SHRINKHLA IAS

SEPTEMBER 2025 CURRENT AFFAIRS

[SPECIAL EDITION: ART AND CULTURE]

SHRINKHLA IAS

Publisher Information

Publisher name - **SHRINKHLA IAS**

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POLITY

SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN AWARDS 2025 ANNOUNCED

SOURCE: THE HINDU

ABOUT THE AWARDS

- *Recognize best-performing cities in Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2025 under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).*
- *Survey covered 130 NCAP cities across India.*

Population-based categories:

- *>10 lakh (Category 1)*
- *3–10 lakh (Category 2)*
- *<3 lakh (Category 3)*
- *11 cities awarded in total.*

WINNERS

- ***Category 1 (>10 lakh):*** *Indore (1st), Jabalpur (2nd), Agra & Surat (joint 3rd).*
- ***Category 2 (3–10 lakh):*** *Amravati (1st), Jhansi & Moradabad (joint 2nd), Alwar (3rd).*
- ***Category 3 (<3 lakh):*** *Dewas (1st), Parwanoo (2nd), Angul (3rd).*

ABOUT NCAP (2019)

- ***Aim:*** *Improve air quality in 131 non-attainment and million-plus cities.*
- ***Target:*** *40% reduction in PM10 (or meet national standard of 60 µg/m³) by 2025–26.*
- ***Nodal body:*** *CPCB; monitored via PRANA portal.*

ED ACHIEVES 94% CONVICTION RATE IN 53 PMLA CASES

ED Achievements

- ***Recovered:*** *Over ₹34,000 crore returned to victims.*

Significance

- *Reflects effectiveness of PMLA and ED's investigations.*
- *Shows ED's role in both punishing offenders and compensating victims.*

CHALLENGES

- *Conviction rate based on few completed cases → backlog concerns.*
- *Legal overlap with Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code.*
- *Rising threats from cyber-fraud & online betting.*

ABOUT ED

- ***HQ:*** *New Delhi | Formed: 1956 | Parent: Dept. of Revenue, MoF.*

Laws Enforced:

- ***PMLA (2002):*** *Criminal law against money laundering.*
- ***FEMA (1999):*** *Civil law on forex violations.*
- ***FEOA (2018):*** *Prevents fugitives from evading Indian law.*
- ***Powers:*** *Search & seizure, summon, arrest, prosecute.*

CENTRE SEEKS REPORT ON TRIBAL RIGHTS CONCERNS IN GNIP

SOURCE: THE HINDU

CONCERNS

- Tribal Council raised issues over recognition and settlement of rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- GNI is home to Shompens (PVTG) and Nicobarese communities.

ABOUT GNIP: GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND PROJECT

- **Clearances (2022):** In-principle forest & environmental clearance under Holistic Development of Islands Program.
- **Nodal Agency:** NITI Aayog; implemented by ANIIDCO.
- **Area:** 130.75 sq km forest diverted; 50% kept for green development (no tree felling).
- **Planned Projects:** International container transshipment terminal (Galathea Bay), greenfield airport, township, 450 MVA gas-solar power plant

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- **Biodiversity hotspot:** Galathea Bay is critical for endangered Leatherback turtles and Nicobar megapodes (both Schedule I species).

FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006

- Recognizes individual and community rights of forest dwellers.
- Grants habitat and habitation rights to PVTGs over customary territories (social, cultural, spiritual, and economic uses).
- District-level Forest Rights Committees verify and address claims.

C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN ELECTED 15TH VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

SOURCE: THE HINDU

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

- Second-highest constitutional post in India.
- **Article 63:** India shall have a Vice-President.
- **Article 64:** Vice-President is ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Article 65:** Acts as President in case of vacancy.
- Constitution is silent on who performs duties if the post falls vacant.

ELECTION PROCESS (ARTICLE 66)

- **Nomination:** 20 proposers + 20 seconders, ₹15,000 deposit.
- **Electoral College:** All members of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha (elected + nominated).
- **Voting:** Proportional representation via single transferable vote, secret ballot.
- Every vote has equal value (1).
- **No whip;** Anti-Defection Law not applicable.

ELIGIBILITY

- Citizen of India.
- Minimum age: 35 years.
- Qualified for election to Rajya Sabha.
- Must not hold office of profit under Union, State, or local authorities.

CJI ON BARRIERS TO JUSTICE FOR MARGINALISED CITIZENS

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- **Access to Justice:** Ensures every citizen can seek fair, equal, and speedy judicial redress. Guaranteed by Articles 14, 21 & 39A of the Constitution.

BARRIERS

- **Geographical:** Courts/law schools distant from rural areas.
- **Linguistic:** English-dominated proceedings.
- **Economic:** Costly legal education & litigation.
- **Social:** Caste bias, illiteracy, lack of awareness.
- **Other:** Digital divide, weak infrastructure; 4.6+ crore pending cases.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

- National Mission for Justice Delivery & Legal Reforms.
- Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 – NALSA, SALSA, Lok Adalats.
- E-Courts Mission Mode Project – court digitization.

WAY FORWARD

- Promote regional languages in courts.
- Reform legal education with scholarships & fee waivers.
- Expand courts, law schools, and legal aid clinics.
- Leverage technology for efficient justice delivery.

20 YEARS OF PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005

SOURCE: THE HINDU

The PWDV Act, 2005 provides legal protection to wives and female live-in partners from violence by husbands, male partners, or their relatives.

📊 **Context:** NCRB's Crime in India 2022 reported 4.45 lakh cases of crimes against women, with cruelty by husbands/relatives forming the majority.

Challenges:
- **Social:** Victim-blaming, economic dependence.
- **Structural:** Weak shelter infrastructure, low conviction rates.
- **Institutional:** Poor awareness, inadequate training of officers & police.
- **Misuse:** Rising number of false cases reported.

Key Features of the Act:
- **Definition:** Covers physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic abuse, and dowry harassment.
- **Institutional Setup:** States must appoint Protection Officers, register Service Providers, and notify shelters & medical facilities.
- **Reliefs:** Victims can seek protection, residence, custody, monetary relief, shelter, medical aid.
- **Residence Rights:** Women in domestic relationships have the right to reside in the shared household.

PM LAYS FOUNDATION OF INDIA'S FIRST PM MITRA PARK IN MP

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- *Park coming up at Bhainsola, Dhar district under PM MITRA scheme; will benefit cotton producers with world-class facilities.*

About PM Mitra:

- **Launched:** *2021 by Ministry of Textiles.*
- **Objective:** *Build integrated, modern textile parks covering the full value chain (Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign).*
- **Duration:** *2021–22 to 2027–28.*
- **Implementation:** *Special Purpose Vehicle (Centre + State).*
- **Funding:**

-*Up to ₹500 cr Development Capital Support per park.*

-*Up to ₹300 cr Competitive Incentive Support for units.*

- **Sites (7):** *TN (Virudhnagar), Telangana (Warangal), Gujarat (Navsari), Karnataka (Kalaburagi), MP (Dhar), UP (Lucknow), Maharashtra (Amravati).*
- **Eligibility:** *1000+ acres of contiguous land, aligned with State textile policy.*
- *Parks may be Greenfield or Brownfield.*

Eligibility:

- *Attract ~₹70,000 cr investment (incl. FDI).*
- *Create ~20 lakh jobs.*
- *Enhance competitiveness & scale in textiles.*

3 YEARS OF NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY (2022–2025)

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- **Vision:** *Tech-enabled, integrated, cost-efficient, resilient & sustainable logistics.*
- **Implementation:** *Via Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan (CLAP).*
- **Sector Share:** *13–14% of GDP; 22M jobs; +1 crore jobs by 2027.*

TARGETS (2030)

- *Cut logistics cost to global levels.*
- *LPI rank in Top 25.*

Achievements:

- **ULIP:** *160+ cr digital transactions; 101 ICDs visibility.*
- **LEADS Index:** *Helped India reach 38th in LPI.*
- **Capacity:** *65k+ trained, 100+ universities with courses.*

Govt Initiatives:

- **PM GatiShakti:** *Infra integration.*
- *35 MMLPs for multimodal transport.*
- **SPEL:** *Sector-specific frameworks.*
- **Green Logistics:** *TEMT for emission tracking.*

MHA RELEASES NCB ANNUAL REPORT 2024

SOURCE: THE HINDU

NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU (NCB)

- **Established:** 1986 under NDPS Act, 1985.
- **Role:** National nodal agency against drug abuse & illicit trafficking.
- **HQ:** New Delhi, under Ministry of Home Affairs.

DRUG TRAFFICKING IN INDIA

Vulnerable Location:
- Between Death Crescent (Afghanistan–Pakistan–Iran) & Death Triangle (Myanmar–Thailand–Laos).

Routes:
- **Land:** Punjab, Rajasthan, J&K (heroin from Pakistan); NE states (Myanmar).
- **Coastal:** Mumbai, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu (synthetic drugs).

Trends:
- Rise in synthetic drugs (Meth, LSD, Mephedrone).
- Secret labs in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, NE states.
- Darknet & cryptocurrency-based trade.
- Maritime trafficking via Chabahar, Gwadar, Karachi.
- Drone smuggling across India–Pakistan border.

SUGGESTED STEPS:

- State-level strategy targeting entry, distribution & retail cartels.
- Joint mechanism of NCB, CBI & state police for fugitives.
- Special squads to trace financial flows, hawala, crypto & cyber links.
- **India's Measures:** Laws/Systems: NDPS (1988 amendment), NCORD, NIDAAN, MANAS helpline, Drug-Free India Campaign.

PM LAUNCHES ADI KARMAYOGI ABHIYAN FROM MADHYA PRADESH

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- A national movement to create decentralized tribal leadership & governance.
- Ministry: Flagship initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Aim:
- **Empower 11 crore tribals in 1 lakh villages →** world's largest tribal leadership mission.
- Train 20 lakh officials, SHG women & tribal youth as Adi Karmayogis for last-mile governance & service delivery.

3 Pillars of Leadership:
- **Adi Karmayogi (Govt Officers):** Governance drivers ensuring convergence & delivery.
- **Adi Sahyogi (Youth, Teachers, Doctors):** Bridge access to education, health & awareness.
- **Adi Saathi (SHGs, Elders, Villagers):** Grassroots mobilizers, tradition-keepers & community anchors.
- **Tribal Village Action Plan:** Jointly create Tribal Village Vision 2030, aligned with SDGs.

New Initiatives:
- **Adi Vaani App:** AI-based language bridge for govt–tribal communication.
- **Adi Karmayogi Portal:** Real-time registration, role-wise tracking, dashboard.
- **Adi Sewa Kendras:** Single-window grievance redressal centers.

UNION GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL OPIUM LICENSING POLICY 2025–26

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- *Issued under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS)Rules, 1985, framed in accordance with the NDPS Act, 1985.*
- ***Source:*** *Derived from the opium poppy plant.*

Key Alkaloids in Opium Gum:

○ ***Morphine*** *– used as a pain reliever.*
○ ***Codeine*** *– used in cough syrups.* ○ ○***Thebaine*** *– precursor for several medicines.*
● ***Other Uses:*** *Poppy is also cultivated for edible seeds and seed oil.*

Global Status:

○ ***India –*** *only country authorised under the UN Single Convention (1961) to produce gum opium.*
○ ***11 other countries –*** *permitted to grow poppy, but only for poppy straw, not gum.*

Opium Cultivation in India:

● ***Legal Framework:*** *Permitted under NDPS Act, 1985 for medical & scientific purposes.*
● ***Authority:*** *Central Govt. notifies tracts & licensing conditions annually.*
● ***States Allowed:*** *Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (notified areas only).*
● ***Licensing:*** *Issued by Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), Gwalior (Ministry of Finance).*
● ***Obligation:*** *Farmers must sell entire opium produce to CBN; price fixed by Govt.*

SUPREME COURT URGES CENTRE TO PROTECT HOMEBUYERS' INTERESTS

SOURCE: THE HINDU

SC on Safeguarding Homebuyers' Interests Context:

● *SC suggested measures to prevent liquidation of viable housing projects.*
● *Right to Shelter recognized as part of Article 21 (Right to Life).*

Challenges in the housing sector:

● ***Affordable Housing Decline:*** *From >50% (2018) → 17% of new launches.*
● ***Stalled Projects:*** *5+ lakh units stalled in 44 cities due to financial mismanagement.*
● ***High Land Prices:*** *Top 10 cities occupy only 0.2% of land mass.*
● ***RERA Gaps:*** *State-specific rules lack uniformity.*

SC Recommendations:

● ***Revival Fund:*** *Via NARCL, and expand SWAMIH Fund.*
● ***New Corporate Body:*** *For stalled projects, similar to NARCL.*
● ***Uniform RERA Rules:*** *Harmonize across states.*
● ***Oversight Committee:*** *Chaired by a retired High Court Judge.*

NEW DEFENCE PROCUREMENT MANUAL 2025 PRIORITISES INDIGENISATION

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- *Unveiled by India's Defence Minister, the new DPM 2025 updates and replaces the earlier manual issued in 2009.*

Challenges:
- ***Tech:*** *Dependence on foreign tech due to weak R&D & skills.*
- ***Industry:*** *Low private sector role; HAL monopoly.*
- ***Supply Chain:*** *Reliance on imports, export restrictions (e.g., US jet engines).*
- ***Cost:*** *Short-term rise in procurement costs.*

DPM:
- *Governs procurement of goods & services for operations, maintenance, and readiness of Defence Services & MoD. Distinct from DAP, which covers capital procurements.*

Highlights:
- *Focus on indigenisation & jointness of Armed Forces under Revenue Head.*
- *Simplified procurement process for ~₹1 lakh crore in FY 2025.*

Other Initiatives for Defense Indigenization:
- ***FDI Liberalisation:*** *Up to 74% foreign investment permitted through the automatic route.*
- ***iDEX (2018):*** *Engages start-ups and MSMEs to drive innovation and defence technology development. Sudarshan Chakra Mission: Aims for complete R&D and manufacturing of defence systems within India.*
- ***SRIJAN Portal:*** *Platform to promote indigenisation by Indian industry, including MSMEs.*

PM SAYS NORTH EAST INDIA IS NOW CENTRAL TO INDIA'S GROWTH

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- *The Prime Minister highlighted how the Act East vision has transformed the North Eastern Region from a frontier region to a frontrunner of growth.*
- *He envisioned North East India's transformation into a growth driver through connectivity, infrastructure, and development schemes, despite ongoing challenges like security and terrain.*

Government Initiatives for North East India:
- ***Act East Policy:*** *This policy aims to make the NER India's gateway to Southeast Asia, using the EAST formula (Empower, Act, Strengthen, Transform) to improve connectivity, healthcare, education, and livelihoods.*

Infrastructure Development:
- ***Railways:*** *New lines, such as the Bairabi-Sairang line, have connected isolated areas to the national rail network. Highways: Over 16,000 km of National Highways have been constructed.*
- ***Digital & Air Connectivity:*** *BharatNet has boosted digital access, while the UDAN scheme has expanded air routes.*
- ***Financial & Governance Support:*** *Financial Assistance: The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) provides funding through schemes like PM-DevINE.*
- ***Governance:*** *The Poorvottar Vikas Setu (PVS) Portal has increased transparency and efficiency in project management.*

SOURCE: THE HINDU

PMFBY & RWBCIS:

- **Judicial Backlog Persists:** 4.7 Crore Cases in Lower Courts, 63 Lakh in High Courts
- **Judicial Vacancies:** Over 5,600 vacancies in High Courts and Subordinate Courts; HC vacancies rose from 16% (2006) to 30% (2024).
- **Low Judge-Population Ratio:** India has ~21 judges per million people, far below the USA's 150.
- **High Government Litigation:** Nearly 50% of cases involve government agencies.
- **Weak Infrastructure & Manpower:** Shortage of courtrooms, staff, and support systems (India Justice Report 2022).
- **Systemic Delays:** No fixed timeframe for case disposal, frequent adjournments, and long vacations add to delays.

IMPLICATIONS OF PENDENCY

- **Justice Delayed, Justice Denied**
- **Socio-Economic Burden:** Weak contract enforcement hurts India's Ease of Doing Business rankings.
- **Prison Overcrowding:** Over half of India's jails are overcrowded; 76% of inmates are undertrials (India Justice Report, 2025).

REDUCING CASE PENDENCY

- **More Judges:** Raise ratio to 50 per million (Law Commission, 120th Report).
- **AIJS:** Centralized recruitment to fill vacancies in lower courts.
- **Digital Reforms:** Expand eCourts (Phase III) with AIbased case management.

AI FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- AI can boost growth by 8%+, aiding the Viksit Bharat vision.
- By 2035, AI could lift GDP from $6.6T to $8.3T.

AI Opportunities for India:

- **Accelerating AI Adoption:** Could deliver 30–35% of growth step-up (e.g., banking, manufacturing).
- **Generative AI in R&D:** Adds 20–30% uplift (e.g., drug discovery, autonomous vehicles).
- **Tech Services Innovation:** Contributes 15–20% to growth.

AI Led Value Creations: Potential Outcomes:

- **India as Data Capital:** Frameworks for anonymized data and certified marketplaces.
- **AI-Skilling Ecosystem:** Building talent, research capacity, and indigenous models.
- **Sectoral Growth:** Boosting manufacturing, finance, pharma, and automotive.
- **Future-Proof Jobs:** Continuous upskilling and faster digital adoption.

Conclusions:

With robust infrastructure, smooth labor transitions, responsible governance, and industry–academia collaboration, India can pioneer a new growth model.

Key Strategic Enablers for Realizing Full AI Potential

- **Critical AI Infrastructure:** Cloud platforms, GPUs, and datasets

- **AI Governance:** Ethics guidelines and risk controls

- **Private Sector Leadership:** Embedding AI in industry processes and reskilling the workforce

- **Role of Academia:** Driving research, workforce transformation, and AI safety sandboxes

- **Equitable Access:** Extending AI resources, to MSMEs and underrepresented regions

MNRE ROLLS OUT NATIONAL GEOTHERMAL POLICY

SOURCE: THE HINDU

Aims to integrate geothermal energy into India's renewable mix and support the 2070 net-zero goal.

Collaboration & Capacity Building
- International cooperation & peer learning encouraged.

Sites, Leases & Data
- **Exploration leases:** 3–5 yrs; Development leases: up to 30+ yrs.
- Centralized geothermal data repository with mandatory submissions.

About Geothermal Energy
- Heat from Earth's interior used for power, heating, cooling.
- Extracted via wells tapping natural/man-made hot water & steam reservoirs.

KEY FEATURES

Recognition & Scope
- Maps 381 hot springs & 10 provinces with potential.
- Supports electricity (high enthalpy) + heating, cooling, agriculture, industry (low/medium enthalpy).
- Covers resource mapping → end-use, incl. hybrid systems, storage, repurposed oil/gas wells.

Sustainability & Regulation
- Safe reinjection, compliance with rules, stakeholder consultations.
- Single-window clearances via state nodal agencies.

Development & Financing
- 100% FDI, domestic innovation, oil–gas collaboration.
- Risk-sharing, concessional loans, VGF, green bonds, blended finance.
- Tax incentives: GST/tax exemptions, holidays, accelerated depreciation, property tax relief.

SOURCE: THE HINDU

India's Progress in Women-Led Development

- *Leadership:* 46% of elected representatives at grassroots are women.
- *Education:* 43% of STEMM graduates are women.
- *Financial Empowerment:* Women form 69% of PMMY and 84% of Stand-Up India beneficiaries.

Tirupati Conference on Women Empowerment:

- *Venue & Outcome:* Held in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh; adopted the Tirupati Resolution reaffirming women-led development.

Tirupati Resolution Highlights:

- Apply a gender lens in governance
- Institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting
- Promote women in STEM and bridge the digital divide
- Shift from welfare to women as active agents of empowerment

Key Challenges:

- *Political:* Only 14% MPs are women.
- *Economic:* Women = 27% of STEM workforce despite high graduation rates.
- *Social & Cultural:* Patriarchy, safety concerns, early marriage, unequal household work.
- *Digital Divide:* Only 33% of women (15–49 yrs) use the internet vs. 57% men (NFHS-5).

Women's Empowerment

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023
33% reservation in Lok Sabha & State Assemblies

73rd & 74th Amendments (1992)
33% reservation in local govt governments

Mission Shakti
One-Stop Centres for safety, legal & medical aid

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
Promote girl child education, fight discrimination

ENVIRONMENT

CMLRE STUDY: ELSA 3 SHIPWRECK CAUSED SEVERE MARINE DAMAGE

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- **Incident:** ELSA 3 sank in SE Arabian Sea off Kerala, carrying furnace oil & low-sulphur diesel.
- **Despite currents, oil stayed concentrated**—sign of continued leakage → major spill disaster.

Key Findings:

- **Chemical Pollution:** Heavy metals (nickel, lead, copper, vanadium), PAHs (naphthalene, fluorene, anthracene) detected in water & sediments.
- **Biological Impact:**

-**Zooplankton:** High petroleum pollutant levels → bioaccumulation across food chain.

-**Fish eggs/larvae:** Signs of decay & mortality → threat to fisheries.

-**Benthic organisms:** Sensitive species declined; pollution-tolerant worms/bivalves survived → ecological stress & habitat loss.

Marine Pollution Control: India's Role:

- MARPOL Convention – India signatory.
- Oil Pollution Preparedness & Response (OPRC), 1990 – India signatory.
- Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 – ratified 2015.
- National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (1996): Indian Coast Guard as nodal authority.

WMO REPORT: STATE OF GLOBAL WATER RESOURCES 2024

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warns of an increasingly erratic water cycle, swinging between floods and droughts.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Glacier Melt:** All glacier regions lost ice for the 3rd consecutive year; many small glaciers are at or near Peak Water Point (maximum runoff before permanent decline).
- **Erratic Water Cycle:** ⅔ of global river basins face too much or too little water, driving extremes—heavy rains in Africa, floods in Europe/Asia, drought in the Amazon.

WATER CYCLE BASICS

- **Pools:** Storage areas like lakes, glaciers, atmosphere.
- **Fluxes:** Movements between pools (evaporation, condensation).

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

- Intensifies evaporation, adding more water to the atmosphere.
- Triggers more droughts, floods, and hurricanes.
- Causes sea-level rise from melting glaciers & thermal expansion, flooding coasts.

