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NATIONAL

CONSTITUTION 131ST AMENDMENT BILL 2025: CHANDIGARH UNDER ARTICLE 240 -

- The Government of India is poised to introduce the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025, seeking to bring the Union Territory of Chandigarh under Article 240 of the Constitution. This legislative move signals a significant shift in how Chandigarh is governed and aligns it with other Union Territories (UTs) that operate directly under Presidential regulations.
- Currently, the Governor of Punjab serves as the Administrator of Chandigarh, a legacy arrangement dating back to its dual role as the capital of both Punjab and Haryana. The proposed amendment could potentially establish an independent administrative structure for Chandigarh.



What Is Article 240?

- Article 240 empowers the President of India to make regulations for the peace, progress, and good governance of certain UTs. These currently include,
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Lakshadweep
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
- Puducherry (only when its assembly is suspended or dissolved)
- The proposed bill would add Chandigarh to this list, granting the President regulatory authority over the Union Territory.

What the Amendment Proposes

- **Inclusion of Chandigarh under Article 240:** This means Chandigarh will be governed directly through Presidential regulations rather than being administered by the Governor of Punjab.
- **Alignment with Other UTs Without Legislatures:** It puts Chandigarh in the same administrative bracket as UTs that do not have legislative assemblies.
- **Scope for Independent Administrator:** It paves the way for appointing a separate Administrator or Lieutenant

Governor for Chandigarh, independent of Punjab's gubernatorial structure.

SUPREME COURT'S RESPONSES TO PRESIDENT'S 14 QUESTIONS -

- Recently, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court delivered an advisory opinion in the 16th Presidential Reference since the Court's establishment.
- The President referred 14 questions, but the Court answered 11
- 3 were declared irrelevant because they dealt with issues unrelated to the functional nature of the reference such as procedural technicalities or broader constitutional interpretations not arising from the present controversy.



Background

- **State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamil Nadu case:** On April 8, 2025, the Supreme Court ruled that the President must decide within three months on Bills reserved for her consideration by Governors.
- There is no Constitutional provision regarding the time limit for President's Consideration on State's Bill.
- **Impact on Governor's Role:** The verdict nullified Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi's decision to withhold assent to 10 Bills, reinforcing that indefinite delays in legislative assent are unconstitutional.
- **Extension to Presidential Office:** In a significant move, the SC extended the three-month timeline to the President, allowing states to seek a writ of mandamus if no decision is made, raising questions about judicial scrutiny of the President's discretionary powers.
- **Reference under Article 143(1):** President Droupadi Murmu invoked Article 143(1) to seek the Supreme Court's advice after controversy arose over delays by Governors and the President in acting on state Bills.
- The President referred 14 questions related to constitutional processes and discretionary roles,

especially questioning whether timelines can be imposed in the absence of explicit constitutional provisions.

WHICH INDIAN STATE HAS THE HIGHEST FEMALE POPULATION ? -

- India is one of the most populated countries in the world, with a large number of men and women living in different states. Some states have a higher female population than others due to factors like birth rates, healthcare and migration. Understanding which state has the highest number of women helps in studying population growth, gender balance and the impact of government policies on women’s welfare.



Indian States and Union Territories

- India has 28 states and 8 Union Territories. States have their own governments, while Union Territories are governed by the central government. Each state and Union Territory has its own capital, culture and languages. Some well-known states are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, while Delhi and Chandigarh are Union Territories.

Indian State with the Highest Female Population

- Kerala has the largest female population in India, and its sex ratio has been high for many years. In the 2011 Census, the state recorded 1,084 women for every 1,000 men, showing that females outnumber males. This positive balance is mainly due to Kerala’s strong healthcare system, better education, and overall social progress, which help improve the well-being of women across the state.

What is the Sex Ratio?

- The sex ratio is the number of females for every 1,000 males in a population. A higher sex ratio means more women, while a lower sex ratio means fewer women.
- In 2022, India’s overall sex ratio was 1,020 females per 1,000 males.
- In rural areas, the sex ratio was 1,037, while in urban areas, it was 985.

REVISITING GENDER NEUTRALITY IN POCSO ACT, 2012 -

- The Supreme Court issued notice in a case where a woman is accused of ‘penetrative s exual assault’ on a minor boy under Section 3 of the POCSO Act, 2012.
- The case has renewed debate on the Act’s gender neutrality, especially whether it covers female perpetrators of child sexual abuse.



What is the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012?

- **About:** POCSO Act, 2012 was enacted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to address the heinous crimes of sexual abuse and exploitation of children.
- It was amended in 2019 that increased punishments, including the death penalty for aggravated penetrative sexual assault of a child.

Salient Features:

- **Gender Neutrality:** The Act is gender-neutral and safeguards all children, irrespective of gender.
- **Definition of a Child:** It defines a child as any person below 18 years of age.
- **Coverage of Abuse:** The Act covers penetrative and non-penetrative assault, sexual harassment, and pornography. Offences are aggravated if committed by someone in trust or authority or against a mentally ill child, and child trafficking for sexual purposes is also punishable.
- **Graded Punishments:** Punishments range from 10 years to life imprisonment for penetrative sexual assault and 20 years to life for aggravated cases, with stricter terms if the child is under 16.
- Use, possession, attempt, and abetment of offences, including child pornography, are also punishable, with fines or imprisonment up to 7 years depending on severity and intent.
- **Judicial Process:** The Act requires Special Courts to try offences. It ensures that the evidence of the child is recorded within 30 days, and the trial is completed within 1 year, wherever possible.

- **Scope and Overriding Effect:** The POCSO Act has an overriding effect over other laws if there is inconsistency. It applies only to child survivors and adult offenders, while cases of child-on-child offences or child-on-adult offences are governed by the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000.

SC OUTLINES LIMITS OF JUDICIAL REVIEW ON ASSENT TO STATE BILLS -

- The Supreme Court has delivered a comprehensive opinion on the constitutional powers of the President and Governors regarding State Bills, firmly holding that courts cannot impose deadlines or declare 'deemed assent'. The advisory opinion was issued by a five-judge Bench in response to a Presidential Reference under Article 143.



No Court-Mandated Timelines for Assent

- The Bench held that prescribing fixed schedules for the President or Governors to act on Bills would violate the separation of powers. The Constitution does not outline specific timelines under Articles 200 and 201, and judicially created deadlines would effectively rewrite the constitutional framework governing assent.

Judicial Review Limited to Extreme Inaction

- Although courts cannot dictate time-bound action, they may intervene in rare cases of prolonged, unexplained and indefinite inaction. In such circumstances, a limited mandamus may be issued, compelling the Governor to discharge his duty within a reasonable period. This power does not extend to assessing the merits of the decision.

RAULANE FESTIVAL OF HIMACHAL PRADESH -

- The Raulane Festival is an ancient winter tradition celebrated in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district. Known for its spiritual depth and distinctive rituals, the festival highlights the region's deep-rooted Himalayan beliefs and its strong sense of community bonding.



Origins Of The Festival

- The Raulane tradition centres on the worship of celestial beings called Saunis. These divine figures are believed to protect villagers during the harsh winter months by offering warmth, guidance, and blessings. The festival reflects Kinnaur's enduring connection with folklore that blends nature, spirituality, and seasonal rhythms.

Symbolic Rituals And Ceremony

- A key feature of the festival is the symbolic union of two men who represent a divine couple. They are designated as the Raula, or groom, and the Raulane, or bride. Wearing heavy woollen attire, ornaments, and distinctive face coverings, they act as vessels for the Saunis. Their slow, meditative movement through the Nagin Narayan Temple creates a sacred ambience that draws the entire village into participation.

RED FORT ATTACK RAISES FEARS OVER VBIEDS USE -

- The attack near Red Fort has drawn attention to the increasing use of Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Devices, a tactic that poses concentrated risks in dense urban areas. These devices have been used by various terror groups over the years due to their mobility, concealment, and high destructive power.



Meaning of a VBIED

- A VBIED turns an ordinary vehicle into a powerful explosive device. Unlike smaller improvised devices that rely on added shrapnel, these use the vehicle's own metal body as the primary source of fragmentation. This drastically increases the impact radius and lethality of the blast.

How VBIEDs Operate

- Explosives placed inside a confined car cabin generate a high-pressure shockwave capable of ripping apart the vehicle. Metal parts become high-velocity projectiles. Some attacks involve the driver staying inside the vehicle, a method known as a suicide VBIED. The ability to drive the device into crowded or high-security zones makes it a preferred tactic for organised groups.

10TH INTERNATIONAL GITA FESTIVAL BEGINS IN KURUKSHETRA -

- The 10th edition of the International Gita Festival has opened in Kurukshetra, marking the start of a three-week spiritual and cultural celebration. The annual event draws devotees, scholars and visitors from India and abroad, highlighting the global reverence for the Bhagavad Gita and the historic significance of Kurukshetra.



Festival Schedule and Key Highlights

- The festival runs from 15 November to 5 December, featuring large-scale cultural, spiritual and educational activities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the celebrations on 25 November. This year's event also includes extensive participation from the partner state, Madhya Pradesh, which is showcasing its cultural heritage through a dedicated pavilion, craft stalls and culinary exhibits.

SHAH BANO CASE 1985 & MUSLIM WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN INDIA -

- An upcoming Bollywood film inspired by the Shah Bano case, 1985, has renewed public attention on one of India's most debated legal judgments concerning Muslim women's rights, and the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The case remains a milestone in balancing personal laws with constitutional principles.

How Did the Shah Bano Verdict Shape the Legal Landscape for Muslim Women in India?

- Case Background:** In 1978, Shah Bano Begum, a 62-year-old Muslim woman, sought maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC (now Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023) after being divorced by her husband. This section ensures maintenance for dependents irrespective of religion.
- Husband contended that under Muslim personal law, his obligation ended after the iddat period (3 months after divorce), but the Madhya Pradesh High Court increased her maintenance, prompting him to appeal to the Supreme Court (SC).

- Supreme Court Verdict (1985):** A 5 judge SC constitution bench unanimously ruled in Shah Bano's favour, declaring Section 125 CrPC a secular law applicable to all, including Muslim women.
- The Court held she was entitled to maintenance beyond the iddat period and lamented that Article 44 (UCC) remained a "dead letter." SC criticized the non-implementation of Article 44, which calls for a Uniform Civil Code.
- It referenced the Quran to support continued maintenance post-divorce.
- Backlash and Legislative Response (1986):** Facing protests from conservative Muslim groups, the government passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.
- This act diluted the SC's ruling by limiting the husband's responsibility to the iddat period, shifting long-term support to the woman's relatives or Waqf Board.
- Reaffirmation in Daniel Latifi Case (2001):** In 2001, the SC upheld the 1986 Act after Daniel Latifi (Shah Bano's lawyer) challenged its validity in the Daniel Latifi Case, 2001.
- It ruled that husbands must make a one-time payment within the iddat period to cover a woman's future needs, preserving the spirit of the Shah Bano verdict.
- Mohd. Abdul Samad v. State of Telangana Case, 2024:** The SC ruled that the 1986 Act does not override Section 125 CrPC, allowing divorced Muslim women to seek maintenance under either or both laws.
- Significance of the Shah Bano Case 1985:** It restored legal clarity, strengthened access to justice, ensured constitutional parity for Muslim women, and reinforced the secular character of Indian maintenance law.
- The case continues to influence India's constitutional journey, highlighting tensions between faith vs. equality, law vs. politics, and religion vs. reform.



150 YEARS OF VANDE MATARAM -

- Recently, the Indian Prime Minister inaugurated year-long celebrations marking 150 years of Vande Mataram, calling the iconic national song an “enduring symbol of patriotism and unwavering devotion to the nation.”



About the Celebration

- Nationwide Celebrations:** As India marks 150 years of Vande Mataram, commemorative events across the country honour its legacy as a song of unity, resistance, and national pride.
- Government-led Commemoration:** The Government of India will observe the milestone in four phases, ensuring national, international, and local-level participation, reflecting Vande Mataram’s timeless power to inspire collective patriotism.

ASSAM PASSES BILL TO BAN POLYGAMY

- The government of Assam has taken a landmark step by approving the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill 2025. This move aims to prohibit the practice of polygamy — entering into more than one marriage while a first marriage subsists — making it a punishable offence. The legislation reflects the state’s push toward legal uniformity in marriage practices and reinforcing women’s rights.



Key Provisions of the Bill

- The Bill seeks to make it illegal for an individual to marry another person if their first marriage still stands (i.e., they are not legally separated or divorced).
- Offenders could face imprisonment for up to 7 years for violating the law.
- A provision in the Bill allows for the establishment of a special compensation fund for women adversely affected by polygamous marriages.
- The Bill will be tabled in the Assembly (scheduled for 25 November 2025) for legislative approval.

Exemptions & Special Conditions

- The law will not apply to members of Scheduled Tribes

(STs) or to residents of areas under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in Assam.

- Marriages within minority communities, specifically Muslim marriages in Scheduled Areas that occurred before 2005, are also stated to remain outside the scope of the Bill.

RIGHT TO VOTE DIFFERENT FROM FREEDOM OF VOTING -

- The Union government recently told the Supreme Court (SC) of India that the right to vote is different from freedom of voting.
- This submission was made while responding to a petition challenging Section 53(2) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA 1951) and Rule 11 along with Forms 21 and 21B of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961, which govern uncontested elections.



How is the Right to Vote Different from the Freedom of Voting?

- Nature:**
- Right to Vote:** It is a statutory right granted under the RPA, 1951 and is not a Fundamental Right.
- Freedom of Voting:** It is considered part of Article 19(1)(a) (guarantees all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression).
- It covers the voter’s ability to express preference, including choosing a candidate or selecting NOTA (None of the Above), but this expressive freedom exists only when an actual poll occurs.
- Issue of Uncontested Elections:** Under Section 53(2) of the RPA, 1951, if the number of contesting candidates is equal to the number of seats to be filled, no poll is conducted. Instead, the Returning Officer declares the candidates elected uncontested using Form 21 (for general elections) or Form 21B (for by-elections).
- With no poll, voters cannot exercise freedom of voting or use NOTA.** The petitioners argue that this denies voters the opportunity to express dissatisfaction through NOTA, thereby violating their Article 19(1)(a).

- The Union government said that NOTA is not a candidate under Section 79(b) of the RPA, 1951. Therefore, NOTA cannot be used to demand a poll in uncontested elections.

