvana site.

- Fireworks Display: Grand finale illuminating Ayodhya's skyline.
- Temple Illumination: Temples across the city adorned with traditional lights.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE -

- The National Health Authority's (NHA) Annual Report 2024-25 has revealed that under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) while government hospitals make up the majority of empanelled institutions, most beneficiaries are actually availing treatment in private hospitals, often at higher costs.



What are the Key Findings Regarding the AB-PMJAY?

- **Dominance of Private Hospitals:** Of the 31,005 hospitals empanelled under AB-PMJAY, only 45% are private, yet they account for 52% of the 9.19 crore hospitalisations and receive 66% of the total ₹1.29 lakh crore treatment cost.
- **Treatment Trends:** Since 2018, 14% of treatments under AB-PMJAY have been for haemodialysis, followed by fever (4%), gastroenteritis (3%), and animal bites (3%). In 2024-25, the top specialties were General Medicine, Ophthalmology, and General Surgery.
- **Patient Mobility:** A key feature of Ayushman Bharat is portability, enabling treatment across states.
- **Top in-migration destinations are Chandigarh (19%), Uttar Pradesh (13%), and Gujarat (11%), while states with highest out-migration are Uttar Pradesh (24%), Madhya Pradesh (17%), and Bihar (16%).**
- **Digital Ecosystem Progress:** The government's digital health ecosystem is progressing fast: 6 in 10 people have an ABHA number, 50 crore health records are linked, 38% of health facilities and 26% of health personnel are registered on the system.

- ABHA number is a 14-digit ID that creates a cloud-based account for securely storing digital health records.

What is Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana?

- **About:** Ayushman Bharat-PM-JAY is India's flagship health insurance scheme providing financial protection for secondary and tertiary care to vulnerable families, aiming to reduce catastrophic hospital expenses and promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Formerly National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), it subsumed the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY, 2008) and is run by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

INDIA'S FIRST SEMICONDUCTOR INNOVATION MUSEUM OPENS -

- In a landmark development for India's tech sector, the Semiconductor Innovation Museum was inaugurated on October 12, 2025, in Hyderabad by the Technology Chip Innovation Program (T-Chip). The museum is the first of its kind in India, aiming to bolster public engagement and industry collaboration in the semiconductor and electronics ecosystem.



Vision and Purpose

- The museum has been established to,
- Showcase India's growing capabilities in semiconductor design and manufacturing
- Act as a hub for innovation, investment, and talent discovery
- Inspire the next generation of engineers, developers, and policymakers
- Host monthly demo days, global showcases, and networking events for investors and tech leaders
- This initiative strengthens Hyderabad's role as an emerging semiconductor innovation cluster, aligning with India's broader ambition to become a global semiconductor hub.

INDIA MOBILE CONGRESS -

• The 9th edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC 2025), Asia’s largest telecom, media, and technology event, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in New Delhi.

India Mobile Congress

- About: It is a major annual event highlighting the latest advancements and innovations in the mobile and digital technology sector.
- It provides a platform for industry leaders, policymakers, and technology enthusiasts, to discuss the future of the digital landscape.
- **Organised By:** It was organised jointly by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
- **Theme:** Its theme is “Innovate to Transform,” highlighting India’s commitment to leveraging innovation for digital transformation and societal progress.
- **Related Recent Developments:** The Bharat 6G Alliance signed MoUs with NASSCOM and the European Space Agency to advance joint technology development and released four whitepapers on spectrum, next-gen telecom power, AI-driven network evolution, and 6G architecture and security.
- India’s 6G ambitions are projected to add USD 1.2 trillion to GDP by 2035, with a goal of capturing 10% of global 6G patents. The country’s satellite communications market is also expected to triple by 2033.

INDIA’S FIRST BULLET TRAIN TO RUN BY AUGUST 2027 -

• India is preparing to enter a new era of high-speed rail connectivity, with the country’s first bullet train expected to become operational by August 2027, according to Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The announcement was made at the first-ever Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference in Mehsana, Gujarat, marking a major milestone in India’s journey toward becoming a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).



- The Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR), popularly known as India’s bullet train project, is among the most ambitious infrastructure projects undertaken by the Indian Railways.
- Once operational, it will connect Mumbai in Maharashtra with Ahmedabad in Gujarat, covering approximately 508 kilometers at speeds of up to 320 km/h.
- **Announcing the new timeline, Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that the bullet train will be operational by August 2027, symbolizing India’s transition into a technologically advanced, efficient, and eco-friendly transportation era.**
- The project is being implemented by the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) with technical and financial assistance from Japan.

INDIA’S DECLINING SUNSHINE HOURS -

- A study published in Nature’s Scientific Reports (2025), reveals that sunshine hours across most of India have declined steadily from 1988–2018, due to increased cloud cover and aerosol pollution.
- **The Study was conducted jointly by Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM Pune), and India Meteorological Department (IMD).**



Key Findings of the Study

- **Declining Sunshine:** Sunshine hours, the duration when sunlight is strong enough to be recorded have fallen across almost all Indian regions over the past three decades.
- **Regional Decline Rates:**
- **North Indian Plains:** Steepest fall of 13.1 hours per year.
- **West Coast:** Decline of 8.6 hours per year.
- **East Coast:** Decline of 4.9 hours per year.
- **Central Region:** Decline of 4.7 hours per year.
- **Deccan Plateau:** Decline of 3.1 hours per year.
- **Northeast India:** marginal stabilisation observed

Seasonal Variation:

- Sunshine increased between October and May (dry months).

India’s Bullet Train Project

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- Sharp declines between June and September (monsoon months), coinciding with heavier cloud cover and persistent haze.

Causes of 'Solar Dimming'

- **Aerosol Pollution:**
- Rising industrial emissions, biomass burning, and vehicular exhaust increase aerosol concentration.
- Aerosols act as condensation nuclei, forming smaller, longer-lived clouds that extend overcast conditions.
- **Persistent Cloud Cover:**
- Aerosols prolong cloud lifespan, increasing cloud residence time and reducing solar radiation reaching the ground.
- The 2025 monsoon season reflected this pattern, with frequent overcast skies even without rainfall, especially across the West Coast, Deccan, and Central India.
- **Climate Feedback Loop:**
- Reduced solar radiation alters land-atmosphere heat exchange, potentially influencing monsoon circulation and rainfall variability.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) IN INDIA -

- The Law and Justice Minister emphasized the need for global cooperation to strengthen Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, referencing the Panch Parmeshwar doctrine, which advocates for collective consensus in dispute resolution.

What is Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanism?

- ADR refers to processes for resolving disputes outside courts, offering a faster, cheaper, and cooperative alternative where parties work together for the best resolution.



Constitutional and Legal Basis:

- The constitutional basis of ADR in India is Article 39A, ensuring equal justice and free legal aid.

- ADR methods like arbitration, conciliation, mediation, and Lok Adalat are recognised under Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (amended 2021) allows binding resolution of civil and compoundable offences and establishes the Indian Arbitration Council, with a 180-day limit for dispute resolution to ensure faster justice.

Models of ADR:

- **Arbitration:** Neutral third party makes a binding decision, commonly in commercial disputes, offering a formal yet flexible alternative.
- **Mediation:** Impartial mediator helps parties reach a non-binding, cooperative solution, preserving relationships.
- **Conciliation:** Like mediation but with more intervention, suggesting solutions for family, business, and employment disputes.
- **Negotiation:** Informal, consensual process where parties directly agree, giving maximum control over the outcome.
- **Lok Adalat:** People's Courts in India for extrajudicial, amicable resolution of family, labor, and minor civil cases.
- Lok Adalats, governed by the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, were first held in Gujarat in 1999.
- Their decisions are final with no appeal, as they resolve disputes before formal litigation, though their powers are not absolute.

AMIT SHAH SWITCHES TO ZOHU MAIL, BACKS SWADESHI TECH -

- In a symbolic yet impactful move, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on October 8, 2025, that he has shifted his official email to Zoho Mail, a homegrown Indian platform. The decision aligns with the government's ongoing push for Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)



in the technology sector, particularly amidst escalating trade tensions with the United States.

Amit Shah Switched Zoho Mail

- Shah shared his new email ID—amitshah.bjp@zohomail.in—on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), urging people to update their records.
- His message concluded with a formal sign-off: “Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.”
- This phrase, reminiscent of former US President Donald Trump’s style, quickly drew attention online and added a humorous layer to the otherwise strategic announcement.

Why Zoho Mail?

- Zoho Mail is part of Zoho Corporation, an Indian tech company headquartered in Chennai, known for its privacy-focused, ad-free suite of productivity tools. The adoption of Zoho by such a senior cabinet minister signals,
- A strong government endorsement of indigenous platforms
- A gradual phase-out of foreign software like Google Workspace and Microsoft Office
- A move toward digital sovereignty, especially for sensitive government communication.

PM MODI INAUGURATES ₹19,650 CR NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Phase One of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA)—a landmark ₹19,650 crore infrastructure project poised to transform aviation and urban mobility in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The airport is expected to begin commercial operations by December 2025, making Mumbai one of the few global cities—alongside New York, London, and Tokyo—to have more than one international airport.



Project Highlights: Navi Mumbai International Airport

- The newly inaugurated airport reflects the vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) and blends modern design with cultural symbolism. Key features include,

- **Cost:** ₹19,650 crore
- **Design:** Lotus-shaped terminal, reflecting Indian heritage
- **Timeline:** Phase One completed; commercial operations expected by December 2025
- **Connectivity:** Boosts trade, tourism, and logistics in western India
- **Inclusivity:** Designed with accessibility and eco-sustainability in mind
- During the walkthrough, PM Modi interacted with differently abled children, symbolizing the airport’s commitment to inclusivity and social outreach.

MANIPUR CELEBRATES MERA HOU CHONGBA FESTIVAL OF HILL-VALLEY UNITY -

- Manipur came together in celebration of Mera Hou Chongba, a festival that powerfully symbolizes the unity between hill tribes and valley dwellers. Observed on the 15th lunar day of the Mera month in the traditional Meitei calendar, this annual event is a showcase of communal harmony, indigenous identity, and cultural togetherness. This year, tribal village chiefs from the hill districts gathered at the Manipur Royal Palace (Sana Konung) in Imphal, where they were ceremoniously received by Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba, the titular King of Manipur and a Rajya Sabha MP.



Rituals and Celebrations

- The day began with sacred rituals at Sana Konung, followed by a ritual march led by the king and the tribal leaders to the historic site of Kangla. Key events include,
- Mera Men Tongba – a ritual drink offering
- Yenkhong Tamba – symbolic enactments of unity
- Gift exchange between hill village chiefs and valley representatives
- The rituals highlight the mutual respect and brotherhood among the communities.
- The day concluded with a grand cultural showcase, featuring tribal and valley dance forms, folk music, and a

communal feast, reaffirming social harmony and shared heritage.

INDIA’S DEFENCE MINISTER HAS STATED THAT ANY AGGRESSIVE ACTION BY PAKISTAN IN THE SIR CREEK AREA WOULD BE RESPONDED TO FIRMLY, HIGHLIGHTING INDIA’S READINESS AND VIGILANCE -

- **Sir Creek:** It is a 96-kilometre tidal waterway in the marshlands of the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, forming the boundary between India’s Kutch region and Pakistan’s Sindh province, and opening into the Arabian Sea.
- Historically known as Ban Ganga, it was renamed “Sir Creek” during the colonial period after a British official.
- **Sir Creek Dispute:** The dispute centers on differing interpretations of the maritime boundary. After 1947, Kutch went to India and Sindh to Pakistan.
- Pakistan claims the entire Sir Creek under a 1914 resolution. However, India argues that the same resolution also invoked the thalweg principle, which sets the boundary along the middle of the navigable channel.
- India further cites a 1925 map and mid-channel pillars to back its position, and maintains the creek is navigable during high tide, so the boundary should follow international norms along the mid-channel.
- Pakistan argues that the Thalweg Principle applies only to rivers and contends Sir Creek is non-navigable, so it shouldn’t be applied.



Importance of Sir Creek:

- **Strategic Significance:** Sir Creek a sensitive border area where India and Pakistan have historically clashed. Control over the creek impacts maritime security, surveillance, and defense preparedness.
- **Economic Value:** It is one of Asia’s largest fishing grounds, supporting thousands of fishermen. The seabed may also hold potential oil and gas reserves.

- **Ecological Importance:** The creek is an ecologically sensitive area, hosting flamingoes and other migratory birds, making it crucial for biodiversity conservation.

RISING CANCER BURDEN IN INDIA -

- According to the latest Global Burden of Disease estimates by The Lancet, cancer incidence and mortality are on the rise in India, in contrast to the global trend of decline, with an estimated 15 lakh new cases and over 12 lakh deaths reported in 2023.

What are the Key Findings of the Global Burden of Disease?