A STRONG EARTHQUAKE HIT THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA

POLITICAL FEATURES OF RUSSIA	
Continental Span	Located in Asia & Europe; the largest country in the world
Land Borders	Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, North Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, and Ukraine
Maritime Borders	Pacific Ocean and Arctic Ocean

Geographical Features of Russia	
Feature	Details
Major Mountain Ranges	Ural, Altai
Major Rivers	Gora El'brus–highest point in Europe
Major Lakes	Yenisey–Angara, Amur, Irtysh, Lena
Siberia	Baikal, Ladoga, Onega, Caspian Sea
Geographical Location	Covers ≈7% of Russia; dominated by Taiga forests lies between Bering Seá and Pacific Ocean in East and Sea of Okhotsk (West

PM INAUGURATES INDIA'S FIRST BAMBOO–BASED BIO–ETHANOL PLANT

The plant, a joint venture of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), Finland's Fortum, and Chempolis OY, will produce bioethanol using bamboo. Bamboo serves as an ideal feedstock since it is a non-food crop with high lignocellulose content, making it a strong candidate for second-generation biofuels.

Definition: Ethanol derived from renewable biological sources such as food crops and agricultural residues.

Properties: A clear, colourless, biodegradable liquid that burns cleanly to form carbon dioxide and water.

Sources (as per National Policy on Biofuels, 2018): Sugar-based materials: sugarcane, sugar beet, sweet sorghum. Starch-based materials: corn, cassava, rotten potatoes, agrofood/pulp waste, algae.

Cellulosic materials: bagasse, wood waste, agricultural & forestry residues, vegetable waste, industrial waste.

Applications: -As a fuel – pure ethanol (E100) or blended with petrol (E10, E20). -In production of chemicals, pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and bio-based materials like bioplastics.

Advantages:

-Biodegradable and renewable.

-Lowers greenhouse gas emissions compared to fossil fuels.

-Helps in reducing air pollution

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- *Monsoon 2025 & Himalayan Disasters*
- *Heavy rains hit J&K, Himachal, Punjab & Uttarakhand, underscoring disaster risks in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).*

Why IHR is Highly Vulnerable:

- *Geology: Young fold mountains, tectonic activity → earthquakes (Zones IV & V), landslides.*
- *Climate: Extreme rainfall, cloudbursts, avalanches (U'khand 2013, 2025 floods).*
- *Anthropogenic: Roads, tunnels, hydropower, encroachments.*
- *Land-use Change: Projects (e.g. Tehri Dam) → soil erosion, slope instability.*
- *Other Risks: Low adaptive capacity, glacial retreat, permafrost melt, GLOFs.*

Current Response Mechanisms:

- *Agencies: NDMA, NDRF, CWC, IMD, state bodies; Army/IAF/ITBP for rescue.*
- *Technology: Drones, satellite comms, Doppler radars, OneWeb links.*
- *Community: NDMA's Aapda Mitra program.*
- *Risk Indexing: CWC criteria for glacial lakes.*

Way forward:

- *Monitoring: NRSC to track glacial lakes & debris flows 24×7.*
- *Mapping: GSI to expand landslide mapping.*
- *Technology: AI-based flash flood forecasting (e.g., Gorakhpur model).*
- *Other Measures: Sachet early-warning app, slope stabilization for roads & rivers.*

SOURCE: THE HINDU

- *Issued on World Ozone Day (16 Sept) and marks 40 years of the Vienna Convention (1985).*
- *Recovery Timeline: Ozone layer expected to return to 1980 levels by 2066 (Antarctica), 2045 (Arctic), 2040 (rest of world).*

About Ozone Layer

- *Found in stratosphere (15–30 km), shields Earth from UV radiation.*
- *Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS):*
  1. *Chlorine-based: CFCs, HCFCs, CTC, Methyl chloroform.*
  2. *Bromine-based: Halons, Methyl bromide.*

—Depletion is most severe over Antarctica.

- *Vienna Convention (1985)*
- *First global treaty on ozone protection; led to Montreal Protocol (1987).*

Montreal Protocol:

- *Phased out 99% of controlled ODS.*
- *Kigali Amendment (2016): Added phase-down of HFCs (potent greenhouse gases).*

India's Achievements

-*ODS Phase-out: Eliminated CFCs, CTC, halons by 2010.*

-*Policy: ODS (Regulation & Control) Rules, 2000; banned CFCs & halons in new equipment by 2003.*

-*HCFC Phase-out: 67.5% reduction achieved; complete phase-out of HCFC-141b in 2020.*

MoEFCC Clears Translocation of Eight Tigers

Permissions:
- **Schedule I animals** → Central Govt. approval.
- **Other wild animals** → State Govt. approval.
- **Authority:** MoEFCC (can revoke permits for safety/mishaps).

Details:
- 8 tigers (3 males, 5 females).
- From Tadoba-Andhari & Pench TRs → to Sahyadri TR.
- **Aim:** Revive tiger population in northern Western Ghats.
- Earlier approved by NTCA.

Benefits:
- **Ecological balance:** Restores predator-prey dynamics.
- **Conflict reduction:** Eases pressure in overcrowded reserves.
- **Rewilding:** Revives areas of local tiger extinction.

Concerns:
- Local community protests.
- Territorial conflicts with resident tigers.
- Weak forest management (e.g., prey base augmentation).

Sahyadri Tiger Reserve:
- **Notified:** 2010 (by merging Chandoli National Park & Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary).
- **Location:** Sahyadri ranges, Western Ghats, Maharashtra.
- **Significance:** Northernmost tiger habitat in the Western Ghats. ● Reservoirs: ○ Shivsagar (Koyna River). ○ Vasant Sagar (Warana River).
- **Flora:** Anjani, Jambhul, Pisa, etc.
- **Fauna:** Wild dog, Leopard, Gaur, Sambar, Four-horned Antelope, Mouse Deer, Giant Squirrel, Indian Long-billed Vulture, endemic Hornbills, Indian River Tern.

Kerala Cabinet Approves WPA Amendment Bill

Kerala Bill Eases Rules on Culling Dangerous Wild Animals First State to Propose Amendment to Central Wildlife Act Amid Growing Conflicts.

Key highlights of the bill:
- **Expanded Powers for CWW:** Chief Wildlife Warden can order killing of wild animals attacking humans in inhabited areas.
- **Change from Current Law:** WPA currently allows CWW to only issue permits for hunting animals in Schedules I–IV if they threaten human life.
- **State Power on Vermin Declaration:** Bill allows state government to declare Schedule II animals as vermin.
- **Shift from Central Authority:** At present, only the central government (under Section 62) can declare animals—except those in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II—as vermin.
- **Legalized Culling:** Animals listed as vermin can be killed in designated areas for a limited time.

Causes of rising human- animal conflict:
- **Habitat Loss:** Urbanisation, deforestation, and encroachment blocking animal corridors.
- **Resource Competition:** Scarcity of food and water driving clashes.
- **Climate Change:** Extreme weather and shifting migration push animals into human settlements.
- **Poaching & Illegal Trade:** Disrupts ecosystems and displaces species.

ECONOMICS

STATE FINANCES 2022-23 REPORT (CAG)

- *First-of-its-kind report covering 28 states, with data & trends (2013-14 to 2022-23).*
- *Why High Public Debt:* **Rising Subsidies:** *Farm loan waivers, free power/services, cash transfers.*
- **High Committed Spending:** *Salaries, pensions, interest payments—42%+ of revenue expenditure, ~6% of GSDP.*
- **Other:** *Limited revenue mobilization, heavy GST dependence.*

Key Findings:

- **Total Debt:** *22.17% of national GDP (FRBM target: 20% by 2024-25).*
- **Debt-to-GSDP:** *Highest in Punjab (40.35%), followed by Nagaland (37.15%) & West Bengal (33.7%).*
- **Fiscal Deficit:** *All states in deficit—lowest in Gujarat (0.76%), highest in Himachal Pradesh (6.46%). FRBM benchmark: 3.5%.*
- **Revenue Capacity:** *States' Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) share ranged from Haryana (70%) to Arunachal Pradesh (9%).*

CII PROPOSES NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR GLOBAL CAPABILITY CENTERS

GLOBAL CAPABILITY CENTERS (GCCS)

- **Definition:** *Offshore units of multinational firms providing technology, R&D, and service delivery for parent organizations.*
- **Significance:** *India hosts nearly 50% of global GCCs, contributing about 1.8% of GDP.*
- **Employment Impact:** *The GCC ecosystem is projected to support ~10.4 million jobs in FY25.*

Suggested Framework for National GCC Policy:

Three-Pillar Approach Strategic Priorities Targets by 2030:

- **5,000 GCCs, $470-600 bn GVA, 20-25 mn jobs.**

-Focus Areas: *Quantum Computing, Digital Healthcare, Industry 4.0.* **-Critical Success Factors Talent:** *Industry-academia tie-ups, specialized courses.*

-Infrastructure: *Plug-and-play facilities, DEZs, data centers, cloud infra.*

-Locational Spread: *Innovation hubs and R&D zones in tier-2/3 cities.* **-Performance Levers Policy Support:** *Single-window clearance, fast-track approvals, tax/export incentives.*

-Investment Push: *Focus on US/UK + new markets (Japan, Nordics, Australia) with regulatory support.*

-Governance: *National GCC Council, dedicated cells, inter-ministerial groups, industry panel.*

INDIA–EFTA TRADE PACT TO TAKE EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1, 2025

- *India's Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) — comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein — will come into force on October 1, 2025. The pact, signed on March 10, 2024, introduces legally binding sustainability provisions—a first in India's trade history.*

◆ *Key Highlights*

Investment Commitment:
- *EFTA to invest USD 100 billion in India over 15 years, creating 1 million jobs.*
- *USD 50 billion in the first decade*
- *USD 50 billion in the next five years*

Market Access:
- *India grants EFTA (especially Switzerland) improved access for 94.7% of exports (2018–2023, excluding gold).*
- *Covers pharmaceuticals, machinery, optical instruments, watches, chocolates, and processed farm goods.*
- *India cuts/reduces duties on Swiss watches, chocolates, and cut & polished diamonds.*

Sustainability Clause:
- *Ensures environmental protection, labour rights, and human rights are upheld.*
- *Aligns with global sustainability and SDG commitments.*
- *Adds legal predictability to trade relations.*

◆ *Strategic Significance for India*
- *First FTA with such a large, binding investment pledge.*
- *Boosts industrial growth, job creation, and foreign capital inflows.*
- *Deepens India's role in global value chains for high-end goods.*
- *Aligns trade policy with sustainable development goals.*

◆ *Exam Pointers*
- *Agreement: Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)*
- *Partners: EFTA (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein)*
- *EFTA Established: 1960 under the Stockholm Convention*
- *Objective: Promote free trade and economic integration among members.*

INDIA'S GDP TO GROW 6.5% IN FY26: S&P GLOBAL RATINGS

- S&P Global Ratings has retained India's FY26 GDP growth forecast at 6.5%, citing strong domestic demand, easing inflation, and robust public investment. Despite global headwinds, India's economy remains one of the fastest-growing in Asia, powered by resilient consumption and policy support.

◆ Key Growth Drivers
- Strong Monsoon: Boosts rural incomes and agricultural stability.
- Tax Relief: Cuts in income and GST enhance consumer spending.
- Public Investment: Higher capital outlay on infrastructure fuels job creation and investment.
- Q1 FY26 Growth: India recorded 7.8% GDP growth (Apr–Jun 2025), underscoring domestic strength.

◆ Inflation and Monetary Outlook
- Inflation Forecast: Revised down to 3.2%, driven by easing food prices.
- Policy Implication: With inflation within target, RBI may cut rates by 25 bps, supporting cheaper credit and stronger consumption.

◆ Global Headwinds
- External Risks: Higher U.S. tariffs and shifting supply chains weigh on exports.
- Impact: India's export sectors face mild stress, though the low export-to-GDP ratio limits the overall drag.

◆ Summary
- India's growth remains domestically driven and resilient, supported by fiscal spending, stable prices, and rising demand — even amid global uncertainty.

INDIA TO REMAIN FASTEST-GROWING MAJOR ECONOMY IN 2025: S&P

- India's GDP is projected to grow 6.5% in FY2025, reaffirming its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, according to S&P Global Ratings. Despite global headwinds—sluggish exports, geopolitical tensions, and tight monetary policies—India's economy remains resilient, powered by strong reforms and domestic demand.

◆ Key Highlights
- Growth Forecast: 6.5% GDP growth in FY2025.
- Global Rank: Fastest-growing major economy.
- Resilience Factors: Robust policy framework, economic reforms, and infrastructure investment.
- Outlook: Continued global trade integration, higher productivity, and job creation.

◆ Growth Drivers
- Reforms & Ease of Doing Business: Simplified regulations, digitization, and transparency.
- Infrastructure Push: Large-scale investment in transport, energy, and digital sectors.
- Manufacturing Boost: PLI schemes and Make in India spurring industrial output.
- Strong Domestic Demand: Rising middle class and consumption-led growth.
- Tech & Innovation: Expanding fintech, e-commerce, and digital services ecosystem.

◆ Static Facts
- Report: S&P Global Ratings
- Forecast: 6.5% GDP growth (FY2025)
- Status: Fastest-growing major economy
- Key Drivers: Reforms, infrastructure, policy stability

- At Dialogue NEXT 2025 in New Delhi, Principal Scientific Advisor Ajay Kumar Sood highlighted that agriculture contributes 15–20% to India's GDP and supports over 60% of the workforce, underscoring its vital role in the nation's socio-economic framework.

◆ *Key Highlights*
- *Economic Role: Agriculture remains the backbone of rural India—crucial for livelihoods despite a modest GDP share.*
- *New Initiative: ICAR to launch a National Plant Health Mission to curb crop losses and strengthen food security.*

◆ *Focus Areas of the Mission*
- *Pest & disease surveillance*
- *Integrated plant health management*
- *Early-warning systems*
- *Training for farmers and agri-experts*
- *The mission aims to boost yields, stabilize farmer incomes, and enhance climate resilience in agriculture.*

◆ *Dialogue NEXT 2025*
- *Theme: "Take it to the Farmer"*
- *Organisers: ICAR, CIMMYT, and BISA*
- *Focus: Climate-resilient farming, agri-tech adoption, sustainable resource use, and farmer-led innovation.*

◆ *Why It Matters*
- *With rising climate and ecological pressures, scientific interventions like the National Plant Health Mission are key to ensuring sustainable agriculture and food security in India.*
- *Exam Facts:*
- *Event: Dialogue NEXT 2025, New Delhi*
- *Speaker: Ajay Kumar Sood, PSA to PM*
- *Agriculture's Share: 15–20% of GDP*
- *Workforce Dependence: ~60%*

WHY GST RATE CUTS CREATE "INTEREST ON CREDIT" ISSUES

- While GST rate cuts make goods cheaper for consumers, they often create cash flow challenges for businesses — known as the "interest on credit" problem. This occurs when input tax credits (ITC) remain unutilized or delayed, forcing firms to borrow funds and pay interest to maintain operations.

What Is "Interest on Credit"?
- It's the interest businesses pay on borrowed funds when their working capital is blocked — often due to pending GST refunds or unused ITC.

How GST Normally Works
- Businesses pay GST on inputs (raw materials/services).
- They collect GST on sales of finished goods.
- They claim Input Tax Credit (ITC) on taxes already paid.

Why GST Cuts Cause Problems

ITC Mismatch:
- After a GST rate cut, businesses collect less GST on sales but have already paid higher GST on inputs, creating excess ITC.
- Blocked Working Capital:
- Unused ITC stays stuck until refunds are processed, locking company funds.
- Borrowing Dependence:
- To meet daily expenses, firms take loans — paying interest due to refund delays.
- Shrinking Profit Margins:
- Lower selling prices and blocked funds increase costs, reducing profitability.

Example
- Input purchase: ₹1,00,000 + 18% GST = ₹18,000
- Output sale (after GST cut to 12%): ₹1,00,000 + ₹12,000 GST
- Blocked ITC: ₹6,000 (until refund)
- Company borrows money to cover the gap → pays interest on credit.

Why It Matters
- For Businesses: Higher financing costs, lower profits.
- For Consumers: Smaller price drop than expected.
- For the Economy: Frequent GST cuts without faster refunds strain liquidity and discourage investment.
- In short: GST cuts help consumers but hurt business cash flows unless refund systems are swift and efficient.

CULTURE

Gyan Bharatam Portal & Mission
- **Purpose:** Digitize & preserve India's manuscript heritage; improve accessibility.
- **Budget 2025–26:** Announced Gyan Bharatam Mission for survey, documentation & conservation.

About Manuscripts:
- **Definition:** Handwritten work (paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf, etc.), ≥75 years old, with scientific/historical/aesthetic value.
- **Exclusions:** Lithographs & printed volumes.
- **Volume:** ~10 million manuscripts in 80 scripts (Brahmi, Kushan, Gaudi, Lepcha, Maithili, etc.).
- **Languages:** ~75% Sanskrit, ~25% regional languages.

Significance:
- Evidence of human activities & knowledge traditions.
- Reflect ancestors' devotion to learning despite destruction.
- Insights into cultural, political, economic life.
  ○ **Example:** Kautilya's Arthashastra.

OTHER INITIATIVES FOR MANUSCRIPT CONSERVATION

NATIONAL MANUSCRIPTS MISSION (2003):
Locate & preserve manusccripts.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF INDIA, KOLKATA:
Holds –3,600 rare manuscripts

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL (1784):
Digitizes ancient manuscripts

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- *Adopted in 2023 by the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).*
- *Comes into force 120 days after 60 ratifications (now achieved).*

India and the Treaty:
- *Union Cabinet approved India's signing in 2024.*
- *Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Earth Sciences.*

About the Treaty:
- *Officially: Agreement on Conservation & Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).*
- *Nature: Legally binding; third implementing agreement under UNCLOS (after 1994 Implementation Agreement & 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement).*
- *Scope: Protects marine biodiversity in high seas—areas beyond national jurisdiction.*
- *High Seas: Global commons open for lawful activities like navigation, overflight, laying cables & pipelines.*

High Seas Treaty addresses Four Main Issues

Marine Genetic Resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

Measures such as Area-Based Management Tools, including Marine Protected Areas

Environmental Impact Assessment

Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine Technology

Key Findings:
- *Childhood overweight on the rise: 5% under-5 and 20% of ages 5–19 affected — double since 2000.*
- *Obesity (9.4%) now slightly higher than underweight (9.2%) among school-age children.*
- *Over half of affected children live in East Asia-Pacific, Latin America-Caribbean, and South Asia.*
- *In South Asia, overweight among 5–19-year-olds rose fivefold since 2000.*

Main Drivers:
- *Ultra-processed foods (UPFs): Cheaper, longer shelf life, subsidy-backed ingredients.*
- *Aggressive marketing: Digital ads, influencers, blurred ad-content boundaries.*
- *Weak policies: Only 7% mandate front-of-pack labelling; 8% subsidize healthy foods.*

Recommendations:
- *Protect breastfeeding: Enforce breast-milk substitute marketing code.*
- *Transform food environments: Restrict UPF marketing/availability, introduce taxes, mandatory labelling.*
- *Promote nutritious foods: Redirect subsidies, support local food systems.*
- *Strengthen safety nets: Expand social protection, launch behaviour-change campaigns.*

NEPAL PM RESIGNS AMID 'GEN Z' PROTESTS

Crisis in Nepal:
- PM resigns after violent protests target government buildings and politicians' homes.
- *Gen Z anger:* Corruption, elite privileges, unemployment, lack of accountability.
- *Trigger:* Ban on 26 social media platforms cut off youth expression.
- *Escalation:* Excessive state force, including firing on protesters, fueled unrest.

India's Response:
PM convened the Cabinet Committee on Security, stressing that Nepal's peace, stability, and prosperity are vital for India.

Implications for India:
- *Regional fragility:* Nepal joins Sri Lanka & Bangladesh in political instability.
- *Economic risks:* Trade, markets, remittances, supply chains disrupted.
- *Refugee concerns:* Potential inflows pose humanitarian and border challenges.
- *Security:* Unrest raises border management and diplomatic pressures.
- *Diplomacy:* Prolonged instability strains India–Nepal ties.

EU UNVEILS NEW AGENDA TO DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA

- Outlined in a Joint Communication by the European Commission & High Representative, built on five strategic pillars:
- *1. Prosperity & Sustainability* – Growth, jobs, industrial development, decarbonization.
- *2. Trade & Investment* – Conclude FTA (2025) & IPA.
- *3. Supply Chains & Economic Security* – Use TTC, implement Semiconductor Agreement.
- *4. Clean Transition & Resilience* – Decarbonize heavy industries (steel, cement).
- *5. Technology & Innovation* – Emerging tech, innovation hubs, digital public infrastructure, nuclear & ITER research.

Other Focus Areas:
- *Security & Defence:* Indo-Pacific cooperation, maritime rules-based order, global security threats.
- *Connectivity & Global Issues:* Regional links, Africa outreach, EU's Global Gateway + India's MAHASAGAR.
- *Enablers:* Skills mobility, knowledge exchange, business & institutional cooperation.

WTO World Trade Report 2025
- Recognizes AI as a transformative general-purpose technology reshaping trade, income, and wealth distribution.

Concerns Needing Action:
- **Concentration:** AI controlled by few firms/economies → inequitable access.
- **Labor Disruption:** Job displacement demands reskilling, education, and active labor policies.

Conclusion
- Harnessing AI for inclusive trade needs digital infrastructure, skill-building, fair competition, regulatory coherence, and global cooperation via WTO.

How AI Drives Trade & Inclusive Growth
- Lower Costs & Higher Productivity: Optimizes logistics, compliance, language, contracts → could boost global trade 34–37% by 2040.
- Reducing Skill Premium: AI substitutes medium/high-skill tasks → global skill premium may fall 3–4%.
- Knowledge Diffusion: 10% rise in digital trade → 2.6% increase in cross-border AI patent citations.
- New Pathways: Mineral- & energy-rich economies can emerge as hubs for hardware, data hosting, and labor-intensive AI tasks.

- Gender Snapshot 2025 – UN Women & UN DESA
- Comprehensive review of gender equality across all 17 SDGs.