WHITE-COLLAR TERROR ECOSYSTEM EXPOSED -

- Jammu and Kashmir Police have uncovered an inter-state, transnational terror module tied to Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH). Investigators say radicalised professionals, including doctors, operated as part of a “white-collar” network. Raids across J&K and the National Capital Region yielded a vast cache of explosives, weapons and digital evidence.



Transnational Network and Modus Operandi

- Handlers based in Pakistan and other countries allegedly directed recruits via encrypted platforms. The network used compartmentalised roles for propaganda, logistics and finance. A trigger incident on 19 October, when JeM posters appeared in Srinagar’s Bunpora, Nowgam, led to a UAPA case and a wider probe. Surveillance, digital forensics and inter-state coordination then mapped links into Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

DRAP, UIWIN TO CLEAR INDIA’S DUMPSITES BY 2026 -

- Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP) and the Urban Investment Window (UiWIN) at the National Urban Conclave 2025 in New Delhi, positioning both as pillars for cleaner, investment-ready cities under the ‘Viksit Bharat @2047’ vision. DRAP targets elimination of legacy waste in mission mode by September–October 2026, while UiWIN seeks to mobilise private and multilateral capital for urban infrastructure.



Mission-Mode Dumpsite Remediation

- DRAP will fast-track clearance at 214 high-load legacy landfills across 202 Urban Local Bodies, which together hold about 8.8 crore tonnes—nearly 80% of India’s remaining legacy waste. Overall, 1,428 sites are under remediation nationwide. Cities must prepare micro-action plans for each dumpsite, ensure no fresh tipping post-remediation, and earmark the reclaimed land for community and public uses.

PUNJAB DECLARES THREE HISTORIC SIKH SITES AS HOLY CITIES -

- Punjab has passed a resolution to declare the Amritsar Walled City, Anandpur Sahib, and Talwandi Sabo as holy cities, marking a major cultural and governance decision aligned with the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- The decision bans the sale and consumption of liquor, meat, tobacco, and other intoxicants in the designated holy areas. These places also hold religious significance in Sikh history, hosting three of the five Takhts.
- **Takhts:** A Takht, which means a throne, is a seat of temporal authority for Sikhs. There are five Sikh Takhts, three in Punjab and one each in Maharashtra and Bihar.
- **Akal Takht in Amritsar, Punjab:** Established in 1606 by Guru Hargobind, is the highest seat of Sikh authority and represents the union of miri (temporal power) and piri (spiritual authority).
- **Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib (Anandpur Sahib, Punjab):** Site where the Khalsa was created in 1699.
- **Takht Sri Damdama Sahib (Talwandi Sabo, Punjab):** Where Guru Gobind Singh finalised Sikh scripture.
- **Takht Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib (Patna, Bihar):** Birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh.
- **Takht Sachkhand Sri Hazoor Sahib (Nanded, Maharashtra):** Site of Guru Gobind Singh final days and cremation in 1708.



INTERNATIONAL

OPERATION SAGAR BANDHU -

- India has initiated Operation Sagar Bandhu to deliver humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah triggered massive floods and landslides.
- Cyclone Ditwah is a tropical storm that rapidly formed over the southwest Bay of Bengal.
- The name Ditwah was contributed by Yemen, following the regional naming system for North Indian Ocean cyclones.
- **Operation Sagar Bandhu:** India rushed relief using INS Vikrant, INS Udaigiri, and an IAF C-130J carrying tents, blankets, food, hygiene kits, and tarpaulins.
- India has consistently acted as a first responder in the Indian Ocean region, especially for Sri Lanka, extending support during the MV XPress Pearl ship-fire disaster in 2021 and providing assistance during Cyclone Roanu (2016).
- The mission aligns with India's Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, reinforcing India's role as a reliable first responder in the Indian Ocean region.
- **India and HADR:** India has positioned itself as a global first responder in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), delivering swift support during major international crises through missions like Operation Maitri in Nepal, Operation Samudra Maitri in Indonesia, and Operation Dost in Türkiye and Syria.
- Its leadership is further reinforced through bilateral and regional HADR exercises such as PANEX-21 with BIMSTEC nations and Samanvay-22 with ASEAN countries, strengthening preparedness, coordination, and regional disaster response capacity.



- biting users under 16 from accessing social media platforms starting next year, becoming part of a growing global movement to regulate children's online activity. The decision aims to curb cyberbullying, scams and exploitation amid rising concerns over digital safety.



Government's Rationale for Age Restrictions

- Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil confirmed that Malaysia is studying international models, including those in Australia, to enforce strict age limits. Authorities emphasise the need to protect minors from online risks such as harassment, financial fraud and child sexual abuse. The government expects platforms to comply with the new age requirement by next year.

Global Trends in Child Online Safety

- Several countries are tightening controls on youth access to digital platforms. Australia will begin disabling accounts belonging to users under 16, while multiple European nations — including France, Spain, Italy, Denmark and Greece — are jointly testing an age verification framework. The trend reflects broad concern over the mental health impact of social media on teenagers.

INDIA TO RAISE TERRORISM CONCERNS AT JOHANNESBURG G20 SUMMIT -

- India has confirmed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg from 21 to 23 November, where he will speak in all three sessions. New Delhi is preparing to firmly present its concerns on terrorism, seeking strong language in the Joint Declaration alongside broader discussions on global economic recovery and sustainability.



MALAYSIA TO BAN SOCIAL MEDIA FOR USERS UNDER 16 -

- Malaysia will implement a nationwide restriction prohi-

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Focus on Counterterrorism in the Joint Declaration

- India is expected to advocate for clearer commitments on countering terrorism, including global action against states supporting extremist networks. Officials emphasised that terrorism remains a central national priority, even as the G20 primarily focuses on economic issues. India aims to ensure that concerns of the Global South, including security challenges, find substantial mention in the final document.

SENKAKU ISLANDS -

- China Coast Guard ships conducted a “rights enforcement patrol” near the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands. The move comes after the Japanese Prime Minister stated that any Chinese attack on Taiwan could prompt a military response from Tokyo.



- The Senkaku Islands remain a long-running territorial dispute between China and Japan.
- Senkaku Islands:** The islands are referred to as the “Senkaku”, the “Diaoyu”, and the “Diaoyutai” by Japan, China and Taiwan, respectively, with Japan administering them.
- They lie in the East China Sea, close to all three countries, and consist of five small uninhabited islands and a few rocks, with the largest, Uotsuri, measuring only 1.4 square miles.
- Strategic Importance:** A 1969 UN report indicating possible hydrocarbon reserves under the Senkaku Islands boosted their strategic value and intensified sovereignty disputes.
- Historical Background of the Dispute:** Japan assumed control of Taiwan and the Senkaku Islands in 1895, after winning the first Sino-Japanese War. China argues Japan illegally seized the islands after the war.
- After Japan's loss in the Second World War in 1945, the US took administrative control of Islands under the 1951 Treaty of Peace.

- In 1971, the US and Japan signed the Okinawa Reversion Agreement, and returned Okinawa and the Senkaku Islands to Japan.
- China and Taiwan immediately protested the handover, but Japan insists their claims emerged only after the discovery of potential hydrocarbons.

US SHUTDOWN ENDS WITHOUT CELEBRATION AMID POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FALLOUT -

- The United States has concluded the longest government shutdown in its history after six weeks of political gridlock. Despite the restoration of federal funding, there is little sense of relief in Washington, where both major parties face public criticism and millions of citizens continue to feel the shutdown’s impact.



Political Deadlock and Disputed Demands

- The shutdown was triggered by a standoff over public health subsidies linked to the Affordable Care Act. Democrats insisted on securing an extension of enhanced tax credits that help reduce insurance premiums, while Republicans demanded passage of a funding bill before considering the proposal. Neither side backed down, and negotiations stalled until a temporary deal was finally approved.

INDIA’S PRIME MINISTER UNDERTOOK A STATE VISIT TO BHUTAN TO ATTEND THE 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHUTAN’S 4TH KING (DRUK GYALPO), JIGME SINGYE WANGCHUCK, FATHER OF THE CURRENT MONARCH -

What are the Key Highlights of India’s State Visit to Bhutan?

- Economic and Developmental Assistance:** India reaffirmed its support for Bhutan’s 13th Five Year Plan and Economic Stimulus Programme, and announced backing for the Gelephu Mindfulness City project and an Immigration Check Post at Hatisar, Assam.

- India and Bhutan signed 3 New MoUs on renewable energy, health, and mental health.



- **Hydropower Diplomacy:** India and Bhutan inaugurated the 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Project and resumed work on the 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I Project, strengthening their hydroelectric partnership.
- India also extended a Line of Credit of Rs 40 billion for new energy projects in Bhutan.
- **Connectivity and Infrastructure:** Both sides reaffirmed commitment to strengthen cross-border connectivity and infrastructure, building on initiatives like the Darranga Check Post and Jogigopha Multimodal Terminal.
- They acknowledged progress on the Cross-Border Rail Links connecting Gelephu–Kokrajhar and Samtse–Banarhat.
- **Trade and Agriculture Cooperation:** India institutionalised the supply of essential commodities and fertilisers to Bhutan, with the first consignment ensuring uninterrupted agricultural inputs.

MOODY'S PROJECTS INDIA AS G-20'S FASTEST-GROWING ECONOMY -

- India is set to maintain its position as the fastest-growing economy in the G-20, according to Moody's latest global outlook. The agency expects strong domestic demand, stable monetary conditions and resilient exports to support growth through 2027.



India's Growth Path Through 2025–27

- Moody's forecasts India's GDP to rise 7 per cent in 2025, followed by 6.4 per cent in 2026 and 6.5 per cent in 2027. The momentum is driven by sustained consumption, increased infrastructure spending and continued diversification of export markets.

Resilience Amid Global Headwinds

- The rating agency noted India's ability to navigate international pressures, including higher US tariffs on selected products. Exporters successfully redirected shipments, helping overall exports grow despite a decline in goods sent to the United States.

KAZAKHSTAN POISED TO JOIN ABRAHAM ACCORDS -

- US President Donald Trump announced that Kazakhstan will join the Abraham Accords, expanding the framework that normalises relations between Israel and Muslim-majority nations.



- **Abraham Accords:** The Abraham Accords are US-brokered agreements (2020) that normalised ties between Israel and several Arab/Muslim-majority countries
- The accords are named after the biblical figure Abraham, considered a common ancestor of Jews and Arabs, symbolizing brotherhood.
- **Key Signatories:** The key signatories to the Abraham Accords include Israel, UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco (all in 2020), and Sudan (2021).
- The UAE was the first to announce full normalisation, followed by Bahrain. Sudan joined after being removed from the US terror list, while Morocco normalised ties in exchange for US recognition of its Western Sahara claim.
- **Significance:** The Accords shows how the Arab countries are gradually decoupling themselves from the Palestine issue. It enhances regional diplomacy, trade, technology and tourism.
- **India's Interests:** India has leveraged the Abraham Accords to strengthen its relationships with both Israel and Arab states at the same time.
- **The new strategic platform I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and the US) grew out of this environment, opening doors for collaboration in energy, water, health, transport, food security and space.**

BRICS PAY: A BID TO REDUCE SWIFT DEPENDENCE -

• BRICS is seeking to reduce Western dominance in global financial architecture by developing BRICS Pay, a cross-border payments framework intended to reduce reliance on the US-led Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) system.



What is BRICS Pay?

- **Background for BRICS led Financial System:** BRICS began pursuing financial autonomy at the 2014 Fortaleza Summit by creating the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement.
- US and EU sanctions on Russia in 2015 pushed members to explore greater use of local currencies, leading to currency-swap and settlement cooperation by 2017.
- This effort culminated at the 2024 Kazan Summit with the launch of BRICS Pay to boost local-currency cross-border settlements and strengthen intra-BRICS banking networks.
- **BRICS Pay:** It is a proposed cross-border payment system to facilitate trade and financial transactions among BRICS member nations using local currencies, thereby reducing dependence on systems like SWIFT and the USD.
- It is part of the BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative, aimed at increasing financial sovereignty, economic cooperation, and resilience against sanctions.

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) SUMMIT 2025 -

• The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit 2025, held in Gyeongju, South Korea, concluded with the adoption of the APEC Leaders' Gyeongju Declaration (2025), reaffirming regional cooperation, digital transformation, and inclusive economic growth.

What are the Key Outcomes of APEC Summit 2025 ?

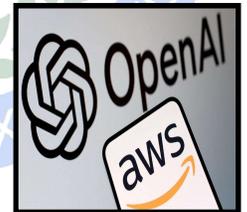
• **Adoption of the Gyeongju Declaration (2025):** The declaration reaffirmed APEC leaders' commitment

to inclusive economic growth, recognising the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and demographic shifts on labour markets.

- It outlined three priorities:
- Building the world's most dynamic and interconnected regional economy.
- Preparing the region for digital and AI transformation
- Addressing shared challenges and ensuring growth benefits all
- **APEC Artificial Intelligence (AI) Initiative (2026-2030):** The AI initiative seeks to drive inclusive, resilient growth by boosting innovation, cooperation, capacity building, and sustainable, energy-efficient AI development.

OPENAI, AMAZON SIGN \$38 BILLION DEAL FOR AI EXPANSION AWS -

• In a landmark move that redefines the global artificial intelligence (AI) landscape, OpenAI and Amazon Web Services (AWS) have entered a \$38 billion partnership to expand OpenAI's AI capabilities—including the infrastructure behind ChatGPT—on AWS's massive cloud network. Announced on 3 November 2025, the deal will allow OpenAI to run and scale its AI workloads using AWS's powerful infrastructure, including millions of CPUs and hundreds of thousands of NVIDIA GPUs, setting the stage for one of the most significant compute deployments in AI history.



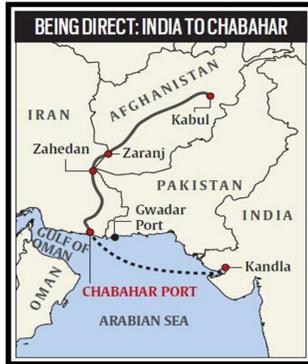
What's in the Deal?

- This multi-year agreement marks a strategic partnership where AWS will become a key provider of computing power to OpenAI.
- Key elements include,
- \$38 billion investment value, with initial deployment already underway.
- Access to high-performance NVIDIA GPU clusters, critical for training large AI models.