- **Rising global caseloads:** Global cancer incidence declined from 220.6 per 100,000 in 1990 to 205.1 in 2023, and is projected to reach 192.9 in 2025. However, the absolute number of cancer cases and deaths is expected to rise sharply by 2050 due to population growth and aging.
- **Trends in Cancer Incidence:** India’s cancer incidence rate rose from 84.8 (1990) to 107.2 (2023) per 100,000, and the death rate increased from 71.7 to 86.9 per 100,000 in the same period.
- **Disproportionate Burden on LMICs:** The study warns that low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) like India are projected to account for over half of new cancer cases and two-thirds of deaths.
- **Modifiable Risk Factors:** Around 42% of global cancer deaths are linked to modifiable risk factors like tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diets, and infections, with India’s share possibly as high as 70%.
- **Future Prediction:** It forecasts 30.5 million new cancer cases globally and a 75% increase in deaths to 18.6 million by 2050. In India, the major causes of cancer mortality are breast, lung, oesophagus, oral, cervical, stomach, and colon cancers.

What Factors are Contributing to India’s Growing Cancer Burden?

- **Mnemonic: CANCER**
- **C - Changing Demographics (Ageing):** Rising life expectancy and population in India increase older adults

at cancer risk, raising the total cases even if rates per 100,000 stay stable.

- Longer life expectancy has led to a higher prevalence of non-communicable diseases, including cancer.
- **A - Adoption of Unhealthy Lifestyles:** High tobacco use, unhealthy diets, sedentary lifestyles, and alcohol consumption in India increase risks of lung, mouth, throat, esophagus, pancreatic, and liver cancers.
- **N - National Health System Deficiencies:** Late-stage diagnosis (III or IV), shortage of cancer specialists (oncologists), radiotherapy machines, and catastrophic health expenditure lead to delayed treatment, poor outcomes, and higher cancer deaths.
- **C - Carcinogenic Environmental Exposure:** High outdoor air pollution (PM2.5, Class I carcinogen), indoor air pollution from solid fuels, and industrial and chemical exposure increase the risk of lung cancer.
- **E - Economic Hardship from Treatment:** The high cost of cancer treatment—surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy—limits access to care, causing many to delay or skip treatment, which increases cancer cases and deaths.
- **R - Rising Infection-Linked Cancers:** Infections contribute significantly to cancer burden, including Human Papillomavirus (HPV) virus (cervical cancer), Hepatitis B and C virus (liver cancer), and H. Pylori (stomach cancer).

PREVENTIVE DETENTION AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT, 1980 -

- Climate Activist Sonam Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act (NSA), 1980, which allows the government to act pre-emptively against individuals considered a threat to public order or national security.
- He has been leading demonstrations demanding statehood for Ladakh and Sixth Schedule protections.



What is Preventive Detention?

- **About:** Preventive detention means holding a person not for a crime already committed, but to prevent possible future actions that may threaten public order, security, or essential supplies.
- Preventive detention is anticipatory, imposed based on the likelihood of harmful actions in the future, while punitive detention is imposed as punishment after conviction through due legal process.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 22 explicitly permits preventive detention in India. A person can be detained for up to 3 months without approval from an Advisory Board (comprising High Court-qualified judges).
- For detention beyond 3 months, approval of an Advisory Board is required.
- Parliament may prescribe conditions for detention beyond 3 months, set maximum periods, and lay down Advisory Board procedures.
- The detained person must be informed of the grounds of detention, though certain facts may be withheld in the public interest.
- The detainee should be given the earliest opportunity to challenge the order through a representation.
- **Significance:** Preventive detention supports Article 355, which mandates that the Union must protect states against external aggression and internal disturbances and ensure state governments function according to the Constitution.

Key Laws Related to Preventive Detention in India:

- **National Security Act (NSA), 1980:** For state security and maintaining public order.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 1967:** To combat terrorism and unlawful activities.
- **Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974:** To curb smuggling and foreign exchange violations.
- State-specific Public Safety Acts – To prevent threats to state security or public order.



GOVERNMENT HIKES MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES FOR RABI CROPS -

What Is MSP and Why It Matters

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the assured price at which the government procures crops from farmers, offering a safeguard against market volatility. It plays a crucial role in price stabilization, influences cropping patterns, and encourages the cultivation of key food crops, especially during volatile market conditions.



MSP Increases for Rabi Crops 2026-27

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has increased the MSP for all key Rabi crops. The highest hike is for safflower at ₹600 per quintal. Other notable increases include:
 - **Lentil (Masur):** ₹300 per quintal
 - **Rapeseed & Mustard:** ₹250 per quintal
 - **Gram (Chana):** ₹225 per quintal
 - **Barley:** ₹170 per quintal
 - **Wheat:** ₹160 per quintal
- The MSP for wheat now stands at ₹2,585 per quintal, up from ₹2,425—a 6.6% increase. These increases are expected to channel approximately ₹84,263 crore to farmers during the marketing season.

UTTAR PRADESH TO GET 76TH DISTRICT NAMED KALYAN SINGH NAGAR -

- The Uttar Pradesh government has announced the creation of a new district named Kalyan Singh Nagar, in honour of former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, a towering figure in the state's political history. This will be Uttar Pradesh's 76th district, carved out from tehsils in Aligarh and Bulandshahr districts. The move not only pays tribute to the late leader but also aims to enhance administrative efficiency in the region.



District in Honour of a Leader

- Kalyan Singh, who served as Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister twice (1991–92 and 1997–99), was deeply associated with Atrauli, his birthplace and political stronghold.
- CM Yogi Adityanath confirmed the decision during a public address, emphasising Singh's contributions to state development and governance.
- The government has begun preparations and directed local district magistrates to prepare feasibility reports.

GOVERNMENT PLANS NEW 'RATNA' CATEGORIES FOR CPSES -

- The Government of India is undertaking a significant reform in its approach to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) by planning a revision in their classification and performance assessment criteria. The move includes the potential introduction of two new 'Ratna' categories, in addition to the existing Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna statuses, to make CPSEs more competitive, accountable, and aligned with long-term national goals under Vision 2047.



What Are CPSEs?

- Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are companies in which the central government owns at least 51% equity, either directly or through other CPSEs. These enterprises are registered under the Companies Act, 2013 or set up by a Parliamentary Act.

Subsidiaries of CPSEs also fall under this category.

- CPSEs operate across strategic sectors such as oil & gas, power, infrastructure, heavy industries, and defence, playing a crucial role in India's economic development and public service delivery.

Current CPSE Classification

- CPSEs are presently classified into three main categories,
 - Maharatna: 14 companies
 - Navratna: 26 companies
 - Miniratna: 74 companies

INTERNATIONAL

INDIA-MONGOLIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP -

- The President of Mongolia undertook a State Visit to India, commemorating the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations and the 10th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership between the two nations.

What are the Key Outcomes of the President of Mongolia Visit to India?

- **Defence & Security Cooperation:** India launched a capacity-building programme for Mongolia's border security forces and strengthened defence ties via training programmes and a Defence Attache at the Indian Embassy.
- **Energy Security:** The visit confirmed the USD 1.7 billion Oil Refinery Project in Mongolia, funded by an Indian Line of Credit, marking India's largest global development partnership and pivotal for Mongolia's energy security.
- **Economic Partnership:** Cooperation in critical minerals, rare earths elements, and coking coal was highlighted as a priority, with India considering logistical routes through Vladivostok (Russia) and Tianjin port (China) for importing Mongolian coking coal.
- **Cultural Connectivity:** India will send the holy relics of Lord Buddha's disciples, Sariputra and Maudgalyayana, to Mongolia, and an MoU was signed between the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council and Arkhangai Province to boost cultural ties.
- India will also send a Sanskrit teacher to the Gandan Monastery (Mongolia) and launch a project to digitize one million ancient Mongolian manuscripts.
- **Development Cooperation & Skill Development:** Both sides signed pacts on cultural exchange, immigration cooperation, disaster management, and Bogd Khan Palace (Mongolia) renovation, while India's developmental role was highlighted via the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre of Excellence for IT and the India-Mongolia Friendship School.

INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR -

- The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), unveiled at the 2023 G20 Summit, aims to link India with Europe through the Middle East.
- However, ongoing conflicts in West Asia and emerging Arctic routes pose serious challenges to its implementation and strategic viability.



What is India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor?

- **About:** IMEC is a strategic multi-modal connectivity initiative launched through a MoU at the G20 Summit 2023, New Delhi. It has two corridor segments Eastern Corridor (connects India to the Gulf region) and Northern Corridor (connects the Gulf region to Europe).
- **IMEC signatories include India, US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany, Italy, and the EU. It is part of the G7's Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII, 2021).**
- The IMEC emerged in 2023 amid favourable geopolitics, supported by the Abraham Accords and improving India-UAE, Saudi Arabia, and US ties. It aims to link Israel's Haifa port with Jordanian railways and Gulf ports.
- **Purpose:** IMEC aims to develop an integrated network of ports, railways, roads, sea lines, energy pipelines, and digital infrastructure (undersea digital cables) to enhance trade and economic cooperation between India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- IMEC is designed as a transparent, sustainable, and debt-free alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), ensuring infrastructure development without compromising national sovereignty.
- **Economic & Strategic Benefits for India:** IMEC reduces logistics costs by ~30% and transport time by ~40% versus the Suez Canal route, boosting export competitiveness.

- For India, IMEC is a strategic opportunity to diversify trade routes, reducing reliance on chokepoints like the Suez Canal. The corridor enhances access to European markets via the Mediterranean, providing an alternative to China's BRI.

MADAGASCAR'S ARMED FORCES HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT, OUSTING THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT FOLLOWING A YOUTH (GEN Z) LED REBELLION OVER ECONOMIC CRISES AND GOVERNANCE FAILURES -

- Madagascar's armed forces have taken control of the government, ousting the incumbent President following a youth (Gen Z) led rebellion over economic crises and governance failures. It has experienced frequent military-backed power shifts since 1960, with the last major unrest in 2009.
- **About:** It is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, bordered by the Mozambique Channel to the west and neighboring Comoros, Réunion islands, and Mauritius.
- **Geography:** The 4th-largest island in the world, it features lush rainforests, dry deserts, grassy plains, and coastal coral reefs and mangrove forests.
- **Nature & Wildlife:** Nearly 90% of flora and fauna are endemic, due to ocean isolation.
- **Famous species:** Lemurs (including silky sifakas and aye-ayes), giant leaf-tailed geckos, spider tortoises, Dumeril's boas, Madagascan plovers.
- **Marine life:** Humpback whales and pygmy blue whales along coasts.
- **National tree:** Baobab tree, notable for water-storing trunk.
- **History:** France invaded Madagascar in 1883, making it a colony in 1896. After the 1947 Malagasy Uprising, the island gained independence in 1960.
- **People & Culture:** About 80% of the population depends on agriculture, growing coffee, vanilla, and sugarcane, with rice as the staple food.
- Music is important in its culture, with the valiha, a tube zither made from bamboo, as the national instrument.

WHO WARNS OF TOXIC INDIAN COUGH SYRUPS -

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a global health alert regarding three Indian-manufactured cough syrups—Coldrif, ReLife, and Respiresh TR—that are contaminated with a toxic industrial chemical. This warning comes in the wake of tragic child fatalities in Madhya Pradesh tied to one of these syrups. The alert underscores serious failures in drug safety regulation and has implications for both domestic and international public health vigilance.



Background: Child Deaths and WHO Intervention

- Fatalities in Madhya Pradesh
- In Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, 21 children died due to acute kidney failure after consuming Coldrif syrup.
- The alarming number of fatalities prompted immediate state and national investigations, eventually attracting global attention from WHO.

WHO Identifies Contaminated Syrups

- WHO confirmed that specific batches of,
- Coldrif (Sresan Pharmaceuticals)
- ReLife (Shape Pharma)
- Respiresh TR (Rednex Pharmaceuticals)

CLIMATE CHANGE TOP THREAT TO NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE SITES -

- Climate change has become the greatest threat to the world's natural World Heritage sites, according to the latest IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4, released in October 2025 at the IUCN Congress in Abu Dhabi. The report reveals that 43% of natural heritage sites now face serious climate-related risks, marking a steep rise in ecological vulnerability and highlighting an urgent need for global action.
- This development signals a worrying shift, with climate change surpassing even invasive species as the dominant pressure on these globally significant landscapes.



Report Overview: Outlook 4 Findings

- The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) has been conducting periodic assessments of World Heritage sites since 2014. The World Heritage Outlook 4 is the most comprehensive review to date, covering,
 - 257 natural and mixed World Heritage sites
 - Status and trends in conservation outlook
 - Key threats and needed interventions

Key Statistics

- 43% of sites face high or very high climate risks
- 30% are impacted by invasive alien species
- Sites affected by wildlife and plant diseases rose sharply from 2% (2020) to 9% (2025)
- Sites with a positive conservation outlook dropped from 62% in 2020 to 57% in 2025.

INDIA CALLS FOR UN REFORMS AT 80TH UNGA SESSION -

- India's External Affairs Minister addressed the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, highlighting the need for UN reform and India's readiness to assume greater responsibilities in driving UN reforms.