Key Highlights:
- **Poverty & Food:** 376M women in extreme poverty; anaemia may hit 33% by 2030.
- **Health:** Maternal mortality ↓39% (2000–23); women live 3 more years in poor health vs men.
- **Education:** Girls outpace boys in enrolment but lag in secondary completion (Africa, Asia); few women lead schools.
- **Leadership & Work:** Women hold 27% of parliamentary seats, 30% of management roles.
- **Violence:** 12.5% face partner violence; 19% married before 18.
- **Digital Divide:** 65% women vs 70% men online; women's jobs at higher AI-automation risk.
- **Climate/Resources:** 158M women at risk of climate-induced poverty; 896M lack clean cooking fuel.
- **Peace & Security:** 676M women lived near deadly conflict (2024).
- **Intersectionality:** Women with disabilities face barriers in rights, Internet, politics.

Beijing+30 Action Agenda:
- **Digital Revolution:** Bridge digital divide.
- **Freedom from Poverty:** Invest in health, education, care economy.
- **Zero Violence:** Enforce laws & services.
- **Equal Power:** Boost women in politics & governance.
- **Peace & Security:** Fund WPS agenda, ensure participation.
- **Climate Justice:** Mainstream gender in climate & resource policies.

INDIA SIGNS 15-YEAR PMS CONTRACT WITH ISA AT CARLSBERG RIDGE

- **New Deal:** *India inked its third exploration contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) — its second for polymetallic sulphides (PMS).*
- **Earlier Contracts:**
- *Polymetallic Nodules (Central Indian Ocean Basin)*
- *PMS (Indian Ocean Ridge)*

Significance of Carlsberg Ridge:
- *World's first licence for PMS exploration in this region.*
- *Covers 3,00,000 sq. km in the Arabian Sea, NW Indian Ocean.*
- *Boundary between Indian & Arabian tectonic plates; stretches from Rodrigues Island to Owen Fracture Zone.*
- *India also applied for Afanasy-Nikitin Seamount (ANS) in Central Indian Ocean — under claim by Sri Lanka.*

About PMS:
- *Rich in copper, zinc, gold, silver.*
- *Formed when mineral-rich fluids from Earth's mantle are released into oceans, creating metal sulphide deposits.*

About ISA:
- **HQ:** *Kingston, Jamaica.*
- *Established under UNCLOS (1982) & 1994 Agreement.*
- *Regulates seabed mineral resources in international waters for humankind's benefit.*
- **Members:** *170 (including India).*

WIPO RELEASES GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX (GII) 2025

- *Measures: Innovation in 139 economies via investments, technology, adoption & socioeconomic impact.*
- *Launched: 2007; UNGA recognizes it as key STI policy reference.*

Highlights 2025
- *India: Ranked 38th (from 81st in 2015); with Vietnam, longest overperformer (15 years).*
- *Top Economies: Switzerland, Sweden, USA, South Korea, Singapore.*
- *Innovation Clusters:*
- *Global: Shenzhen–HK–Guangzhou, Tokyo-Yokohama, San Jose–San Francisco.*
- *India: Bengaluru (21), Delhi (26), Mumbai (46), Chennai (84).*

India's Innovation Push:
- *Startup India: Funding, credit guarantee, tax benefits.*
- *Atal Innovation Mission: Policy & program support.*
- *NIDHI: Converts ideas into startups.*
- *Others: AGNIi Mission, NITI Tech Repository, PM's Research Fellowship.*

WHO ISSUES 24TH ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

- *Updated every 2 years by WHO Expert Committee.*

New Additions:
- ***GLP-1 receptor agonists:*** *For type 2 diabetes, CVD, CKD & obesity.*
- ***Rapid-acting insulin analogues:*** *For type 1 & type 2 diabetes.*
- ***Significance:*** *Lower drug costs, reduce out-of-pocket spending, improve access.*

Diabetes & Obesity:
- *Diabetes: Insufficient insulin production/use.*
- *Global: 800M (2022) → 1.3B (2050).*
- *India: 77M adults diabetic; 25M prediabetic.*
- *Obesity: Excess fat → risk of diabetes & heart disease.*
- *Global: >1B cases; doubled since 1990.*
- *India: 24% women & 23% men obese (NFHS-5, 2019–21).*

India's Initiatives:
- *NP-NCD: Prevention & control of NCDs.*
- *National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM): Affordable medicines.*
- *PMBJP: Generic medicines scheme.*
- *Fit India Movement: Active lifestyle promotion.*

UN CHIEF UNVEILS PROGRESS REPORT ON STRUCTURAL REFORMS

- *The "Shifting Paradigms: United to Deliver" report under Workstream 3 of the UN80 Initiative outlines proposals for a leaner, more coherent UN—fewer silos, less duplication, stronger collaboration—while adhering to UN rules and the Charter.*

Key Reform Areas:
- *Peace & Security: Consolidate offices, streamline leadership, establish peacebuilding & women's centres of excellence.*
- *Sustainable Development: Explore mergers (UNDP–UNOPS, UNFPA–UN Women), sunset UNAIDS by 2026, create Joint Knowledge Hubs.*
- *Human Rights: Form a system-wide Human Rights Group under the High Commissioner.*
- *Humanitarian: Launch a New Humanitarian Compact to cut bureaucracy.*

About UN80:
A system-wide effort to streamline operations, sharpen impact, and reaffirm UN relevance.
- ***Workstream 1:*** *Improve internal efficiency.*
- ***Workstream 2:*** *Review mandate implementation (thousands of member-state tasks).*
- ***Workstream 3:*** *Structural changes & programme realignment.*

Paradigm Shifts for Impact:
- ***Technology & Data:*** *Build a UN Data Commons & Technology Accelerator Platform.*
- ***Funding:*** *Reform pooled & core funding to align with collective priorities.*

- Sites must first enter the Tentative List before gaining World Heritage status.
- India currently has 69 sites on UNESCO's Tentative List.

Sites & Key Features:

- **Natural Heritage of Erra Matti Dibbalu or Red Sand Dunes (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)**

-*First documented in 1886 by British geologist William King*
-*Unique coastal geomorphological and paleo-climatic set up*
-*Declared GeoHeritage Monument by GSI in 2016*
-*Composed of sand, silt, and clay with reddish color from oxidation*

- **Meghalayan Age Caves (Meghalaya)**

-*Among world's longest caves; stalactites, stalagmites, fossils, cave species*
-*Mawmluh cave listed among world's first 100 geologically important sites*

- **Natural Heritage of Tirumala Hills (Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh)**

-*Part of Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve and Venkateswara National Park*

- **Natural Heritage of Varkala (Kerala)**

-*Scenic coastline, laterite formations, fossil-bearing rocks*
-*Cultural and pilgrimage significance*

- **Deccan Traps at Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar**

-*Location: Western Ghats, Maharashtra*
-*Part of Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary*

- **Geological Heritage of St. Mary's Island Cluster (Karnataka)**

-*Protected under coastal regulation zones of Govt of India*
-*Declared National Geological Monument by GSI*

- **Naga Hill Ophiolite (Nagaland)**

-*Section of oceanic crust and mantle thrust onto land*
-*Evidence of tectonic plate movement & earth's internal processes*

ALSO IN NEWS

M-Kisan

The m-Kisan portal has reached nearly 3.8 crore farmers across 13 states.

About m-Kisan

- An SMS-based platform that allows Central and State agricultural organizations to deliver information, services, and advisories to farmers

- Messages are tailored to the farmer's language, location, and preferred agricultural practices

- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Agriculturre & Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW)

Cicadas

Feature	Details
Recent Update	Reappeared in Silent Valley National Park, Kerala
Group	Insects of order *Hemiptera*, superfamily Cicadoidea
Life Cycle	Three stages – egg, nymph, adult
Reproduction	Females lay eggs in woody plant tissues
Unique Trait	Produce loud calls via tymbals (drum-like sound structures)

Indian Coast Guard

Feature	Details
Global Role	Participated in 4th Coast Guard Global Summit (Rome); bid to host in 2027
Established	1977
	Ministry of Defence
Mission	• Protect oceans & offshore wealth (oil, fish, minerals); • Assist mariners in distress; safeguard life & property; • Enforce maritime laws (poaching, smuggling, narcotics); • Preserve marine environment & protect rare species; • Collect scientific data; support *Navy* during war
Motto	„*Vayam Rakshamah*" – We Protect

Prime Minister inaugurated Bairabi–Sairang broad-gauge railway line, connecting Mizoram's capital Aizawl to Indian Railways network for thist time.

Significance

- Ensures timely and reliable supply of food grains, fertilizers, and essential goods, enhancing logistical efficiency and regional connectivity

- Improves access to hospitals, universitles, and markats, strengthening educational, cultural, and economic integration

Gold Nanoparticles

Scientists from S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences find a way to control aggregation of Gold Nanoparticles

Gold Nanoparticles (AuNPs)

- AuNPs are nanoparticles of gold, typically 1–100 nm in size.

- Characterized by: Photothermal properties, chemical and physical stabilty, low toxicity, and ease of surface modification

Significance

- Useful in biosensors, imaging, diagnostics, and drug delivery, but uncontrolled aggregation reduces reliability.

- Contributes to fundamental nanoscience and light-matter interaction studies.

INDIA-AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026

Recently: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, unveiled key flagship initiatives for the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, first hosted by a Global South nation

Guided by: People, Planet, Progress

7 Thematic Chakras:
- Human Capital
- Inclusion
- Safe & Trusted AI
- Resilience
- Science
- Democratizing AI Resources
- Social Good

7thematic Chakras:
- Human Capital
- Inclusion
- Safe & Trusted AI
- Resilience
- Science
- Democratizing AI Resources

Flagship Initiatives: AI Pitch Fest (UDAAN) to showcase innovative AI startups
- Global innovation challenges for youth, women, and other participants
- Research symposium to forge international AI collaborations

MARITIME AUTONOMOUS SURFACE SHIPS (MASS)

Led by Indian Register of Shipping and Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Project Swayatta aims to develop India's first indigenous autonomous vessel

ABOUT MASS

A MASS is a ship which, to varying degrees, can operate independently of human involvement.

1. Ship with automated processes and decision support
2. Remotely controlled ship with seafarers on board
3. Remotely controlled ship without seafarers on board
4. Fully autonomous ship

REINFORCEMENT LEARNING

DeepSeek-RI shows reasoning in large language models can be incentivized through reinforcement learning

ABOUT REINFORCEMENT LEARNING (RL)

- Machine learning process focused on decision making by autonomous agents
- Operates through trial and error without human guidance
- Agent takes action; receives reward or penalty; learns to maximize cumulative reward

AGENT → ACTION → **REWARD SIGNAL**

STATE

FEEDBACK → **ENVIRONMENT**
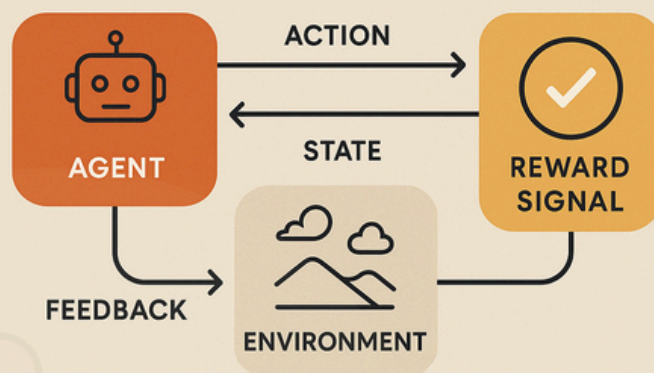
KEY COMPONENTS

ADVANCE AUTHORISATION SCHEME (AAS)

ISSUE: IMCOM flagged misuse—imported coking coal allegedly used for domestic steel instead of exports

ABOUT AAS: Permits duty-free import of inputs physically used in export goods (including exports to SEZs) to boost competitiveness

SCOPE: Fuel, oil, and catalysts consumed in production are also permitted

ADMINISTERED BY: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry

सत्यमेव जयते

NATIONAL SCHEDULED TRIBES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Coal India Ltd and NSTFDC ink MoU to empower tribal students in Eklavya Model Residential Schools

ABOUT NSTFDC

- Established in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India
- Objective: Socio-economic and educational development of Scheduled Tribes (STs), providing better self-employment opportunnties
- Also provides grants for training programmes for tribal youth

EU EXPANDS INDIA SEAFOOD EXPORT ACCESS

102 additional Indian fishery establishments recently approved by the European Union to export seafood to its member states

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EXPANSION

- Expected to increase India's seafood exports to the EU by 20%
- Reflects growing international confidence in India's food safety and quality assurance systems
- Expected to specifically benefit exports of aquaculture shrimps and cephalopods, which include squid, cuttlefish, and octopus

INDIA ENERGY STACK

Ministry of Power launches stakeholder survey to develop India Energy Stack (IES)

Survey

- To assess the organizational profile and readiness to join the IES ecosystem

About IES

A Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the power sector developed by the Ministry of Power

- Objective: Enable an interconnected, intelligent, and interoperable energy ecosystam
- Define open standards and interoperability frameworks
- Utility Intelligence Platform: Leverage data from diverse systems to enhance innovation and efficiency

CLAMP (Climate Leaf Analysis Multivariate Program)

A fossil leaf study from Nagaland, using the CLAM method, reveaeld Antarctica's role in shaping the Indian Monsoon.

About CLAMP

- Uses fossil leaves as 'climate fingerprints' to reconstruct past climates
- Analyzes leaf traits (shape, size, margins) to estimate past temperature, rainfall, and humidity
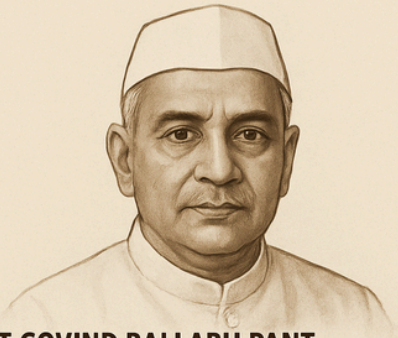- Valuable for paleoclimate studies where conventional records (ice cores, sediments) are absent
- Helps in predicting future climate patterns by comparing past and present trends

CLAMP

INDIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER
BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

ABOUT GOVIND BALLABH PANT
(10 SEPTEMBER 1887 - 7 MARCH 1961)
- Born in Almora, Uttarakhand.
- He started Kumaon Parishad in 1916.
- Got elected to the United Provinces Legislative Council on a Swaraj Party ticket in 1923

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS
- Took part in the Salt March, Quit India Movement and was arrested in 1930 for planning the Civil Disobedidence Movement.
- He was the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.
- Linguistic Reorganization of States: During his tenure as India's home minister from 1955 to 1961

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION
- Received Bharat Ratna in 1957

UK INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING BRIDGE (UKIIIFB)
UKIFB MARKED ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY BY LAUNCHING REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT INCLUDE
- Aligning the Indian procurement process with globally recognised frameworks.
- India will also need to address operational risks for projects and the perception of unpredictability and opacity in construction.

ABOUT UKIIFB
- It is a collaborative initiative led jointly by NITI Aayog and the City of London
- It is aimed at unlocking infrastructure investment and leveraging the City of London's expertise in structuring and phasing major infrastructure projects
- The partnership seeks to secure long-term investment for vital infrastructure sectors in India

PERSONALIZED ADAPTIVE LEARNING

- Adapts to individual learner needs
- Learns at own level, pace and style
- Shifts away from one-size-fits-all teaching

Study: Michael Kremer – doubled learning rates in Andhra Pradesh govt schools

National Archives of India (NAI)

Update:
50th Golden Jubilee Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA) co-hosted by NAl.

NCA:
Professional body of archivists (est. 1953), headed by DG of Archives; addresses technical & professional issues of archives

About NAI

- Established: 1891 at Calcutta as Imperial Records Department.
- Ministry: Attached office of Ministry of Culture.
- HQ: New Delhi; Regional Office – Bhopal; Records Centres – Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Puducherry
- Role: Custodian of public/private records, oriental & cartographic collections, microfilms, etc.
- Headed by: Director General of Archives; enforces Public Records Act (1993) & Rules

Poompuhar (Kaveripattinam)

UPDATE: Underwater archaeological survey resumes after 20+ years off the Poompuhar coast

ABOUT POOMPUHAR

Location: Ancient Chola port city at mouth of River Kaveri, Tamil Nadu and secont capital of cholos

Trade Hub: Major center for maritarine, exporting Sangam-era prarls, spices

Submergence: Believed to have been sumberged by the sea: rerferenced in Sangam literature

Cultural Note: Tamil epic *'Manimekalai'* author pot Sattanar, describes city

Update: RBI Governor urges CCIL to explore settlement beyond dollar–rupee framework to aid rupee internationalisation

About CCIL

Founded: 2001; provides clearing & settlement in money and govt. securities markets

Clearing: Confirms trade details
Settlement: Actual exchange of funds/securities

Role: Acts as Central Counterparty (CCP) – guarantees settlement, reduces risk

Recognition: Classified as Qualified CCP (QCCP) by RBI

(37)

FENTANYL

Update: US imposed visa bans on Indians linked to fentanyl precursor chemicals trafficking

About Fentanyl

- A potent synthetic opioid used for analgesia and anesthesia
- Approx. 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin as an analgesic

Health Impact:

- Alters brain activity like other opioids, leading to compulsive use despite harmful effects (e.g., drowsiness, visual disturbances)
- High doses can cause life-threatening conditions or death

About H-1B Visa

- U.S. non-immigrant visa for skilled workers in specialized occupations, allowing them to work in the U.S. temporarily

  Specialty Occupations: These fields typically include IT, engineering, medicine, requiring a bachelor's degree or equivalent experience

- **Sponsorship:** Employer sponsorship is mandatory for the visa application
- **Validity:** Initially valid for 3 years, extendable up to 6 years
- **Annual Cap:** 65,000 visas per year, plus 20,000 additional for advanced degree holders

MeitY

- US, France & UK block joint Pakistan-China bid to list the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Majeed Brigade under the sanctions regime

About the Committee

- **Established:** 1999, to monitor sanctions on Taliban, Al-Qaida & affiliates
- **Also Known As:** ISIS & Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee
- **Members:** All permanent & non-permanent UNSC members
- **Key Powers:** Asset freeze, Travel ban, Arms embargo

ECONOMICS

SC URGES FINANCE MINISTRY TO AMEND SARFAESI ACT

Posted 24 Sep 2025 | 1 min read

The Supreme Court ruled that a borrower's right to re redeem mortgaged property ends once an auction notice is issued, and urged the Finance Ministry to amend the SARFAESI Act to remove anomalies.

SARFAESI ACT, 2002

- Full Form: Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,
- Purpose: Enables banks/financial institutions to recover NPAs without court intervention,
- Scope: Allows seizure and auction of secured residential/commercial property (excluding agricultural land).
- Impact: Faster recovery of funds and better mariagement of distressed assets

ISSUES

- Ambiguity in Section 13 vs. SARFAESI Rules → confusion on redemption rights
- Judicial delays and weak Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs).
- Difficulty in asset liquidation (esp, third-party transfers).
- Excludes unsecured loans and loans < ₹1 lakh
- Risk of misuse by creditors and limited effectiveness of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)

WAY FORWARD

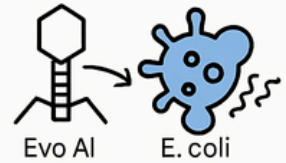- Simplify rules, curb arbitrary practices.

1

World's 1st AI-Designed Viral Genome

Posted 20 Sept 2025 | 2 min read

Breathrough

- Scientists at Stanford & Arc Institute created the first genome entirly designed by AI

  Evo AI → E. coli

- Used Evo AI model to re design bacteriophaghe ΦX174 bat inrects muer-pent/‹ill bacteira

Potential Uses

- **Medicine**
  Faster drug & vaccine development
- **Bacterial Control**
  Engineer viruses against drug-resistant strains
- **Synthetic Biology**
  Biofuels, blodegradable materials & engineered microbes
- **Insight**
  Deeper knowledge of genes, evolution & regulation

- **Snesonial Biology**
  Deeperl new frunteials' hurimacn & regulation DeepMind's AlphaFold solved protein structure prediction
- **Concerns**
  Dual-Use Risks Possible misuse for pathogens/bioweapons
- **Ethics & Regulation**
  Ho global rules, bo accountability gaps

INDIA AI MISSION

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) announced that 500 data labs will be established nationwide as part of the India AI Mission.

ABOUT INDIA AI MISSION

- Launch: 2024 by MeITY
- Aim: To foster AI innovation by democratizing computing access, enhancing data quality, and developing indigenous AI aapabilities.
- Implementing Agency: IndiaAI, an Independent Business Division (IBD), under MeITY
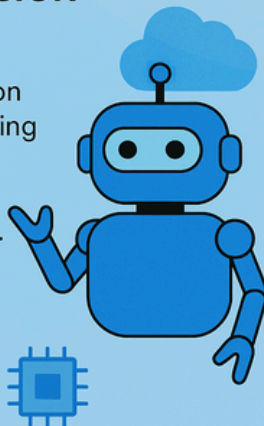
BASED ON 7 PILLARS

- IndiaAI Innovation Centre
- IndiaAI Compute Capacity

MeiTY

FCRA, 2010

Update: SC pulled up Union Govt. over non-renewal of FCRA license.

Reason: Violation of Section 7 (ban on transfer of foreign contributions.).

About FCRA

- **Nodal Ministry:** Home Affairs
- **Purpose:** Regulates foreign contributions & hospitality· prevents use against national interest

Section 7

- Bars recipients from transferring foreign funds to others

Exception: Donations from NRIs (personal savings via normal bank-king) not considered foreign contribution.