- Scaling to tens of millions of CPUs, essential for running inference and applications at global scale.
- Full deployment targeted by end of 2026, with scope for expansion through 2027 and beyond.

INDIA SECURES SIX-MONTH US WAIVER FOR CHABAHAR PORT -

• India has received a six-month waiver from US sanctions on Iran’s Chabahar Port, allowing continued Indian operations there until at least April 2026. What are the Key Facts About the Chabahar Port?



- **Location and Geography:** Chabahar Port is situated in Iran’s Sistan-Baluchestan province on the Gulf of Oman, near the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.
- The Chabahar Port project comprises two ports - Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
- It is Iran’s only oceanic and deep water port, giving direct access to the Indian Ocean.
- The Chabahar port is located about 170 km west of Pakistan’s Gwadar Port, which is being developed by China under the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- **Strategic and Economic Importance for India:** Chabahar Port provides direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.
- It forms part of the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC) linking India with Iran–Caspian Sea–Russia–Europe and strengthens India’s maritime connectivity and energy security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Chabahar port acts as a counterbalance to China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Pakistan’s Gwadar Port under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- It serves as a linchpin of India’s “Connect Central Asia” and “Extended Neighbourhood” policies.

VLADIMIR PUTIN’S INDIA VISIT FOR 23RD INDIA–RUSSIA ANNUAL SUMMIT IN DECEMBER -

• In a major diplomatic development, Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India on 4–5 December 2025 for the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit, marking a crucial moment in the long-standing and strategic partnership between the two countries. This visit, coming at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is expected to reaffirm and elevate bilateral cooperation across key sectors like defence, trade, energy, and global diplomacy. This will be Putin’s first visit to India since 2021, and notably, the first since the onset of the Russia–Ukraine conflict in 2022.



Background

- India and Russia have shared strong diplomatic ties since 1947, which significantly deepened during the Cold War. The relationship was formally elevated with the Declaration on Strategic Partnership in 2000, followed by an upgrade to a “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership” in 2010, reflecting high trust and multi-sectoral cooperation.
- Annual summits, held alternately in both countries since 2000, form the backbone of this institutional engagement and are critical for reviewing progress and setting new goals.

Objective of the Visit

- President Putin’s upcoming visit is aimed at reinforcing the multi-dimensional ties between India and Russia. The key objectives include,
- Reviewing ongoing bilateral projects and agreements
- Setting a strategic roadmap for future cooperation
- Enhancing dialogue on regional and global issues of mutual concern
- Strengthening cooperation in defence, energy, trade, and technology

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GOOGLE LAUNCHES GEMINI 3.0, ITS MOST ADVANCED AI MODEL YET -

- Google has officially unveiled “Gemini 3.0”, marking a major leap in artificial intelligence innovation. Touted as the world’s best multimodal model, Gemini 3.0 showcases cutting-edge reasoning, advanced contextual understanding, and an unprecedented ability to process information across text, images, video, audio, and code.

Revolution in Multimodal Understanding

- CEO Sundar Pichai described Gemini 3.0 as Google’s most powerful model for multimodal comprehension, combining agentic and coding abilities. The model can grasp user intent with minimal prompting, enabling it to translate handwritten notes, analyse videos, generate learning materials, and even design web interfaces from complex prompts. Its capacity to fuse linguistic, visual, and spatial inputs marks a new era in AI-assisted creativity.

ISRO CONFIRMS CHANDRAYAAN-4 FOR 2028 AND SPACE STATION PLAN FOR 2035

- The Indian Space Research Organisation is preparing for increased launch activity even as flagship missions such as Chandrayaan-4 and an indigenous space station take centre stage.



Chandrayaan-4 Approved as India’s First Sample-Return Mission

- ISRO has received government approval for Chandrayaan-4, scheduled for launch in 2028. Designed as India’s most complex lunar mission to date, it will attempt to bring back samples from the Moon—an achievement accomplished so far only by the United States, Russia and China. The mission will rely on advanced landing, ascent and return systems, placing India among leading nations in deep-space capability.

ISRO TO TRIPLE SPACECRAFT OUTPUT AND LAUNCH CHANDRAYAAN-4 IN 2028 -

- India’s space program is entering a new era of growth and innovation. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has unveiled a robust expansion plan, setting ambitious goals for the next decade. With a focus on lunar exploration, human spaceflight, and building a space station, ISRO is working to significantly enhance its global standing and domestic capabilities. These developments not only strengthen India’s scientific and strategic presence in space but also open up vast economic and technological opportunities.



ISRO’s Roadmap: Scaling Up Missions and Production

- ISRO has announced its intent to triple the production of spacecraft over the next three years to meet the growing demand for launches and scientific missions. The agency plans to conduct seven more launches in the current financial year, including,

Commercial communication satellites

- **PSLV and GSLV missions**
- The first fully industry-manufactured PSLV
- This scale-up aligns with India’s goal of expanding its presence in the global space market and increasing private sector participation.
- **Chandrayaan-4**
- Scheduled for 2028, Chandrayaan-4 will be India’s first lunar sample-return mission, making it the country’s most advanced moon exploration project to date.

GODREJ DELIVERS HUMAN-RATED VIKAS ENGINE FOR GAGANYAAN -

- India’s human spaceflight programme gained momentum as Godrej Aerospace delivered the first human-rated L110 stage Vikas engine to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The engine will power the LVM-3 launch vehicle that will carry Indian astronauts under

the Gaganyaan mission, marking a major milestone in the country's space capabilities.

Significance of the Human-Rated Vikas Engine

- The human-rated L110 Vikas engine is engineered to meet stringent safety and reliability standards required for crewed missions. It forms a crucial part of the LVM-3's core stage, ensuring stable propulsion during ascent. This delivery marks an essential step towards meeting ISRO's timelines for upcoming uncrewed and crewed flight tests.



WHAT IS GPS SPOOFING AND HOW IT DISRUPTED FLIGHTS IN DELHI ? -

- Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has faced unprecedented GPS spoofing incidents, leading to diversions and congestion during critical operating windows. The disruption coincides with an Instrument Landing System (ILS) upgrade on the primary runway, forcing greater reliance on satellite-derived navigation.



What Is GPS Spoofing?

- GPS spoofing is the transmission of counterfeit satellite signals that mislead receivers about position, velocity, or time. Unlike jamming, which blocks signals, spoofing feeds plausible but false coordinates. Flight management systems and avionics that trust these inputs can drift from the real flight path, triggering alerts or forcing crews to abandon satellite-based approaches.

NISAR SATELLITE TO BECOME OPERATIONAL ON NOVEMBER 7: ISRO -

- India and the United States are set to mark a historic milestone in space collaboration as the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite becomes operational on



November 7. Announcing the development, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed that the joint Earth observation mission has completed all calibration processes and will officially begin operations following a conclave this week.

A Milestone in Indo-US Space Cooperation

- NISAR represents the first major Earth observation mission jointly developed by NASA and ISRO. Weighing 2,400 kilograms, it was launched on July 30 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre aboard the GSLV rocket. The mission aims to enhance global climate monitoring and environmental mapping capabilities by providing detailed, repeatable, and accurate data on land and ice surface movements.

CMS-03 (GSAT-7R) -

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the GSAT-7R (CMS-03) communication satellite aboard the LVM-3 M5 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) for the Indian Navy.
- The previous mission of LVM3 launched the Chandrayaan-3 mission, where India became the first country to land successfully near the lunar south pole.

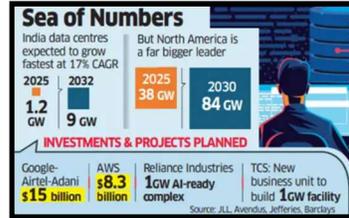
About GSAT-7R(CMS-03)

- It is a part of India's advanced defence communication satellite series GSAT-7.
- **Launch Vehicle:** Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3)
- **Launch Site:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota
- **Orbit:** The GSAT-7R (CMS-03) satellite was placed into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) with an elliptical orbit approximately 250 km at perigee and 29,970 km at apogee.
- From this orbit, it will gradually use its onboard propulsion to reach its final Geostationary Orbit, approximately 35,786 kilometers above Earth.
- A GTO is an elliptical orbit used to transfer a satellite from low Earth orbit (LEO) to a geosynchronous orbit (GEO).
- **Weight:** Approximately 4,400 kg, making it the heaviest communication satellite launched from Indian soil.

- The GSAT-11 launched in 2018 weighed over 5,800 kg but had used the European Ariane-5 rocket.

INDIA'S DATA CENTRE CAPACITY SET TO REACH 9 GW BY 2032 -

- India's data centre industry is projected to expand significantly, with capacity expected to increase from 1.2 GW in 2025 to 9 GW by 2032, registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17%.



What are Data Centres?

About:

- Data centres are specialised facilities that store, manage, and process large volumes of electronic data.
- They house critical Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, including servers, storage devices, networking equipment, and systems for cooling, power supply, and security.
- These centres are designed to offer reliable, scalable, and secure environments for managing data essential to modern digital operations—ranging from cloud computing to artificial intelligence applications.
- Market Size and Growth:** Despite producing 20% of the world's data, India currently holds only 3% of global data centre capacity, highlighting vast potential for expansion.
- Geographical Distribution:** India currently hosts around 150 data centres, with major players such as Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud, etc. leading the market.
- Mumbai accounts for over 50% of India's data centre, and emerging hubs include Ahmedabad, Pune, and Visakhapatnam (Vizag).

PM INAUGURATES FIRST GLOBAL AIRCRAFT ENGINE MRO FACILITY IN HYDERABAD -

- On 26 November 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first global-level aircraft engine Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul



(MRO) facility in Hyderabad. Developed by Safran, a French aerospace giant, the facility — known as Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) — marks a significant milestone in India's aviation sector. The Prime Minister described it as a “new flight” for India's aerospace ambitions, positioning the country to emerge as a global MRO hub and a preferred destination for aviation investments.

A Major Step Toward Self-Reliant Aviation

- SAESI has been established with an initial investment of ₹1,300 crore, located in the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park – SEZ near Rajiv Gandhi International Airport.
- The facility will cater to LEAP engines — the world's most widely used aircraft engines powering Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX. This is the first time a global engine OEM has set up deep-level servicing in India.

By 2035, it is expected to,

- Handle up to 300 engine overhauls annually
- Employ over 1,000 highly skilled Indian engineers and technicians

This development will significantly reduce India's dependence on foreign MRO services, cutting down on costs, turnaround time, and foreign exchange outflows.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

FOUR LABOUR CODES -

- The Government of India has announced that the four Labour Codes are being made effective from 21st November 2025, rationalising 29 existing labour laws.
- The second National Commission on Labour had recommended that the existing Labour Laws should be broadly grouped into four/ five Labour Codes on functional basis
- The four Labour Codes were enacted after the deliberations held in the tripartite meeting of the Government, employers', industry representatives and various trade unions during 2015 to 2019.
- The Code on Wages, 2019 was notified on 8th August, 2019 and the remaining three Codes were notified on 29th September, 2020.

The four Labour Codes includes

- The Code on Wages, 2019
- The Industrial Relations Code, 2020
- The Code on Social Security, 2020
- The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

INSURANCE BILL PROPOSES 100% FDI TO BOOST SECTOR GROWTH -

- The government has moved a significant step toward reshaping India's insurance landscape by listing the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill for the upcoming winter session of Parliament. The draft legislation seeks to enhance foreign investment limits, streamline regulatory structures, and widen access to insurance services across the country.



Bill Targets Higher Foreign Investment

- A key feature of the proposed legislation is the plan to raise the foreign direct investment ceiling from 74 per cent to 100 per cent. This change, aligned with the FY26

Budget announcement, aims to attract sustained overseas capital. The enhanced limit will apply to companies that invest the entire premium in India. Existing restrictions on foreign participation are expected to be simplified, creating a more investor-friendly environment.

Broader Framework for Sector Reforms

- The bill incorporates amendments to three major laws: the Insurance Act 1928, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956, and the IRDAI Act 1999. These revisions aim to improve affordability and accessibility of insurance products, support industry expansion, and reduce procedural bottlenecks. The overarching objective is to encourage deeper penetration and strengthen market development.

INDEX OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES OCTOBER 2025 -

- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) stayed unchanged at 162.4 in October 2025, the same as October 2024.



- **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):** The ICI is a production-volume index that measures the combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.
- It is compiled by the Office of the Economic Adviser under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The index now uses 2011–12 as the base year, aligned with the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), and these eight sectors together carry a 40.27% weight in the IIP.
- **ICI Weightage:** Fertilizers (lowest) < Cement < Natural Gas < Crude Oil < Coal < Steel < Electricity < Refinery Products (highest)
- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** It is one of the key indicators used to track the pace of industrial activity in the country.

TELANGANA CLEARS BILL TO SAFEGUARD GIG AND PLATFORM WORKERS -

- Telangana has approved a major legislative proposal aimed at securing the rights and welfare of gig and platform workers engaged with delivery services, ride-hailing apps, and e-commerce platforms. The initiative marks a significant policy shift as the state prepares to formalise protections for a rapidly expanding workforce segment.



Key Provisions of the New Bill

- The Telangana Gig and Platform Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025 mandates the registration of all gig and platform workers with a designated board. The framework introduces structured oversight and aims to ensure that workers receive recognised social security benefits. A dedicated board will include representatives from government, companies, and worker groups.

INDIA TARGETS 55% FEMALE WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION BY 2030 -

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment has announced a strategic plan to raise India's Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) from 41.7% (FY24) to 55% by 2030. The target is aimed towards Bridging the Gender Employment Gap.



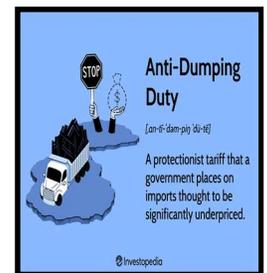
Why is Raising Female Labour Force Participation Vital for India's Growth?

- **Major Driver of Economic Growth:** Women entering the workforce boost overall productivity, enhance innovation, and strengthen financial stability, making India more resilient and competitive globally.
- As per McKinsey report pushing gender equality can deliver a sizable additional economic growth and could add Rs 46 lakh crore (USD 700 billion) to India's GDP in 2025.