What is the Need for UN Reforms?

- **Gridlock in Decision-Making:** The UN often faces paralysis in decision-making due to conflicts, limited resources, and terrorism.
- The veto power held by the five permanent members (P5) allows a single nation to block resolutions, even if the majority supports them, as seen with Russia in Ukraine and the US on Israel-related resolutions.
- **Outdated and Unrepresentative:** The UN Security Council reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945, not the 21st century.
- Rising powers like India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan lack permanent membership, while the Global South remains underrepresented, limiting the UN's legitimacy.
- The UN has struggled to prevent or resolve large-scale conflicts due to internal divisions and weak peacekeeping

mandates. Historical failures in Bosnia and Rwanda, and inaction in Syria, Sudan, and Myanmar highlight systemic shortcomings.

- **Financial Dependence:** Heavy reliance on a few major donors, especially the US, creates leverage for influencing UN policies and operations, compromising impartiality and global trust.
- **Administrative Issues:** The UN's sprawling bureaucracy slows responses to crises and suffers from corruption, misuse of funds, and misconduct.
- For instance, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported 434 new investigations, including procurement fraud and sexual misconduct, undermining credibility.

INDIA-CHINA TO RESUME DIRECT FLIGHTS BY LATE OCTOBER -

- In a significant step toward normalizing diplomatic and people-to-people exchanges, India and China have agreed to resume direct air services between designated points in both countries by late October 2025.



This development marks a positive turn in bilateral relations that had witnessed prolonged tensions in recent years. The announcement was made by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) following technical-level discussions between the civil aviation authorities of the two nations.

Background: A Gradual Normalization

- Direct air links between India and China had been suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic and remained disrupted amid border tensions post-2020.
- The resumption of flights reflects a broader governmental approach focused on the gradual restoration of bilateral ties, especially in areas like trade, tourism, education, and diplomacy.
- The MEA clarified that both countries have been engaged since early 2025 to revise the Air Services Agreement, a framework that governs aviation connectivity.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDIA'S CHANDRAYAAN-2 LUNAR ORBITER HAS MADE A PATH-BREAKING SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION - FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, IT HAS DETECTED THE EFFECTS OF THE SUN'S CORONAL MASS EJECTION (CME) ON THE MOON'S EXOSPHERE. THE FINDINGS WERE OBTAINED USING CHACE-2 (CHANDRA'S ATMOSPHERIC COMPOSITION EXPLORER-2), ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS ONBOARD THE ORBITER -

- **Lunar Exosphere:** The Moon's atmosphere is extremely thin and classified as an exosphere, where gas atoms and molecules rarely collide. Its surface forms the lower boundary of this exosphere.
- The lunar exosphere contains gases such as helium, argon, and neon, with traces from radioactive decay, solar wind, and meteoroid impacts.
- Due to its low density, it cannot retain heat, causing extreme temperature variations.
- This fragile atmosphere is produced by several processes, including:
 - Interaction with solar radiation and solar wind (ions of hydrogen, helium, and heavier elements).
 - Meteorite impacts that release atoms and molecules from the lunar surface.
- **Coronal Mass Injection:** A Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) is a massive, violent expulsion of plasma (a superheated gas of protons and electrons) and magnetic fields from the Sun's outer atmosphere, the corona, that erupts outward into the solar system.
- It is one of the largest forms of solar activity and a major driver of space weather.



Nafithromycin, and achieved a major milestone in gene therapy for hemophilia. These breakthroughs, announced by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, reflect the country's growing capabilities in biotechnology, pharmaceutical innovation, and clinical research.



- The announcement highlights India's move toward biotech self-reliance and a more robust public-private innovation ecosystem, aligning with national goals under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Nafithromycin: India's First Homegrown Antibiotic

- India's first indigenous antibiotic, Nafithromycin, is designed to treat resistant respiratory infections, which are particularly threatening to cancer patients and individuals with uncontrolled diabetes. This antibiotic was,
- Conceptualised, developed, and clinically validated entirely in India
- Created through a collaboration between the Department of Biotechnology and Wockhardt, a private pharmaceutical firm
- Announced as a model for industry-academia partnership, marking a significant departure from India's previous reliance on foreign drug innovations

GREEN CRACKERS -

- The Supreme Court of India has relaxed the year-long blanket ban on fireworks in Delhi-NCR, allowing the sale and use of green crackers approved by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) during Deepavali 2025.
- The court called it a "test case" to balance festivals with pollution control, noting blanket bans led to smuggling and use of harmful fireworks.



INDIA DEVELOPS FIRST INDIGENOUS ANTIBIOTIC, ADVANCES GENE THERAPY

- In a landmark moment for Indian science, India has developed its first fully indigenous antibiotic,

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- **Green Crackers:** Designed to reduce air pollution by modifying traditional formulations. They achieve this through smaller shell sizes, elimination of ash, reduced raw material use, and addition of dust suppressants.
- They ensure at least 30% reduction in particulate matter (PM) or 20% PM reduction plus 10% reduction in gaseous emissions (SO₂ and NO₂) compared to conventional crackers.

Green crackers can be of two types:

- **Improved Fireworks:** Modified existing crackers with cleaner compositions.
- **New Formulation Fireworks:** Developed with new materials and compositions to further cut emissions.
- In Arjun Gopal vs Union of India (2018), the Supreme Court banned non-certified firecrackers with barium salts and allowed only PESO-approved green crackers meeting reduced-emission standards.

VYOMMITRA: INDIA'S HUMANOID ROBOT FOR GAGANYAAN MISSION -

- India is preparing to send a humanoid robot named Vyommitra into space as part of its Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme. This robot will test onboard systems before astronauts are sent, acting as a bridge between robotic and human spaceflight.

What Is Vyommitra Robot?

- The name comes from "Vyoma" (space) + "Mitra" (friend).
- Vyommitra is described as a half-humanoid robot: it has an upper body (torso, arms, head) but no legs in its initial version.
- It's being developed by ISRO, particularly through the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Kerala.
- The robot is AI-enabled and equipped with sensors to monitor environmental parameters, operate panels, issue alerts, and simulate human responses in space.

Role in the Gaganyaan Mission

- Vyommitra's primary function is to accompany the first uncrewed test flight (Gaganyaan-1), scheduled for December 2025, and validate critical systems in microgravity.

- It will help monitor life support, avionics, environmental control, structural responses, and more.
- This test flight is a precursor to crewed missions, aiming to reduce risk and validate hardware and software before astronauts fly.

2ND INTERNATIONAL BHARAT 6G SYMPOSIUM -

- At the India Mobile Congress(IMC) 2025, India highlighted its growing leadership in next-generation telecom through the 2nd International Bharat 6G Symposium, marking a key step towards building a self-reliant, innovative, and globally connected 6G ecosystem for Viksit Bharat 2047.
- The IMC is Asia's most prominent technology expos, jointly organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

**What are the Key Outcomes of 2nd International Bharat 6G Symposium at IMC 2025?**

- **New Delhi Declaration on 6G:** At the Symposium, global research alliances including Bharat 6G, 6G-IA (European organization), ATIS' Next G Alliance (North American organization), and others issued a Joint Declaration to shape 6G as a global public good.
- The declaration outlines five core principles for 6G networks that are trusted and secure, resilient and reliable, open and interoperable, inclusive and affordable, and sustainable and globally connected.
- The declaration also calls for skills development and global collaboration to build a future-ready, inclusive 6G ecosystem aligned with India's 6G Vision 2030.
- **Economic Vision:** The symposium highlighted India's 6G roadmap aiming for USD 1.2 trillion GDP impact by 2035 and 10% of global 6G patents, along with a threefold growth in satellite communications by 2033.
- The Symposium showcased India's indigenous 4G stack as a milestone toward technological self-reliance and export readiness.

- **Focus on Collaboration and Inclusivity:** The symposium urged stronger global collaboration, indigenous R&D, and industry-academia synergy to build an inclusive 6G framework.
- It highlighted India's shift from a technology consumer to a co-creator and global leader, backed by milestones like the rollout of one lakh indigenous 4G towers.

UBER PARTNERS WITH NVIDIA TO DEPLOY 100,000 ROBOTAXIS WORLDWIDE BY 2027 -

- Uber Technologies has announced an ambitious collaboration with Nvidia to develop and deploy a global fleet of 100,000 autonomous robotaxis, marking a major leap in the commercialisation of driverless transport. The partnership aims to begin large-scale deployment by 2027, with the initiative unveiled during Nvidia's GTC conference in Washington, DC.

Strategic Collaboration for Autonomous Mobility

- The partnership builds on an earlier agreement from January, under which Uber shared driving data to enhance Nvidia's artificial intelligence and chip systems for self-driving vehicles. Nvidia's new platform, Drive AGX Hyperion 10, will form the backbone of the project, enabling automakers to integrate advanced sensors and hardware compatible with autonomous driving software. This technology will help Uber operate a large-scale, AI-powered mobility network across its global markets.

CLOUD SEEDING IN DELHI -

- The Delhi government partnered with IIT-Kanpur to conduct cloud seeding experiments to combat rising post-monsoon air pollution.
- However, experts from the Ministry of Earth Sciences have cautioned that the absence of rain-bearing clouds during the post-monsoon season makes the timing scientifically unsuitable, casting doubt on the effectiveness of the initiative.



What is Cloud Seeding?

- **About:** Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique aimed at enhancing precipitation (rain or snow)

from existing clouds.

- **Mechanism:** It involves dispersing substances such as silver iodide, potassium iodide, sodium chloride, or dry ice (solid CO₂) into clouds using aircraft.
- These particles act as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) or ice nuclei (IN), mimicking the structure of ice and prompting supercooled water droplets in the clouds to freeze.
- As these ice crystals grow larger and heavier, they eventually coalesce and fall to the ground as rain or snow.
- Cloud seeding cannot create clouds, but works only when there are naturally formed clouds with sufficient moisture.

WHAT MAKES CMS-03 ISRO'S HEAVIEST SATELLITE YET ? -

- India is set for another space milestone as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) prepares to launch CMS-03, its heaviest communication satellite, on November 2, 2025. The launch will take place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, using the LVM3-M5 launch vehicle, which earlier powered India's historic Chandrayaan-3 moon mission.
- The mission signifies ISRO's growing prowess in high-capacity space communications, targeting improved coverage across India and surrounding oceanic zones.



What Is CMS-03?

- CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite designed to provide robust, high-throughput services across a wide oceanic region and the entire Indian landmass.
- **Weight:** Approximately 4,400 kg, making it the heaviest communication satellite launched from Indian soil
- **Orbit:** To be placed in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)
- **Objective:** Enhance digital communication, satellite internet, and maritime connectivity
- This makes CMS-03 a significant leap in national communication infrastructure, potentially improving television, telemedicine, education, and emergency services coverage.

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ECONOMY & FINANCE

EPF NEW WITHDRAWAL RULES 2025 -

- The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) approved new guidelines for partial and premature withdrawal of Provident Fund (PF) funds, aiming to enhance the “ease of living” for subscribers.



What are the EPF New Withdrawal Provisions 2025?

- **Simplified Rules:** 13 complex withdrawal provisions merged into three categories – essential needs (illness, education, marriage), housing, and special circumstances.
- **Employer Contribution:** Members can now withdraw from both employee and employer contributions.
- **Minimum Balance Rule:** Members must maintain at least 25% of their contribution balance at all times, ensuring a financial cushion and long-term security.
- **Premature Withdrawal During Unemployment:** 75% of PF can be withdrawn immediately after leaving a job.
- Full 100% withdrawal allowed if unemployed for 12 months (previously 2 months).
- The final pension amount can be withdrawn only after 36 months, instead of 2 months earlier.
- The change aims to help members accumulate a sufficient pension corpus by discouraging early full withdrawals, as about 50% of members had less than Rs 20,000 at final settlement.

GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2025 -

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), has published its **2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) under the title "Overlapping Hardships: Poverty and Climate Hazards."**
- For the first time, it overlays climate hazard data with multidimensional poverty to assess poor

people’s exposure to climate shocks, focusing on high heat, drought, floods, and air pollution.

What are Key Findings of the Global MPI Report 2025?

- **Global Poverty Statistics:** Of 6.3 billion people across 109 countries, 1.1 billion (18.3%) live in acute multidimensional poverty, mostly young, rural, and in low human development countries.
- **Multi-dimensional Poverty in India:** Poverty fell from 55.1% (2005–2006) to 16.4% (2019–2021). Large areas of India face a severe mix of poverty, high heat, flooding, and air pollution.

INDIA’S TRADE DEFICIT HITS \$32.15 BILLION IN SEPTEMBER 2025 -

- India’s merchandise trade deficit widened sharply to \$32.15 billion in September 2025, marking an 11-month high, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry on October 15. This surge, significantly above expectations,



reflects a faster rise in imports than exports—compounded by recent US tariff hikes on key Indian goods. This development comes just days before critical trade negotiations with Washington, where India is expected to increase its US energy imports and defend its Russian oil purchases amid growing geopolitical scrutiny.