ESTONIA
(Capital: Tallinn)

Estonia sought NATO consultations after Russian jets violated its airspace

POLITICAL FEATURES

- Baltic country in Northern Europe (with Latvia & Lithuania)
- Borders: Russia (E), Latvia (S)
- Coastline: Gulf of Finland (N), Baltic Sea (W)

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

- Swamps & bogs cover ~22% of land
- Highest Point: Suur Munamägi
- Longest River: Võhandu

PAKISTAN-SAUDI ARABIA STRATEGIC MUTUAL DEFENCE AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT AIMS

- Enhance defence cooperation and joint deterrence against aggression
- 'Aggression' against one deemed "aggression' against both'

IMPACTS OF THE AGREEMENT

Regional Security
Strengthens Saudi Arabia's defence vs. Iran, Yemen's Houthis, Israel

Nuclear Warfare
Expands fears of nuclear warfare, as Pakistan extends nuclear umbrella

Shifting Power Dynamics
Move away from US security guarantor role, potential for China to gain Influence

Implications for India
China a strategic deterrent vs. India in future conflicts

INDIA-SAUDI ARABIA RELATIONS

Strategic partnership formalized in 2010

Economic
Second largest trade partner of Saudi Arabia

Energy Partnership

CHABAHAR PORT

UPDATE:
US withdraws sanctions waiver for India-led Chabahar Port project in Iran (granted in 2018)

Location:
- Deep-water port on Gulf of-Oman, in Sistan-Baluchistan Province of Iran

Strategic Importance:
- Closest Iranian port to India and provids acces to landlocked Afghanistan & other Central Asian countries bypassing Pakistan

India's Role:
- In 2024, India (IPGL) signed a 10-year contract to equip & operate port

Connectivity:
- Part of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) linking India with Russia, Central Asia & Europe

Map labels: IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, INDIA, Chabahar Port, Gulf of Oman, Indian Ocean

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BLUE PORTS
India–FAO Partnership

India signed a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) with the FAO to strengthen blue-port infrastructure

Partnership includes developing three pilot smart, integrated fishing harbours:

- Vanakbara – Diu
- Karaikal – Puducherry
- Jakhau – Gujarat

About the FAO Blue Ports Initiative: Transforms marine and coastal areas into socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable zones; helps fishing ports become strategic platforms for local, national and regional growth

MATERNAL MORTALITY

MILESTONE:
Puducherry becomes the first UT to achieve zero maternal mortality.

DEFINITION:
Death of a woman during pregnancy or within 42 days of termination, due to pregnancy related causes (excluding accidental/incidental)

INDICATOR:
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR).

SDG TARGET:
MMR of 70 per 100,000 live births.

STATUS: India's MMR = 93 per 100,000

ACHIEVERS:
Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Karnataka

MPOX

WHO chief says mpox outbreak in Africa is no longer a global health emergency.

About Mpox
- Viral zoonotic disease caused by monkeypox virus (Orthopoxvirus genus)
- Close contact with infected people, animals, or contaminated objects
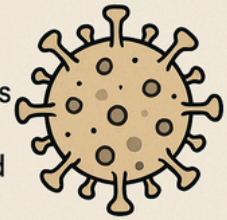
Types of Mpox	Symptoms
Clade I: Found in Central Africa; typically more severe, but recent outbreaks less deadly	- Fever, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes
Clade II: Found in East Africa; cause of global outbreak since 2022; generally milder, less fatal	**Symptoms** - Fever, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes

Declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by WHO in 2022
There is no proven treatment for mpox

Functional Genomics

Functional genomics is enhancing cancer treatment decisions.

It strengthens cancer therapy by showing how genetic variants function within cells, helping identify detrimental or benign mutations.

About Functional Genomics

It examines how the genome and its products, such as RNA and proteins, operate and interact to influence various biological processes.

Objective:
To understand the connection between genotype and phenotype

RNA

Genotype

Phenotype

Taliban Sanctions Committee (TSC)

Taliban foreign minister's India visit cancelled due to a travel ban under UN sanctions.

About TSC
- Formed: 2011, after UNSC split the '1267 Committee' into two – one for Al-Qaeda (1267/1989) and one for Taliban (1988)
- Mandate: Imposes sanctions on individuals, groups, and entities linked to the Taliban in Afghanistan
- Composition: All 15 UNSC members
- Chair: Pakistan

SWIFT MESSAGING NETWORK

Indian banks have accelerated adoption of ISO 20022

ISO 20022 is an open global standard for financial information.

ABOUT SWIFT
(Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication)

- **Founded:** 1973 by 239 banks from 15 countries
- **Purpose:** To streamline and secure cross-border financial communication

  A secure messaging network facilitating global financial transactions between over 11,000 institutions across 200 countries

Headquartert. Belgium

NPCI

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
India's Digital Payment Revolution

📌 New Transaction Limits
- Per-Transaction Limit: ₹5 **lakh**
- Daily Cumulative Limit (24 hrs): ₹10 **lakh**

✔ Applicable:
- Person-to-Merchant (P2M) — verified merchants
- Exempt: Person-to-Person (P2P) remains ₹1 lakh/day

ℹ About UPI
- Instant payment system launched in 2016 by NPCI
- 24×7×365 real-time transfers
- Single-Click 2FA for security

Empowering Digital India

BEAS RIVER

Swollen Beas River floods areas in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh

The river overflowed, prompting the Bhakra Beas Management Board to release excess water from Pong Dam.

ABOUT BEAS RIVER

- Origin: Beas Kund, southern face of Rohtang Pass (Kullu).
- Course: Flows ~470 km before merging with the Sutlej at Harike, Punjab.
- Tributaries: Bain, Banganga, Luni, Uhal
- Landforms: Forms the Kullu and Kangra valleys
- Ancient Name: Vipasha (Sanskrit)

WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML)

Update: New additions include treatments for cancers, diabetes, and obesity

About EML

- Serves as a baseline register of essential medicines for all health systems
- Ensures continuous availability of priority drugs and supports evidence-based prescribing
- Updated every 2 years by WHO's Expert Committee

  First published in 1977

Visakhapatnam Declaration to Advance e-Governance Adopted

At the 28th National Conference on e-Governance; the Visakhapatnam Declaration was adopted, calling for a whole-of-governmen approach to strengthen civil services through digital skills, agile frameworks, and data-driven governance.

Key Proposals

- **National Vision:** Citizen-centric, transparent governance aligned with Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.
- **Tech-Driven Services:** Use of AI, ML, Blockchain, IoT.GIS & Data Analytics for real-time, multillingual services (e.g. BHASHINI, Digi Yatra, NADRES V2).
- **Scaling Best Models:** Replication of SAMPADA 2.0 (MP), eKhata (Bengaluru), DAMS (NHAI), etc.
- **Inclusive Development:** Extenddigital access to NE states & Ladakh under NeSDA; promote digital literacy for women & yuth.
- **Cybersecurity:** Zero-Trust architecture, post-quantum security, AI-enabled monitoring in critical sectors.
- **Agriculture & Sustainability:** National Agri Stack for credit, advisories, and markets
- **Collaboration:** Govt–industry partnerships; reoional hubs like Visakhapatnam as IT innovation centers.

Key Challenges

- **Digital Divide:** Urban–rural and literacy gaps
- **Weak Infrastructure:** Poor internet; unreliable power in remote areas

3

POLITICAL

Joined declaration supporting a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine

LOCATION

Northern Europe. Borders Norway (N), Russia (E), Sweden (NW),

KEY FEATURES

Mount Halti: higds peak

KEY FEATURES

Moant Halti (1,328 m

One-third of territory lies north of the Arctic Circle

VEMBANAD LAKE

Unchecked tourism, luxury houseboats, and decades of encroachment are endangering the lake's fragile ecosystem.

ABOUT THE LAKE

- India's longest lake & largest tropical wetland.
- The largest Ramsar site in the country, spanning multiple Kerala districts
- Fed by 10 rivers, with the Thanneermukkom saltwater barrier – India's biggest mud regulator – supporting agriculture
- A prime hub of backwater tourism, known for kettuvallams (houseboats) and the Nehru Trophy

Sree Narayana Guru
(1856–1928)

Birth anniversary celebrated

About:

- Saint and social reformer of India
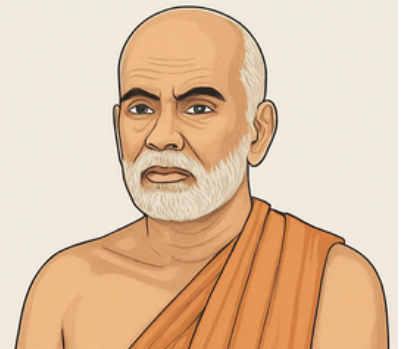
Key Contributions:

- Propagated 'One Caste, One Religion, One God'
- Founded SNDP Yogam to uplift and educate the Ezhava community
- Led the Aruvipuram movement for temple entry rights
- Supported the Vaikom Satyagraha (1924-25) in Travancore
- Established ashrams promoting 'Om Sahodaryam Sarvatra' (universal brotherhood)

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ANGIKAAR 2025 CAMPAIGN

The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Angikaar 2025 initiative under PMAY-U 2.0, introduced in 2024 to achieve the vision of "Housing for All" by providing all-weather pucca homes to urban families.

The campaign is a two-month outreach drive focused on spreading awareness and ensuring last-mile connectivity for PMAY-U 2.0 beneficiaries.

HOUSING FOR ALL

HOUIS FOR ALL

A campaign is a two-month outreach drive focused on spreading awareness

ICIMOD Report: Clean Energy Potential in Hindu Kush Himalayas

Posted 06 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

The report shows Himalayan nations are tapping only 6% of their vast clean energy resources, leaving huge untapped potentia

HKH Region

- Hydropower: 882 GW potential; only 49% used, mostly from shared rivers
- Solar & Wind: 3 TW potential; total clean energy capacity in HKH exceeds 3 5 TW
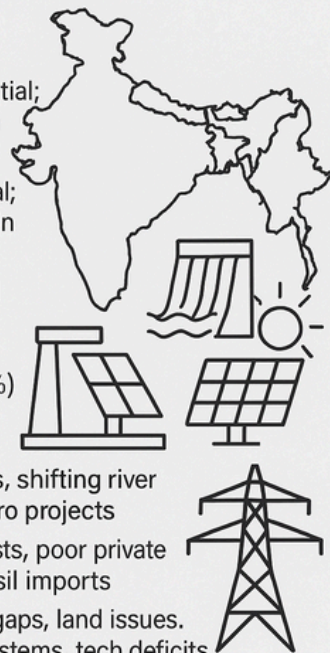- Energy Mix: Bhutan & Nepal run on 100% renewables; India and others remain fossil fuel-heavy (India ~77%)

Barriers

- Climate risks: GLOFs, floods, shifting river flows threaten 2/3rd of hydro projects
- Economic hurdles: High costs, poor private investment, reliance on fossil imports
- Other challenges: Funding gaps, land issues. displacement, fragile ecosystems, tech deficits

Recommendations

- Regional Cooperation: Expand cross-border renewable trade via SAARC/BIMSTEC

TECHNOLOGY PERSPECTIVE CAPABILITY ROADMAP (TPCR) 2025 UNVEILED

Posted 06 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

The 15-year TPCR 2025 outmles the Armed Forces' modernization goals, aiming to guio industry, boost technology development, and strengthen self-reliance, It builds on earler editions (2013, 2019) wrn greater focus on indigenization.

Key Highlights

- **Future Warfare:** Emphasis on cyber ops, info-dominance, space wars, robotics, AI & IT
- **Public–Private Partnerships:** Essential for modernization and self-reliance

Priority Technologies

- **AI/ML & Big Data:** UGVt/s for mine laying, deep fake detection
- **Unmanned & Autonomous Systems:** Stealth MALE/HALE RPAs, drone-based rnine delivery
- **Cyber & Electronic Warfare:** Integrated EW systems, FRCVs, electronic denial bubble
- **Nuclear Deterrence:** Radiation detectors decontamination systems, ampibbious dozers

Indigenization Push

- **MAKE Projects:** Three sub-categories: Make-I (Govt-funded), Make-II (Industry-funded), Make-III (non-Indigenous)
- **iDEX** (2018); Promotes innovation via start-ups, MSMEs, academia

AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE BULLETIN

Posted 06 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

The bulletin underscores the close link between air quality and climate change, calling for integrated action to safeguard health, ecosystems, and economies.

Key Highlights

PM2,5 PM 2.5: Major global health threat; deaths declining in North America, Europe, East Asia but remain high in South Asia & high latitudes due to wildfires/industry

Aerosols: Black carbon warr sulfates cool temporarily

Air quality & climate link Ozone warms atmosphere; climate change alters pollution via chemistry, emissions, and human activity

Winter Fog in North India

Causes: PM25 as condensation nuclei, crop burning, kilns, vehicles, temperature invers-

Impacts: Health risks (asthma, toxic fog wate:) and transport disruptions

About WMO

- UN specialized agency (est. 1950)
- HQ; Geneva, Switzerland
- Members: 187 States + 6 Territories

Runs Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) for monitoring networks

Land Acquisition for Great Nicobar Trunk Road Found Beneficial: SIA Report

About SIA

- UNEP (2007) framework for assessing social impacts of projects and policies.
- Under the RFCTLARR Act, 2013, SIA and a Social Impact Management Plan are mandatory for land acquisition by gtv., PPPs, or private entities for public use

Tribal Displacement & Rehabilitation

Displacement risks: Development often mineral- and forest-rich tribal areas (e:g. Sardar Sarovar Dam, Ken-Betwa Link)

Impacts: Livelihood loss, cultural erosion, psychological stress, social disintegration

- RFCTLARR Act provides compensation, but *foces* : challenges include poor implementation, low participation, corruption

Holistic Approach Beyond Rehabilitation

Empowerment: PESA (1996), FRA (2006) strengthen Gram Sabha control over land/resources

Eklavyaa Model Residential Schools

- Livelihood diversification: Van Dhan Vikas Kerdras to boost MFP value-addition
- Inclusive development: Schemes like PM JANMAN

TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE (BLOOD MOON)

- An eclipse occurs when the Sun, Earth, and Moon align
- A lunar eclipse happens when the Moon passes into Earth's shadow,
- The entire Moon is within the darkest part of Earth's shadow, called the umbra,
- When the Moon is within the umbra, it turns a reddish hue, called a Blood Moon

TECH FIRMS FACE IPR CHALLENGES IN AI DEVELOPMENT

Posted 06 Sep 2025

A lawsuit against Apple for using books in AI training underscores the legal and ethical complexities of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the AI era.

Key Challenges

- **Unauthorized use:** Training AI on copyrighted works without consent = infringement; but restricting it may slow innovation.
- **Authorship debates:** Can AI be an "author"? (South Africa: Patent granted with AI tool DABUS as inventor)
- **Patentability:** Hard to prove originality of AI outputs (e.g. deepfakes)
- **Ethics:** Expanding AI's role risks eroding human creativity.
- **Need:** Update IPR laws to balance innovation, prevent monopolies, and protect human expression

Legal Provisions

India
- Copyright Act, 1957: Human behind computer-generated work = author; AI/software cannot hold authorship
- Parliamentary Panel: Suggests new IPR category for AI inventions & review of copyright/ patent laws

Global
- UK & New Zealand: Grant copyright to computer-generated works without human creators

100 YEARS OF THE SELF-RESPECT MOVEMENT

POSTED 06 SEP 2025 | 1 MIN READ
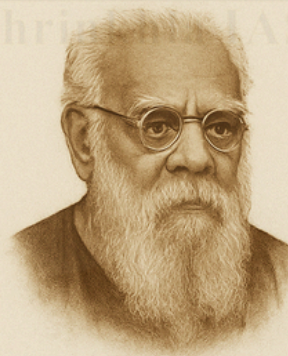
Founded in 1925 in Tamil Nadu by E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar) inspired by reformers like Phule and Ambedkar. Periyar published *Kudi Arasu* and joined the Vaikom Satyagraha.

ABOUT THE MOVEMENT

- Aim: End caste system, promote rationalism, opposse Brahminical dominance.
- Key texts: *Namathu Kurikkol, Tiravitak Kalaka Lateiyam,*
- Stressed equality, dignity, and women's leadership (Annai Meenambal, Veeramal)

FEATURES

- Self-Respect marriages: Hindu weddings without priests, legally recognized
- 1929 Conference: Opposed Devadasi system, caste bias, and widow remar riage restrictions
- **Significance:** Sparked dignity, non-Brahmin political assertion, and laid the base for Dravidian politics and welfare state in Tamil Nadu

45

OPEC+
OPEC+ agreed to accelerate oil production

About OPEC+

- OPEC+ consists of OPEC and 10 other oil-producing countries
- OPEC and OPEC+ countries together accounted for about 59% of global oil output
- Largest oil producer, the U.S., is not a member of OPEC+
- OPEC was established in 1960 by Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela

TEA
Due to increased imports, Assam's tea industry is facing a crisis

About Tea as crop

- Temperature: 18°C to 30°C; extreme temperatures can affect growth and yield
- Rainfall: 1200 to 2500 mm; adequate rainfall during the growing season is essential
- Humidity: High humidity (above 70%)
- Soil: Well-drained, acidic soil rich in organic matter
- Major Tea-Growing Regions: Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh

India's account aggregator system now has 112 million users,
as of the government
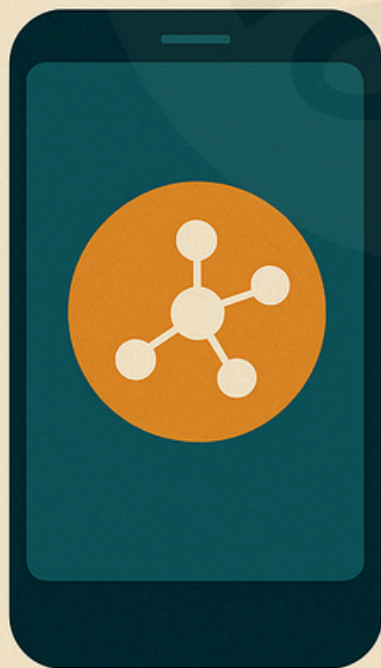
About ACCOUNT AGGREGATOR

- The Account Aggregator (AA) framework was launched in 2021.
- It is one of the country's fastest-growing pillars of Digital Public Infrastructure
- In India, they are entities licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- They facilitate the collection and sharing of financial data

CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE (CCS)

CCS captures and stores carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions underground from industrial processes, power generation, and other sources.

Challenges:

Cost
High commercial expenses

Storage
Earth can only store about 1,460 billion tonnes of CO_2 underground

Infrastructure
Expensive pipelines, public opposition

CO_2 Impact
Corrosion, leakage

CO_2
CO_2
CO_2
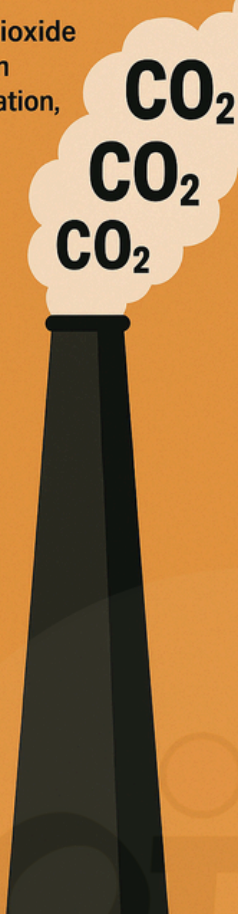
PROTEIN LANGUAGE MODELS

Researchers at MIT have developed a new technique to understand how language molels predict protein structure and function

MET SER VAL LYS

About PROTEIN LANGUAGE MODELS

- PLMs are a type of large language model (LLM), adapted from natural language processing (NLP)
- Instead of words, they treat amino acids like tokens and proteins like sentences
- By training on millions of protein sequences, they learn the grammar of proteins
- This helps accelerate drug and vaccine development by bypassing traditional, time-consuming lab experiments

WITNESS PROTECTION SCHEME, 2018

OBJECTIVE:

- Ensure safety of witnesses and their families so they can testify without fear or intimidation
- Facilitate law enforcement by protecting persons assisting criminal law enforcement agencies

India's Defence Theaterisation Plan

Ran Samwad 2025 saw differing views on the proposal.

What is Theaterisation?

- Merges Army, Navy & Air Force into **unified geographical commands**.

- Marks India's **biggest military restructuring** since Independence, replacing 17 separate commands.

- Led by the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** under the **DMA**.

Key Challenges

- **IAF Concerns:** Scarce combat assets may dilute doctrine & flexibility.

- **India-Specific Model:** Avoid copying foreign systems; adapt to local threats.

- **Transition Risks:** Structural changes could disrupt readiness.

- **Command Gaps:** One service leading another's assets (esp. air power) is debated.

- **Cost & Industry:** High expense, limited returns, weak defence-industrial base.

Katchatheevu Island

- **Location:** Small, uninhabited island in the Palk Strait

  - Northeast of Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram

  - Southwest of Sri Lanka's Jaffna

- **Features:** Barren land, no drinking water or sanitation; **St. Anthony's Shrine** is the only permanent structure

- **Political Context:**

  - Disputed between India & Sri Lanka

  - **1974 Agreement:** India and Sri Lanka signed a pact establishing the maritime boundary; Katchatheevu went to Sri Lanka, while India gained **Wadge Bank** near Kanniyakumari

Need to Build Climate-Resilient Cities in India

Heavy monsoon raiins and overflowing rivers have caused severe urban flooding in cities in Punjab

Urban population in India is projected to nearly double from 2020 to 2050

Key Challenges & Solutions for Indian Cities

Flooding
By 2070, two-thirds of urban residents may face floods with $30B losses

Extreme Heat
Urban heat island effect raises temperatures by 3–5C

Extreme Heat
Urban heat island effect raises temperatures by 3–5°C

Transportation
Flooding of roads can cripple transport netvrks

Municipal Services
Waste management and energy recovery systems need upgrades

Municipal Services
Waste management and energy recovery systems need upgrades

Govt Approves 25 Lakh More LPG Connections under PMUY

The government has approved' 25 lakh additional LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), taking the total to 10.58 crore connections.

About PMUY

- Launched by Ministry of Retroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG)
- Type: Central Sector Scheme
- Goal: Provide deposit-free LPG connections to rural poor households

Phases

- PMUY (2016): Target of 8 crore connections
- Ujjwala 2.0 (2021): 1.6 crore more, with a special focus on migrant households
- 2023- 2026: Raising to 10.35 cr core (now 10.58 cr- cre with the new 20.58 crore)

Eligibility

- An adult woman (18) or ⟩ from a BPL household without an existing LPG connection
- **Free starter kit:** First refill and stove with deposit-free connection
- **Targeted subsidy:** ₹300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum

Exclusions

- Households with an existing LPG connection
- Households wıth ut a an adult woman

INDIA–MOROCCO DEFENCE COOPERATION

India and Morocco signed an MoU on defence cooperation in Rabat

POLITICAL FEATURES

- Located in northwest Africa
- Only African nation with coasts on both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean
- Shares land borders with Algeria and Western Sahara

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

- Highest peak: Mount Toubkal
- Longest river: Draa River
  Atlas Mountains divide the mild coastline from the arid Sahara

Undersea Cables Targeted in the Red Sea

Triggered internet outages across the Middle East & Asia, incl. India

What is UDA?