- **Diversifies Talent & Strengthens Industries:** Women bring varied perspectives that deepen the labour pool, stimulate fresh ideas, and help industries adapt to changing economic trends.
- Sectors such as healthcare, education, financial services, and STEM stand to gain significantly from a balanced gender workforce.
- **Catalyst for Gender Equality:** Workforce participation empowers women through financial independence, asset ownership, and bargaining power, which are critical for achieving SDG 5 (Gender Equality).
- **Transforms Household & Community Welfare:** Empirical studies show that women tend to invest a greater share of their income in education, nutrition, and healthcare for their families.
- This enhances human capital development and breaks intergenerational cycles of poverty.
- **Foundation for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth:** Expanding women's role across sectors—from agriculture and MSMEs to AI and clean energy—promotes equitable and sustainable development.
- Women's workforce integration is not just a rights-based issue but a strategic economic imperative, crucial for India's transition to a USD 5 trillion economy and achievement of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

ANTI-DUMPING DUTY -

- India has imposed a five-year anti-dumping duty on hot-rolled steel imports from Vietnam after investigations confirmed that unfairly low-priced imports were harming the domestic steel industry.
- The decision follows Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) findings confirming that Vietnamese steel was dumped below normal value, causing injury to Indian producers. Stainless steel hot-rolled products are excluded from the duty.



- In India, anti-dumping cases are investigated by the DGTR under the Ministry of Commerce, while the Finance Ministry imposes the duty.
- **Anti-dumping Duty:** It is a protective tariff imposed on imports that are priced lower than their normal value in the exporting country.
- Its primary purpose is to shield domestic industries from harm caused by unfairly priced foreign imports.
- India is one of the largest users of anti-dumping duties in the world, most of which have been imposed on Chinese imports.
- **World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, through Article 6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1994), permit member countries to impose anti-dumping and countervailing duties under specific and strictly regulated conditions.**

PM MODI EXTENDS \$455 MILLION CREDIT LINE TO STRENGTHEN ENERGY TIES WITH BHUTAN -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan has deepened India's energy cooperation with the Himalayan nation, marking a major boost in regional development and strategic relations. During the visit, Modi announced a \$455 million line of credit and inaugurated the India-funded Punatsangchhu-II hydroelectric project, reaffirming India's long-standing commitment to Bhutan's sustainable growth.



Expanding Energy Cooperation

- The 1,020-megawatt Punatsangchhu-II project, inaugurated by PM Modi, represents a major milestone in bilateral collaboration on renewable energy. The project, built with Indian financial and technical support, is expected to increase Bhutan's hydropower capacity by nearly 40%, further cementing the country's role as a key clean energy exporter to India. The project highlights India's focus on regional energy integration under its "Neighbourhood First" policy.

DIVERSIFICATION OF INDIA'S EXPORT MARKETS -

- India's exports are shifting, with non-US markets increasingly helping offset losses to the US, as the country's trade diversification strategy successfully opens new opportunities in the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia.



- Despite a 12% drop in exports to the US, India's merchandise exports grew 6.7% to USD 36.38 billion, reflecting resilient diversification.
- Export diversification expands a country's products and markets to reduce dependence on a few partners, enhancing economic stability, trade resilience, and innovation.

What are the Key Trends in India's Export Diversification Strategy?

- **Decline in US Exports:** India's exports to the US fell due to reduced demand and trade tensions, as tariffs rose from 10% to 50% between April–August 2025, reducing exports from USD 8.8 billion to 5.5 billion.
- Even tariff-free exports dropped 47% to USD 1.8 billion from USD 3.4 billion, though overall exports remain resilient through alternative markets.
- **Rise of Non-US Markets:** Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East have become key markets for India, importing pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering products, and machinery.
- Marine exports rose 60% to China, Vietnam, and Thailand, Basmati rice exports to Iran grew six-fold, and tea exports expanded to the UAE, Iraq, and Germany.
- **Government and Policy Initiatives:** The Indian government has strategically implemented policies aimed at boosting exports to these non-US regions. Programs like the Foreign Trade Policy 2023 and Market Access Initiative (MAI) focus on strengthening trade ties with new partners, offering incentives, and easing logistics barriers.

KERALA: EXTREME POVERTY-FREE -

- Recently the Chief Minister of Kerala announced in the State Assembly that Kerala has eradicated extreme poverty, becoming India's first "extreme poverty-free" state.

**What Is "Extreme Poverty"?**

- Global Definition (World Bank, 2025):** Individuals living on less than USD 3 per day (PPP, 2021 prices) are considered to be in extreme poverty.
- This benchmark replaced the earlier threshold of USD 2.15 per day (PPP, 2017 prices).

Comparison with Broader Poverty Lines:

- Lower-middle-income countries: \$4.20/day
- Upper-middle-income countries: \$8.30/day
- Anyone earning below these thresholds but above \$3/day is considered poor but not extremely poor.

India's Measurement Approach:

- The NITI Aayog uses the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) based on the Alkire-Foster methodology, which assesses 12 indicators across health, education, and living standards.
- Thus, "extreme poverty" encompasses not only low income but multidimensional deprivation—nutrition, shelter, health, and dignity.

JAN DHAN ACCOUNT BALANCES CROSS ₹2.75 LAKH CRORE IN 2025 -

- In a significant boost to India's financial inclusion journey, total deposits under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) have surged past the ₹2.75 lakh crore mark, as per government data updated till October 22, 2025. With 56.85 crore beneficiaries now linked to the no-frills banking initiative, the scheme continues to be a cornerstone of inclusive growth.
- Crucially, efforts to reactivate dormant accounts through targeted outreach campaigns have begun to show positive



results, highlighting renewed engagement with the formal banking ecosystem.

Key Highlights of PMJDY Performance

- Total Balance:** ₹2,75,057 crore (as on October 22, 2025)
- Number of Accounts:** 56.85 crore

Top Contributors

- Public Sector Banks: ₹2.15 lakh crore
- Regional Rural Banks (RRBs): ₹51,489 crore
- Private Sector Banks: ₹8,149 crore

INDIA'S FY26 GDP GROWTH FORECAST RAISED TO 7% BY IND-RA -

- India's economic outlook has received a significant upgrade as India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) revised its FY26 GDP growth projection upward to 7%, reflecting improved domestic momentum and subdued external risks. This upward revision from the earlier estimate of 6.3% (made in July 2025) aligns with India's strong economic performance in the April-June quarter (Q1 FY26), where GDP surged by 7.8%, the fastest growth in five quarters.

**Key Highlights of the Revised Forecast****1. Upward Revision from 6.3% to 7%**

- Ind-Ra's latest projection is a 70 basis point increase from its earlier estimate. The rating agency attributed this to,
 - Faster-than-expected Q1 GDP growth.
 - Less severe impact from the US tariff hikes than previously anticipated.

2. Strong Q1 FY26 Performance

- India's real GDP grew by 7.8% YoY in Q1 FY26, backed by solid domestic demand, manufacturing resilience, and investment activity.

3. Official GDP Data for Q2 Awaited

- The second quarter (Q2: July-September) GDP figures are due for release on 28 November 2025, which will further determine the trajectory of FY26 economic expansion.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY 2025 -

- Every year on November 7, India observes “National Cancer Awareness Day”, a day dedicated to spreading awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and timely treatment. The observance honours the legacy of scientist “Marie Curie”, whose pioneering research on radioactivity paved the way for cancer therapy. It serves as a vital reminder that awareness and early intervention remain the strongest defences against one of the world’s most challenging diseases.



History and Origin of the Day

- National Cancer Awareness Day was first announced in “2014” by the “Ministry of Health and Family Welfare”, under the leadership of then Union Health Minister “Dr Harsh Vardhan”. The date, November 7, commemorates the “birth anniversary of Marie Curie”, the two-time Nobel laureate who discovered radium and polonium, elements crucial to cancer treatment research. Since its inception, the day has aimed to promote public understanding of cancer, its risk factors, and the importance of regular screening.

GURU NANAK JAYANTI 2025 -

- Guru Nanak Jayanti, also known as GURPURAB, is one of the most sacred festivals in Sikhism. It commemorates the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Sikh Guru and the founder of Sikhism. In 2025, the auspicious occasion will be celebrated globally with immense devotion, prayers, and community service, symbolizing the core Sikh principles of humility, equality, and compassion.

Date and Timings of Guru Nanak Jayanti 2025

- Guru Nanak Jayanti in 2025 will be observed on Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

- The celebrations coincide with Kartik Purnima, the full moon day in the Hindu month of Kartik, which holds special spiritual importance for Sikhs and Hindus alike.

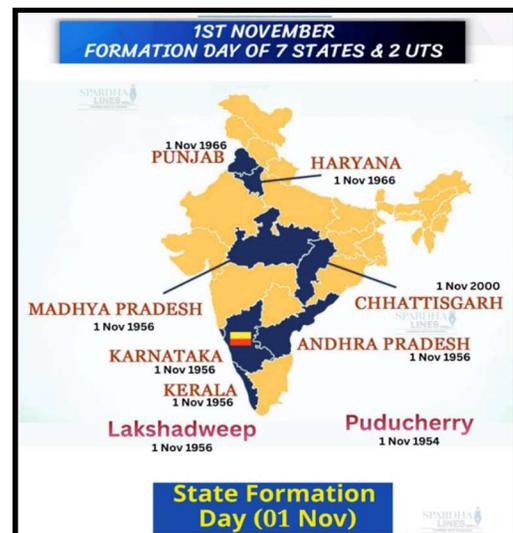


Historical Background

- Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born in 1469 in Rai Bhoi Ki Talwandi (now known as Nankana Sahib in Pakistan).
- He dedicated his life to spreading the message of oneness of God, equality of all human beings, and the importance of truthful living.
- His teachings laid the foundation of Sikhism and inspired millions to follow the path of righteousness and service.

CELEBRATING STATE/UTS FORMATION DAY -

- On 1st November, eight Indian states including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, along with five Union Territories (UTs) namely Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry, celebrate their Formation Day.



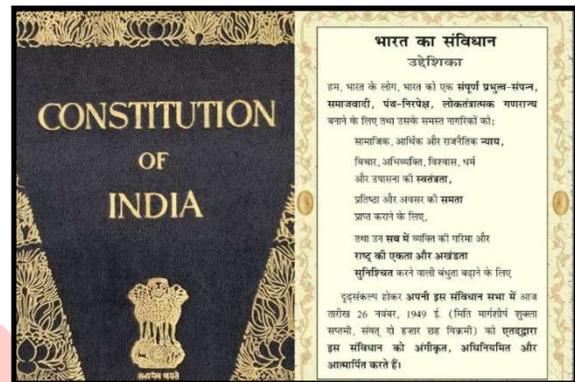
- This marks as a key milestone in India's administrative evolution, shaped by the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, and later state bifurcations.
- What are the Provisions Related to Formation of States/UTs in India?
- **Part I of the Indian Constitution:** It is titled "The Union and Its Territory" and comprises Articles 1 to 4.
- It defines India as a "Union of States", specifies the names and territories of States and Union Territories, and empowers Parliament to admit or establish new States and to alter the area, boundaries, or names of existing States.
- **Article 1:** It declares India as a Union of States, which includes all States, Union Territories, and any territories that may be acquired in the future.
- This reflects the idea of a strong Union with an indestructible centre but flexible units.
- **Articles 2:** Empowers Parliament to admit new States into the Union or establish new States on such terms and conditions as it deems fit.
- **Article 3:** It gives Parliament the authority to form a new State by separating territory from any existing State or by merging two or more States or Union Territories.
- It also allows alteration of the area, boundaries, or name of any existing State.
- However, a Bill for this purpose can be introduced only with the prior recommendation of the President, who must refer it to the concerned State Legislature for its views.

SAMVIDHAN DIVAS -

- On the occasion of 11th Samvidhan Divas (Constitution Day), President Smt. Droupadi Murmu addressed Members of both Houses of Parliament in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.

About Constitution Day / Samvidhan Divas

- **Date:** India observes Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas, on November 26.
- **125th Birth Anniversary (2015):** The announcement coincided with Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary, and was intended as a national tribute.
- **Adoption of Constitution:** November 26 is significant because it marks the day India adopted its Constitution in 1949.



- **Adoption of the Constitution:** November 26, 1949 is significant because, on this day the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution, concluding its last session.
- **Earlier Celebration:** This day was previously known as Law Day but was officially redesignated as Constitution Day by the Government of India in 2015.
- **Purpose:** The aim of celebrating this day is to inspire people to follow and uphold Constitutional values in their daily lives.
- **Coming into Force:** The Constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950, aligning with the date of the Poorna Swaraj resolution of 1930.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

LARRY PAGE BECOMES WORLD'S THIRD RICHEST -

- Google co-founder Larry Page has climbed to third place in the global rich list after a sharp rise in Alphabet's share price driven by excitement around its latest artificial intelligence model, Gemini 3. The move has pushed Amazon founder Jeff Bezos down to fourth, underlining how quickly AI-fuelled market moves are reshaping billionaire rankings.



Alphabet shares jump on Gemini 3 launch

- Alphabet's stock saw a sharp uptick following the launch of the Gemini 3 AI model. Initial gains were around 6% before settling near 3.3% by the end of trading. This rally added billions of dollars in market value to Google's parent company in a single session. Investors responded to expectations that Gemini 3 will strengthen Google's competitive position in AI, cloud and advertising tools, potentially driving future revenue growth.

Larry Page's net worth crosses \$238 billion

- Larry Page holds roughly 3.2% of Alphabet's shares. As the stock rose, his personal wealth increased by about \$7.6 billion in one day, taking his estimated net worth to around \$238.5 billion. This allowed him to overtake Jeff Bezos, whose fortune is about \$230.4 billion. The shift highlights how tech founders with large, concentrated stakes in their companies are highly exposed to market swings, particularly in fast-moving sectors like AI.

DAVID SZALAY WINS THE 2025 BOOKER PRIZE FOR FLESH: A LANDMARK FOR HUNGARIAN-BRITISH LITERATURE -

- In a landmark literary moment, David Szalay, the Hungarian-British author known for his piercing explorations of modern existence, has won the 2025 Booker Prize for his sixth novel, Flesh. The announcement was made at a



glittering ceremony at Old Billingsgate in London, where Szalay received the prestigious £50,000 prize and the Booker trophy from last year's winner, Samantha Harvey.