Breakdown of September Trade Figures

- **Merchandise Exports and Imports**
- India’s exports in September stood at \$36.38 billion, rising modestly from \$35.10 billion in August despite the negative impact of higher US tariffs.
- **Key sectors affected by the US policy changes include textiles, shrimp, and gems & jewellery, which**



traditionally contribute significantly to India's export basket.

- On the other hand, merchandise imports jumped to \$68.53 billion, a steep rise from \$61.59 billion in August.
- The widening gap between exports and imports led to the \$32.15 billion deficit, far above the \$25.13 billion median forecast by economists in a Reuters poll.

INDIA'S EXTERNAL DEBT HAS RISEN TO USD 747.2 BILLION AT THE END OF JUNE 2025, MARKING A 1.5% INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, AS PER THE LATEST DATA RELEASED BY THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) -

What is the Current Status of India's External Debt?

- **Valuation Effects:** The increase in external debt was largely driven by valuation effects arising from currency fluctuations.
- The depreciation of the US dollar contributed to a valuation loss of USD 5.1 billion.
- **Debt Coverage:** Despite the increase in total external debt, over 93% of the debt is covered by India's foreign exchange reserves, ensuring strong external resilience.
- The external debt-to-GDP ratio stands at 18.9%, reflecting a moderate and sustainable level of external liabilities.



Debt Maturity Profile:

- Long-term debt (maturity over one year) forms the bulk at USD 611.7 billion, while short-term debt declined to 18.1% of total debt.
- The short-term debt-to-reserves ratio has improved, reducing rollover and liquidity risks.
- **Currency-wise Composition**
- **US Dollar:** 53.8% – The dominant currency in India's external debt, showing significant exposure to global monetary fluctuations.
- **Indian Rupee:** 30.6% – A substantial share in domestic-currency debt.
- **Japanese Yen:** 6.6% – A minor share.

- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs):** 4.6% – A minor portion.
- **Euro:** 3.5% – A relatively smaller share.

Sector-wise Distribution

- **Non-financial Corporations:** 35.9% – The largest sector, reflecting the rise in private-sector external borrowings.
- **Government & Financial Institutions:** The remaining share of the external debt.

RBI POLICY MEASURES TO BOOST INDIA'S BANKING SYSTEM -

- RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.50% with a neutral stance. As part of the MPC statement Reserve Bank of India (RBI) four key measures aimed at enhancing the resilience and competitiveness of India's banking sector.
- **Aim:** To enhance credit flow, strengthen banking resilience, simplify regulations, and promote the internationalisation of the Indian Rupee.
- **Timing of the Announcement:** These announcements come amid global trade tensions, tariff uncertainties, and geopolitical volatility that affect commodity and currency movements. Despite global headwinds, India's growth outlook remains strong, supported by domestic consumption, public investment, and stable inflation.



Key Takeaways of RBI MPC Meeting 2025–26

- **Policy decision – Repo rate unchanged:** The MPC unanimously voted to keep the repo rate steady at 5.5 percent, with the SDF at 5.25 percent and the MSF and Bank Rate at 5.75 percent.
- The stance remains neutral.
- **Inflation Outlook:** RBI has lowered its CPI inflation forecast for FY 2025–26 to 2.6%, down from 3.1%.
- **Reason:** This drop is because of GST rate cuts, cheaper food prices, and healthy foodgrain stocks.
- GST rationalisation has helped cool prices and simplify taxes, benefiting consumers and businesses

alike. However, new U.S. tariffs on Indian exports (as high as 50%) could hurt external demand and slow export growth.

lowered to 6.3% due to the impact of increased U.S. tariffs on Indian exports.



FINANCE MINISTER LAUNCHES THE FOREIGN CURRENCY SETTLEMENT SYSTEM (FCSS) AT GIFT CITY -

- The Union Finance Minister launched the Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in October 2025. This new system enables real-time settlement of foreign currency transactions within GIFT City. It marks leap from the previous 36-48 hour delays under correspondent banking.
- The FCSS places GIFT City among a few global financial hubs with local foreign currency settlement infrastructure. This development is expected to enhance liquidity, reduce risks, and improve operational efficiency in international finance.



Recent Growth Performance

- India's real GDP growth in the April-June 2025 quarter reached 7.8%, surpassing expectations. This acceleration was driven by robust private consumption and investment. Additionally, inflation remained lower than anticipated, supporting economic activity.

Factors Supporting Growth

- Domestic factors such as improved agricultural output and rising rural wages have boosted demand. The government's GST reforms, which reduced tax brackets and eased compliance, have encouraged business activity and formalisation. These changes have helped sustain consumption-led growth.

What Is the Foreign Currency Settlement System?

- **The FCSS is a mechanism that allows Indian banks in GIFT City to settle foreign currency trades locally. Previously, these transactions depended on foreign correspondent banks, causing delays and higher costs. The system uses a local settlement bank as a hub where member banks hold accounts for direct inter-bank settlements. Initially, it supports US dollar transactions with plans to include more currencies. The system operates under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, and is regulated by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).**

NAVRATRI 2025 SALES HIT DECADE-HIGH AS GST REFORMS BOOST FESTIVE SPENDING -

Record-Breaking Navratri Sales

- The first eight days of Navratri 2025 recorded historic sales growth across industries. The festival period, which marks the onset of India's major festive season (Onam to Diwali), witnessed double- and triple-digit growth in several segments, including automobiles, electronics, and retail goods.
- **Automobile Sector Performance:** The automobile industry emerged as the strongest driver of consumption, reporting record deliveries and bookings across brands:
- **Two-Wheeler Segment:** Hero MotoCorp saw showroom footfalls double, while Bajaj Auto reported strong sales across its commuter and premium models. and This resurgence reflects India's growing middle-class aspirations and rural demand recovery, supported by falling loan rates and improved rural incomes.



WORLD BANK RAISES INDIA FY26 GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.5% -

- India's economic growth forecast for 2025-26 has been upgraded by the World Bank to 6.5%. This revision reflects stronger domestic conditions and the positive effects of recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms. However, the growth projection for 2026-27 has been

THE UNION CABINET HAS APPROVED THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) OF THE 8TH CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION -

- **Pay Commission (PC):** A new PC is established every 10 years under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- PC determines the salary, allowances, and pensions of Central government employees by assessing both monetary and non-monetary benefits, taking into account inflation, cost of living, and the need for parity and fairness in compensation.
- Usually, a retired Supreme Court judge heads the PC. Its recommendations are often adopted by state-owned organizations as well.
- The 8th Pay Commission will be chaired by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai. The Commission will submit its report within 18 months and may issue interim recommendations on specific matters before completion.
- **ToR:** It serves as a blueprint outlining the mandate, scope, and timelines for the 8th Pay Commission.
- **Implementation Date:** 8th Pay Commission recommendations are expected to take effect retrospectively from 1st January, 2026, continuing the 10-year pay revision cycle tradition.
- **Economic Impact:** Implementation leads to higher consumption and economic growth, improving the quality of life of employees and pensioners.
- Over 49 lakh Central government employees and 65 lakh pensioners will benefit under the 8th CPC.
- **Past Precedent:** 7th Pay Commission (2016), chaired by Justice Ashok Kumar Mathur, recommended a 23.55% overall hike.



INDIA'S SERVICES EMPLOYMENT SHARE RISES TO 30%, ADDS 40 MILLION JOBS IN SIX YEARS: NITI AAYOG -

- India's services sector has solidified its position as the country's most dynamic employment engine, with its share in total employment increasing to nearly 30% in

2023–24, according to two new reports released by NITI Aayog. The sector has generated about 40 million new jobs over the past six years, underscoring its growing role in shaping India's transition toward a developed economy.



Services Sector Driving India's Economic Transformation

- NITI Aayog's reports, "India's Services Sector: Insights from Employment Trends and State-Level Dynamics" and "India's Services Sector: Insights from GVA Trends and State-Level Dynamics," highlight that the services employment share rose from 26.9% in 2011–12 to 29.7% in 2023–24. Total services employment now stands at around 188 million. Despite this robust expansion, India's services share still lags behind the global average of 50%, signalling ongoing structural shifts in the economy.

APPLE HITS \$4 TRILLION AS IPHONE SALES SURGE; NVIDIA NEARS \$5 TRILLION ON AI BOOM -

- Two of the world's biggest technology firms, Apple and Nvidia, have set new market milestones. Apple briefly crossed the \$4 trillion valuation mark for the first time, driven by strong global demand for its latest iPhone models, while Nvidia closed in on a record \$5 trillion valuation as AI chip sales continue to dominate global technology markets.

Apple's Record Market Milestone

- Apple's market capitalisation briefly touched \$4.005 trillion after its shares hit \$269.89 on Tuesday before settling slightly lower at \$3.992 trillion. This makes Apple the third company to achieve the \$4 trillion milestone, following Nvidia and Microsoft. The company's recent turnaround came after strong sales of the new iPhone 17 series and the ultra-slim iPhone Air, which performed exceptionally in the U.S., China and India.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

UNITED NATIONS DAY 2025 -

- The world marks United Nations (UN) Day on 24th October 2025, celebrating 80 years since the UN was established in 1945. The day commemorates the entry into force of the UN Charter, officially bringing the United Nations into being.

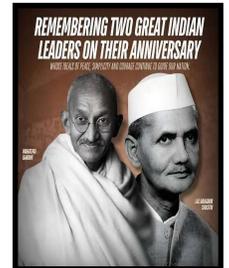


What are the Key Facts About the United Nations?

- About:** The UN is an intergovernmental organization established after World War II, succeeding the League of Nations to promote global peace, security, and cooperation through its various specialized agencies.
- The UN Charter was signed 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization, and came into force on 24 October 1945, a date now celebrated annually as United Nations Day.
- The UN Charter was ratified by 51 nations, including the five permanent Security Council members (US, UK, USSR/Russia, China, France).
- Evolution:** Membership has grown from 51 countries (1945) to 193 countries (2025). India is a founding member of the United Nations. Its headquarters is located in New York City, US
- Expanded focus to include health, environment, gender equality, human rights, and sustainable development.
- Responded to global crises like pandemics, refugee movements, and climate change.
- Core Goals:** Maintain international peace and security.
- Develop friendly relations among nations.
- Achieve international cooperation in solving global problems.
- Act as a center for harmonizing actions of nations to reach common objectives.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI AND SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI -

- Prime Minister of India paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversaries, recalling their invaluable contributions to India's freedom, integrity, and nation-building.



Mahatma Gandhi

- Early Life:** Born on 2nd October 1869 at Porbandar, Gandhi married Kasturbai in 1882 and studied law in England (1888–91). His legal career soon merged with his moral quest for justice.
- Experiences in South Africa: In 1893, racial humiliation at Pietermaritzburg shaped his resolve against injustice.
- He founded the Natal Indian Congress (1894), launched the newspaper Indian Opinion, established Phoenix Settlement (1904) and Tolstoy Farm (1910) where he evolved Satyagraha as non-violent resistance.**
- Return to India: Gandhi returned on 9th January 1915 (now celebrated as Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas) and set up Sabarmati Ashram (1917). He rooted his politics in simplicity, truth, and self-reliance.
- Major Movements:** His leadership shone in Champaran Satyagraha (1917), Kheda Kheda Satyagraha (1918), and the Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919). Later, he guided the nation through the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22), the Civil Disobedience Movement with Dandi March (1930), and the Quit India Movement (1942).
- Writings & Ideas:** Gandhi articulated his vision in Hind Swarajya and his Autobiography titled "An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth".
- He promoted Khadi and the Charkha as tools of self-reliance and dignity of labour, and established institutions like the All India Spinners' Association (1925) and

the Harijan Sevak Sangh (1932) to further social and economic reform.

- **Legacy:** Gandhi's last years were devoted to communal harmony and upliftment of Harijans. He was assassinated on 30th January 1948.
- Gandhi revered as the "Father of the Nation," his legacy of truth and non-violence remains globally relevant.
- 2nd October is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti and globally as the International Day of Non-Violence, as declared by the United Nations.

ECI TO BEGIN SECOND PHASE OF ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION IN 12 STATES AND UTS FROM NOVEMBER 4 -

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the launch of the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls across 12 States and Union Territories (UTs) beginning November 4, with the

final lists scheduled for publication on February 7, 2026. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar made the announcement during a press briefing in New Delhi.



States and UTs Covered Under the Revision

- The comprehensive one-month revision will include Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Notably, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, and Puducherry are due for Assembly elections in 2026. Assam, which will also go to polls the same year, has been excluded owing to distinct citizenship and voter registration rules applicable in the state.

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AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2025 -

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee has awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2025 to Maria Corina Machado in recognition of her tireless efforts to promote democratic rights in Venezuela and her unwavering struggle for a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy.