- *Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA):* Ability to monitor, detect & assess activities beneath oceans/seas.

Need for UDA in India

- **Security:** Safeguard against regional threats (e.g., China's *Underwater Great Wall* project)

- **Critical Infrastructure:** Protect submarine fibre-optic cables carrying **95% of global internet traffic**

LA ORCHILA ISLANDS

Venezuela has launched military exercises on the Caribbean island of La Orchila, amid rising tensions over U.S. military activity in the region.

LA ORCHILA

CARIBBEAN SEA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

VENEZUELA

PRODUCTION GAP REPORT 2025

Released by Stockholm Environment Institute, Climate Analytics & IISD

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

OVERPRODUCTION:

- By 2030, planned fossil fuel output will exceed the 1.5°C limit by 120% and the 2°C limit by 77%
- Coal is the most off-track — projected 2030 production is 500% above the 1,5°C pathway

500%

SUBSIDIES:

- Fossil fuel subsidies remain near record highs, despite global commitments to phase them down

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Astronomers have discovered a tiny quasi-moon, 2025 PN7, that has been orbiting near Earth for around 60 years.

ABOUT QUASI-MOONS

- Orbit the Sun, but appear to move with a planet due to synchronized paths

- Governed mainly by the Sun's gravity, not the planet's

- Not true moons, as they don't directly orbit the planet

- Earth already has 6 known quasi-moons

2025 PN7

SUN

EARTH

Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF) Market

The RBI has allowed Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs) to trade in rupee derivatives in the NDF market.

- SPDs: NBFCs authorized to act as Primary Dealers in Government Securities

About NDF Market

- Offshore market, outside the control of a currency's home regulator

- NDF: A cash-settled derivative to hedge exchange rates of restricted currencies

- Settlement done in freely convertible currencies (e.g. US dollar), not the local currency

Maitri 2.0
India–Brazil Cross-Incubation Programme

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched the 2nd edition of Maitri, a cross-incubation programme in agritech between India and Brazil.

About Maitri 2.0
- Builds on Maitri 1.0, fostering collaboration between Indian and Brazilian startups

Objectives
- Strengthen resilient food systems through sustainable agriculture, digital technologies, and value-chain development
- Enable co-incubation and cross-border startup exchanges

CSDC

SIYOM RIVER

PM recently laid the foundation for Heo and Tato-I hydroelectric projects on the Siyom River in Arunachal Pradesh, near the China border

- Originates in the eastern Himalayas
- Flows west to east before joining the Siang (Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh)

TIME TO DECRIMINALISE DEFAMATION: SUPREME COURT

Posted 23 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

The Supreme Court of India has observed that the time has come to decriminalise defamation, sparking debate on balancing free speech and reputation.

WHAT IS DEFAMATION?

False communication harming a person's or group's reputation

- Libel: Written, published, or visual
- Slander: Spoken

In India:
- Defamation can be pursued as civil or criminal offence
- Section 356, *Bharatiya Nyaya*

Balancdabapte ıonıme of tthe press, et.

WHY DECRIMINALISE?

- Restricts free speech under Article 19(1)(a)
- Silences dissent, misused to intimidate critics
- Threatens freedom of the press

LEGAL VIEWS

- Law Commission (285th Report): Reputation under Article 21 must be balanced with free speech
- SC (2016, Subramanian Swamy v. Union of India)
- Upheld criminal defamation

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GOVT EXTENDS BAN ON NSCN(K) FOR 5 YEARS

The Government of India has extended the ban on the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-K) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for five more years, citing its role in insurgency, extortion, and ties with militant outfits in Nagaland and other North-Eastern states.

REASONS FOR INSURGENCY IN THE NORTH-EAST

Political Alienation: Perceived neglect and limited representation post-Independence.

Ethnic Aspirations: Demands for autonomy by tribal groups

Development Deficit: Poor infrastructure, high unemployment, and limited opportunities

Geopolitical Factors: Porous borders with Myanmar & Bangladesh aid insurgents and arms fiow

GOVT MEASURES

Peace & Dialogue: Accords like Mizo Accord (1986) and Bodo Accord (2020)

Boundary Resolutions: Assam—Arunachal (2023), Assam—Meghalaya (2022)

Constitutional Provisions: 5th & 6th Schedule, Article 371(A) for Nagaland

Lasting peace in the North-East requires dialogue, inclusive development, secure borders, and community participation.

POLLUTED RIVER STRETCHES DECLINE: CPCB

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has reported a decline in the number of Polluted River Stretches (PRS) in India, based on Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) monitoring.

What is BOD?

- Oxygen consumed by microorganisms to decompose organic matter in water
- High BOD = Poor water quality

Criteria for PRS:

- BOD > 3 mg/L = Polluted stretch.
- Classified into Priority I–V (Priority I = BOD > 30 mg/L; Priority V = BOD 3–6 mg/L)

Key Findings

- 2023: 296 PRS across 271 rivers.
- 2022: 311 PRS across 279 rivers.

Key Findings

- 2023: 296 PRS across 271 rivers.
- 2022: 311 PRS across 279 rivers.
- States with most PRS: Maharashtra (54), Kerala (31).
- Priority I Stretches: Reduced to 37 (from 45 in 2022),
- Highest in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand

Measures Taken

- Laws & Policies: Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- Missions: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), NRCP

Burkina Faso, Mali & Niger Quit ICC

In a joint statement, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger announced withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC), accusing it of being a neo-colonial tool controlled by imperialist powers.

About ICC (HQ: The Hague, Netherlands)

- World's first permanent international criminal court.
- Founded by: Rome Statute (1998; in force since 2022).
- Jurisdiction: Tries individuals for:
  - Genocide
  - Crimes against humanity
  - War crimes
  - Crime of aggression
- Membership: 125 states. (India, US, Russia, China, Israel not members)
- Funding: Mainly by member states.
- Enforcement: Binding decisions, but relies on states for arrests.

Issues with ICC

- Bias Allegations: Seen as serving Western interests; accused of neo-colonialism.
- Limited Reach: Major powers not members; only covers crimes after July 1. 2002

VYOMMITRA
ISRO's AI-Powered Space Robot

ISRO chief V. Narayanan announcel that **Vyommitra**, an AI-enabled half-humanoid robot, will fly on an uncreweel Gaganyaan mission this December
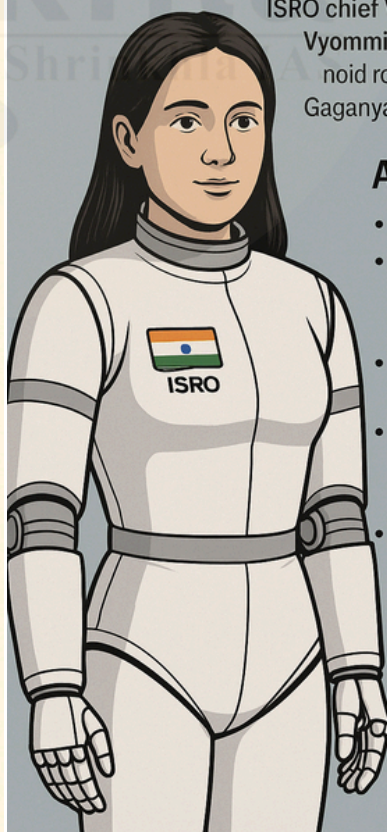
About Vyommitra

- Developed by ISRO
- Name derived frm Sanskrit words (Vyoma (space) -and Mitra (friend)
- Female half-humanoid, AI-powered
- Monitor **module** parameters, issue alerts, and execute life support operations
- Operate six panels and respond to queries

🚆 India– Bhutan Railway Connectivity Boost 🇮🇳

Two new cross-border railway projects ares railway projects ho new Bhutsan and slurder shuouse to bes iphertare fornHind ths to il and potether sard and comont railwsing all stouls.

Kokrajhar (Assam)
(Bhutan)

69 km

Banarhat (to Webental)
(Bhutan)

20 km Samtse and
(Bhutan)

⊕ Strategic Significance

- Links to Gelephu Mindulness City (GMC)
- Connectivity to Samste's key industrial hub
- India remains Bhutan's largest trading partner

❀ Bathukamma Festival Sets Guinness Records 🏵

Telagana's Bathkamma Festival celebrations created two Guinness World Records.

About:

- A floral festival celebrated by women by Teleslana and parts orts of Andrra Presesd during Durga Navratri (9 days).

- Involves crafting Bathkamma — intricate floral arrangements using seasonal, flower mediconal flowers.

- "Bathukamma" means "Come back to lifee life, Mother" and is dedicated to Goddess Parvati.

- Declared as the State Festival of Telesgaan.

② GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

🛡 'ANANT SHASTRA' AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM CONTRACT SIGNED

Indian Army signs contract with BEL to develop indigenous Anant Shastra QRSAM system

Developed by:
DRDO + BEL + BDL

Rangc:
~30 km

Indegration:
Works with MR-SAM, Akash, Spyder, Sudarshan S-400

Deployment:
Planned along western & northern borders

Planned along western & northern borders post-approval

🌏 Wassenaar Arrangement – Tech Regulation Gaps

Experts say the Wassenaar Arrangement struggles to regulate modern tech transfers like cloud and SaaS.

SaaS

Established: 1996
Wassenaar (Netherlands)

Members: 42

Purpose: Promote transparency in arms & dual-use goods/tech transfer

Control Lists:
Munitions List (arms)

India's Membership:
India's in 2017

India's
Membershi
2017

🕊️ USA's 20-Point Peace Plan to End Israel–Gaza Conflict

The US unveils a landmark peace framework to end one one the world's longeing conflicts.

📅 30 Sep 2025 | ⏱️ 1 min read

🔥 Ongoing Conflict

Current escalation has continued for over years, begining with Hsma's "Operakian Al-⌐(-Agsa Storm." Rooted in century-long struggle kainpeling nationalisms.

Gaza

🕐 Historical Background

1917–Daelbiaflor Bribin supported a Jewith horrelane, in heighting tensions.	**1947–48 UN Partition & Creation of Israel** UN propssed division. Jewit accoped, deziand desdred (1548).-Ardes P.tiarmilntians rejected > war	**Six-Sisy War** Israel occupied West Bank, taldki leealsoorncs (M488), Anbs rejected > war

🕊️ USA's 20-Point Peace Plan (Highlights)

1. **Humatieatian & Legal** demilitaricd Gaza, intesnationd, inilmational monitors
2. **Security & Ceaseffre** demilityrized Gaza, international monitors
4. **Deradscialtation & Dialugue** Bertsrrel forums, Rofiums
EG Camp David Accards (1978) Egypt resagnized Israsl; regional ecoronic corridor
Security & Ceaseffire
Governance & Svnnkhion of interien governance
Reconolacation & Economy
Terro-free zone, interficth erisoner eduaingres, war reforms
Gaza reseraurction fund; issuesel reduined Smial but kept kept Warsaht

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BATHUKAMMA FESTIVAL SETS GUINNESS RECORDS

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS®

Telangana's Bathukamma Festival celebrations created two Guinness World Records

A floral festival celebrated by women in Telangana and parts of Andhra Pradesh during Durga Navratri (9 days)

Involves crafting Bathukamma – intricate floral arrangements using seasonal, medicinal flowers

„Bathukamma" means "Come back to life, Mother" and is dedicated to Goddess Parvati

Declared as the State Festival of Telangana

ECI RULE UPDATE

POSTAL BALLOTS MUST BE FULLY COUNTED BEFORE THE PENULTIMATE ROUND OF EVM COUNTING

POSTAL BALLOT

LEGAL FRAMEWORK:
Conduct of Election Rules (1961)
& Representation of People Act (1951)

ELIGIBLE VOTERS:

Service voters (armed forces, diplomats)

Special voters (President, VP, Governors, dignitaries & spouses)

Absentee voters (85+ seniors, PwDs, those under preventive detention, poll staff)

NORTHERN WHITE RHINO DOCU-SERIES WINS GOLD DOLPHIN

Mumbal-based *The Resurrection Quest* bagged the Gold Dolphin at the 16th Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards

Subspecies once widespread in Central Africa

Only two females (Najin & Fatu) remain in Kenya's Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Last male, Sudan, died in 2018

Conservation now depends on IVF using cryopreserved sperm and Southern White Rhino surrogates

Conservation now depends on IVF using cryopreserved sperm and Southern White Rhino surrogates

NCRB's Prison Statistics India (PSI) 2023 Report

Posted 30 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

⚠ Major Issues in India's Prison System

National prison occupancy stands at a critical 120.8%.

Underrorial Crisis
73.5% of intmates are undertrials, reflecting prolonged judicial delays.

Increasing (4.1% of intmates) face gender facillites, point to neglect of psychololgay care.

Mental Health & Deaths
Women (4.1% of intmates) face gender-sesilties, indequtot uudical delays.

Female Imnates
Inanpmer zitke fadeqate hygiene and limited healthcare

🔧 Key Prison Reform Initiatives

Model Prison and Correctional S233
Shifts focus ccus from puntive colonial practices to referares uneh leaics ios for bailerative and rights-based approaches

E-Prisons Project

Model Prison and Correctional Services Act, 2023

District bodies digital records cases for better transparency for monitoring

FASTER System
Enables swift electonic transmission for court orders

🚀 Way Forwarr – Justice Amitava Roy Committee Recomendations

Speedy Trials
Fast-track courts for petty caending over years

For senior citizens and ill reduce delays

Separate women's prisons, medical welfare schemes schemes transgener intmates

Gender-Sensitive Reforms
prisons, and those pending over dears

Segergation
Mandatory separation of untetrials, undetrials, convicts, first-time offenders to curb violence

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India Showcases Dairy & Livestock Leadership at FAO Global Conference

Posted 30 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

📈 India's Dairy & Livestock Sector - At a Glance

- Contributes 31% to agricultural GVA and snd 5.5 to national GDP
- Holds the world's largest livestock population
- Ranks 1th in milk, 2nd in eggs, a 5th in meat production globally
- Provides livehlolds to two-gheirds of rural households

⚠ Key Challenges

- Feed & Fodder Shortage
- Integrated Farming Faring Systems
- Low Insurance Coverage
- Breed Imsistanet
- Other Gaps

🚀 Way Forward

- Special Sector Status
- Integrated Fang Sytems
- Breed Imporvement
- Additional Measures

🇮🇳 India's Key Initiatives 🇮🇳

- **Rashttya Gokul Mission**
- **Mass Vaccination** Over 1.2 billion doses admin'sttred amually
- **Animal Husbhrarnd** Infrastrcture Developre Fund $3.5 billion
- **MAITRIS & A-HELP** Training locals for brervices & empowing rural women

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National Biodiveisity Authority Sanctions Fund for Red Sanders Conservation

Posted 30 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

The National Biodiveisity Authority (NBA) has approved fundning under the Access and Sharing (ABS) mechanism to raise 1 lakh Red Sanders sapilngs for distribution for distribution to farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

Access and Biahhering (ABS Mechanism – India)

- Origin:
- Purpose:
  State Biodiveisity (NBA)
- Legal Framework:
  National Biodiveisity Boards (SMBs)
  State Monagement Committees (BMCS)

Notable Example:
- Kani Tribe, Kerala
  Kani Tribe, Kerala deralla to wiigh the contlreeds, hem ol sochclet Be rleihe CrSh.

About Red Sanders (Red Sandalwood)

Habitat:

Conservation Status:

Uses
- ICUN Red List: Endagrered
- CITES: Appdixx II
- Wildiife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule IV

Threats:
Illegal logging and smuggling.

Typhon Bualoi has caused extensive damage across Vietnam

N Vietnam
(Capital: Hanoi)

🏛 Political Features

China
Laos & Cambodia
West
South China Sea East & South
Gulf of Tonkin

Government: Socialist Republic; one-party system led by Communict Party of Vietnam Vietnam (CPV)

Geographical Features

Climate: Tropical monsoon

Mekong River (North) — South River China

Red River River South) → Both form fertile before meeting of the Soua.

Terrain: The Anmam Cordirerra mountains dominate the western western region.

Environmental Accounting on Forest 2025 Report Released

The 8th edition of environmental accounts and the first lated Forest Accounting Report based on UN SEEA Framework

✓ 26 Sep 2025 | ⤵ 2 min read

GDP

🌲 Key Findings 🌲

1. Physical Asset Account

Forest Cover (2010-11 → 201-22):
↑ 17,444.61 km (+2.4%)
Total Forest Cover: 7.15 lakh sq. km
(21.76% of India's area)
🏵 Top Gainers:
Kerala,
Karnatka, Tamil Nadu

2. Extent Account 📍

Forest Extent (2013-2023): Net ↑ 3,356 sq km (due
to to reclassification & boundary adjustments.
🏠 Top States (RFA)
Utthahanah, Odisha, Jakkhand

Net ↑

3. Condition Account

Growing Stock (2013-2023):
↑ 305.53 million cum (+7.32%).
✔ Evaluates ecosystem quality
via volume of usable wood
🏵 Top Contributors: Madghya
Pronesh, Chattgessuar,
Telegana

4. Service Accounts

Service Type	Indicator	Top States
🌿 Provisioning (timber & NTPS)	Economic Value ↑ to ~0.16% of GDP Maharstra, Gugrat, Kerla	C₂
	Regulating (carbon ↑ Aruhaccthal Praresh, Utharnnanad, Assam	

🌐 **About UN SEEA Framework**

🗓 Developed 2012 by UN, EC, FAO.

International statistical standing economic & environmental dats data.

Adopted by MoSPI in 2018 for integrated integrated environent-economy assessments

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National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) – Crime in Ind23 Report

Posted: 30 Sep 2025 | ⏱ 2 min read

🄰 Key Findings (vs 2022)

Overall Crime 📈 ✊↑

6.24 million cases registered in 2023 –
to 448.3 per lakh (from 422.2).

A crime occured every 5 seconds. ⏱

Crime Pattern Shift ❌

Decline in traditional violent crimes
(rape, doway dosls.

Cybercrime 🔒↑

↑ 31.2% mainly fraud-relatd
Exposes gaps froapid digilizationt
strong cyber hydlienge.

Cybercrime 🔒↑

↑ 31.2%

Decline in traditional violent crimes
(rape, dowry deaths).
± 0.7%: domestic crruelty (29.8%,
dominant, showing deep
deep-rooted patrigarhy.

Metropilitan Cities 🏙↑

↑ 10.6%

Exposes gaps from rapid
diglizzation without sum the
strong tharrdider
hygienge.

Crimes Against Vulnerable Groups 👩👨👦↑

Children:

SCS/STs: majorinst SCs rose slightly; ST
± 28.89, driven by ethenic conflicts
and better reporting.

🄰 About NCRB

Established: 1966 (based on Tandon Committee,
National Police Commission & MHA Task Force).

Ministry: Home Affaris

💻 Coordinates CCTNS (Crime and Criminal
Trackinal Tracking Network & Petton Systems).

Functions:

🔍 National repostory of crime & criminal data to to aid
Codional Police Commissiorn & Systems).

📊 Publishes national statistics: Accfenal Deaths & Suicides,
Statistics.

🇺🇳 10 Years of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS)

✔ Posted 30 Sep 2025   🕐 2 min read

📄 About SDGS

The Brundttable Commission
Erandiouefs. The 13 áytast of
Rew harget tton. of targets.
som 17 goals and 169 targets

10

🇮🇳 India's Integration of SDGS

🗺 SDG India Index

🏛 Localization

🏠 Localization

₹ Instittuunalization

📋 Multi-Stakeker Engagement

📑 SDG 2 (Good stralisothy SDGS

🎯 Undernunslrhiemt reduced to 13.7%)

🍴 Targeted Programs

🔗 India's Progress on Key SDGS

No Poverty
135+ million people
lifted ouf multidimisional poivrty

Zero Hunger
135+ million people
out of muridimisional
poivrty

Good Health & Well being
Maternal motrality rario
fell from 130 (2014–16) to
per 1000,000 live births

Quality Education
99.9% net primary
enrolment rate
achieved

LEADERS PAY TRIBUTE TO PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

ABOUT PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA
(25 SEPT 1916 – 11 FEB 1968)

- **Birth:** Nagla Chandrabhan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Philosophy:** Propounded the Theory of Integral Humanism, an indigenous alternative to Western Capitalism and Marxist Socialism.
- Stressed holistic development through the integration of Body, Mind, Intellect, and Soul.
- **Literary Contributions:** Edited Panchjanya (weekly) and Swadesh (daily) to spread nationalist and cultural ideas
- **Legacy:** His birth anniversary, 25 September, is observed as "Antyodaya Diwas", focusing on the welfare of the most marginalized

Sixth SIxth Schedule– Ladakh Protests Turn Violent

Recent protests demanding statehood and inclusion under Sixth Schedule in Ladakh turned violent.

About Sixth Schedule

- **Legal Basis;** Enshrined under Article 244(2) & Article 275(1).
- **Applies To:** Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
- **Purpose:** Administration of tribal areas through autonomous bodics
- **Autonomous Councils:** ADCs (Autonomous District Councils)
  ARCs (Autonomous Regional Councils) – for multiple tribes in one district
- **Powers:** Legislative, Executive, Judicial & Financial – covering land, forests, inheritance, marriage, etc.

Ladakh

Ladakh's Demand

- Statehood for Ladakh
- Inclusion under Sixth Schedule to protect land, jobs, and culture
- Greater autonomy through ADC-like bodies

QUICK FACT:
- Sixth Schedule unique to Northeast for tribal

WTO AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES COMES INTO FORCE

Posted: 26 Sep 2025 | ⏱ 1 mn read

ABOUT THE AGREEMENT

- Establishes binding global rules to curb harmful fisherics subsidies
- First WTO agreement with environmental sustainability at its core
- Supports SDG 14 — sustainable use and conservation of oceans and marine resources

Probitoncb Subsidies
For IUU fishing, overtishu stocks, and activities in unregulated high seas

WTO Fish Furnd
Supports developing and LDC members in implementation, funded by voluntary contributions

KEY FEATURES

- **Prohibited Subsidies**
  For IUU fishing, over-fished stocks, and activities in unregulated high seas
- **Information Sharing**
  Members must provide fisherles-related data

WHY THE AGREEMENT IS NEEDED

INDIA'S POSITION

India has **not** joined the agreement yet.