- The judges hailed *Flesh* as “a hypnotically tense and compelling novel that becomes an astonishingly moving portrait of a man's life.” With this win, Szalay becomes the first author of Hungarian heritage to clinch the coveted prize.
- **About the Author:** David Szalay's *Global Journey*
- David Szalay's life mirrors the cosmopolitan nature of his fiction.
- **Born:** Canada
- **Raised:** London, United Kingdom
- **Currently resides:** Vienna, Austria

JUSTICE SURYA KANT SWORN IN AS THE 53RD CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA -

- On November 24, 2025, Justice Surya Kant officially assumed office as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI) after being administered the oath by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. His appointment marks a significant moment for the Indian judiciary, as he brings decades of legal experience and a strong track record of involvement in landmark judgments. His tenure as CJI will run until February 9, 2027, giving him a little over a year to lead the Supreme Court.



The Oath Ceremony

- Justice Surya Kant took the oath of office in Hindi in the name of God at a brief yet dignified ceremony.
- The event was attended by several high-ranking leaders, including Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Following the ceremony, Justice Kant greeted the Prime Minister, and a customary group photograph was taken featuring the President, Vice-President, PM Modi, outgoing CJI Justice Gavai, and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.

- Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar was also present to congratulate the new Chief Justice.

SERGIO GOR SWORN IN AS NEW US AMBASSADOR TO INDIA -

- Sergio Gor has officially assumed charge as the United States Ambassador to India, marking a significant step in Washington's diplomatic engagement with New Delhi. The 38-year-old diplomat was sworn in by US Vice President J.D. Vance at the Oval Office, with President Donald Trump presiding over the ceremony attended by senior American officials and lawmakers.



Gor Expresses Commitment to Strengthening Ties

- Following his swearing-in, Ambassador Gor expressed gratitude to President Trump for the opportunity, stating that he looks forward to advancing the US-India partnership. In a social media post, Gor wrote, "Very much looking forward to being the new U.S. Ambassador to India. Thank you @POTUS @realDonaldTrump! I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity and committed to honouring the faith you've shown in me."
- India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, congratulated Gor and wished him success as he prepares to take up his assignment in New Delhi, reaffirming the mutual warmth in bilateral relations.

ROHIT SHARMA NAMED BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2026 -

- Former Indian captain Rohit Sharma has been appointed the brand ambassador for the ICC T20 World Cup 2026.

The announcement was made by ICC chairman Jay Shah during the tournament's schedule reveal, marking a historic moment as Rohit becomes the first active cricketer to hold this ambassadorial role.



Announcement and Significance

- Jay Shah highlighted Rohit's long-standing influence in T20 cricket, noting his presence in all nine editions of the tournament and his leadership during India's title-winning campaign in 2024. The decision underscores Rohit's stature as one of the sport's most accomplished and recognisable figures.

Rohit's Reaction to the Honour

- Rohit expressed deep gratitude, calling the role a major privilege and honour. He emphasised the uniqueness of being named an ICC ambassador while still an active player, recognising the trust placed in him by global cricketing authorities.

India's Group and Match Schedule

- For the 2026 edition, India has been placed in Group A alongside Namibia, the Netherlands, the USA and Pakistan. India will open its campaign on 7 February against the USA, followed by matches with Namibia in New Delhi and Pakistan in Colombo on 15 February. The final league-stage fixture against the Netherlands is scheduled for 18 February in Ahmedabad.

PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

INDIA RECORDS SHARP FALL IN TB CASES BUT REMAINS GLOBAL EPICENTRE -

- India has registered a notable reduction in tuberculosis incidence, marking a 21% decline over the past decade. Despite this progress, the country continues to account for a quarter of all new global TB cases, underscoring both the scale of the challenge and the intensity of national efforts to eliminate the disease.



Steep decline outpaces global progress

- According to recent estimates, India's TB incidence dropped from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 187 per lakh in 2024. This reduction is nearly double the rate of decline reported globally, positioning India among high-burden nations achieving the fastest improvements. Yet the country still represented 25% of worldwide new infections, reflecting its large population and historically high caseload.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO BHUTAN: KEY OUTCOMES AND AGREEMENTS ANNOUNCED -

- In November 2025, the Prime Minister of India visited Bhutan, marking a significant milestone in India-Bhutan relations. The visit included key inaugurations, major announcements, and signing of multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at strengthening cooperation in energy, healthcare, culture, and border management. This visit reflects the strong strategic and developmental partnership between the two nations.



1. Inauguration of Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project

- The 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project was inaugurated during the visit. This hydroelectric initiative, developed under a bilateral agreement between India and Bhutan, aims to,
 - Boost Bhutan's electricity generation capacity.
 - Strengthen energy cooperation between India and Bhutan.
 - Provide a foundation for sustainable infrastructure development in the region.

2. Major Announcements During the Visit

- The visit included several significant announcements that will further enhance bilateral cooperation,
- Resumption of Punatsangchhu-I Hydro Project: Work will resume on the 1200 MW main dam structure.
- Land Grant in Varanasi: Land allocated for a Bhutanese Temple/Monastery and Guest House.
- Immigration Check Post in Hatisar: New post across Gelephu to facilitate smooth cross-border movement.
- INR 4000 crore Line of Credit (LoC): Financial support for Bhutan's infrastructure and development projects.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) AMENDMENT RULES, 2025 -

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2025, updating the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, particularly Rule 3(1)(d).
- These 2025 rules effective from 15th November 2025, aim to tighten procedural safeguards around the removal of unlawful online content.
- Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Rules, 2021 requires internet intermediaries to remove or disable access to unlawful content upon receiving a government order or notification.



- **This process operates alongside Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000, which removes safe-harbour protection if intermediaries fail to take action after receiving “actual knowledge,” and Section 69A which empowers the Central Government to block public access to online information if necessary for national security, sovereignty, or public order.**

What are the Key Features of IT Amendment Rules, 2025?

- **Key Features of the Amendment Rules 2025:** It introduces new safeguards under Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Rules, 2021 to ensure transparency, accountability, and fairness in the process and more precise, actionable notices for content takedowns.
- **Senior-Level Authorisation:** Only senior officials can issue takedown directions (an officer of at least Joint Secretary rank (or equivalent/Director if JS is not appointed)), and for police, only a specially authorised Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG)-level officer.
- **Reasoned and Specific Intimation:** Takedown orders must clearly mention the legal basis, the nature of the violation, and the exact link/identifier of the content.
- This replaces vague notices and aligns with Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act.
- **Monthly Review:** All takedown directions will be reviewed every month by a Secretary-level officer to ensure they remain necessary, proportionate, and lawful.

NATIONAL BEEKEEPING & HONEY MISSION -

- India’s honey sector is witnessing a structured transformation under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM), which is expanding scientific beekeeping nationwide and strengthening its contribution to rural livelihoods and agriculture.

What is the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission?

- **About:** The National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Government of India for the overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping and the production of quality honey and other beehive products.

- **Sub Schemes:** The NBHM is being implemented through 3 Mini Missions (MMs) - MM-I, MM-II & MM- III focused on production, post-harvest management and research respectively.
- **Implementing Agency:** The scheme, implemented by the National Bee Board (NBB) under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, was initially allocated ₹500 crore for 2020–23 and had been extended for another three years till 2025–26.



Objectives:

- Promote holistic growth of the beekeeping industry to boost rural livelihoods, employment, and crop productivity through pollination and sustainable honey production.
- Strengthen infrastructure, quality control, traceability, and agri-entrepreneurship while empowering women and fostering cooperatives to enhance technology use, marketing, and export potential.

Ranking:

- India is the second largest exporter of honey, after China, as of 2024.
- Major Indian states producing honey include Uttar Pradesh (17%), West Bengal (16%), Punjab (14%), Bihar (12%) and Rajasthan (9%).
- Major export destinations included the USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Libya.

INDIA PLANS TO ALLOW PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY -

- The Prime Minister of India announced that the country will soon open its civil nuclear power sector to private players, ahead of the Parliament’s winter session where the Atomic Energy Bill, 2025 will be introduced to expand nuclear capacity and attract private investment.



How can the Private Sector Strengthen India's Nuclear Power Programme?

- **India's Ambitious Capacity Expansion:** India plans to scale nuclear capacity from 8.8 GW to 22 GW by 2032 and 100 GW by 2047, but the sector is still dominated by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), which lack the capital, manpower, and construction capacity needed to meet these ambitious targets.
- Private players can augment capital, skilled workforce, and Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) capabilities, making large-scale expansion feasible.
- **Bridging the Massive Financing Gap:** Reaching 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047 needs about Rs 15 lakh crore investment, but the 2025–26 Budget allocates only Rs 20,000 crore.
- Nuclear projects demand huge upfront costs, making limited public funds a major challenge and highlighting the need for private investment to mobilise long-term capital, reduce the fiscal burden, and diversify funding sources.
- **Accelerating Project Execution:** Many NPCIL projects, such as Kudankulam Units 3–6, have faced chronic delays due to procurement issues, slow construction, and administrative hurdles.
- Private players can help speed up projects through better project management and stronger supply-chain efficiency.
- **Boosting Technology & Innovation:** Private sector involvement can support the adoption of advanced reactor designs, small modular reactors (SMRs), and global collaborations, keys to scaling nuclear capacity and improving safety.
- **Strengthening Uranium Supply Chains:** Allowing private firms to mine, import, and process uranium can upgrade India's limited domestic capability, reduce dependence on Government-to-Government (G2G) deals, and build strategic reserves for long-term nuclear fuel security.

- **Enhancing India's Energy Security & Net-Zero Pathway:** Private participation helps accelerate low-carbon capacity growth, supporting India's net-zero 2070 commitments.
- Private sector entry can deepen localisation of reactor components, boost domestic manufacturing, and integrate India into global nuclear supply chains.

INDIA PUSHES BIG CAT CONSERVATION AT COP30 -

- India, at the High-Level Ministerial Segment on the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) during United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (CoP30) in Belém, Brazil called for stronger global cooperation to protect big cats.
- **India will host the Global Big Cats Summit in New Delhi in 2026.**
- India also released 'One Earth, One Family, One Future: A Decade of Climate Action', summarising progress in mitigation, adaptation and climate finance, and outlining the pathway to a Viksit and Sustainable Bharat 2047.

Why are Big Cats Important for Climate and Biodiversity?

- **Apex Predators:** They regulate prey populations and maintain ecological balance across forests and grasslands.
- Healthy predator-prey dynamics improve ecosystem resilience to climate change, droughts and habitat degradation.
- **Ecosystem Health Indicators:** Thriving big cat populations reflect healthy forests, regenerating grasslands and functioning watershed systems.
- **Nature-Based Climate Solutions:** Big cat landscapes store carbon, support natural regeneration and strengthen long-term climate mitigation efforts, making them important Nature-Based Climate Solutions.
- Conserving big cats safeguards carbon sinks, water security, biodiversity and soil stability, which are the key components of climate and ecological health.

TIGER RETURNS TO GUJARAT AFTER THREE DECADES -

- A tiger has been officially spotted in Gujarat's Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), marking the first confirmed sighting of the species in the state since it was declared extinct in 1989.



- Gujarat now hosts lions, tigers, and leopards, and is preparing Banni Grasslands for a cheetah breeding and conservation centre under Project Cheetah.

Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location & Establishment:** Also known as Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary, located in the Dahod district of Gujarat, borders Jhabua and Kathiwada regions of Madhya Pradesh that are both known for tiger population.
- **It was declared a sanctuary in 1982.**
- **Flora:** It has dry teak forests at the foothills and mixed deciduous forests with dry bamboo thickets on the periphery, with a high concentration of Mahua and Jamun trees, key food sources for sloth bears.
- **Fauna:** It is a crucial habitat for the Sloth Bear, supporting the maximum population of this species in the entire state of Gujarat. It also hosts a large population of leopards.
- **Ecological Significance:** Forms the catchment of river Panam, supporting water conservation and irrigation in Dahod and Panchmahals districts.

REVISED GRAP MEASURES ACTIVATED AS DELHI'S AQI STAYS 'VERY POOR' -

- Delhi continued to grapple with hazardous air quality as authorities implemented stricter pollution-control measures in response to persistent 'very poor' conditions. With the city's Air Quality Index hovering around 360, the Commission for Air Quality Management revised the Graded Response Action



Plan for the entire NCR, advancing several higher-stage measures to address the deteriorating situation.

Higher-Stage Curbs Now Applicable Earlier

- As part of the revised strategy, actions earlier reserved for the 'Severe' category under GRAP Stage IV have now been shifted to Stage III. This empowers NCR State Governments and the Delhi administration to consider operating public, private, and municipal offices at 50 per cent capacity, with the remainder working from home. A similar decision for central government offices may be taken separately. The restructuring aims to deploy stronger interventions sooner, based on pollution trends and forecasts.

TURKEY TO HOST COP31 CLIMATE SUMMIT AFTER COMPROMISE WITH AUSTRALIA -

- In a major development in international climate diplomacy, Turkey has been confirmed as the host of COP31, the 2026 UN Climate Change Conference, following a diplomatic compromise with Australia. This agreement, reached during discussions at COP30 in Brazil, ends a prolonged hosting dispute and ensures continued momentum in global climate negotiations.

Background: The Hosting Bid Dispute

- The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the most important annual gathering under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Both Turkey and Australia had submitted formal bids in 2022 to host COP31, resulting in a stalemate as neither nation was willing to withdraw.
- The impasse raised concerns about leadership and coordination during a crucial phase for climate action, especially as the world intensifies focus on climate financing, adaptation mechanisms, and emission reductions.

THREAT TO DUGONG POPULATION IN INDIA -

- A recent report launched at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Conservation

Congress in Abu Dhabi highlights the growing threat to the dugong population in India.

What are Dugongs?

- **About:** Dugongs are marine mammals, related to manatees, with a plump appearance and a dolphin-like fluke tail. They grow up to 10 feet in length and weigh around 420 kilograms.
- Manatees are large, herbivorous aquatic mammals of the Sirenia group, found in coastal regions of South America, West Africa, and the Caribbean.
- **Diet:** Dugongs are herbivorous marine mammals, feeding primarily on seagrass meadows like Cymodocea, Halophila, Thalassia, and Halodule, earning them the nickname "sea cows" and "farmers of the sea."
- They require 30-40 kg of seagrass daily for sustenance and live in shallow, warm coastal waters, such as bays, lagoons, and estuaries, usually less than 10 meters deep.
- **Distribution:** They are primarily found in the Gulf of Kutch, the Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay region (between India and Sri Lanka), and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The report, titled ‘A Global Assessment of Dugong Status and Conservation Needs’, indicates that the survival of dugongs in the Gulf of Kutch and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is uncertain and highly challenged, while the population in the Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay has significantly decreased.
- **Behaviour:** The dugong is a long-lived species, capable of living up to 70 years. Typically solitary or found in small mother-calf pairs, large herds common in Australian waters are rare in India.
- **Reproduction:** They reach reproductive maturity at nine to ten years and give birth every three to five years, resulting in a slow reproductive cycle that limits their population growth rate to approximately 5% per year.