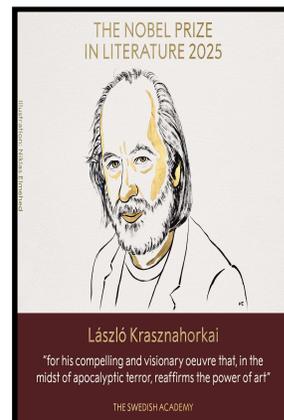
What are the Key Highlights of the Nobel Peace Prize 2025?

- **Laureate:** María Corina Machado, a Venezuelan politician and pro-democracy activist, widely known as the "Iron Lady of Venezuela" for her courageous stand against authoritarianism.
- Since 1999, Venezuela has shifted from a relatively stable democracy to a deeply entrenched authoritarian state. With citizens facing poverty and limited freedoms, while the opposition struggles under constant threats.
- **Maria Corina Machado Contributions:** She founded the Atenea Foundation in 1992 to support street children and co-founded Súmate to monitor elections and promote free and fair voting.
- Mobilised citizens and opposition groups by advocating "ballots over bullets," promoting peaceful civic participation over violent resistance.
- She stood firmly against authoritarian rule while remaining in Venezuela under threats, working to unify the pro-democracy movement.
- **Global Significance:** 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to Maria Corina Machado highlights that democracy is the foundation of peace, both within countries and internationally.

NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE 2025 AWARDED TO LÁSZLÓ KRASZNAHORKAI

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced on

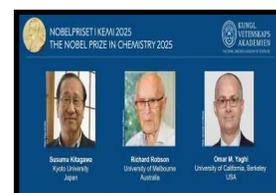
9 October 2025 that the Nobel Prize in Literature for the year has been awarded to Hungarian author László Krasznahorkai. The award recognises his compelling and visionary body of work that explores themes of apocalyptic terror while affirming the enduring power of art.



- The Nobel Prize in Literature is part of the annual Nobel Prize announcements. Recently, the Literature Prize followed those in Physiology or Medicine, Physics, and Chemistry announced earlier in the week. The Peace Prize and the Prize in Economic Sciences are scheduled for announcement later in October. Each Nobel Prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor, equivalent to approximately ₹1.03 crore. The awards ceremony takes place on 10 December, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

CHEMISTRY NOBEL PRIZE 2025 -

- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar Yaghi for pioneering Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) — materials with uniquely designed porous structures that enable multiple scientific and industrial applications.



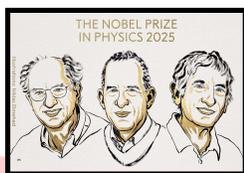
About Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs)

- **Structure:** MOFs are crystalline materials made by connecting metal ions (acting as nodes) with organic carbon-based linkers, forming three-dimensional networks with large cavities that allow gases or liquids to move in and out.

- **Mechanism:** Metal ions serve as anchors or joints, while organic molecules act as flexible linkers that can form rings or chains. This structure creates ordered pores that can be customised chemically and spatially.
- **Functionality:** These voids act like sponges or foams, capable of temporarily trapping and releasing other molecules such as gases or water.
- **Analogy:** The difference between normal compounds and MOFs is akin to a solid brick building versus one built of beams and pillars, where MOFs provide controlled empty spaces at the molecular level.

PHYSICS NOBEL 2025 -

- Nobel Prize in Physics 2025 awarded to John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis for demonstrating macroscopic quantum tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit.



About the Work

- The three scientists showed that it was possible even for large systems, made up of billions of small particles, to exhibit quantum behaviour under carefully controlled conditions.

Josephson's Discovery

- **Concept:** Predicted that if two superconductors are separated by a thin insulating layer, electrons can quantum tunnel through the barrier even without applied voltage.
- **Phenomenon:** Known as the Josephson Effect, which produces a supercurrent, an electric current that flows without resistance.
- **Recognition:** Awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics (1973) for this theoretical prediction.
- **Device:** The setup became known as the Josephson Junction.
- **Applications:** Used in SQUIDs (Superconducting Quantum Interference Devices) and other precision instruments to detect and measure extremely small magnetic fields
- They took Josephson's idea further to explore whether an

- entire electrical circuit, made up of billions of particles, could itself behave as a single quantum system.
- **The Experiment:** The trio's groundbreaking work in the 1980s at the University of California, they built a superconducting circuit containing a Josephson Junction.
- They cooled it to cryogenic temperatures near absolute zero (0 Kelvin (K)) and isolated it completely from external interference (like heat, sound, and electromagnetic noise).

NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE -

- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine recognised discoveries on regulatory T-cells (Tregs) and FOXP3, transforming understanding of autoimmune regulation and self-tolerance.



- Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi have been honoured for their work on deciphering the intricacies of the immune system.

About Nobel Prize

- **Origin:** Established under the will of Alfred Nobel (1833–1896), the inventor of dynamite, the Nobel Prizes have been awarded annually since 1901 to honour outstanding contributions to humanity.
- **Categories:** The prizes are awarded in six fields — Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace, and Economic Sciences (the last added in 1969 by the Swedish Central Bank).

Awarding Institutions:

- Physics, Chemistry, and Economics – Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- Physiology or Medicine – Karolinska Institute, Sweden
- Literature – Swedish Academy
- Peace Prize – Norwegian Nobel Committee, Oslo
- **Components of the Award:** Each Nobel Prize includes a gold medal, a diploma, and a monetary award (currently 11 million Swedish kronor in 2025).

Understanding the Immune System

- The human body has a powerful and complex immune system, which not just fights off various bacteria and viruses, but also knows what cells should not be attacked.
- Immune Defence Mechanism: The human immune system fights thousands of microbes daily using specialized cells like T cells, which detect and destroy pathogens.

RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR 2025 -

- The Government of India has announced the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) 2025, the nation's highest recognition for outstanding contributions in diverse fields of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.
- 
- **Prominent Awardees of 2025:** Vigyan Ratna (Posthumous)-Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar – noted astrophysicist.
 - Known for co-developing the Hoyle–Narlikar theory of gravity, an alternative to Einstein's general relativity that supports the steady-state model of the universe.
 - Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar
 - **About:** The award has been instituted by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
 - It aims to inspire excellence in Indian science and technology, promote innovation, and acknowledge achievements that contribute to national development.
 - **Disciplinary Coverage:** It covers 13 fields such as Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Agriculture, Environment, Atomic Energy, Space, etc.
 - **Categories of Awards:** The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is conferred under four categories:
 - **Vigyan Ratna (VR):** Lifetime achievement recognition.
 - **Vigyan Shri (VS):** Distinguished contributions.
 - **Vigyan Yuva–Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY–SSB):** For scientists below 45 years.
 - **Vigyan Team (VT):** For exceptional collaborative work.

SANAE TAKAICHI BECOMES JAPAN'S FIRST WOMAN PRIME MINISTER -

- In a moment of historic significance, Sanae Takaichi has been elected as Japan's first female prime minister, shattering one of the world's most enduring political glass ceilings. On October 21, 2025, she secured 237 votes in the 465-seat Lower House of Parliament, becoming Japan's 104th prime minister, succeeding Shigeru Ishiba, who resigned last month following electoral setbacks.
- Takaichi's rise not only represents a symbolic victory for gender representation but also signals a sharp ideological pivot to the right in Japanese politics, aligning closely with the legacy of her mentor, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.



A Hardline Conservative with Thatcherite Admiration

- A known conservative and a long-time member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Takaichi has modelled much of her political outlook on Margaret Thatcher and Shinzo Abe. She has consistently advocated for,
 - Stricter immigration policies
 - Traditional family values
 - A tougher national security stance
- Reinterpretation of Japan's pacifist constitution

INDIA ELECTED TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL -

- India has been elected unopposed to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for a three-year term (2026–28), marking its seventh term since the body's formation in 2006.



About the UN Human Rights Council (HRC)

- **Established:** March 2006 by UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251, replacing the UN Commission on Human Rights.
- **Mandate:** To promote and protect human rights globally, address violations, and make recommendations.
- **Headquarters:** Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

- **Support:** The Council benefits from technical, and secretariat support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Structure & Membership:

- **Composition:** 47 member states elected by the UN General Assembly for three-year terms.

Regional Distribution:

- 13 seats for African States
- 13 for Asia-Pacific
- 8 for Latin American and Caribbean States
- 7 for Western European and other States
- 6 for Eastern European States

PRESIDENT MURMU MEETS SIDDI TRIBE, URGES EDUCATION -

- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, recently engaged with the Siddi community in Junagadh district, Gujarat. The Siddis are a tribal group with African origins and classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). The interaction focused on education, tribal welfare, and sustainable living.

**Recent Interaction with Siddi Community**

- On 10 October 2025, President Murmu met members of the Siddi tribe. She praised their literacy rate of over 72 per cent, achievement for a PVTG. The President encouraged the community to continue pursuing education as a tool for empowerment and progress.

Government Initiatives for Tribal Welfare

- President Murmu brought into light the Central government's commitment to tribal development. She urged the community to stay informed about welfare schemes and actively use them. The President also called on the Siddis to assist others in their villages to access these benefits.

FRANCE'S PM SEBASTIEN LECORNU RESIGNS HOURS AFTER CABINET FORMATION -

- In a dramatic and unprecedented move, France's Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu resigned just 14 hours after appointing his cabinet, plunging the country deeper into political turmoil. His resignation has sparked renewed calls for snap elections and rattled both the French stock market and the euro, underscoring the fragility of France's political landscape.

**What Led to the Resignation?**

- Lecornu's cabinet appointments sparked strong backlash from across the political spectrum. Despite weeks of consultations with major parties, his lineup was viewed by many as either too right-wing or not right-wing enough, failing to secure support from both allies and opponents.
- In a fragmented National Assembly, where no party commands a majority, any government is vulnerable to collapse.
- Fearing a no-confidence motion, Lecornu submitted his resignation to President Emmanuel Macron early Monday.
- The Élysée Palace confirmed that Macron accepted the resignation.

Political Context & Instability

- France has faced growing instability since President Macron's re-election in 2022, as his centrist alliance failed to secure a majority in parliament.
- His move to call a snap election in 2024 backfired, resulting in an even more divided legislature.
- Lecornu, a close Macron ally and the fifth prime minister in two years, was appointed only last month.
- His abrupt exit is emblematic of the governance gridlock now gripping France.

PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

"FARE SE FURSAT" FIXED AIRFARE SCHEME -

- The Minister of Civil Aviation, launched a new initiative titled "Fare Se Fursat", a fixed airfare scheme by India's government-owned regional carrier, Alliance Air.
- India's aviation sector's dynamic pricing model is being reformed through a new scheme aimed at ensuring transparent, stable, and affordable regional airfares.



Key Features

- **Fixed Fare System:** Passengers will pay a single, constant fare, even for same-day bookings.
- **Aligned with UDAN:** It supports the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) mission of making flying accessible for the middle and lower-middle classes.
- **Passenger Benefits:** Ensures predictable travel costs, reduces stress, and encourages first-time flyers from smaller towns.

India's Aviation Sector

- India's aviation industry has witnessed rapid expansion, making it the third-largest domestic aviation market after the USA and China.
- India's aviation revenue is expected to grow by 15-20% in FY24 and 10-15% in FY25.
- Domestic air traffic in FY23 reached 306.79 million passengers, a 13.5% YoY growth, while international traffic rose 22.3% to 69.64 million passengers.
- Operational airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024, with a goal of 350-400 by 2047.

HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD GRANTED MINI RATNA STATUS -

- Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), one of India's oldest shipbuilding entities, has been conferred Mini Ratna status by the Government of India. Announced on October 14, 2025, this recognition marks a significant turnaround

for the shipyard and strengthens its role in India's maritime and defence manufacturing ecosystem.



Background: From Struggle to Revival

- Founded in 1941, HSL was once a cornerstone of India's shipbuilding capability, producing vessels for both commercial and naval use.
- However, from the 1980s onward, it faced severe operational and financial setbacks due to outdated technology, project delays, and poor competitiveness.
- Despite being transferred to the Ministry of Defence in 2010, its revival took shape only after 2015, when a series of strategic reforms were implemented,
- Financial restructuring
- Technology upgrades
- Workforce reskilling
- Tighter project management

PM GATISHAKTI NATIONAL MASTER PLAN -

- On the occasion of celebrating 4 years of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP), the government has opened its PM GatiShakti portal to the private sector, aiming to enhance last-mile delivery services and infrastructure development.
- PM GatiShakti portal is developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N).



What is PM GatiShakti National Master Plan?

- **About:**
- Launched in October 2021, it is a Rs 100 lakh crore investment initiative for infrastructure development over the next five years.
- It promotes integrated development across seven economic drivers—railways, roads, ports, waterways,

airports, mass transport, and logistics—supported by energy, IT, water, and social infrastructure.

Objective:

- It aims to cut logistics costs through integrated infrastructure planning.
- Acting as a digital backbone, it bridges macro-level planning and micro-level implementation, links existing schemes (Bharatmala, Sagarmala, UDAN), and connects economic zones to boost business competitiveness.