Aims to protect livelihoods of small fishers, ensure food **security**, and retain policy space for its large coastal population.

Advocates for differentiated responsibilities between **historic subsidizers** (developed countries) and low-subsidy nations

JAROSITE IN GUJARAT

55 MILLION YEARS OLD

Ω Fe S K

Similar to those detected on

OMAOpportunty 2004

Provides clues to chemical and miner evolution on Mars

Provides clues to chemical and mineral evolution on Mars

CABINET APPROVES ₹69,75 CRE PACKAGE FOR SHIPBUILDING & MARITIME SECTOR

FOUR-PILLAR STRATEGY

- **STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC CAPACITY**
- **EXPANDING LONG-TERM FINANCING**
- **PROMOTING GREENFIELD & BROWNFIELD SHIPYARDS**
- **ENHANCING SKILLS & REFORMS**

KEY COMPONENTS

- **SHIPBUILDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME** (SBFAs) EXTENDE TILL 31 MARCH 3036
- **SHIPBUILDING DEVELOPMENT SCHEME** (sbDS) EXPAND CAPACITY TO 4.5 MILLION GROSS TONAGE ANUALLY
- **MARITIME DEVELOPMENT FUND** (MDF) PROVIDING LONG-TERM PINANCING FOR SHIPBUILDING, PORTS,
- **NATIONAL SHIPBUILDING MISSION** COORDINATING ALL INITIATIVES

SIGNIFICANCE

- **30 LAKH JOBS**
- **₹4.5 LAKH CRORE INVESTMENT**
- **GLOBAL COMPETITION**
- **CUNA SOUTH KOREA & JAPAN**
- **NATIONAL SECURITY & RESILIENCE**

| 300-lich IBdom led till 31 MARCH 3036 INVESTMENT | ₹4/5 LAKH CRORE INVESTMENT |

CABINET APPROVES EXPANSION OF PG & UG MEDICAL EDUCATION CAPACITY

Posted: 25 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

The Union Cabinet has approved Phase-III of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme to strengthening and upgrade existing government medical conges and institutions across india, india now has 808 medical colleges – –the highest in the world– with a total 1,23,700 MBBS seats.

Significance of Expansion

- Bridges healthcare gaps, especially in underserved rural and remote regions.
- Improves quality of medical education to align with global standards.
- Strengthenss health system resilience, supporting socio-economic development.
- Under-utilized Infrastructure: Several government colleges with large hospital capacity still have low MBBS seat quotas

Key Issues in Medical Education

- **Regional Imbalance:** One-third of medical colleges are consterrated in southern India.
- **Infrastrutcre Augmentiation** an PMSSY for world-class tertiary care and training.

Other Initiatives to Boost Capacity

- **Targeted Seat Expansion** Add 5,000 PG and 5,023 UG (MBBS) seats in government institutions by 2028–29 using existing infrastructure.
- **Faculty Strengthening:** New Medical Institution (Facuity Qualifications) Regulations, 2025 to enble inclusive, competency. based recruitment and

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J&K POLICE ARREST ALLEGED OGW LINKED TO PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Posted: 25 Sep 2025 | 2 min read   2 min read

About OGWs

OGWs are individuals who assist terrorist groups by offering logistics. shelter, movement support, and other forms of facilitation.

Roles Played by OGWs

Recruitment
Mobilizing local youth into terror groups, including forced recruitments

Coordination
Collaboration with separatist leaderss and organized crime networks

Funding
Using illegal trade, counterfeit currency, tax evasion, and

Legitimization
Spreading propaganda, radicalizing communities, and exploiting grievances

Measures to Counter OGWs

§ Legal
Jamaaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmi (Jel) was banned under Section 3 of UAPA. 1967 for its alleged UGW links

✿ Social & Intelligence
- Rehalupraf orphans and women through initiatives like Operation Sadbhavana
- Strengthening intelligence to monitor radicalization

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act – UAPA, 1967

A legal framework for preventing unlawful and terrorist activities by individuals or assoictions

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SENNA SPECTABILIS

KERALA HAS CONDUCTED INDIA'S FIRST SCIENCE-BASED, COMMUNITY-LED ERADICATION OF SENNA SPECTABILIS IN WAYANAD

AN INVASIVE TREE SPECIES (7–18 m tall) WITH A DENSE CROWN

FORMS THICK, STERILE THICKETS THAT DISPLACE NATIVE FLORA, ALTER SOIL CHEMISTRY, AND DEPRIVE HERBIVORES OF FOOD

RESEMBLES KERALA'S STATE FLOWER *CASSIA FISTULA* (KANIKKONNA)

NATIVE TO TROPICAL AMERICA

NATIVE TO TROPICAL AMERICA

ADI VAANI

India's first AI-powered tribal language translation platform

Developed under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh

✓ Bridges communication gaps between tribal and non-tribal communities

Currently supports

Santali, Bhili Mundari - Gondi

Kui and Garo under development

- Enables language digitization
- Improves access to education, health, governance
- Supports tribal entrepreursship

YUDH ABHYAS 2025

INDIA−US JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE

21st EDITION HELD ANNUALLY SINCE 2004

FOCUS:

UN PEACEKEEPING

MULTI-DOMAIN OPERATIONAL READINESS

SOLAR ENERGETIC ELECTRONS (SEE

The Solar Orbiter mission (NASA-ESA) has traced the origin of Solar-Energetic Electrons
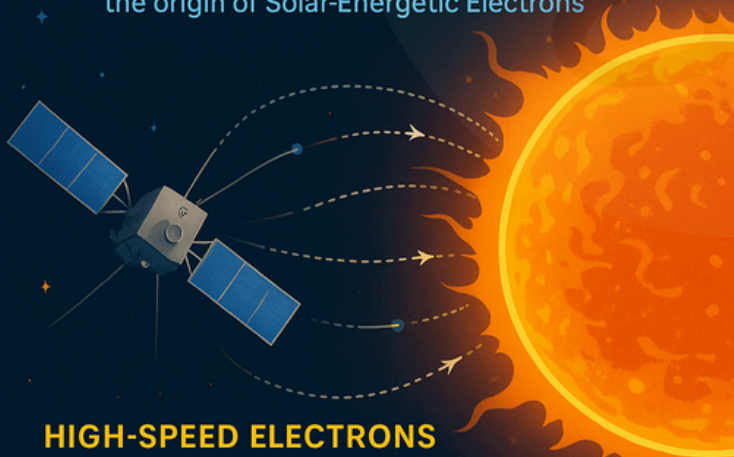
HIGH-SPEED ELECTRONS

SOLAR FLARES Small surface explosions

CORONAL MASS EJECTIONS (CMEs) Large hot gas eruptions

Crucial for understanding space weather, which affects satellites, GPS, and power grids

PRATUSH

(PROBING REIONIZATION OF THE UNIVERSE USING SIGNAL FROM HYDROGEN)

IS A FUTURE LUNAR ORBIT RADIOMETER, DEVELOPED BY RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE (RRI), FUNDED BY DST
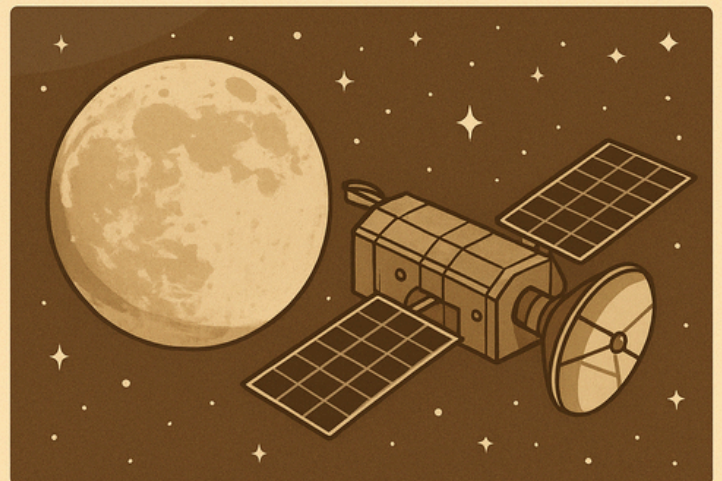
AIMS TO DETECT FAINT RADIO SIGNALS FROM HYDROGEN ATOMS TO TRACE THE UNIVERSE'S TRANSFORMATION POST–BIG BANG

PHASE II
NIVESHAK DIDI

ENHANCE FINANCIAL AWARENESS AND EMPOWER RURAL COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY WOMEN

ABOUT IEPFA

- ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDER THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (COMPANIES ACT, 2013).
- PROMOTES INVESTOR EDUCATION, AWARENESS, AND PROTECTION
- MANAGES IEPF, REFUNDS UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS,

ALSO IN NEWS

BHUPEN HAZARIKA – 100 BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Born in Assam
Known as "Bard of Brahmaputra" and "Sudhakantha" (The Nightingale)

Padma Shri
Padma Bhushan
Padma Vibhushan
Bharat Ratna

Songs on communal harmony, justice, optimism, empathy
Famous works: *Manuhe Manuhar Babe, Moi Eti Jajabor, Bistirno Parore Blended Assamese folk with universal human values Promoted unity and brotherhood among communities*

ANDROTH

Overview: *The Indian Navy has inducted Androth, an indigenously built AntiSubmarine Warfare (ASW) ship.*

About the Vessel:

-Second of eight ASW Shallow Water Crafts (SWCs) under construction at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
-Named after Androth Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago.
-Powered by a diesel engine– waterjet system, equipped with advanced lightweight torpedoes and indigenous ASW rockets.

GREY RHINO EVENT

Wayanad Landslides Grey Rhino: *Likely, highimpact risks often ignored despite clear warnings.*
Not Black Swan: *Predictable, with accumulating evidence.*
Wayanad Case: *Landslideprone zone, repeated past events, yet risks overlooked by authorities*

ALSO IN NEWS

INDIA'S TRILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

India–Iran–Uzbekistan: The first foreign ministry–level trilateral was held in Tehran. The meeting emphasized greater use of Chabahar Port by Uzbekistan for trade with India and highlighted its role alongside the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
India–Iran–Armenia: Another trilateral focused on the INSTC and leveraging Chabahar Port through Armenia.

POLYPROPYLENE

New Development: PM laid the foundation stone for a Polypropylene Plant at Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), Assam.
About: A synthetic resin produced through polymerization of propylene, widely used for its toughness, flexibility, light weight, and heat resistance.

HO TRIBE

Protest: Opposed interference in traditional Manki-Munda governance system.
Munda: Village head, settles disputes.
Manki: Regional head, handles escalated cases.
Identity: Austroasiatic Munda group; also called Ho, Hodoko, Horo, Kolha.
Region: Mainly Jharkhand & Odisha; also in WB, Bihar, Bangladesh, Nepal. Status: Not listed as PVTG.

ALSO IN NEWS

WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Event: Held in Liverpool, UK; first edition to feature men's and women's events together.
India's Performance: 1.Gold: Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Minakshi Hooda (48kg) 2.Silver: Nupur Sheoran 3.Bronze: Pooja Rani Medal Table: Kazakhstan finished on top.

EXERCISE ZAPAD-2025

By Russia with Belarus.
India took part.
Background: Initiated in 1999; held every four years since 2009 as a large-scale multilateral drill.
Objective: Tests preparedness against external threats.
Features: Includes training with nuclear-capable systems, such as Russia's hypersonic Zircon missile.

SCARBOROUGH SHOAL DISPUTE

Philippines: Condemns China's plan to set up a nature reserve.
About: Small atoll in South China Sea — called Huangyan Island (China) and Panatag Shoal (Philippines).
Dispute: Claimed by both nations

EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE (EACOP)

Study found that EACOP could emit 34 **million** tons of carbon

ABOUT

- 1,443 km long
- To connect Tilenga & Kingfisher oilfields (Uganda) to Tanga port (Tanzania)

CONCERNS

- High carbon emissions
- Impact on biodiversity, incl. Murchison Falls National Park (Uganda's oldest & largest)
- Displacement of tribal communities

Rashtriya Gokul Mission

PM inaugurated a Sex-Sorted Semen facility in Bihar under RGM, enabling ~90% chance of female calf births

KEY FACTS

- LAUNCH: 2014
- MINISTRY: Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- SCHEME TYPE: Central Sector
- OBJECTIVES: Conserve indigenous breeds, upgrade genetics, enhance milk yield & productivity
- NODAL AGENCY: Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

PACIFIC REACH 2025

INS NISTAR to participate in multilateral exercise in Singapore

ABOUT PACIFIC REACH

- Biennial, multilateral exercise focused on submarine rescue
- HARBOUR PHASE: Expert exchanges, medical symposium, cross-deck visits and discussions on rescue systems
- SEA PHASE: Live intervention and rescue operations at sea

SECTION 3 (d)
OF INDIAN PATENT ACT, 1970

- IPO revokes Novartis' cardiac drug Vymada patent under Section 3(d)

ABOUT SECTION 3(d):

- Prevents 'evergreening' – extending patents via minor drug modifications without real therapeutic benefit

SIGNIFICANCE:

- Ensures affordable access to medicines; reinforces India's role as the "pharmacy of the world."
- Complies with the Doha Declaration (2001) on TRIPS & Public Health
- Encourages genuine innovation while balancing incentives with affordability

STABLECOINS

RECENT UPDATE
Bank of England has proposed restrictions onwership duto associated risks.

ABOUT
Thes are a type of cryptocurrency whose value is pegged to assets like fiat currency or gold to maintain price stability.

Types: Fiat-collateralized, crypto-coleralized, and algorithmic (non-colateralized)

PROS
- Stable value
- Low-cost and fast cross-border tranfers

CONS
- Risk of mass withdrawals
- Limited elasticity (liquidity issues under high demand)
- Potential misuse for money laundering

POSH ACT, 2013
Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal)

- Supreme Court: Political parties not treated as 'workplaces,' hence excluded from POSH Act
- Origin: Based on *Vishaka* judgment (1997)
- Scope: Applies to all workplaces—government, private, NGOs, educational institutions, hospitals, sports facilities, and includes domestic workers
- Internal Complaints Committee (ICC): Mandatory in workplaces with ≥10 employees; presiding officer + at least 50% members must be women
- Complaint Process: To be filed within 3 months; inquiry must conclude within 90 days

khla
Shrinkhla IAS

SECTION 23(4) OF RPA, 1950

Supreme Court upheld that Aadhaar can be used by voters under this provision

ABOUT
- Empowers electoral registration officers to seek Aadhaar details (under the Aadhaar Act, 2016) for identity verification
- Applies to new applicants and those already on the rolls
- Aims to authenticate entries and eliminate duplicate registrations across constituencies

SIMLIPAL TIGER RESERVE

Environment Ministry orders probe into allegations of fraudulent consent for relocation from core areas

ABOUT STR
- **Location:** Mayurbhanj, Odisha

  Declared: Tiger Reserve in 1956 and induded under Project Tiger in 1973
- **UNESCO:** Part of World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009
- **Key Features:** Joranda & Barehipani waterfalls; rivers Burhabalanga, Palpala Bandan, Salandi, Kahairi and Deo
- **Tribes:** Kolha, Santhala, Bhumija, Bhatudi, Gondas, Khadia, Mankadia and Sahara

CHHATH MAHAPARVA

Consultations held for multinational nomination to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Dedicated to: Sun God and Chhathi Maiya

Celebrated in: Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and diaspora (Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, UAE, Netherlands)

Honors nature, sustainability inclusivity & community spirit

KUNO NATIONAL PARK

- **NEWS:** A cheetah died after a clash with leopard—the first such incident since cheetahs were relocated from Namibia in 2022.

About KNP

NAME: Derived from Kuno River, a tributary of Chambal (which joins Yamuna)

LOCATION: Sheopur district, Vindhyan Hills, Madhya Pradesh

STATUS: Declared Wildlife Sanctuary → later upgraded to National Park

KNOWN FOR: Projects on reintroducing Asiatic lions and cheetah translocation

FLORA: Kardhai, Salai, Khair trees

FAUNA: Leopard, Sambar, Barking deer, Chousingha, Nilgai, Blackbuck

🌾 RABI CROPS

TARGET 3025–26	**362.5 MT** foodgrains production
SEASON	Sown Oct–Dec, harvested Mar–Apr
CLIMATE	Cool for germination, warm & dry for harvest
MSP CROPS	Wheat, Barley, Gram, Lentil, Mustard
OTHERS	Maize, Chickpea, Cumin, Coriander, Fenugreek
↑TARGT:	Maize, Chickpea Cumin, Coriander, Fenugreek

SPIN90 PROTEIN

Scientists have identified SPIN90 as crucial for regulating how cells change shape.

Cells reshape their internal skeleton to form protrusions that fight pathogens, aid wound healing, drive immune response, and influence cancer progression
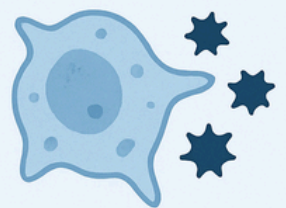
Cell shape depends on an actin network beneath the membrane. For protrusions, cells build a new actin mesh that pushes outward
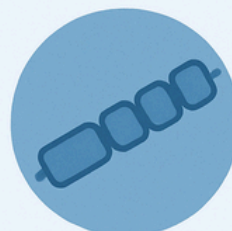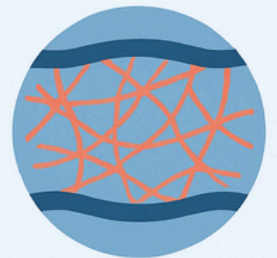
SPIN90 protein controls the formation of this fresh actin network

ICIO

66

8-X Wheeld Armoured Platform (WhAP)

Designed for enhanced survivability, all-terrain performance, and greater letality

Critical Technologies: Integrated power pack with automatric transmisssion

INDIA'S FIRST OVERSEAS DEFENCE PLANT – MOROCCO

Purpose: To produce the Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8

Developers: Jointly by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) & DRDO

About WhAP

- India's First Amphibious Infantry Combat Vehicle
- Designed for survivability, all-terrain mobility, and enhanced lethality

Key Technologies

- Integrated power pack
- Automatic transmission
- Flotation & propulsion system

NIGHTMARE BACTERIA
INCREASING IN THE USA

ABOUT NIGHTMARE BACTERIA

Resistant to all antibiotics and can share resistance genes with other germs

Extremely difficult to treat when antibiotics don't work

E.G.
VANCOMYCIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (VRSA)
CANDIDA AURIS
CARBAPENEM-RESISTANT ENTEROBACTERIACEAE (CRE)

BARREN ISLAND VOLCANO
FRESH ERUPTION REPORTED AT BARREN ISLAND VOLCANO, ANDAMAN ISLANDS

ABOUT BARREN ISLAND

Location: In the Andaman Sea, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India.

- 138 km northeast of Port Blair
- India's only active volcano
- Type: Stratovolcano, part of Andaman volcanic arc
- Importance: Geological research, monitoring volcanic hazards, ecological impact, strategic maritime location

DRAVYA Portal
Digitized Retrieval Application for Versatile Yardstick of AYUSH Substances
Launched on National Ayurveda Day (Sept 23, 2025)

About DRAVYA Portal

Ministry: Initiative of Ministry of Ayush

The largest, continually evolving database of Ayurvedic ingredients and products

It encomposses classical Ayurveda texts, contemporary scientific research, and field studies

OJU HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Expert committee approves 2,200-MW Oju Hydroelectric Project on Subansiri River near India-China border

Subansiri River

Origin: Originates in Tibet and is Largest tributary of the Brahamputra

Course: Enters Arunachal Pradesh, India, flows into Assam, and joins Brahamputra

'Gold River' also called "Gold River" due to gold dust found in its waters

✅ **Significance**

Supports hydropower, agriculture, fisheries, strategic border region, and biodiversity hotspot

Oju Hydroelectric Project

CHINA

INDIA

BRAHMAPUTRA

Subansiri

INDIA

TYLENOL

WHO declared links between prenatal paracetamol (sold as Tylenol in US) use and autism in children as inconsistent

ABOUT TYLENOL (PARACETAMOL)

- Tylenol is the brand name for acetaminophen known internationally as paracetamol.
- It is an over-the-counter medication, used to relieve headaches, muscle aches, and arthritis, and to manage symptoms of colds and flu

ABOUT AUTISM

A condition affecting brain development in children Impacts social behaviour, interaction, and communication

OECD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT

OECD Raises India's 2025 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.7% and Lowers Inflation Projection to 2,9%

Published by: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Biannual report analyzing global and national economic trends

Covers GDP, inflation, employment, trade, investment; Identifies risks of inflation, financial instability geopolitical tensions

Tirah Valley

Over 20 people were killed in an explosion in **Tirah Valley**, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

About Tirah Valley

- A **mountainous region** in west-central Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- Lies on the **Afghanistan–Pakistan border**, between the **Khyber Pass** (linking Kabul with Peshawar) and Khanki Valley.

- Inhabited mainly by **Afridi** and **Orakzai Pashtun tribes**.

- **Historical Note:** Site of the **Tirah Campaign (1897–98)** when Afridis revolted against the British, seizing Khyber posts and attacking forts near Peshawar.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS DAY
Celebrating
M. VISVESVARAYA (1861-1962)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Pioneer Engineer from Karnataka, alumnus of College of Engineering, Pune

- Built Krishna Raja Sagara Dam; invented automatic floodgates

- Introduced block irrigation system in Deccan canals

- Served as Diwan of Mysore; founded University of Mysore

- Authored *Reconstructing India* & *Planned Economy of India*

- Awarded Bharat Ratna (1955)

PERU

PERU, WITH ITS CAPITAL LIMA, IS LOCATED ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF SOUTH AMERICA. IT RECENTLY EXPERIENCED A MAGNITUDE 5.6 EARTHQUAKE OFF ITS SOUTHERN COAST

BORDERS:
Land: Ecuador, Colombia (North), Brazil (East Bolivia (Souteheast) Chile (South)
Sea: Pacific Ocean (West)

KEY GEOGRACHICAL FEATURES:
- Amazon Rainforest (The Selva) Covering nearly half of the county
- Andes Mountains, home to Mt. Huascaran, Peru's highest peak
- Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake, shared with Bolivia

SUPER TYPHOON RAGASA – PHILIPPINES

A Super Typhoon is a tropical cyclone with wind speeds exceeding 185 km/h (100 knots).