National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) under MNRE has raised concerns of ecological disturbance to turtle nesting and fish breeding zones.

- The site lies near the newly notified Greater Flamingo Sanctuary and falls within Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) categories IB, II, and IVA, making it a highly sensitive coastal stretch.



About Greater Flamingo Sanctuary, Dhanushkodi

- **Type/Nature:** Protected bird sanctuary notified in 2024 by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, situated near Dhanushkodi where the Palk Bay meets the Gulf of Mannar.
- **Key Features:** A seasonal coastal wetland that hosts Greater Flamingos (Phoenicopterus roseus) and several migratory bird species from December to March.
- **Ecological Role:** Functions as a key feeding and roosting ground for flamingos, turtles, and shorebirds; contains seagrass meadows, mudflats, coral fragments, and shallow lagoons crucial for marine biodiversity.
- **Legal Protection:** Declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, restricting any industrial or construction activity within the sanctuary and its eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).
- **Management & Oversight:** Managed by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, with project monitoring and compliance overseen by the District and State Coastal Zone Management Authorities (DCZMA, SCZMA).

ODISHA’S SUNAPUR, PURI BEACHES REAFFIRM BLUE FLAG STATUS FOR 2025–26 -

- Odisha’s Sunapur and Puri beaches have once again secured the International Blue Flag Certification, reaffirming their position among India’s cleanest and most environmentally sustainable coastal destinations. The recognition highlights the state’s



GREATER FLAMINGO SANCTUARY -

- The 50-MW demonstration wind farm proposed at Dhanushkodi, Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu) by the

ongoing efforts to promote eco-friendly tourism and maintain global standards in beach management.

Repeated Success in Global Assessment

- Sunapur beach in Ganjam district earned the certification for the third consecutive year, while Puri’s Golden Beach was recognised for the seventh time in a row. The certification, awarded by the Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education, is granted only after strict assessments of water quality, safety protocols and environmental management.

National Recognition and Compliance

- A total of 13 beaches across India have been recognised for 2025–26, with 12 receiving full certification. Both Sunapur and Puri feature on this list, reflecting Odisha’s consistent compliance with 33 international criteria covering waste management, safety infrastructure, environmental education and overall cleanliness.

INDIA LAUNCH CLIMATE FINANCE PLATFORMS AT COP30 2025 -

- India, along with 13 other developing countries and regions, announced plans to establish country- or region-specific platforms during a ministerial event at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.
- India declared that COP30 must be a “COP of Adaptation,” reinforcing the need for stronger adaptation finance and outcomes, including the adoption of core Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) indicators.
- About National Platform for “Climate and Nature Finance”.
- It is a unified national mechanism that streamlines and coordinates India’s access to global climate and nature finance by replacing the current fragmented approach.



Launched at COP30

- 14 Countries And 1 Regional Group Are: Cambodia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, India, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Mongolia, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Rwanda,

South Africa & Togo and the member states of the African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC).

- **Purpose:** To replace India’s scattered ministry-level and project-level climate finance efforts with a unified national system that improves coordination, reduces inefficiencies, and increases successful access to international funds.
- **Supported Through:** Green Climate Fund’s (GCF) Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme.

GRAP-3 AND THE RED ZONE: DECODING DELHI’S AIR EMERGENCY -

- Delhi’s air quality slid into the ‘red zone’, with several neighbourhoods touching ‘severe’ levels even as the city’s 24-hour average AQI stood at 361 (‘very poor’). GRAP Stage 3 has not been invoked yet, citing comparatively better November air this year versus 2024 and ongoing coordinated controls.

Current Pollution Snapshot

- Central Pollution Control Board data placed Delhi as the second most polluted Indian city on the day, with hotspots including Wazirpur (420), Burari (418) and Vivek Vihar (411) logging ‘severe’ readings. Across NCR, Noida (354), Greater Noida (336) and Ghaziabad (339) remained ‘very poor’. Since Diwali, the capital’s AQI has oscillated between ‘poor’ and ‘very poor’, periodically spiking to ‘severe’.

Forecast and Health Risks

- The early warning system expects air to stay ‘very poor’ for the next few days. Prolonged exposure at these levels aggravates respiratory and cardiac conditions, especially among children, the elderly and outdoor workers. Authorities advise limiting outdoor activity, masking in peak hours, and using indoor air purification where feasible.

REPORTS & INDICES

INDIA SLIPS 13 PLACES IN GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE INDEX -

- India has dropped 13 positions to rank 23rd in the latest Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2026, marking its steepest fall in recent years. The assessment highlights a continued dependence on coal, rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and weak price signals on carbon, despite strong progress in renewable energy capacity.



What Is The Climate Change Performance Index?

- The CCPI 2026 has been released on the sidelines of the UN climate conference (COP30) in Belem, Brazil. It evaluates the climate mitigation performance of 63 countries and the European Union, which together account for over 90% of global GHG emissions. Countries are assessed in four categories: GHG emissions, renewable energy, energy use and climate policy. No country occupies the top three slots, as none is considered compatible with limiting dangerous climate change.

India's Ranking And Score In CCPI 2026

- India now stands at 23rd position with an overall score of 61.31, moving from the "high" to the "medium" performance bracket. It receives a medium rating for GHG emissions, energy use and climate policy, but scores low on renewable energy. The report also lists India among the world's largest producers of coal, oil and gas, underlining the tension between its development pathway and global climate goals.

SWEDEN'S UNIVERSITY TOPS QS WORLD UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY RANKINGS 2026 -

- The latest edition of the QS World University Sustainability Rankings highlights expanding global participation and growing emphasis on environmental, social and governance performance in higher education. The 2026 rankings feature a record number of institutions,

underscoring the rising importance of sustainability-driven teaching, research and governance.

Global Leaders in Sustainability

- Lund University in Sweden has secured the number one position with a perfect score, its first time topping the index since the ranking began in 2023. The University of Toronto has moved to second place after two consecutive years at the top. UCL in London has climbed to third overall, while the University of Edinburgh and the University of British Columbia also rank within the top five.

Top 10 Institutions in 2026

- Alongside the leaders, the list includes the London School of Economics, Imperial College London, UNSW Sydney, McGill University and the University of Manchester. These institutions have demonstrated strong commitments to sustainability impact across research, operations, outreach and institutional governance.

Growing Participation from India and Other Regions

- This year's edition features nearly 2,000 universities across 106 locations. The United States leads with 240 institutions, followed by China with 163 and the United Kingdom with 109. India has 103 universities in the rankings and shows significant momentum with 26 debut entries, second only to Mainland China's 49 new entrants.

CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX

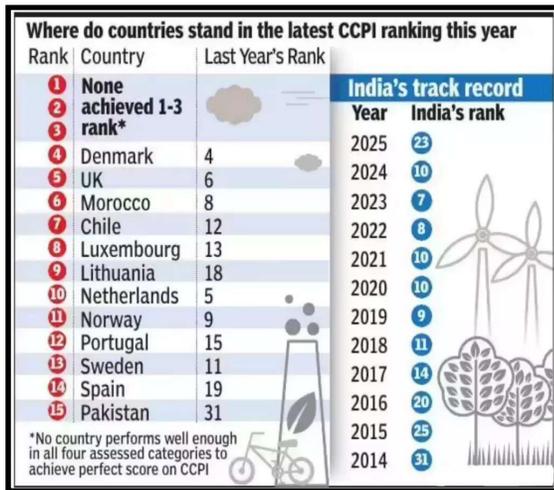
- India has dropped 13 positions in the latest Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), now ranking 23rd.

About Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)

- Publisher:** The CCPI is released annually by Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International, and has been published since 2005.
- Purpose:** It evaluates and compares the climate action performance of major emitting countries, focusing on their progress in reducing emissions, expanding



renewable energy, and implementing effective climate policies.



- **Global Coverage:** The CCPI compares the climate performance of 63 countries and the EU, which together account for over 90% of global GHG emissions.
- **Assessment Criteria:** The CCPI evaluates performance across four categories comprising 14 indicators:
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions – 40% of the score
 - Renewable Energy – 20%
 - Energy Use – 20%
 - Climate Policy – 20%

WHO GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS (TB) REPORT 2025 -

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2025 shows a sharp 21% fall in India's TB incidence, dropping from 237 per lakh in 2015 to 187 per lakh in 2024 nearly twice the pace of the global decline and marking a major milestone in India's fight against the disease.



What are the Key Findings of the WHO Global TB Report 2025?

- **Global:** In 2024, 10.7 million people fell ill with TB and 1.23 million died. The incidence rate was 131 per 100,000 and the case fatality rate was 11.5%.

- TB is among the top 10 causes of death globally and the leading killer from a single infectious agent.
- **High-burden Countries:** 30 high-burden countries account for 87% of global TB. The top contributors are India (25%), Indonesia (10%), Philippines (6.8%), China (6.5%), Pakistan (6.3%), Nigeria (4.8%), DR Congo (3.9%), Bangladesh (3.6%).
- **Key Drivers of TB Incidence:** Undernutrition, low income, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), diabetes, smoking, and alcohol-use disorders.
- **India's Achievement in Sharp Decline:** India accounts for 25% of global TB cases but has shown one of the fastest declines among high-burden countries. Treatment coverage improved from 53% (2015) to 92% (2024).
- India's TB mortality rate fell from 28 per lakh in 2015 to 21 per lakh in 2024. However, despite this progress, India still accounted for about 28% of all TB deaths worldwide in 2024.
- Treatment success rate under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan is at 90% (2024), above the global average of 88%.
- India reports one lakh cases remained "missing," meaning undiagnosed cases that continue to spread the infection. India still contributes 8.8% of the global detection gap, second only to Indonesia (10%).

GLOBAL PASSPORT RANKINGS 2025: SINGAPORE LEADS, SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN FOLLOW -

- Global travel freedom continues to evolve, with several nations strengthening their positions through robust diplomatic ties and economic stability. Passport power is assessed on the number of destinations citizens can access visa-free or with visa-on-arrival, determining how easily travellers can move across borders.

Global Leaders in Passport Strength

- Singapore tops the 2025 rankings, granting its citizens access to 193 destinations. South Korea follows with 190 destinations, reflecting its strong diplomatic network across Europe, the Americas and Asia. Japan holds the

third position with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 189 destinations.

As of Q1 2025		Access	
1st	Singapore 193	Greece 187	5th
2nd	Japan 190	New Zealand 187	
	South Korea 190	Switzerland 187	
	Denmark 189	Australia 186	6th
	Finland 189	United Kingdom 186	
	France 189	Canada 185	
3rd	Germany 189	Czechia 185	7th
	Ireland 189	Hungary 185	
	Italy 189	Malta 185	
	Spain 189	Poland 185	
	Austria 188	Estonia 184	8th
	Belgium 188	UAE 184	
	Luxembourg 188	Croatia 183	
4th	Netherlands 188	Latvia 183	9th
	Norway 188	Slovakia 183	
	Portugal 188	Slovenia 183	
	Sweden 188	United States 183	

trailing only behind the United States and China. This marks a significant leap for India, which has now officially entered the category of a “major power” as per the threshold defined by the Asia Power Index, developed by the Australia-based Lowy Institute.



- This accomplishment underscores India’s growing influence in Asia, driven by its economic progress, military capability, and future strategic resources — all of which are crucial in shaping the continent’s geopolitical landscape.

What is the Asia Power Index?

- The Asia Power Index is an annual assessment that evaluates the comprehensive power of countries across Asia. In its seventh edition (2025), it ranked 27 countries and territories based on 131 indicators across eight core dimensions,
 - Economic Capability
 - Military Capability
 - Resilience
 - Future Resources
 - Diplomatic Influence
 - Economic Relationships
 - Defence Networks
 - Cultural Influence

European Dominance in Mobility

- Thirteen European nations collectively occupy the fourth rank with access to 187 destinations. These include Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland. Their extensive mobility reflects long-standing diplomatic influence and stability.

INDIA’S RISE: THIRD PLACE IN ASIA POWER INDEX 2025 -

- India has achieved a major milestone in its global rise by securing the third rank in the Asia Power Index 2025.

DEFENCE

WOMEN SOLDIERS TO JOIN TERRITORIAL ARMY BATTALIONS -

- The Directorate General of Territorial Army has decided to induct women soldiers into Territorial Army (TA) Home & Hearth (H&H) Infantry battalions for the first time, marking a major step in expanding women's roles in the defence forces.



What is the Territorial Army (TA)?

- **About:** The Territorial Army (TA) is a part-time voluntary military force that supports and augments the Regular Indian Army.
- It is based on a Citizen Soldiers' army ('Sons of Soil') concept and officers undergo Annual Training on basic military skills.
- It functions under the Territorial Army Act, 1948 and allows trained civilian volunteers to serve in uniform while continuing their regular professions.
- **Background:** The roots of the TA trace back to the Volunteer Forces of 1857 formed after the First War of Independence in 1857.
- The Indian Defence Force Act of 1917 made universities raise defence units, with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Jawaharlal Nehru joining the Calcutta University Corps in 1918.
- The Force had two parts, the European Auxiliary Force and the Indian Branch, which later became the Indian Territorial Force.
- After Independence, the Territorial Army Act, 1948 was passed, The TA was formally inaugurated on 9th October 1949 by first Indian Governor General Shri C Rajagopalachari (now celebrated as Raising Day of Territorial Army).

INDIA AND FRANCE BEGIN 'GARUDA 'AIR EXERCISE AT MONT-DE-MARSAN -

- India and France have launched the latest edition of the Garuda air combat exercise at Mont-de-Marsan, marking

a renewed push to strengthen defence interoperability and deepen their strategic partnership. The joint drill underscores expanding air cooperation between the two nations at a time of evolving regional and global security dynamics.