LABOUR MINISTER UNVEILS “VISHWAS ” SCHEME TO END EPF LITIGATION -

- In a significant reform move, Labour and Employment Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the Vishwas Scheme aimed at curbing protracted litigations under the Employees’ Provident Fund (EPF) & Miscellaneous Provisions Act. Unveiled during the 238th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of EPFO in New Delhi, this scheme is part of a broader push to streamline EPF processes, rationalize penal damages, and enhance member convenience.



What Is the Vishwas Scheme?

- The Vishwas Scheme is designed to reduce litigation by rationalizing penal damages imposed for delayed remittances of EPF dues.
- Instead of multiple, often steep penalties leading to disputes and court cases, this scheme offers a simplified, uniform penal rate and covers ongoing, pending, and future cases under specified categories.

Key Features

- **Uniform Penal Rate:** 1% per month for most delayed payments

Graded Lower Rates

- 0.25% per month for defaults up to 2 months
- 0.50% per month for defaults up to 4 months

Coverage

- Pending litigation under Section 14B
- Unpaid penal damage orders

- Pre-adjudication defaults

THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH LAUNCHED THE DRAVYA PORTAL (DIGITISED RETRIEVAL APPLICATION FOR VERSATILE YARDSTICK OF AYUSH) IN GOA, MARKING THE CREATION OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL REPOSITORY OF AYURVEDIC INGREDIENTS AND FORMULATIONS -

- **About:** The DRAVYA Portal is a landmark in India’s Ayush digital transformation, bridging traditional knowledge and modern innovation.
- AI-ready platform, enabling integration with the Ayush Grid and other Ministry initiatives to strengthen research, regulation, and global recognition of India’s rich medicinal heritage.
- In its first phase, it aims to catalogue 100 key medicinal substances, ensuring precision and authenticity through a dedicated data-entry software.
- **Developed by:** Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH.



Key Features:

- Contains detailed profiles of Ayurvedic substances across pharmacotherapeutics, botany, chemistry, pharmacology, and safety data.
- Facilitates intelligent data analysis, linking with the Ayush Grid and national health databases for policy, research, and innovation.
- Supports researchers, practitioners, students, and policymakers in evidence-based study, pharmacopoeial harmonisation, and drug validation.

PM MODI LAUNCHES RS 35,440 CRORE AGRICULTURE SCHEMES -

- The Government of India launched two agricultural schemes in 2025. Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses. These initiatives aim to boost productivity, strengthen rural economies, and enhance



farmers' incomes across the country. The schemes come with a combined investment of over Rs 35,000 crore and target 100 specially selected districts.



Recent Agricultural Initiatives

- **The PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana focuses on crop diversification, sustainable farming, irrigation, storage, and credit availability. It integrates 36 government schemes for a unified approach. The Dalhan Atmanirbharata Mission aims to increase pulse production by expanding cultivation area and improving procurement and processing. It targets nutritional security and benefits nearly two crore pulse farmers.**

Focus on Aspirational Districts

- The schemes draw inspiration from the Aspirational Districts Programme. Over 100 districts once labelled backward are now priority areas for development. The approach combines convergence, collaboration, and competition among districts to accelerate progress. Infrastructure improvements include roads, electrification of schools, and healthcare coverage, transforming rural livelihoods.

20 YEARS OF RTI ACT, 2005 -

- As the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 completes 20 years of implementation in October 2025, a study has highlighted significant gaps in its functioning, exposing a transparency system under severe strain.

What are Key Facts About the RTI Act, 2005?

- **About:** Enacted in 2005, the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 seeks to enable citizens to freely access information held by public authorities.
- It was designed to promote openness in government operations, strengthen accountability, and advance the principles of good governance across public institutions.
- Shahid Raza Burney's RTI in Pune was the first one to be filed under the law.
- **Core Components:** The Act applies to all levels of government, including central, state, and local bodies.

- Section 8(2) permits disclosure when public interest outweighs confidentiality, and Section 22 ensures the RTI Act, 2005 takes precedence over any inconsistencies with other laws.
- **Exemptions:** Despite anything contained in the RTI Act, 2005 citizens are not entitled to information that could harm India's sovereignty, integrity, security, strategic, scientific, or economic interests, affect relations with other countries, or incite an offence.
- **Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019:** Originally under the RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners served for 5 years or until age 65, whichever is earlier and their salary and terms of service matched those of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- However, the 2019 amendment changed this, giving the Central Government the power to set their term of office, salaries, allowances, and terms of service.
- **Achievement of RTI Act, 2005:** It has enhanced accountability in public fund use, enabling citizens to access MGNREGA expenditures, PDS records, and local development projects, reducing leakages and misuse.
- It has exposed high-profile scams like the Adarsh Society, 2G spectrum, and Commonwealth Games, while instilling a culture of accountability among public officials aware their actions are subject to public scrutiny.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT UNVEILS SHRAM SHAKTI NITI 2025 DRAFT -

- The Government of India released the draft National Labour and Employment Policy, known as Shram Shakti Niti, 2025. It aims to create a universal and portable social security system for all workers. The policy integrates several welfare schemes and promotes a future-ready, inclusive labour ecosystem. Public consultation on the draft is open until October 27, 2025.



Universal Social Security Integration

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- The policy proposes a single universal account combining Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Employees State Insurance Corporation, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, e-SHRAM, and State welfare Boards. This integration ensures portability and ease of access to social security benefits across sectors and states.

Occupational Safety and Health Reforms

- Implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Code is a key feature. The policy mandates risk-based inspections and gender-sensitive safety standards. It aims to reduce workplace fatalities to near zero by adopting modern safety protocols and AI-enabled monitoring systems.

FIVE MAHARASHTRA BEACHES EARN BLUE FLAG GLOBAL RECOGNITION -

- In a proud moment for Maharashtra and India’s eco-tourism initiatives, five beaches from the state have been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag certification, an international symbol of clean, safe, and environmentally sustainable beaches. This recognition places these coastal gems on the global tourism map, validating ongoing efforts to balance tourism with environmental responsibility. The announcement was made by Maharashtra Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare, signalling a boost for the state’s coastal and tourism development agenda.



Beaches That Earned the Blue Flag

- The five newly certified beaches are,
- Shrivardhan Beach – Raigad district
- Nagaon Beach – Raigad district
- Parnaka Beach – Palghar district
- Guhagar Beach – Ratnagiri district
- Ladghar Beach – Ratnagiri district
- These additions bring Maharashtra in line with global beach sustainability norms, enhancing its appeal among environmentally conscious travellers.

What is the Blue Flag Certification?

- The Blue Flag certification is a globally recognized eco-

label awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), based in Denmark. It is considered the gold standard for clean and eco-friendly beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.

- To earn the Blue Flag, a beach must meet 33 stringent criteria across categories including,
- Water quality and marine safety
- Environmental education and awareness
- Eco-friendly management practices
- Public amenities and accessibility
- Sustainable tourism infrastructure

GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN (GRAP)

- Delhi’s Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching the ‘Poor’ category prompted the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to invoke Stage-I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across the National Capital Region (NCR) to prevent further deterioration in air quality.

What is a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)?

- **About:** The GRAP is a pre-emptive and emergency framework designed to control and reduce air pollution levels in the Delhi-NCR region.
- **It was formulated under the directions of the Supreme Court of India in the case of M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (2016).**
- GRAP was officially notified and came into effect in 2017 and is implemented by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and state authorities.
- The plan categorises pollution response measures into four stages, depending on the AQI levels.

Stages of GRAP:

- **Stage I – Poor (AQI 201–300):** Basic pollution control measures like road dust management and enforcing vehicle PUC (Pollution Under Control) norms.
- **Stage II – Very Poor (AQI 301–400):** Stricter actions such as limiting diesel generator use and controlling operations in pollution hotspots.

- **Stage III – Severe (AQI 401–450):** Imposes restrictions on specific vehicles, construction activities, and allows for remote schooling measures.
- **Stage IV – Severe+ (AQI > 450):** Enforces bans on entry of heavy vehicles, closure of schools, and shutdown of non-essential industries.

AUSTRALIA-INDIA CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP -

- Australia’s Climate and Energy Minister Chris Bowen is visiting India to reinforce the India–Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP).
- The visit comes amid global supply chain vulnerabilities and both countries’ drive toward clean energy transition while reducing dependence on China in critical materials.

Need for Cooperation

- **Climate Vulnerabilities in the Indo-Pacific:**
- The region faces severe climate impacts — nearly 10 climate-related disasters a month (1970–2022), displacing millions.
- By 2050, about 89 million people could be displaced, with 80% of the population directly affected.
- **Climate targets:** Both Nations have set a ambitious target:
- **India:** Targets 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 (280 GW from solar) and has achieved 50% of installed capacity from non-fossil sources by July 2025.
- **Australia:** Aims to cut emissions 62–70% below 2005 levels by 2035, aligning with its net-zero trajectory.
- **Supply Chain Dependence on China:**
- China refines over 90% of rare earth elements and produces ~80% of global solar modules.
- India faces import dependency for rare earth magnets and battery materials used in EVs and wind power.
- Australia, despite its rich mineral base (lithium, cobalt, rare earths), lacks large-scale refining and manufacturing capacity.
- This creates an opportunity for India–Australia collaboration to diversify global clean energy supply chains.

INDIA’S ELEPHANT COUNT FALLS TO 22,446 IN FIRST DNA-BASED CENSUS -

- The latest All-India Synchronous Elephant Estimation (SAIEE) 2025 reveals India’s wild elephant population at 22,446. This is about 17% lower than the 2017 estimate of 27,312. However, experts note the two figures cannot be directly compared. The 2025 count used advanced DNA-based methods instead of visual sightings. This marks India’s first-ever genetic census of elephants. The report marks threats like habitat loss, infrastructure projects, and human-elephant conflict as key reasons for population decline.



New DNA-Based Census Methodology

- The 2025 census involved collecting 21,056 dung samples across elephant habitats. These samples covered 670,000 km of forest trails. Scientists used DNA fingerprinting to identify 4,065 unique elephants. A mark-recapture statistical model then estimated the total population. This method avoids duplication seen in visual counts. It is similar to the technique used for tiger population estimates. The process took longer, delaying the report since 2021, but enhanced accuracy.

NATURAL FARMING IN INDIA -

- Himachal Pradesh is witnessing a major shift as thousands of farmers move away from chemical-based agriculture toward natural farming. This transition reflects India’s wider push for sustainable and eco-friendly agriculture.



What is Natural Farming ?

- **Definition:** As per NITI Aayog, Natural Farming is “a chemical-free traditional farming method” rooted in agroecological principles integrating crops, trees, livestock, and functional biodiversity.
- It follows the philosophy of working with nature, emphasizing minimal human intervention (often referred to as “do-nothing farming”) and the complete avoidance of synthetic chemicals.

Key Features and Principles:

- **No External Chemical Inputs:** Completely avoids chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and growth regulators.
- **On-farm Input Generation:** It relies on agricultural inputs such as Neemastra, Agniastra, Jeevamrit, and Beejamrit, which are locally prepared on farms using materials like cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, gram flour, and soil.
- **Livestock Integration:** Native cow breeds are central for sourcing inputs and maintaining the nutrient cycle.
- **Diversified Cropping System:** Encourages intercropping, mixed cropping, agroforestry, and crop rotation.
- **Soil Health and Biodiversity:** Emphasizes mulching, cover cropping, and maintaining microbial activity for fertile and living soil.
- **Water efficiency:** Uses minimal irrigation and improves soil moisture retention naturally.
- **Scientific and Environmental Benefits:** Enhances soil organic carbon and soil fertility, reducing the need for synthetic inputs.
- Promotes biodiversity, including beneficial insects, pollinators, and soil organisms.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by avoiding urea and other nitrogenous fertilizers.
- Improves climate resilience of farms, especially under drought and erratic rainfall conditions.

THREE INDIAN PORTS NAMED GREEN HYDROGEN HUBS -

- India has taken a significant step toward building a future-ready green energy ecosystem by designating three major ports as Green Hydrogen Hubs. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), under the framework of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, has formally recognised Deendayal Port (Gujarat), V.O. Chidambaranar Port



(Tamil Nadu), and Paradip Port (Odisha) as focal points for green hydrogen production, distribution, and usage.

- This announcement marks a pivotal moment in India’s clean energy transition and aligns with the country’s broader ambition to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

3 Named Green Hydrogen Port

- Deendayal Port Authority (Gujarat)
- V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (Tamil Nadu)
- Paradip Port Authority (Odisha)

INDIA LAUNCHED NATIONAL RED LIST TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION TILL 2030 -

- In a landmark initiative for biodiversity conservation, India launched its National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030 at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025. The event, held at the Asia Pavilion, witnessed the official unveiling by Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh. This comprehensive plan aims to develop a nationally coordinated, science-based framework to assess and monitor the conservation status of India’s diverse species, laying the foundation for the publication of National Red Data Books by 2030.