Structure:
Warm-core low-pressure system with spiral inflow at the surface and outflow aloft

Formation:
Develops over oceans with sea surface temperature > 26°C, usually at latitudes > 5° from the equator

Regional Names:
Hurricane – North Atlantic, Eastern & South Pacific
Cyclone – Indian Ocean
Typhoon – Western North Pacific
Willy-willy – Southern Indian Ocean (East)

MORAN COMMUNITY

- **CURRENT ISSUE:** Launched an economic blockade in Assam's Tinsukia, demanding ST status.

ABOUT THE MORANS

ORIGINS: Indigenous tribe of Assam, among its earliest inhabitants; led the 18th-century Moamoria Rebellion against the Ahoms

CULTURE: Once spoke their own language (akin to Dimasa); now mostly speak Assamese

LOCATION: Concentrated in Upper Assam—Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, and Sivasagar

IEA REPORT: OIL & GAS FIELD DECLINE

FASTER DECLINE:
Shale & deep offshore fields depleting quickly → supply & price risks

INDIA'S RISK:
85% crude, 45% gas imports → high exposure to disruptions

POLICY STEPS:
- Diversify imports
- Expand reserves
- Boost domestic output
- Push green hydrogen & biofuels

- **MoU:** India partners with ILO to promote ISCO

ISCO

- Classifies jobs by tasks/duties
- Aids research & policymaking

MISSION

- Labour standards, rights at work
- Equal opportunities, social security

ILO

- Founded: 1919 (Treaty of Versailles)
- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland
- Award: Nobel Peace Prize, 1969
- Principle: Social justice = lasting peace

DENMARK
(Capital: Copenhagen)

INDIA–DENMARK TIES:
- Reaffirmed Green Strategic Partnersht to boost economic ties, green growth, job creation, and Paris Agreement goals

POLITICAL FEATURES
- Nordic, Scandinavian country in northern Europe; part of Jutland Penisula and EU member.
- Borders Germany: flanked by North Sea (west) and Baltic Sea (est)
- Georeseves Greenland (world's largest island) and Faroe Islands

GEOGRAPHY
- Archipelago of ≈ 400 islands: largest is Zealand
- Longest river: Gudenå
- Climate: Moderated by Gulf Stream; rainfall yraund-rround

Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961

ECI revised Rule 49B to improve EVM Ballot paper readiabiity to enhance consumer protection, starrting with Bihar State Elections.

ABOUT THE RULES (1961):

- Legal framework under Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- Governs polling, voting & counting procedures
- Defines responsonsabilities of election officers, candidates, etc.
- Priority Actions
  - Legal framewark under ileredcatcorly processor's recedures

Payment Aggregators – RBI Guidelines

RBI issued revised rules to enchance consumer protection & curb fraud.

About Payment Aggregators (PAs)

- Entities that collect customer payments for merchants via physical/virtual interfaces
- Examples: Paytm, Google Pay, PayPal
- Must be registered under Companies Act, 2013
- Non-bank PAs need RBI authorization under the Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- Climate: Tropical, humid Major Rivers: Zambezi, Limpoo, Save, Ruvuma

MOZAMBIQUE

Update: Indian Navy's First Training Squadron visited Mozambique to mark 50 years of diplomatic ties.

POLITICAL FEATURES

Location	Southeast Africa
Borders:	North → Tanzania
	South/Southwest → South Africa, Eswatatini
Water Bodies	West → Zimbabwe
	Northwest → Zambia, Malawi

GEOGRAPHY

Climate	Tropical, humid
Major Rivers	Zambezi, Limpopo, Save, Ruvuma
Highest Peak	Monte Binga
	Climate: Troppicil humid

Genocide Convention

Update:
UN Commission of Inquiry analyzed Israel's conduct i Gaza under the Genocide Convention.

About the Convention

Definition: Genocide = acts intende to destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group (in whole or part)

Applicability: Crime in both war & peace

India: Signed in 1949, ratified in 1959

ICJ Role: Adjudicates disputes on interpretation & application **6**

Eurasian Economic Union

Early Harvest FTA
Preliminary deal between trading partners that reduces tariffs on select goods before a full FTA

About EAEU

- International organization for regional economic Integration established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union

- **Objective:** To enhance competitiveness, foster economic cooperation, and ensure stable economic development

Russia

Kazakhstan

Russia

Armenia

Belarus

Kyrgyzat Republic

HYBRID ANNUITY MODEL (HAM)

UPDATE: NHAI TIGHTENED CONTRACTOR NORMS TO CHECK UNAUTHORIZED PARTICIPATION.

ABOUT: LAUNCHED IN 2016, HAM IS A PPP MODEL MAINLY FOR ROAD PROJECTS.

KEY FEATURES: FUNDING: GOVT. PAYS 40% IN 5 INSTALLMENTS; DEVELOPER INVESTS 60% (DEBT & EQUITY).

RISK SHARING: GOVT. BEARS REVENUE RISK; DEVELOPER HANDLES FINANCING RISK.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan

About Swath Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan
- Over 10 lahk health camps to screen women for anaemia, hip-tensiension, diabetes, and cancer, while supporting immurization and nutrition to reduce materral and child mortality

Ministries
- Joint effort by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Women & Child Development

Technology SASHAKT portal
- Tracks progress and ensures accountability in real time

Community Role
- Anganwadis, Nikkshay Mitras, private hospitals

One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme

Update: SC ruled that defaulters can avail OTS benefits only if all bank conditions are met.

About OTS
- Launched: RBI guridelines, 2005; implementation by banks
- Purpose: Settle chronic NPAs in SME sector across PSBs
- Mechanism: Lump-sum repayment with 25% upfront, rest within 1 year

Mechanism
- Lump-sum repayment with 25% upfront, rest within 1 year

Significance
- Quick recoverı & cleaner balance sheets for banks
- Relief for borrowers from legal action

Multidisciplinary Partnership

About MDP

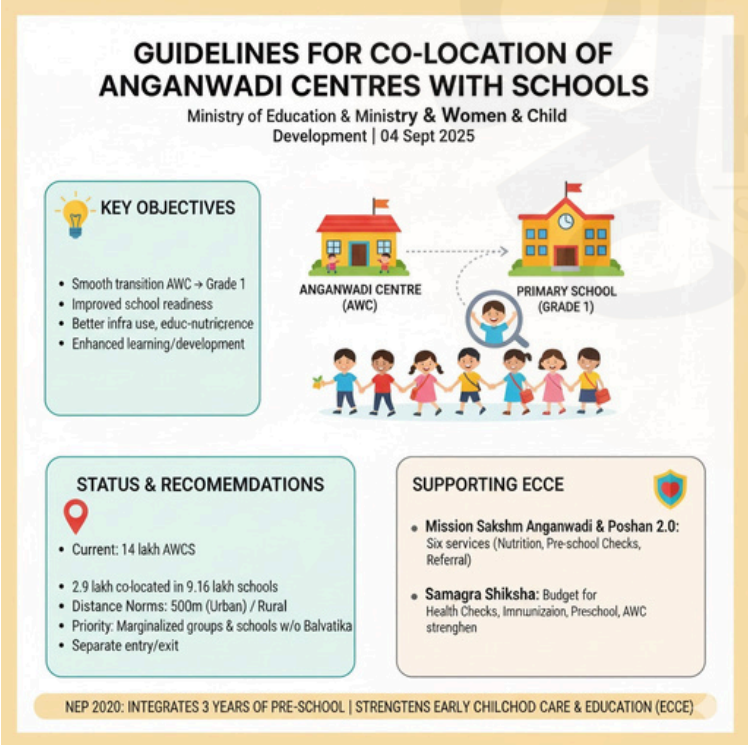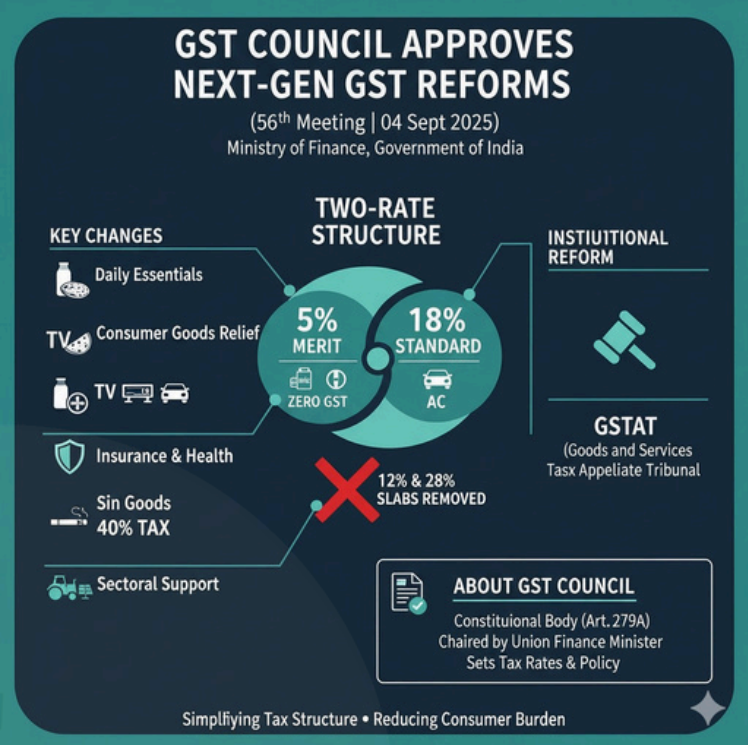- It a form of partnership that renders multiple services le maintainance of cost records, accounting, auditing, assurance and management

- Current regulations prohibit professionals from different fields from working together in the same firm
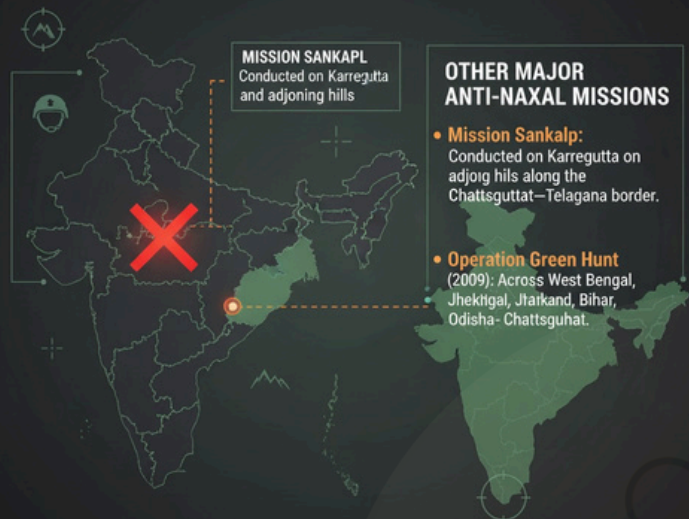
Significance

- If approved, MDP firms could tap $240 billion global market

- Helps boost-r self-reliance in areas suc ESG advisory and tech services

CRITICAL MINERAL RECYCLING INCENTIVE SCHEME

₹1500 CROORE • 6 YEARS • 270 KT CAPACITY

SUPPORT MECHANISMS

SCHEME DETAILS
- Tenure: FY25-26 to B'30-21 (6 Years)
- Feedstock: E-waste, Li-ion Batteries, Catalatic Converers
- Total Fund Allocation

- 20% CAPEX Subsidy
- OPEX SUPEIDY (Year 2 5)
- Incentive Cap: ₹50 cr (Large), (25, Small/New)

EXPECTED IMPACT
- 270 KT Recycling Capacity 40 KT Mineral Output
- ₹8,00 CR Private Investment ₹7,000 Jobs Created

Strengthens Domestic Recovery • Reduces Import Dependence

GST COUNCIL APPROVES NEXT-GEN GST REFORMS

(56th Meeting | 04 Sept 2025)
Ministry of Finance, Government of India

TWO-RATE STRUCTURE

KEY CHANGES
- Daily Essentials
- TV Consumer Goods Relief
- TV
- Insurance & Health
- Sin Goods 40% TAX
- Sectoral Support

5% MERIT — ZERO GST
18% STANDARD — AC

✗ 12% & 28% SLABS REMOVED

INSTIUITIONAL REFORM

GSTAT
(Goods and Services Tasx Appelate Tribunal)

ABOUT GST COUNCIL
Constituional Body (Art. 279A)
Chaired by Union Finance Minister
Sets Tax Rates & Policy

Simplfiying Tax Structure • Reducing Consumer Burden

GUIDELINES FOR CO-LOCATION OF ANGANWADI CENTRES WITH SCHOOLS

Ministry of Education & Ministry & Women & Child Development | 04 Sept 2025

KEY OBJECTIVES
- Smooth transition AWC → Grade 1
- Improved school readiness
- Better infra use, educ-nutricrence
- Enhanced learning/development

ANGANWADI CENTRE (AWC) → PRIMARY SCHOOL (GRADE 1)

STATUS & RECOMEMDATIONS
- Current: 14 lakh AWCS
- 2.9 lakh co-located in 9.16 lakh schools
- Distance Norms: 500m (Urban) / Rural
- Priority: Marginalized groups & schools w/o Balvatika
- Separate entry/exit

SUPPORTING ECCE
- **Mission Sakshm Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0:** Six services (Nutrition, Pre-school Checks, Referral)
- **Samagra Shiksha:** Budget for Health Checks, Imnunizaion, Preschool, AWC strenghen

NEP 2020: INTEGRATES 3 YEARS OF PRE-SCHOOL | STRENGTENS EARLY CHILCHOD CARE & EDUCATION (ECCE)

ENVIRONMENT AUDIT RULES, 2025 NOTIFIED

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)

KEY FEATURES
- Environment Audit Designate Agency (EADA)
  - Certified
  - Certified
  - Assigned Randomally
- Registered Environment Auditors (REAS
  - Sanpling; Analysis
- Responsiilties of REAS Samlyins, Assessmont
  - Compenation
  - Green Credit Verification, Audits

TWO-TIER SYSTEM

CPCB | SPCBs | MoEFCC Regional Offices

Independent Audits by REAS

OVERSIGHT

Steering Committee
(Chaired by MoEFCC Addl. Secretary)
Reviews & Recommends Reforms

Streamlines Compliance • Strict Oversight

OPERATION BLACK FOREST

Largest Anti-Naxal Operation on Karregutta Hill, Chattsguhat—Telagana Border

MISSION SANKAPL
Conducted on Karregutta and adjoining hills

OTHER MAJOR ANTI-NAXAL MISSIONS

- **Mission Sankalp:** Conducted on Karregutta on adjoig hils along the Chattsguttat—Telagana border.
- **Operation Green Hunt** (2009): Across West Bengal, Jhektigal, Jtarkand, Bihar, Odisha- Chattsguhat.

Combating Extremism for Peace and Security

Interstellar Dust Grains Align with Milky Way's Magnetic Fields

- **About**

Origin: Formed in the cool outer outer layers stars of stars stars (e.g, .red giants) expllelled by radiation pressure, stellar winds, or explosions.

Composition: Mainy amturhous silicates and carbon-based materials.

Role in Star Formation: Dust cools and shields molecular clouds, enabling enabling gravational collapse to form new stars.

GERMANY AT A GLANCE

POLITICAL
- One of Europe's largest nations.

FRANCE, LUXYEMOOURG, BELIGUM & NETRDERANDS

BALTIC SEA (NE)

GEOGRAPHIAL
- Major Rivers: Rhine (longest) Elbe Darube Temperate...
- Climate: Temperate: Alps Bavarian Highlands
- Largest Lake: Lake Constance

NOLTIC SEA

CZECH & REPUBLIC (E)

DENMARK (N)

KIEL CANAL (NE)

NORTH SEA (NW)

AUSTRIA & SWITRRAND (S)

AUSTRIA & SWITERILAND (S)
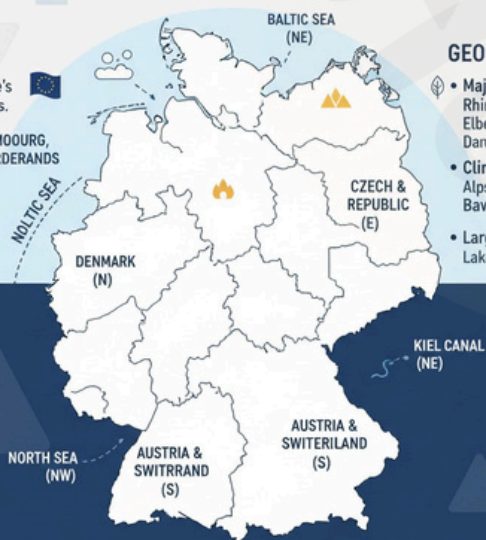
Central European Powerphose

200th Birth Anniversary of
Dadahai Naoroji
(1825—1917)

The Grand Old Man of India • Firs Indian MP in British Parliament

SOCIAL REFORMS
- Championed women's education
- Founded Literary and Scientific Society (1448) Iodohsaper
- Promoted reform via Rast Gofar newspaper
- Rahnumai Mazdayasan Sabha (1851)

ECONOMIC THOUGHT
- Drain of Wealth theiry
- Authored Poverty of India (1876) Poverty and Un-Brtish Rule Brərrish Rule in India (19001)
- Founded East India Association

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
- Constitutional, peaeful methods
- First Indian Society (1865) Declared Swrraj as Inisth Rch goal (1992)
- Mentored Gokhale, Tilak, Gandhi

ABOUT
- Founding member of INC
- INC President: 1886, 1993, 1906

Laid the intelectual & poltical foundation for India's freedom movement

VULTURES: Conservation in India

DIVERSITY
- Slender-billed 9 species:
- White-rumpud
- Himalalan Griffon
- Egoptries, Indian
- Eurasian Griffon

ROLE
Nature's scavengers, they clean the environment

- Toxic NSAIDs (dicilofanc)
- Habitat loss
- Electrruction
- Food shortage
- Human disturbance

INDIA'S FIRST CONSERVATION PORTAL

Haryına

Assam

THREATS

CONSERVATION
Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres
(Rani, Assam & Pinjore, Haryana)

Action Plan for Vulture Conservation in India 2020–25

COFFEE
Key Facts & Production in India

INTRODUCTION:
Brought to India in the 17ᵗʰ century by Baba Budan at Chikmagalur, Karnaka

REQUIREMENTS:
- Tropical climate; 15–28 °C,
- 150–250 cm rainfall
- Well-drained loamy soil
- Shade; Hill slopes preferred

KEY REGIONS
Nilgiri belt across Kerela, and Tamil Nodu

GLOBAL STANDING:
Brazil — India (7ᵗʰ-largest)

India is the 7ᵗʰ-largest producer; Brazil leads.

INDIA'S PRODUCTION:
- Major Arabica & Robusta exporter
- Top states:
  - Karnatka, ≅70%, Kerela,
  - Kerala, Andhra Pradesh,
  - Odisha, athe North-Eest

IMPACT OF CLIMATE
Prolooned rains and cold have damaged Karhatka's key coffee belt— Chikmagaluru, Coorg, and Hassan

---

INDIAN ROSEWOOD
(Dalbergia latilofia)

- **TREE:** Single-stemned decisrus, dome-shaped crown. Foliuge on wet sites.
- **BARK:** Gray, thin, short cracks, fibrous flakes.
- **BARK:** Gray, thin, short cracks, fibrous flakes.
- **HABIAT:** 750–5,000 mm rain. Laterite, Alluival, Black Cotton soils.

USES:
- VALUABLE TIMBER
- HONEY PRODUCTION
- **TRADITIONAL MEDICINE:** Diarrhoea, Worms, Indigestion, Leprosy.

STUDY: TAMIL NAU - LOWEST DENSITY IN SOUTH INDIA

Kenya
Malaysia
Myanmar.
Ngeria
Nigeria
Vietnam

NATIVE RANGE ——   ■ INTRODUCED


Nalanda University

Bhutan's PM recently visited Nalanda University.

Ancient Nalanda
- **Founded:** 5ᵗʰ century CE by Gupta emperor Kumaraguapa in Rajgir, Bihar.
- **Significance:** World's first residental university; now a UNESCO Heritage Site.
- **Patrons:** Supported by Harshavardahna (7ᵗ CE) Pala rulerd (Pala rulers 8ᵗʰ—12ᵗʰ CE.
- **Decline:** Weakened from 9ᵗʰ CE due due Tantric shifts in Buddhism; destroyed around around 1200 CE by Bakhytar Khilji.

Scholars
- Drew students from China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sril-ad Sh, and Southeast Asia.
- Chinese pligrim Xuanzang recorded rich academic life.
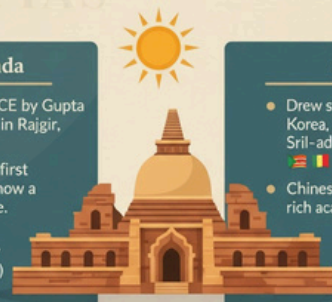
A Beacon of Knowledge and Global Learning in Ancient India

EQUITY DERIVATIVES

SEBI Has Introduced a New Framework to Monitor Intraday positions

Effective from October 1, the net intraday posiction is capped at 5,000 crore rupees per entity in index options

ABOUT EQUITY DERIVATIVES

A derivative is a financial instrument whose value is derived from the value of an underlying asset.

The underlying asset can be equity shares or index, precious metals, commodities, currencies, interest rates etc.

- Equity derivatives are instruments whose values are partly derived from one or more underlying equity asset class.