Indian and French Fighters Train in Advanced Air Combat

- The Indian Air Force has deployed six Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft supported by IL-78 mid-air refuelling and C-17 Globemaster-III transport platforms. These aircraft will operate alongside French multirole fighters, including Rafales, in demanding simulated combat scenarios. The exercise is designed to refine air-to-air engagements, strengthen air defence tactics and practise coordinated strike missions.

EXERCISE GARUDA 25: INDIA AND FRANCE STRENGTHEN AERIAL TIES -

- In a major step toward bolstering defence cooperation, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the 8th edition of the bilateral air exercise 'Garuda 25' with the French Air and Space Force (FASF). The joint exercise is being held from 16 to 27 November 2025 at Mont-de-Marsan Air Base in France, marking yet another chapter in the strong strategic partnership between the two nations.



IAF's Strategic Deployment and Key Assets

- The IAF contingent landed in France on 10 November 2025, showcasing its long-range deployment capability and preparedness. For this exercise, the IAF has deployed its Su-30MKI multirole fighter aircraft, known for its versatility in air superiority and strike roles.
- Supporting airlift and logistical operations are,
- **C-17 Globemaster III:** For transportation during induction and de-induction phases

- **IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft:** Extending the operational reach and endurance of Su-30MKI fighters via mid-air refuelling

INDIA HAS INAUGURATED ITS NEWEST AND HIGHEST FIGHTER-CAPABLE AIRBASE AT NYOMA IN LADAKH, BUILT BY THE BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION (BRO), MARKING A MAJOR BOOST TO THE COUNTRY'S AIR POWER ALONG THE NORTHERN FRONT -

- **Nyoma Airbase:** Nyoma lies at 13,700 feet, making it one of the world's highest fighter-capable airbases.
- Located only 35 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC), it gives India rapid-response capability against China.
- It strengthens India's forward military posture after the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troop buildup in eastern Ladakh (2020).
- The base will significantly boost air infrastructure in Ladakh and enhance the Indian Air Force's (IAF) ability to respond quickly to any aerial threats along the northern frontier.
- **Key Capabilities of the Nyoma Base:** It supports fighter jet operations, unlike the earlier limited-use airstrip. Enhances surveillance, mobility, and logistics in a strategically sensitive region.



6TH INDIA-VIETNAM ARMY EXERCISE VINBAX BEGINS IN HANOI -

- The 6th India-Vietnam Army Exercise VINBAX commenced in Hanoi, Vietnam, with the aim of strengthening defence cooperation between the two countries. Presided over by India's Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Vietnam's Deputy Chief of General Staff Senior Lieutenant General Phung Si Tan, the exercise focuses on interoperability and UN peacekeeping operations. This exercise highlights the



deepening strategic and military partnership between India and Vietnam.

About Exercise VINBAX

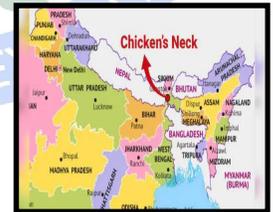
- Exercise VINBAX is a bilateral military exercise conducted between India and Vietnam. It is designed to,
- Enhance inter-operability between the two armies.
- Share best practices in UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKO).
- Strengthen overall defence cooperation and strategic ties.

Key Objectives of the 6th Edition

- Interoperability Enhancement: Training together to ensure seamless coordination during joint operations.
- Peacekeeping Skills Sharing: Learning and sharing best practices in UN peacekeeping missions.
- Strategic Partnership Strengthening: Deepening military-to-military cooperation between India and Vietnam.

UNDERSTANDING THE 'CHICKEN'S NECK' -

- India has initiated major strategic moves to reinforce its control over the Siliguri Corridor, also known as the 'Chicken's Neck,' amid growing concerns over Bangladesh's interim government warming up to Pakistan. The decision to establish new garrisons along the border underscores India's intent to secure its Northeast connectivity and prevent potential geopolitical vulnerabilities.



Understanding the 'Chicken's Neck'

- The 'Chicken's Neck' refers to the Siliguri Corridor — a narrow strip of land in West Bengal that connects mainland India to its northeastern states. At its narrowest, it measures only about 20 to 22 kilometres wide. The corridor is flanked by Nepal on the west, Bangladesh on the east, and Bhutan to the north, making it one of the most strategically sensitive regions in South Asia. Any disruption here could isolate the entire Northeast from the rest of the country, prompting India to treat the region as a high-priority security zone.

INS IKSHAK JOINS NAVY: WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL ? -

• On 6 November 2025, the Indian Navy commissioned INS Ikshak, the third ship of the Survey Vessel Large (SVL) class, at Naval Base Kochi. This marks a pivotal development in India’s maritime infrastructure and self-reliant defence manufacturing. Designed and built under the Make in India initiative, INS Ikshak significantly enhances the Navy’s capacity for hydrographic surveys, disaster relief, and strategic maritime operations.



The SVL Class: A Strategic Asset

- The SVL project, initiated under a 2018 contract with Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, aims to deliver four large survey vessels.
- These ships are designed to conduct deep-water and coastal surveys, map navigational routes, and collect vital oceanographic data for both defence and civilian applications.
- INS Sandhayak and INS Nirdeshak were the first two vessels to be commissioned.
- With the induction of INS Ikshak, the Navy is closer to completing the planned SVL fleet, reinforcing its ability to safeguard sea lanes and support marine infrastructure development.

INDIA ISSUES NOTAM FOR MAJOR IAF DRILLS IN NORTHEAST AMID DUAL-FRONT PREPAREDNESS -

• India has issued multiple Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) across its northeastern airspace as the Indian Air Force (IAF) gears up for a series of large-scale operational exercises. The move comes as part of heightened border preparedness and coincides with the launch of ‘Exercise Trishul’, a major tri-service drill along the western frontier with Pakistan.

Large-Scale Air Operations Planned Across Northeast

• The IAF has scheduled its northeastern combat readiness drills on November 6, November 20, December 4, December 18, January 1, and January 15, 2026. These

exercises will include extensive air defence manoeuvres, multi-aircraft sorties, and logistics operations across several forward air bases. The northeastern corridor, bordering China, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, remains one of India’s most sensitive strategic zones, making air surveillance and rapid deployment crucial to national security.

INDIAN NAVY LEADS TRI-SERVICES EXERCISE “TRISHUL” 2025 -

• The Indian Navy will lead the Tri-Services Exercise (TSE-2025) “Trishul,” conducted jointly with the Indian Army and Indian Air Force. Scheduled to begin in early November 2025, the large-scale operation aims to enhance synergy, interoperability, and joint operational readiness among the three Services.



Scope and Strategic Significance

• The exercise will be coordinated by the Headquarters Western Naval Command in collaboration with all three Services. It will cover diverse terrains, including the creek and desert sectors of Rajasthan and Gujarat, and extend to maritime zones in the North Arabian Sea. The operations will involve amphibious missions, carrier-based operations, and extensive land-air-sea coordination, marking one of India’s largest integrated military drills.

THE 19TH EDITION OF THE INDIA–NEPAL JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE, SURYAKIRAN XIX – 2025, WAS HELD AT PITHORAGARH, UTTARAKHAND, TO DEEPEN MILITARY COOPERATION -

• **SURYAKIRAN:** The joint exercise first started in 2011. It aims to practice Sub-Conventional Operations under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate, crucial for peacekeeping and conflict-management missions.

• Training areas include Jungle Warfare, Counter-Terrorism in Mountain Terrain, Humanitarian Assistance



& Disaster Relief (HADR), Medical Response, Environmental Conservation, and Integrated Ground–Aviation Operations.

- The 19th edition integrates emerging technologies, such as Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), drone-based Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) AI-enabled decision tools, unmanned logistics platforms, and armoured protection systems.

India- Nepal Defence Relations

- **Military Ties:** The 1816 Treaty of Sugauli, an agreement between the Gurkha chiefs of Nepal and the British Indian government, ended the Anglo-Nepalese War (1814–16) and paved the way for Nepali recruitment into the Indian (erstwhile British Indian) Army.
- **Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950:** The Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950 granted national treatment to each other's citizens in economic participation, property ownership, trade, residence, and movement.

INDIA-FRANCE DEFENCE DEAL TO PRODUCE HAMMER SMART WEAPONS IN INDIA -

- India and France have advanced their defence partnership with a new agreement to co-produce the HAMMER air-to-ground precision weapon system in India. The move strengthens New Delhi's strategy of boosting domestic capability in high-technology armaments while reducing dependence on foreign suppliers.

Joint Production Agreement

- Bharat Electronics Limited and Safran Electronics & Defence have signed a pact to manufacture the HAMMER weapon system in India. The collaboration focuses on localisation of production, supply chains and long-term maintenance support. The Ministry of Defence confirmed that the system will be adapted for different mission profiles and operated from multiple fighter platforms.

Platforms and Operational Role

- The HAMMER system will be integrated with India's Rafale fighters as well as the indigenous Tejas light combat aircraft. Designed to provide stand-off capability, the weapon allows precision strike on fortified targets while keeping the aircraft outside hostile air-defence

envelopes. Its modular design enables flexible deployment, making it suitable for varied combat scenarios.

ARMY TO OFFICIALLY HONOUR OPERATION PAWAN MARTYRS AFTER 38 YEARS -

- The Indian Army will, for the first time, formally commemorate the soldiers who lost their lives in Operation Pawan, the country's first major overseas military mission after Independence. Conducted in Sri Lanka between 1987 and 1990, the operation resulted in 1,171 personnel killed and more than 3,500 injured, marking one of the heaviest wartime losses in India's modern military history.

The Operation And Its Objectives

- Operation Pawan began in 1987 when the Indian Peace Keeping Force was deployed to Sri Lanka to curb escalating violence during the Tamil–Sinhala conflict. The mission aimed to disarm militant groups, including the LTTE, under the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. However, the LTTE rejected the agreement, leading to intense combat in difficult forested terrain. Many soldiers lost their lives in ambushes, close-quarter battles and surprise attacks.

Heavy Losses And Notable Sacrifices

- The magnitude of casualties made the operation one of the most challenging India ever undertook abroad. Among the martyrs was Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran, awarded the Param Vir Chakra posthumously for exceptional bravery during an encounter on 25 November 1987. Numerous units across the armed forces faced sustained hostilities, often without the chance to recover the bodies of fallen comrades.

Decades Without Official Remembrance

- Despite the scale of sacrifice, India never observed an official remembrance day for Operation Pawan. Former soldiers, widows and families privately gathered each year at memorials to honour the fallen, with no institutional ceremony. In contrast, Sri Lanka constructed an IPKF memorial in Colombo, acknowledging the mission's significance.

SPORTS

INDIA WINS INAUGURAL BLIND WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2025 -

- Making history in women's cricket, India emerged victorious in the first-ever Blind Women's T20 World Cup held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, by defeating Nepal in a clinical seven-wicket triumph on November 23, 2025. The final, played at the iconic P Sara Oval, showcased India's dominance in the sport and marked a historic milestone for inclusive cricket. This win not only establishes India as the first champion of the blind women's T20 format but also underscores the nation's growing leadership in promoting disability sports at the international level.



Match Summary: India vs Nepal – A Commanding Final

- **Nepal's Innings**
- After winning the toss and opting to bowl, India's bowlers delivered a disciplined performance, restricting Nepal to 114 for 5 in their allotted 20 overs.
- The Indian bowling unit kept the pressure on throughout the innings, preventing Nepal from accelerating the run rate.
- Tight fielding and effective use of the conditions ensured Nepal never got out of control, despite a few late boundaries.
- **India's Chase**
- India's response was emphatic. The team chased down the target of 115 runs in just 12 overs, finishing at 117 for 3 with eight overs to spare.
- Indian batters played with freedom, confidence, and clarity.
- Smart rotation of strike and timely boundaries ensured a smooth chase.
- The comprehensive victory by seven wickets reflects India's dominance throughout the tournament.

KALINGA STADIUM TO HOST INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS -

- Bhubaneswar's iconic Kalinga Stadium is set to host the inaugural National Indoor Athletics Championships in January 2026, marking a historic development in India's athletics calendar. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has announced the introduction of indoor competitions for the first time in the country, focusing on expanding the domestic athletics ecosystem.



India's First-Ever Indoor Athletics Event

- AFI president Bahadur Singh Sagoo confirmed that the National Indoor Championships would be part of the 2026 domestic season. The indoor meet will feature key events such as the pole vault and heptathlon, showcasing India's readiness to embrace international standards in athletics infrastructure. Bhubaneswar's world-class indoor facility at Kalinga Stadium will serve as the venue for this pioneering edition.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM IN DELHI TO BE REDEVELOPED AS SPORTS CITY -

- In a major boost to India's sporting infrastructure, the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN) in New Delhi is set to undergo a complete transformation into a modern Sports City. As announced by the Sports Ministry, the ambitious project proposes converting the existing stadium complex into a state-of-the-art facility that caters to multiple sports disciplines and includes dedicated lodging facilities for athletes. This marks a pivotal move in India's journey toward creating world-class training environments and supporting long-term athletic development.

What the Redevelopment Involves

- The proposed redevelopment will cover the entire 102-acre area of the current stadium complex. The key highlights of the plan include,

- Full dismantling and rebuilding of the existing stadium infrastructure.
- Creation of an integrated sports complex that houses facilities for multiple sports disciplines.
- Inclusion of athlete accommodation, ensuring access to training, recovery, and residence within a single complex.
- Potential addition of indoor and outdoor arenas, practice fields, high-performance centers, and spectator-friendly spaces.

SAMRAT RANA WINS 10M AIR PISTOL WORLD TITLE -

- Young Indian shooter Samrat Rana, 20, captured men's 10m air pistol gold at the ISSF World Championships in Cairo, becoming India's first pistol world champion in an Olympic discipline. He also led India to the team gold in the event, capping a landmark day for Indian shooting.

Historic ISSF breakthrough

- Rana's win ends India's wait for an individual pistol world crown in an Olympic event. It arrived at a championships where India surged up the medals table, with multiple podiums across events.

How the final unfolded

- In a tense duel, Rana posted 243.7 to edge China's Hu Kai by 0.4 points (243.3). Varun Tomar secured bronze with 221.7 after a gripping shootout phase. Reports noted pressure-shot responses from both finalists in the closing series, underscoring Rana's composure.