A Strategic Conservation Framework

- The Red List Roadmap is India’s structured response to the urgent need for species documentation and threat assessment.
- It will guide conservation strategies through scientific data, allowing focused interventions for endangered flora and fauna.
- **The roadmap was developed in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), and the Centre for Species Survival.**



GADKARI INAUGURATES INDIA’S FIRST ELECTRIC TRUCK BATTERY STATION -

• India has taken step towards sustainable transport with the inauguration of its first commercial electric truck battery swapping and charging station. Located at the Delhi International Cargo Terminal Private Limited (DICT) near Sonipat, this facility marks a milestone in India’s push for clean energy in logistics. The initiative aims to reduce pollution, lower fuel costs, and promote biofuel usage, aligning with broader environmental and economic goals.



Electric Truck Battery Swapping Station

• The station enables quick battery swaps and charging for electric trucks. This reduces downtime and enhances operational efficiency. It supports the growing use of electric vehicles (EVs) in commercial transport. The facility is expected to lower logistics costs and pollution levels.

Biofuel from Agricultural Waste

• Efforts are underway to convert stubble, the leftover crop residue, into biofuels. This not only curbs stubble burning pollution but also provides farmers with an additional income source. Currently, 5 million tonnes of stubble are used to produce bio-bitumen for road construction in states like Maharashtra. This innovative use of waste supports sustainability and rural economies.

CYCLONE SHAKHTI, A NAME GIVEN BY SRI LANKA, WHICH ORIGINATED IN THE ARABIAN SEA, HAS STRENGTHENED INTO A SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM

(SCS) WITH WIND SPEEDS REACHING 100 KMPH -

• **About:** Cyclones are fast air circulations around low-pressure areas, rotating anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern, often causing storms and severe weather.



• **Cyclone Formation in Arabian Sea:** The Arabian Sea, particularly its central and southern parts, serves as a warm pool with ideal Sea Surface Temperature (SST) (at least 27°C) favourable for cyclone formation.

• Also, the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is a large weather system that moves eastward around the tropics.

• **When its active phase is over the Arabian Sea, it creates favorable conditions for cyclones — including more moisture, low wind shear, and strong upward air movement.**

• **Classification of Cyclones:** IMD classifies low-pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea by damage potential, following World Meteorological Organization (WMO) guidelines.

• **Naming of Cyclones:** The WMO/ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Panel on Tropical Cyclones, which includes 13 North Indian Ocean countries, manages cyclone naming for the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.

• The panel has a pre-set list of names submitted by 13 countries to be used sequentially.

• Names are chosen in order, column by column, regardless of where the cyclone forms.

REPORTS & INDICES

INDIA DROPS TO 85TH IN 2025 HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX -

The 2025 Henley Passport Index reveals shifts in global travel freedom. India's passport rank has dropped to 85th, granting visa-free access to 57 countries. This marks a decline from 59 countries last year. The index ranks 199 passports worldwide by the number of destinations accessible without a visa. Singapore leads with access to 193 countries, reflecting Asia's rising influence in global mobility.



Overview of the Henley Passport Index

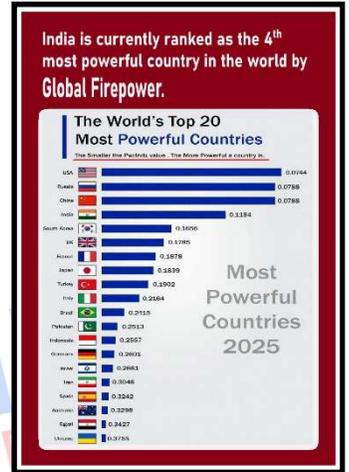
The Henley Passport Index, launched in 2005, ranks passports based on visa-free travel access. It updates annually to reflect changes in international visa policies. The index measures the freedom ordinary citizens have to travel globally without prior visa arrangements. It is widely used to gauge diplomatic relations and travel openness.

India's Passport Ranking and Access

India slipped five places to 85th in 2025. Indian passport holders can travel visa-free to 57 countries, down from 59 in 2024. The ranking has fluctuated over the years, peaking at 71 in 2006 and dipping to 90 in 2021. Visa-free countries include Bhutan, Indonesia, Mauritius, Nepal, and Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, visas on arrival are available in 27 countries such as Sri Lanka, Maldives, Jordan, and Qatar.

GLOBAL FIREPOWER INDEX 2025: WORLD'S STRONGEST MILITARIES REVEALED -

The Global Firepower Index (GFP) Index 2025 presents a detailed analysis of the world's most powerful armed forces. Covering more than 60 assessment factors — from manpower and defence budgets to logistics and technology — it evaluates each nation's ability to project and sustain military strength. A lower Power Index (PwrIndx) score signifies greater overall capability, reflecting modernisation trends and global strategic realignments.



United States Retains Global Military Dominance

The United States continues to lead the GFP 2025 rankings, maintaining its position as the most powerful military in the world. With a defence budget surpassing \$860 billion and a vast global base network, America's superiority extends across land, sea, air, and cyber domains. Advanced assets such as F-35 fighter jets, nuclear submarines, and space-based systems give it unmatched power projection and deterrence. Its global influence remains unparalleled, sustained by continuous innovation and strategic reach.

DEFENCE

RUSSIA CONDUCTS NUCLEAR READINESS DRILL AMID RISING GLOBAL TENSIONS -

- Russia has carried out a comprehensive nuclear readiness test on 22 October, 2025 under the supervision of President Vladimir Putin, involving strategic missile launches from land, sea, and air. The exercise, described as a “planned command and control operation,” aimed to assess the preparedness of the country’s nuclear deterrent systems amid growing friction with the West.



Strategic Missile Launches Across Domains

- State media footage revealed a Yars intercontinental ballistic missile launched from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northern Russia, while a Sineva submarine-launched ballistic missile was fired from the Bryansk nuclear-powered vessel in the Barents Sea. Additionally, Tu-95MS long-range bombers deployed air-launched cruise missiles, testing the coordination between Russia’s land, sea, and air-based nuclear capabilities.

INDIA, BRAZIL EXPAND DEFENCE TIES WITH FOCUS ON AKASH MISSILE -

- India and Brazil have recently intensified their defence collaboration. On 15 October 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Brazilian Vice-President Geraldo Alckmin and Defence Minister José Múcio Monteiro Filho in New Delhi. The talks focused on expanding bilateral defence ties, including the potential supply of India’s Akash missile system to Brazil.



Recent Defence Talks

- The meeting marked step in India-Brazil defence relations. Both sides discussed military cooperation and

identified priority areas for joint work. The talks included possibilities for co-development and co-production of defence equipment. India proposed supplying the Akash surface-to-air missile system to Brazil, enhancing Brazil’s air defence capabilities.

DRDO’S COMBAT PARACHUTE SYSTEM TESTED AT 32,000 FEET -

- In a major milestone for India’s indigenous defence capabilities, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested the Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) from an altitude of 32,000 feet. The test was conducted by Indian Air Force paratroopers, marking the highest deployment for a made-in-India combat parachute system.



About The Military Combat Parachute System

- The Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) is now the only operational parachute system in India capable of safe and controlled deployment above 25,000 feet. Developed jointly by,
- Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra
- Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru
- The system features advanced tactical enhancements, including,
- Lower rate of descent for safer landing
- Superior steering capabilities for accurate navigation
- Compatibility with NavIC (India’s regional navigation system), making it resistant to interference or GPS denial by foreign powers
- These attributes allow paratroopers to exit at high altitude, deploy parachutes at pre-set levels, and precisely land in designated zones—even in hostile or contested environments.

NEW NSG HUB ESTABLISHED IN AYODHYA FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM -

- The National Security Guard (NSG), India's elite counter-terror force, announced a new operational hub in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, in October 2025. This addition to the existing six hubs in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Jammu aims to enhance rapid response capabilities against terrorist threats in northern India. The move reflects the government's commitment to strengthening national security infrastructure.

**Expansion of NSG Operational Hubs**

- The new Ayodhya hub complements existing NSG centres. These hubs maintain round-the-clock readiness to respond swiftly to terrorist attacks. The Ayodhya base will specifically cover a critical zone in Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring regions. This expansion improves geographic coverage and reduces response time during emergencies.

Focus on Training and Capacity Building

- The NSG headquarters will intensify training for its personnel and state anti-terror units. Emphasis will be on sharing best practices and maintaining physical fitness. Training aims to upgrade skills in counter-terrorism tactics and technology use. This approach ensures preparedness against evolving terrorist threats.

Special Operations Training Centre in Manesar

- A new Special Operations Training Centre (SOTC) was inaugurated in Manesar, Haryana. Spread over eight acres and costing ₹141 crore, it offers advanced training facilities. Both NSG commandos and state police anti-terror units will benefit from cutting-edge technology and realistic combat simulations. This centre strengthens India's overall counter-terrorism readiness.

INDIA, AUSTRALIA BEGIN JOINT EXERCISE AUSTRAHIND 2025 -

- AUSTRAHIND 2025, the fourth edition of the annual joint military exercise between India and Australia, kicks off on October 13, 2025, in Perth, Australia. This bilateral

engagement reflects the growing defence and strategic partnership between the two Indo-Pacific democracies. The exercise will continue until October 26 and is designed to improve operational synergy and deepen tactical interoperability between the two armies, particularly in complex urban warfare environments.

**Participating Forces and Leadership**

- The Indian Army contingent, consisting of 120 personnel, has already arrived in Perth. It is led by a Battalion of Gorkha Rifles, with additional representation from other arms and services.
- The Australian side will field equivalent forces, facilitating balanced and realistic joint operations.

Objectives of AUSTRAHIND 2025

- This joint exercise aims to:
- Enhance military cooperation between India and Australia
- Improve interoperability in sub-conventional warfare, especially in urban and semi-urban terrain
- Provide a platform to exchange tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs)
- Foster tactical planning and execution skills at the company level

INDIAN NAVY AND ROYAL NAVY EXERCISE KONKAN 2025 -

- Exercise Konkan 2025 began on 5 October 2025 off India's western coast. This biennial naval exercise between India and the United Kingdom has matured over two decades. It now involves advanced maritime operations, strengthening cooperation and readiness between the two navies. The 2025 edition features the largest and most complex drills to date, reflecting deepening strategic ties.

**Overview of Exercise Konkan**

- Exercise Konkan is a bilateral maritime drill conducted by the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy. It aims to improve

interoperability and mutual understanding in naval operations. The exercise takes place in two phases – harbour and sea. Over the years, it has evolved from simple drills to multifaceted operations involving surface, sub-surface, and air assets.

marking a major step forward in deepening strategic and military cooperation between the two nations. The accord underscores their shared commitment to a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.



INDIAN COAST GUARD CONDUCTS 10TH NATPOLREX OFF CHENNAI COAST -

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is set to conduct the 10th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-X) off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu, beginning tomorrow. The two-day biennial event is India's flagship marine pollution preparedness exercise, organized to test and strengthen the nation's response capabilities against marine oil spill disasters. This exercise will be held in conjunction with the 27th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) and Preparedness Meeting, bringing together key national and international stakeholders involved in maritime environmental protection.



About NATPOLREX-X

- **The National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX) is a biennial exercise organized by the Indian Coast Guard, which functions as the Central Coordinating Authority for oil spill response in Indian waters under the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP).**
- **The 10th edition—NATPOLREX-X (2025)—aims to,**
- Evaluate India's readiness to handle large-scale marine oil spills.
- Test inter-agency coordination and response mechanisms.
- Demonstrate technological innovations in oil spill control, containment, and recovery.
- Strengthen maritime environmental governance and international cooperation in pollution response.

INDIA AND US SIGN LANDMARK 10-YEAR DEFENCE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT -

- India and the United States have signed a landmark 10-year Defence Framework Agreement in Kuala Lumpur,

Strengthening Strategic Partnership

- The agreement was exchanged between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth during the ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting. Both leaders described the pact as a significant milestone in bilateral ties, setting the stage for enhanced coordination, information sharing, and defence technology collaboration.
- Hegseth said that the agreement would serve as a "cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence," emphasising that US-India defence relations "have never been stronger."

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU TAKES SORTIE IN RAFALE FIGHTER JET AT AMBALA AIR BASE -

- President Droupadi Murmu created history on Wednesday by taking a 30-minute sortie in a Rafale fighter jet at the Ambala Air Force Station in Haryana. The symbolic flight highlighted India's growing air defence capabilities and the role of women leadership in national security. The President, who serves as the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour on arrival.



Historic Flight at Ambala Air Force Station

- President Murmu boarded the twin-seater Rafale aircraft at around 11:27 am, wearing a G-suit and flight gear, and waved from the cockpit before take-off. The sortie was conducted under the supervision of senior Air Force officers, including Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, who flew in a separate aircraft. Upon completion of the flight, she deboarded the aircraft to a warm reception from IAF personnel, marking a proud moment for the nation's armed forces.

SPORTS

PAKISTAN WITHDRAWS FROM 2025 JUNIOR HOCKEY WORLD CUP IN INDIA, SEEKS NEUTRAL VENUE -

- Pakistan has formally withdrawn from the 2025 Junior Hockey World Cup to be hosted in India, escalating tensions between the two nations' sporting relations. The decision follows recent terror-related incidents and India's new sports policy restricting bilateral engagements with Pakistan.



Official Confirmation from the International Hockey Federation

- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed on Friday that the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) had officially communicated its decision to withdraw. The event, scheduled between November 28 and December 28 in Chennai and Madurai, will now require a replacement team to fill Pakistan's slot. The PHF has demanded that future tournaments involving both nations be held at neutral venues.

Backdrop of Political and Security Strains

- The withdrawal follows heightened tensions after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and India's subsequent Operation Sindoor. These developments have significantly strained diplomatic and sporting ties, influencing India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to enforce a policy limiting direct competitions between Indian and Pakistani teams.

AHMEDABAD RECOMMENDED TO HOST 2030 COMMONWEALTH GAMES -

- Ahmedabad has been recommended as the host city for the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games by the Commonwealth Sport's Executive Board. This marks opportunity for India to bring the Games back after 20 years. The final decision will be taken by the full

Commonwealth Sport membership at the General Assembly in Glasgow on 26 November 2025. Ahmedabad's bid was chosen over Nigeria's Abuja, denoting India's growing prominence in international sports.



Background of the 2030 Commonwealth Games Bid

- The Commonwealth Games is a major multi-sport event held every four years involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. India last hosted the event in New Delhi in 2010. The 2030 Games will mark the centenary edition. Ahmedabad's bid was evaluated on infrastructure, athlete experience, governance, and alignment with Commonwealth values. The city's vision impressed the Executive Board, promising world-class facilities and organisation.

MIRABAI CHANU WINS SILVER AT 2025 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS -

- Mirabai Chanu made a resounding return to form by securing the silver medal in the women's 48 kg category at the 2025 World Weightlifting Championships in Førde, Norway. Her performance not only added another international medal to her tally but also rewrote the Indian national records in two key categories.



Event Highlights

- Held on 2 October 2025, the women's 48 kg event saw participation from top lifters across 26 countries. The final standings showcased intense competition.
- **Gold:** Ri Song-gum (North Korea) – 213 kg (World Record)
- **Silver:** Mirabai Chanu (India) – 199 kg (National Record)
- **Bronze:** Thanyathon Sukcharoen (Thailand) – 198 kg

- Ri Song-gum was in dominant form, setting new world records in snatch (91 kg), clean & jerk (122 kg), and total lift (213 kg).

HISTORIC WIN! INDIA STUN AUSTRALIA TO ENTER WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP 2025 FINAL -

- India created history by defeating Australia in the semi-final of the Women's ODI World Cup 2025 held at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai. The hosts chased down a massive target of 339 runs, marking the highest successful run chase in Women's ODI history.



Match Overview

- **Match:** Women's ODI World Cup 2025, Semi-Final
- **Venue:** DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai
- **Result:** India defeated Australia by 5 wickets
- **Target:** 339 runs
- **India's Score:** 339/5 in 48.3 overs
- **Australia's Score:** 338 all out in 49.5 overs
- **Player of the Match:** Jemimah Rodrigues (India) – 127* off 134 balls

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.

- Q15. According to a recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which Indian state has the highest per capita usage intensity of UPI transactions ?
a) Karnataka b) Gujarat
c) Telangana d) Maharashtra
- Q16. Which country is the host of NATO's nuclear deterrence exercise called "Steadfast Noon 2025" ?
a) Netherlands b) France
c) Iceland d) Italy
- Q17. According to the Civil Registration System (CRS) report, which State recorded the lowest sex ratio at birth in 2023 ?
a) Bihar b) Telangana
c) Jharkhand d) Haryana
- Q18. What is the name of the mission launched by the Uttar Pradesh government to rejuvenate the Gomti River ?
a) Ganga Cleaning Mission
b) Yamuna Action Plan
c) Jal Shakti Abhiyan
d) Gomti Rejuvenation Mission
- Q19. What is the name of the new initiative launched by India and the United Kingdom to enhance digital cooperation ?
a) India-UK TechBridge Mission
b) Global Telecom Partnership
c) Indo-British Digital Alliance
d) India-UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre
- Q20. Kuru Hydroelectric Project is located in which state/UT?
a) Jammu and Kashmir b) Himachal Pradesh
c) Uttarakhand d) Manipur
- Q21. Which Indian national park director has received the Kenton R. Miller Award 2025 ?
a) Gir National Park
b) Sundarbans National Park
c) Kaziranga National Park
d) Jim Corbett National Park
- Q22. National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele MANAS) was started by which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
c) Ministry of Women and Child Development
d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- Q23. Sawalkote Hydro Electric Project is proposed on which river ?
a) Jhelum b) Chenab
c) Indus d) Ravi
- Q24. Palamau Tiger Reserve is located in which state ?
a) Kerala b) Jharkhand
c) West Bengal d) Karnataka
- Q25. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is located in which state ?
a) Tamil Nadu b) Karnataka
c) Kerala d) Madhya Pradesh
- Q26. Which is the nodal ministry of PM KUSUM scheme ?
a) Ministry of Finance
b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
d) Ministry of Agriculture
- Q27. Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?
a) Madhya Pradesh b) Bihar
c) Uttarakhand d) Punjab
- Q28. Every year World Post Day is celebrated on 9th October. When was World Post Day first declared by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress ?
a) 1947, Geneva b) 1958, Paris
c) 1969, Tokyo d) 1975, New York
- Q29. The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret, and John M. Martinis for discoveries in macroscopic quantum phenomena using which of the following devices ?
a) Photonic crystal
b) Josephson junction
c) Quantum dot
d) Bose-Einstein condensate
- Q30. What is the theme of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 held at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi ?
a) Digital India for All
b) Innovate to Transform
c) Telecom for Growth
d) 5G for Every Citizen

- Q31. The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) is a treaty between Russia and which country?
a) United States of America (USA)
b) China
c) India
d) Iran
- Q32. Where was the 9th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 held ?
a) Bengaluru b) Hyderabad
c) Chennai d) New Delhi
- Q33. How many total medals did India win at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 in New Delhi ?
a) 15 b) 16
c) 17 d) 18
- Q34. What is the name of the scheme launched by the Government of India to modernize government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) ?
a) PM-SETU
b) Skill India Mission
c) Digital India Yojana
d) Make in India Initiative
- Q35. As per the news, World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually on _____
a) 1st October b) 20th October
c) 15th October d) 5th October
- Q36. As per the news, Dr. G G Parikh, who passed away on October 2, 2025, was popularly known as _____.
a) Father of the Socialism
b) Saint of the Socialists
c) Iron Man of India
d) Architect of Modern India
- Q37. Who became Bollywood's first billionaire according to the Hurun India Rich List 2025 ?
a) Amitabh Bachchan b) Hrithik Roshan
c) Shah Rukh Khan d) Karan Johar
- Q38. What is the primary purpose of the "Arattai app" developed by Zoho ?
a) Online banking and payments
b) Instant messaging and communication
c) E-commerce platform for local products
d) Video streaming and entertainment
- Q39. Which country reportedly renamed an island as "Zubeen Garg Island" in honour of the late Assamese singer Zubeen Garg ?
a) India b) Indonesia
c) Malaysia d) Singapore
- Q40. Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?
a) Tamil Nadu b) Goa
c) Karnataka d) Andhra Pradesh
- Q41. Which state/UT has become the first in India to conduct a full population estimation of snow leopards?
a) Sikkim b) Arunachal Pradesh
c) Himachal Pradesh d) Ladakh
- Q42. Sir Creek is a tidal estuary separating which Indian state/UT from Pakistan ?
a) Gujarat b) Rajasthan
c) Punjab d) Jammu and Kashmir
- Q43. What is the primary objective of NASA's Cassini mission ?
a) To study Jupiter's atmosphere
b) To explore Saturn and its moons
c) To map the surface of Mars
d) To study Moon's atmosphere
- Q44. What is the name of the scheme launched by the Ministry of Electronics & IT to boost manufacturing of passive electronic components in India ?
a) Semiconductor Incentive Programme
b) Make in India Electronics Drive
c) Digital India Component Mission
d) Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme
- Q45. Cyclone Shakhti, which formed over the northeast Arabian Sea, was named by which country ?
a) Bangladesh b) Sri Lanka
c) India d) Myanmar
- Q46. As per the news, on October 2 is observed globally as the International Day of Non-Violence. In which year did the United Nations General Assembly declare it ?
a) 2006 b) 2004
c) 2008 d) 2007

- Q47. Who assumed charge as the Director General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) on 1 October 2025 ?
a) Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh
b) Lt Gen Virendra Vats
c) Lt Gen Manoj Pande
d) Lt Gen Raj Shukla
- Q48. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Monetary Policy Report (Oct 2025), released after the 57th MPC meeting, kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.50%. What is India's revised GDP growth forecast for FY 2025-26 according to the report ?
a) 6.2% b) 6.4%
c) 6.5% d) 6.8%
- Q49. What is the name of North Korea's most powerful nuclear strategic weapon showcased by Kim Jong Un during the 80th Workers' Party anniversary parade ?
a) Hwasong-14 b) Hwasong-15
c) Hwasong-16 d) Hwasong-20
- Q50. According to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4 (2025), what is the greatest threat to the world's natural World Heritage sites ?
a) Invasive alien species
b) Climate change
c) Wildlife and plant diseases
d) Urbanization
- Q51. In the context of UIDAI's new initiative, what does SITAA stand for ?
a) Scheme for Integrated Technology Advancement in Aadhaar
b) Scheme for Inclusive Transformation and Access with Aadhaar
c) Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar
d) System for Intelligent Tracking and Authentication of Aadhaar
- Q52. The Ollo Tribe is primarily found in which state ?
a) Arunachal Pradesh b) Sikkim
c) Manipur d) Assam
- Q53. The MISHTI initiative was launched by which ministry?
a) Ministry of Earth Sciences
b) Ministry of Jal Shakti
c) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
d) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- Q54. National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is observed every year on which day ?
a) October 28 b) October 29
c) October 30 d) October 31
- Q55. Which Indian biosphere reserve was added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) on September 27, 2025 ?
a) Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve, Himachal Pradesh
b) Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve
c) Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
d) Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve
- Q56. What was the main reason for the sharp liquidity deficit in the Indian banking system in September 2025, prompting the RBI to conduct a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction ?
a) Slow credit growth and weak demand
b) Heavy government borrowing from markets
c) Advance tax payments and GST outflows
d) Rising Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in banks
- Q57. What is the name of India's first space astronomy observatory which recently completed 10 years of operation ?
a) AstroSat b) Chandrayaan
c) INSAT-3C d) Vikram
- Q58. Cyclone Montha recently made landfall along which region ?
a) Arabian Sea coast
b) Bay of Bengal coast
c) South China Sea coast
d) Indian Ocean
- Q59. Recently, archaeologists discovered a 4,000-year-old temple of the Dilmun Civilization on which island in Kuwait ?
a) Hawar Islands b) Failaka Island
c) Bubiyan Island d) Muharraq Island
- Q60. Recently, National Unity Day 2025, celebrated on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, is observed on which date ?
a) 31 October b) 30 October
c) 15 August d) 26 January

- Q61. Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?
 a) Goa b) Maharashtra
 c) Karnataka d) Kerala
- Q62. The biannual Darbar Move in India, revived in winter 2025, involves shifting government offices between which two cities ?
 a) Delhi and Mumbai
 b) Srinagar and Jammu
 c) Jaipur and Udaipur
 d) Kolkata and Patna
- Q63. Which historic bridge is being replaced by the modern Bajrang Setu over the Ganga River ?
 a) Ram Jhula
 b) Laxman Jhula
 c) Mahatma Gandhi Setu
 d) Howrah Bridge
- Q64. Project Arunank is an initiative of which organization?
 a) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
 b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
 c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
 d) Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- Q65. What is the name of the annual tri-Service combat exercise launched by India along the western border with Pakistan in 2025 ?
 a) Vijay Exercise
 b) Sudarshan Exercise
 c) Trishul Exercise
 d) Mahagujraj Exercise
- Q66. National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is observed every year on which day ?
 a) October 28
 b) October 29
 c) October 30
 d) October 31
- Q67. Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?
 a) Madhya Pradesh
 b) Uttar Pradesh
 c) Maharashtra
 d) Karnataka
- Q68. Indi Lime, which was recently received a GI tag, is primarily cultivated in which state ?
 a) Odisha
 b) Maharashtra
 c) Karnataka
 d) Andhra Pradesh
- Q69. National Seeds Corporation (NSC) functions under which ministry ?
 a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
 b) Ministry of Cooperation
 c) Ministry of Rural Development
 d) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Q70. Which Indian shipyard built INS Savitri ?
 a) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata
 b) Cochin Shipyard Limited
 c) Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai
 d) Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam

ANSWERS

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