INDIA CLINCH FIRST-EVER WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TITLE -

- India created history at the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 final, defeating South Africa by 52 runs to secure their maiden world title. The victory, led by captain Harmanpreet Kaur, marked a turning point in Indian women's cricket, ending years of heartbreak and establishing the team among the sport's global elite.

Explosive Start from Indian Openers

- After a rain-delayed toss, South Africa elected to field at Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium. Openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana provided India with a flying start,

putting on a 104-run stand. Shafali dominated the innings with a blistering 87 off 78 balls, including seven fours and two sixes, while Mandhana added a valuable 45. When the middle order stumbled, Deepti Sharma steadied the innings with a composed 58 off 58 deliveries, supported by Richa Ghosh's quick 34 off 24 balls. India posted a formidable 298/7 in their 50 overs, the second-highest total in a Women's World Cup final.

ISRO TARGETS SEVEN LAUNCHES BY MARCH 2026 -

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has set an ambitious target to complete seven space missions by March 2026, including the first uncrewed test flight under the Gaganyaan programme. Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed the roadmap after the successful launch of India's heaviest satellite, CMS-03, aboard the LVM3-M5 rocket from Sriharikota.

First Gaganyaan Uncrewed Mission by March 2026

- The Bengaluru-based agency has planned three uncrewed missions ahead of India's maiden human spaceflight under Gaganyaan. The first of these, "G1 Mission", is scheduled before the end of the current financial year. Narayanan stated that hardware integration for the G1 mission is underway at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. These flights will validate critical systems such as crew module safety, environmental control, and re-entry procedures, paving the way for India's first crewed space mission.

Seven Missions on the Launchpad

- **ISRO's roadmap includes a total of seven missions by March 2026 as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to achieve 50 rocket launches in the next five years. Following the CMS-03 mission, another LVM3 launch will carry a commercial communication satellite. Three Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) missions are also planned—one dedicated to a NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) client satellite and another for technology demonstration under PSLV-N1. Additionally, a GSLV-F17 launch is slated to take place before the fiscal year ends.**

IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. Boramdev Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?
a) Chhattisgarh b) Jharkhand
c) Karnataka d) Maharashtra
- Q2. Which is the only Indian river that cuts the Tropic of Cancer twice ?
a) Chambal River b) Mahi River
c) Luni River d) Banas River
- Q3. The Sangai Festival is celebrated in which state ?
a) Manipur b) Nagaland
c) Assam d) Tripura
- Q4. Which university secured the 1st rank in the QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026 ?
a) University of Toronto, Canada
b) University College London, United Kingdom
c) Lund University, Sweden
d) Harvard University, USA
- Q5. In the latest Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2026, what position did India secure, and what was the main reason for the drop in ranking ?
a) 10th, due to rising coal consumption
b) 18th, due to lack of renewable energy targets
c) 30th, due to high greenhouse gas emissions
d) 23rd, due to absence of a national deadline to exit coal usage
- Q6. Which country formally joined Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as the 11th member during the 47th ASEAN Summit in 2025 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia ?
a) Brunei b) Timor-Leste
c) Myanmar d) Cambodia
- Q7. In news, Abhinav Bindra has been selected as a torchbearer for the 2026 Winter Olympics. In which country will the 2026 Winter Olympics be held ?
a) Italy b) Japan
c) France d) Canada
- Q8. The eighth edition of the India-UK Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-25 began on 17 November 2025. Where is this exercise being conducted ?
a) Babina Field Firing Ranges
b) Auli Training Area
c) Mahajan Field Firing Ranges
d) Shillong Cantonment
- Q9. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution is the Finance Commission, including the Sixteenth Finance Commission (XVIFC), constituted ?
a) Article 280 b) Article 275
c) Article 289 d) Article 282
- Q10. The National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) are the highest honours in which sector in India ?
a) Agriculture sector
b) Fisheries sector
c) Livestock and dairy sector
d) None of the Above
- Q11. Kwar Hydroelectric Project is located in which state/UT ?
a) Jammu and Kashmir b) Uttarakhand
c) Himachal Pradesh d) Gujarat
- Q12. In news, International Students' Day 2025, celebrated to promote the right to education and student solidarity, is observed on which date ?
a) 15 November b) 16 November
c) 17 November d) 18 November
- Q13. Who was awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 ?
a) Michelle Bachelet b) Malala Yousafzai
c) Angela Merkel d) Antonio Guterres
- Q14. Which country is the largest source of India's gold imports, accounting for a 40% share ?
a) United Arab Emirates b) South Africa
c) China d) Switzerland
- Q15. In news, Universal Children's Day 2025 is observed on 20 November 2025. Which country first officially declared Children's Day as a national holiday in 1920?
a) India b) Turkey
c) Japan d) France

- Q16. e-Jagriti Platform is an initiative of which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
b) Ministry of Law & Justice
c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- Q17. Sakurajima volcano, that was recently seen in news, is located in which country ?
a) China
b) Japan
c) Indonesia
d) Philippines
- Q18. Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-25 is a joint military exercise between India and which country ?
a) Australia
b) Indonesia
c) France
d) United Kingdom
- Q19. The Omen drone is jointly developed by USA and which country ?
a) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
b) France
c) Germany
d) Australia
- Q20. What type of missile is "INVAR" that was recently seen in news ?
a) Anti-Tank Guided Missile
b) Anti-Ship Missile
c) Cruise Missile
d) Surface-to-Surface Missile
- Q21. Mudh-Nyoma Airbase, that was recently seen in news, is located in which state/UT ?
a) Arunachal Pradesh
b) Uttarakhand
c) Sikkim
d) Ladakh
- Q22. What is India's projected inflation rate for 2026 according to the latest estimates ?
a) 2.5%
b) 3.0%
c) 3.5%
d) 4.0%
- Q23. In news, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently conducted a successful Main Parachute test for the Gaganyaan Crew Module as part of the Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Tests (IMAT) series. At which location was this test carried out ?
a) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
b) Chandipur, Odisha
c) Babina Field Firing Range, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
d) Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu
- Q24. In news, India and Nepal recently signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE) to amend the Protocol to the India-Nepal Treaty of Transit. The amendment enables direct rail movement of cargo through which rail corridor ?
a) Jogbani-Biratnagar
b) Raxaul-Birgunj
c) Jaynagar-Janakpur
d) Nautanwa-Sunauli
- Q25. Which of the following best defines the technique of GPS spoofing ?
a) Sending false GPS signals to mislead a receiver's location
b) Scrambling internal software of GPS receivers to corrupt data
c) Blocking satellite signals from reaching GPS receivers
d) Using encrypted signals to prevent satellite tracking
- Q26. Vrindavani Vastra is associated with which Indian state?
a) Assam
b) Manipur
c) Nagaland
d) Sikkim
- Q27. What type of missile is "INVAR" that was recently seen in news ?
a) Anti-Tank Guided Missile
b) Anti-Ship Missile
c) Cruise Missile
d) Surface-to-Surface Missile
- Q28. Which global organization released the Global TB Report 2025 ?
a) World Health Organization (WHO)
b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
c) UNICEF
d) World Bank
- Q29. Which state secured first position in the Best State category of the 6th National Water Awards for 2024 ?
a) Gujarat
b) Maharashtra
c) Kerala
d) Tamil Nadu
- Q30. Where was the Bharat-Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav 2025 organized ?
a) New Delhi, India
b) Kandy, Sri Lanka
c) Chandigarh, India
d) Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Q31. Who won the 2025 Booker Prize ?
a) Salman Rushdie b) David Szalay
c) Arundhati Roy d) Margaret Atwood
- Q32. Who won the 2025 Booker Prize ?
a) Salman Rushdie b) David Szalay
c) Arundhati Roy d) Margaret Atwood
- Q33. Greater Flamingo Sanctuary (GFS) is located in which state ?
a) Karnataka b) Kerala
c) Tamil Nadu d) Maharashtra
- Q34. Which Indian Naval Ship (INS) is representing India at the multilateral Exercise Malabar-2025 ?
a) INS Kolkata b) INS Chennai
c) INS Sahyadri d) INS Vikramaditya
- Q35. In a landmark achievement reflecting India's growing financial might, which historic milestone did the State Bank of India recently become the first Indian bank to cross, showcasing its unmatched reach in both credit and deposits ?
a) ₹50 trillion in total business
b) 50 billion market capitalization
c) ₹100 trillion in total business
d) 1 trillion in assets
- Q36. Which breakthrough therapy, NexCAR19, developed in India, is specifically targeted to treat B-cell blood cancers such as Leukemia and Lymphoma, especially in patients unresponsive to chemotherapy ?
a) Lung cancer treatment
b) Breast cancer therapy
c) B-cell blood cancers like Leukemia and Lymphoma
d) Skin cancer treatment
- Q37. Where is the COP30 Climate Summit scheduled to take place in November 2025, focusing on climate adaptation ?
a) Glasgow, Scotland b) Paris, France
c) Belém, Brazil d) New York, USA
- Q38. The Konark Sun Temple is located in which state ?
a) Odisha b) Bihar
c) Tamil Nadu d) Kerala
- Q39. Which Indian Naval Ship (INS) is representing India at the multilateral Exercise Malabar-2025 ?
a) INS Kolkata b) INS Chennai
c) INS Sahyadri d) INS Vikramaditya
- Q40. The Fujian aircraft carrier was recently inducted by which country's navy ?
a) Japan b) China
c) South Korea d) Russia
- Q41. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary is located in which state?
a) Maharashtra b) Tamil Nadu
c) Karnataka d) Kerala
- Q42. Which organization released the State of the Climate Update for COP30 ?
a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
c) International Energy Agency (IEA)
d) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Q43. The Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Fellowship is an initiative of which ministry ?
a) Ministry of External Affairs
b) Ministry of Education
c) Ministry of Skill Development
d) Ministry of Science and Technology
- Q44. Which of the following member states is the most recent addition to the United Nations (UN), becoming its 193rd member ?
a) Timor-Leste
b) Montenegro
c) South Sudan
d) Palestine (as a non-member observer state)
- Q45. Kartik Naach Festival is mainly celebrated in which state ?
a) Nepal b) Bhutan
c) Myanmar d) Bangladesh
- Q46. Which Indian state, known as the "Rice Bowl of India," has recently emerged as a leading producer and exporter of fortified rice ?
a) Punjab b) Chhattisgarh
c) Haryana d) Andhra Pradesh
- Q47. Recently, Hockey India has begun its centenary celebrations in 2025 to mark how many years since the establishment of the Indian Hockey Federation ?
a) 100 years b) 75 years

- c) 90 years d) 50 years
- Q48. 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
- Q49. The foundation stone for the Integrated Sohra Circuit Development project was recently laid under which central scheme ?
a) PRASAD Scheme
b) Swadesh Darshan 2.0
c) PM-DevINE Scheme
d) Dekho Apna Desh Initiative
- Q50. Which airbase in Tajikistan, located about 10 km west of Dushanbe, recently marked the end of India's strategic military presence in Central Asia ?
a) Farkhor Airbase
b) Ayni Airbase
c) Termez Airbase
d) Karshi-Khanabad Airbase
- Q51. Where is the tri-service exercise 'Poorvi Prachand Prahar' being conducted ?
a) Arunachal Pradesh b) Assam
c) Manipur d) Nagaland
- Q52. Which organization is responsible for implementing the National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)
a) National Horticulture Board (NHB)
b) National Bee Board (NBB)
c) National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- Q53. The Ramnami tribe is mainly found in which state ?
a) Chhattisgarh b) Andhra Pradesh
c) Gujarat d) Maharashtra
- Q54. Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?
a) Telangana b) Maharashtra
c) Gujarat d) Karnataka
- Q55. Which aircraft did Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) receive exclusive rights to manufacture in India under its MoU with Russia's PJSC-UAC in October 2025 ?
a) Sukhoi Superjet 100 (SJ-100)
b) Irkut MC-21
c) Boeing 737 MAX
d) Airbus A220
- Q56. Who has been appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI), effective 24 November 2025 ?
a) Justice DY Chandrachud
b) Justice BR Gavai
c) Justice Surya Kant
d) Justice NV Ramana
- Q57. The Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) functions under which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
b) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
c) Ministry of Science and Technology
d) Ministry of MSME
- Q58. The Kunar River, that was recently seen in news, flows through which two countries ?
a) India and Pakistan
b) Pakistan and Afghanistan
c) Afghanistan and Iran
d) Afghanistan and Tajikistan
- Q59. The Bnei Menashe community is primarily found in which states ?
a) Mizoram and Manipur b) Gujarat and Rajasthan
c) Nagaland and Tripura d) Bihar and Jharkhand
- Q60. Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) is located in which state ?
a) Andhra Pradesh b) Karnataka
c) Kerala d) Tamil Nadu
- Q61. The FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 trophy has been renamed to honor which legendary chess player ?
a) Garry Kasparov b) Magnus Carlsen
c) Viswanathan Anand d) Vladimir Kramnik
- Q62. In news, Lucknow has been designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy at the 43rd UNESCO General Conference. Which other Indian city already holds this tag ?
a) Hyderabad b) Jaipur
c) Varanasi d) Chennai

- Q63. In news, Constitution Day (Law Day) 2025 in India is observed on which date ?
 a) 15 August b) 2 October
 c) 25 November d) 26 November
- Q64. In Nov'25, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a Joint Venture Cooperation Agreement with which France's company for producing HAMMER precision-guided air-to-ground weapons in India ?
 a) Lockheed Martin
 b) BAE Systems
 c) Safran Electronics & Defence (SED)
 d) Raytheon
- Q65. According to the Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026, what was India's global rank in terms of climate risk ?
 a) 5th
 b) 7th
 c) 9th
 d) 12th
- Q66. The Pazhayar River, that was recently seen in news, flows through which state ?
 a) Tamil Nadu
 b) Andhra Pradesh
 c) Karnataka
 d) Kerala
- Q67. Hayli Gubbi volcano, that was recently seen in news, is located in which country ?
 a) Japan
 b) Ethiopia
 c) Philippines
 d) Japan
- Q68. The Mangsir Bagwal festival is celebrated in which state ?
 a) Haryana
 b) Uttarakhand
 c) Madhya Pradesh
 d) Odisha
- Q69. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is observed every year on which date?
 a) 10 October
 b) 25 November
 c) 15 November
 d) 8 March
- Q70. How many gold medals did India win in its debut campaign at the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 in Greater Noida ?
 a) 5
 b) 7
 c) 8
 d) 9

ANSWERS

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