- Futures and Options are the most commonyly-traded equity derivatives products

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NITI Aagog Report: Accelerating Growth in Pulses for Atmanilrharta

Posted 05 Sep 2025

India: World's Largest Producer 28% & Consumer

Nutritional Security & Sustainable Farming

KEY CHALLENGES

Low Yield
India 0.74 t/ha vs Global 97 tha

Crop Shift
Area -10.5%
Sroution -11.2ha

Shrinking Area
Area -10.5%
Production -11.2%

Rain Dependence
~80% Rainfed

ROADMAP TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Horizontal Expansion
Rice Fallows, Intercopping, Quadrant Strategy

Vertical Expansion
Productivity, Modern Machinery, Machinery, Agronomy

Varietal Development
Climate-Resilent, Nutrient-Rich, Pest-Resistant

Seed Quality & Access
One Block–One Seed Village, FPOS, Subsidies

INDIA-SINGAPORE: 60 YEARS OF FRIENDSIP

Prime Minister's Visit to India (2025)

KEY OUTCOMES

Economic: CECA & AITIGA Review, Semisoucators, Space (IN-SPACe, OSTin)

Defense & Security: AI, Quantum, Unminned Vessels, Counter-Terrorism

Digitalisation: UPI-PayNow, Fintech Cyberloeristy

Skills
Manufazturing Centre (Chennai)

KEY OUTCOMES

Sustainablity: Green Hydrogen, Urban Water, Civil Nuclear, ISA, GBA

Connecivity
Green & Digital Shipping Corridor

Healthcare
Digital Health, Disease Survellance

Culture & People
Cultural & Social Exchanges

Annual Miniserial Roundtade to review CSP Progress

NALANDA UNIVERSITY

Bhutan's PM Recently Visited Nalanda University

ANCIENT NALANDA

- Founded: 5th century CE by Gupta emperor Kumaragupta in Raigir, Bihar.

- Significance: World's first residential university; now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- Patrons: Supported by Harshavardhana (7th CE) and Pala rulers (8th–12th CE)

- Scholars: Drew students from China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia

- Decline: Weakened from 9th CE due to Tantric shifts in Buddhism; destroyed around 1200 CE by Bakhtiyar Khilji

India's Lithium-ion Battery Push: Manufacturing and Future Outlook
India's Largest-ion Plant Inaugurated in Haryana

Capacity:
20 Cr Battery Packs/Year, ~40% of India's Need

Established Under:
Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) Scheme

About Li-ion Batteries

Graphite — Negative → + ⚡ −
Li Transitional Metal Oxides
Non-Aqueiau Electroyte

Benefits
- High Energy Density (75-200 Wh!/kg)
- Lightweight & Less Toxic & ton Efficiency
- Lightweight Performance & Efficiency

Challenges
- Safety Hazards (Flammbale Electroyte)
- Supply Chain Vulnerabilty (China Dominance)
- Environmental Impact (Water-Intensive Mining)
- Lack of Recycling Units

The Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) Scheme

- **Launched:** 2012 by MeiTY
  Aim: World-class infrastuure for ESDM Sector
- **Aim:** World-class infrastucture for Sector

Grant Support:
- Greenfield EMC: 50% ₹50 Cr/110 Acres)
- Brownfield EMC ₹50 Cr/Project

New facility boosts India's EV and consumer electronitors. Focus shifts to raw material security and recycling infrastructure

ADR Report: Rising Criminalization in Indian Politics
Posted 05 Sep 2025
2 min read

Key Findings
- 47% of 643 ministers face criminal charges
- 27% face cases of murder, attempt of murder, kikdraping or crimes agaisht women

Causes
- **Muscle–Money Nexus:** Criminals aid politicians in wining elections
- **Money Power:** High election costs and corruption
- **Identity Politics:** Caste/religion owteh weak laws, slow trials

Impact
- **Eroles Democracy:** Weakens rule of low and accounaibility
- **Justice Denied:** "Government of criminals' replacing democracy

Measures So Far
- **Legislative**
  Represenetation vs ADR (2002): Disqualfies legislators discolsure for 2 charges
- **Judical**
  Representation of People Act, 1951: Disqualles Islators convicted for-2 years
- **Judical**
  Public Interest Foundation (2018): publish candidats' criminal recxds): Imediate disgisulization on conviction

Source: Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) | Date: 2025

Sample Registration System (SRS) Statisical Report 2023
Annual Estimates of Fertility & Mortality in India
Posted 05 Sep 2025

Key Findings

Total Fertiility Rate (TFR
1.9
Below replacement level (2.1)
Highest: Bihar 2.8 | Lowest, Delhi 1.2

Infant Motrality Rate IMR
25 IMR ↓
Down from 32 (2018)
Highest: Chattsguarr, MP, UP, UP – 37
1 in 40 infants die before before Keurala > 5

Under-5 Motrality Rate U5MR
29
Highest: Bihar 25.8
Down from a lower female U5MR

Crude Birth Rate CBR
18.4   6.4
Highest: Blam 30 (2022)
Mainly due to lower TaminlNadu 12.0

Sex Raxio at Birth (SRB (221–23)
917 (2021–23)
Highest: Chattsguarr 974
Rural: 914, Urban. 925

Key Terms

- **TFR:** TFR: Avg. children a woman bears in her reprodative years.
- **IMR:** Infant deaths per 1,000 liad births.
- **IMR:** IMR: ant deaths (<1 year) per 1,000 live births.
- **UBR:** Probability (per 1,000) of ar a child drtying before age five.
- **CBR:** Highest: Chatisguarr per 1,000 population.
- **CDR:** Highest: Chattsguarr 974 | Utkarthand Utkarthand 868
- **CDR:** Sex Ratis per 1,010 population.

Sex Raxios per 1,000 males.

Source: Sample Registration System (RSS) | Registar General & Census Commuisnser, India | Date: 2025

INDIA JOINS HEALTHAI GLOBAL REGULATIORY NETWORK (GRN)
Collaborating for Equiatble & Safe AI in Healthcare
Supporting the IndiaAI Strategy

HealthAI & GRN

- **HealthAI:** Geneva-based nonorlft. Promotes equitible AI healthcare, with governments fonsv for AI AI governance.
- **GRN:** Global Public Repository of AI Health Solutions. Showcases registered AI tools from member nations nations (India, UK Singapore)

Key Recomendations for AI in Healthcare

- **Ethical Data Use:** Responsible, secure data access
- **Domain Expertise:** Engage tncage medical professionals
- **Robust Infrastructure:** Computing & cloud capacity
- **Implementation Research:** Address on-ground challenges
- **Workforce Training:** UkssII healthcare staff

Source: HealthAI Global Regulsatory Network | Date: 2025

INDIA'S ANTI-DOPING BOOST:
Methandienone Metabolite Reference Material

Rare Reference Material Developed

NDTL
(National ual Depe Testing Laboatery)

NIPER-Guwahti
(National Institute of Education of Research)

India develops crucial RM to strengthen anti-doping testing

Purpose & Impact

What are RMs? Highly purified drug / metablate samples essential for accurate detection of 450+ WADA-prohibited substances

Use: Enables precise identification of athletes using storids like Methadienone

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NIRF Rankings 2025: Key Outcomes and Overview
National Institutional Ranking Framework released by the Union Government.

Key Highlights

1 Overall: IIT Madras

1 Universities: Indian Institute of Science (ISc), Bengaluru

About NIRF

- **Origin:** Launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Education (MoE).
- **Purpose:** Transparent system for students & polkyskres to evaluate institutions

Assessment Parameters
Five broad, weighted parameters are used

Parameter	Value	
Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR)	19%	30%
Research and Professional Practice (RP	30%	20%
Outreach and Inclusivity (GO)	GO	10%
	10%	PR

Mission Mausam
Enhancing Weather & Climate Services for India

IMD to add 4 new radars in Jammu & Kansair

Launch: 2024 by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

Implemeating Agencies: IMD, NCMRWF, and ITM

Aim:

Enhance weather and climate services through better observation, modelling, and forecasting

- Support Agriculture
- Disaster Management
- Rural Development

Teachers' Day - Honourring
Dr. Sarvepelli Radhakrrisshan
His birth anniversary is celebrated natiowide as Teachers' Day

About Dr. Radakrrinman

Renouned philosoper and educator, who saw education as a force for social transformation.

Key Contributions

- Professor of Eastern Religions & Ethics at Oxford University
- Indian delegate to the League Nationss Nations (1930s)
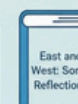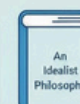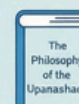- Ambassdor to India (1552– 62) Union son (1449–52)
- Vice-President of India (552–62) & President (1962–67)
- Bridged Eastern and West philosophies, making Indian thought accessible globally

Major Works

- The Principal Upanashads
- Fhe Hindd
- Hindu View of Life
- The Philosophy of the Upanashads
- An Idealist Philosphy
- An View of Life
- East and West: Some Reflections

WORLD'S FIRST AI MINISTER APPOINTED IN ALBANIA

Diella, an AI-generated bot will manage and aword telenters for government projects ammg-emacn

Diella

ROLE OF AI IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND GOVERNANCE

- **Enhanced Decision-Making**: AI improves efficiency in healtefhcare, urban planning, traffic, and pandernic response. (E.g. RAHAT app aids
- **Objectivity and Anti-Corruption**: Automated systems reduce discetonary bias in welfare and service delivery
- **Public interaction**: AI chatbots and apps like UMANG manage large citizen inquiries and grievances

ISSUES WITH AI IN PUBLIC SERVICE

- **Undermining** Democracy: AI aids governance but cannot replace elected officials
- **Social Justice**: Misflagging in AI-driven benefits can hurt access
- **Biae and Discrimination**. AI systems can perpetuate blases in training data
- **Transparency** and **Accoutability**: Advanced AI models often operate as "black boxes"

Sustainable Mining in India

New Initiatives Launched by the Ministry of Coal

L.I.VES

A Practiioner's Guide for Responsible Mine Closore

Sets global best-practice standards for sustainable and responsible closure of coal & lignite mines

ARTHA

Green Finacing Framework

Channels investments to transform reclamed mines into productive, eco-friendly assets

Launched at the Star Rating Award Ceremony for Coal & Lignite Mines

2025

PEACE PACT WITH KUKI-ZO GROUPS

Recently, a tripartite Suspension of Operation (SoO) Agreement was renewed between the Centre, the Manipur government, and insurgent groups comprising Kuki-Zo, Zomi and Hmars.

ABOUT THE AGREEMENT

- Came into force: August 22, 2008

22

- Objective: To end hostilities by initiating political dialogue and finding a political settlement within the Constitution of india

OTHER PEACE PACTS IN NORTH EAST INDIA

- NLFT(SD) Agreement (2019): Signed with National Liberation Front of Tripura
- Bodo Accord (2020): With Bodo groups (Assam); disbanded by March 2020
- Karbi Accord (2021): With Karbi groups (Assam); over 1,000 cadres joined mainstream

Kuki-Zo Peace Pact Reweed

Tripanitie Suspension of Operation (SoO) Agreement Renewred Renewed in Manipur

About the SoO Agreement

In Force Since:
August 22, 2008

Objective: End hostilties, political dialogue for settlement within Constitution of India.
Groups: Kuki-Zo, Zomi, Hmars

Other Key Peace Pacts in in Northest India

NLFT(SD) Agreement (2019)
Tripura
Signed with National Liberation Front of Tripurta

Bodo Accord (2020)
Groups disablaed by March larch 2020

Karbi Accord (2021) Over 1,000 cadres joined mainsteam

Sedimntation Crisis Threetants India's Reservours
IISER Bhopal Study Reveals Storage Loss, Heightcted Risks

The Crisis
ISER Bhopal Study Finds:

50% ↓
Average storage loss due sediment builtiup in 300+ large reservoris

Reduced power, flood flood/drought protection

Many reservoris face similar losses by 2050

Causes: Soil erosion, deforestation, floods

Dams in India & Safety Concerns

5,700
3rd-largest dam-owning nation

~80% over 25 years old

Seismic risk: Many in eartquake zones

Funding gaps: Irroular maintenance

Way Forward
- Decominssion ageing dams (where needed)
- Deploy state of-astarat safety technology Explore sub-surface dams (Japan model)
- Priotriize high-vullenbablity reservoris

Key Initiatives
- Dam Safety Act 2021: Surevillance, inspection, maintenance
- DRIP (World Bank): Rehabilliation & upgrades
- National Centre of Eariqueale Safety of Dams
- Digital tools: DHARMA (health monitoring), NRLD (registry)

Strategic Mineral Mining: EIA Public Hearing Exemption

Exempted Projects
- Mining of atomic minerals (urailium, monaax)
- Critical/strategic minerals (thorum, monaax)
- lithium, cobalt, cobalt, rare earth elements)

Reasons for Exempion
- National security
- Import reduction
- Faster clearances

Concerns
- Legal dilution
- Transparency & aicounability loss
- Social unrest
- Precdent risk

Environmental Impact Assessment EIA
- **Origin:** Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- **Purpose:** Predict & assess environmental impats
- **Role:** Balance development & ecological protection

Ayurveda Ahara: Promoting Traditional Indian Foods

FSSAI & Ministry of Ayush Define Ayurveda Aahara Products Under Food Safety and Standards (Ayuveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022

Key Guidelines
- Sets clear rules for food businsess
- Ensures authenicity & safety
- Based a classical Ayurvedic texts

Examples of Ayuveda Ahara
- Angarkarkati (baked wheat balls)
- Krishara
- Krishara (khichdi)
- Panaka (fruit drinks)
- Dahhi (curd-based items)
- Gulkand (rose petal jam)

Hallmarking: Ensuring Purity & & Trust in Jewelery

Voluntary HUID-based Hallmarking for Silver Jewellry Introduced

What is Hallmarking?

Meaning:
- Accurate certification of the precious metal content in jewellery or articles.

Purpose:
- Ensures authenicitt, quality, consumer protection, and trasiballity.

Regulator:
Bureau of Indian Sirdards (BIS)

Bureau of Iallmarin Standards (BIS)

Role:
- India's national standards body Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Established
- BIS Act 1986; operates under BIS BIS Act 2016

Functions
- Formulates standards, certifies ISI mark, (ISI Hallmarking), runs testing labs

Merger of Companies

New Rules to Simplify Business Operations

What is a Merger?

- Definition: Combines two more independent companies

- Types:
  - Horizontal
  - Vertical
  - Conglomerate

Legal Basis & Signifcance

- Legal Basis: Companies Act, 2013, NCLT Approval

- Signifcance:
  - Simplifies Procedures, Eases Business, Reduces Compliance

Source: Companies Act 2013 | Date: 2025

Acharya Vinoba Bhave
(1895–1882)

Birth anniversary of the national teacher and spiritual heir of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated. Born in Gagde, Maharashtra, he embodied austerity. simplicity, justice, and equity.
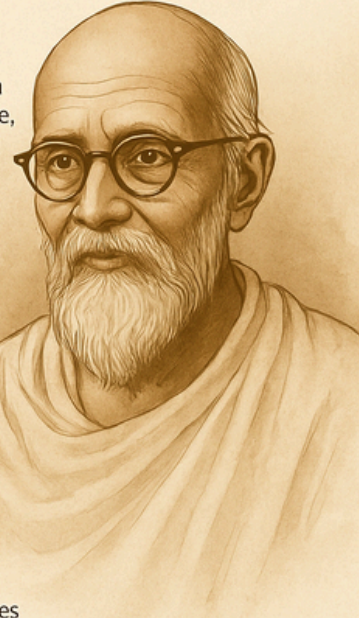
Key Contributions

Freedom Struggle
First satyagrahi in the Individual Civil Disobedience and participant in the Quit India Movement

Constructive Work
Taught at Sabarmati Ashram; promoted khadi, education, and sanitation

Gram-Seva Mandal (1934)
Organised village service initlatives

Bhoodan Movement (1951)
Non-violent campaign to redistrbute land to the landless

Literary Works

Gitai, Gita Pravachane,

India's Rising NCD Mortality vs Global Declines

Lanctet Study reveals alarming trend (2010-2019)

Key India Findings

Higher Risk:
Probablity of dying an NCD before age 80 increased

Major Drivers: Heart disease and diabetes lead a rise

About Non-Comnuicicable Diseases (NCDs)

- Definition: Chronic illness not spread person-terson

- Main Types: Cardivusivar diseases, cancers,
  Main Types: Card'ocusicar diseases, disabetes,
- India's Burden: NCD share of deaths from 38% (1990) to 63% (2018)

Way Forwarr

- Strengthen primary healthcare, digital tools for early detection

- Policy & multi-sector measures to cut risk factors

Key Causes

Lifestyle risks

Pollution, stress

Urbanastion, ageing, poverty

Key Initiatives

Eat Right India

Fit India Movement (2019)

NP-NCD

Ayusman Bharat–PM-JAY

Source: Lancet Study | Posted 12 Sep 2025

Green Finance – Backbon of Resilient Economies

Channels Investment for a Sustainable Future

Importance

- Net-zero funding: $10+ trillion by 2070
- Security & competisinises:
  Clean power, resilient infrastrcture
- Jobs: 7.3 million green jobs by 2027-28

Key Challenges

- Policy gaps: Uneven state policies
- Low ESG expertie in FIS
  High financing cost: ~10% for solar
- Funding sharffolt: $21B green bonds vs 500GW target

Major Initiatives

Green Clenate Fund (GCF) – $100B/year
Special Climate Change Fund SCCF

- India:
  GSSS Bonds (green, yellow, blue)
  Climate Change Finance Unit (CCFU)

Co-benefits

Disaster resilience
Just energy transition

Source: Various Economic Reports | Date: 12 Sep 2025

Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TIP)

Launched by Union Home Minister at Key Airports

Purpose & Coverage

- Clears immigration in ~30 seconds
- Avoids queues & manual manual checks
- Launched: 2024 at Delhi, now 13+ airports

Eligibility & Locations

- Indian Citizens
- OCI Cardholders

- Luckow
- Thiruvanation
- Thiuvanna
- Trichy
- Kozkisad
- Delhi

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs | Date: 2025

Disaster Risk Index (DRI)

Himichali Pradesh CM urges 16th Finance Commission to reframe DRI

About DRI

- Developed by: 15th Finance Commission
- Purpose: Objective resource allocation by assessing states' disaster risks

Scope

Hazards Vulnerabilties

- 14 Hazards (eatrrquake, cycone, flood, drought, etc.)
- 2 Vulenaabilties (poor, women, population, GDP)

Key Issue

Himicahali Pradesh CM urges reframing for more accurate, data-driven assessment

Source: 15th Comnisssion | Date: 2025

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Source: 15th Comnisssion | Date: 2025

Commowalth Parlialatary Association (CPA)

1th CPA India Region Conference inagurated in Bengaluru

About CPA

- Founded: 1911
- Members: 180+ legisllatures (India included)
- Headqurards: Houses of Parliament, London

Purpose

- Platform for parmailatary dialogue, cooporation, and exchange of best practices on on issues of common interest.

Source: Commowalth Parilallatary Association | Date: 2025

LARGE SHIPS GET INFRASTARCTURE STATUS

Ministry of Finance Boosts Domestic Shilblbling & Maritme Sector

DEFINITION OF LARGE SHIPS

- Commercial vessles under Indian ownnship & flag with:
- ≥10,000 GT, or
- ≥1,50,0 GT if built in India

BENEFITS OF HML INCLUSION

- Easier access to infrastucture lending, external commercial borowings (ECBS)
- Viablity gap funding
- Tax incentives

INDIA'S SHIPPING SECTOR

CURRENT SCENARIO:
- 95% trade handled by foreign ships; SS75B paid annually for shipping service services.
- Shipbulding share: Only 0.06% globally.

TARGET 2047:
- Among top 5 shipbulders ₹54 trillion investment planned und Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision
- High borowing ceing flet, tax gaps, skill shortaces

KEY INITIATIVES

- Bharat Container Shipping Line under SCI
- Coastal Green Shipping Corridor (Kandla–Tuticorrin)
- S2I2 (Sagarmala Startup & luation & Maritime Innovation Hubs

---

Murikooti Pacha: India's Natural Wound Healer

Indian Reseachers Unlock Therapeutic Potential of Red Ivy Plant

About Murikooti Pacha

- Sanskikt: Vranaropani (Wound Healer)
- Native to Southeest Asia, found across tropical India
- **Features:** Small herb with rooting branches, redllisth leaves, white flowers

Key Compound & Impact

- Acteoside
- A natural molecule with strong therapeutic and and healing properties
- Impact: Tapped for wound-healing, boost to traditional medicine

Source: Indian Council of Medical Mceerrch (ICMR) | Date: 2025

AdFalciVax: India's Indigenous Multi-Stage Malaria Vaccine

Government Licenses ICMR-Developed Vaccine for Production

Key Features

- **Target:** Plasenos falciparum, deadlest malaria paraste
- **Technology:** Reconbmant chimeric vaccine, combines antigens from multiple paraste stages
- **Advantage:** Dual-stage protection, longer immunity immunity, cost-effetive

Impact

Major boost to India's fight against malaria, better public health

Source: ICMR | Date: 2025

F404-IN20 Engine: Powering India's Tejas Mk-1A Fighters

HAL receives 3rd of 99 engines from GE Asrespace (US) for timely delivery

About the Engine

- Type: Afterbarning turbfan
- Customised for: India's LCA Tejas Mk-1A
- Power: ~85 kn thrust
- Performance: High subsonic & suprossic

Strategic Importance

- Key for: Timely delivery of Tejas Mejas Mk-1A
- Use: Missions from subsonic to high-altitude intercpetion
- Strengthents:
- India's indigenous defense capabilities

Source: HAL | GE Acrespace | Date: 2025

INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST INDIGEN OUS 4G NETWORK
BSNL with C-DOT, TCS unveils '5G-Ready' Telecom Stack

29 SEPTEMBER 2025

FULLY INDIGENOUS 4G (5G-READY) NETWORK

BSNL · C-DOT · **Tejas** · **tcs**

DEVELOPED BY: BSNL with C-DOT, Tejas, & TCS

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIGENOUS 4G STACK

- **STRATEGIC AUTONOMY:** Reduces foreign dependance, strational security
- **CLOUD-NATIVE DESIGN** Easy upgrades, smooth 5G migration
- **DIGITAL INCLUSION** Extends quallity remote, hilly regions
- **DOCAL SUPPLY CHAIN** manufactiring, jobs, skiled workforce
- **LOCAL SUPPLY CHAIN** Boosts dometrig, jobs, skiled workforce
- Among five nations with fully indigenous 4G capability

5G & 6G IN INDIA

5G 2022 ————————————— **6G** 2030 TARGET

LAINCHED 2022 Available across all states/UTs & most districts.

UNDER DEVELOPMENT Backed by Bharat 6G Vision, 100 5G labs, Bharat 6G Alliance

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TRAGEDY AT POLITICAL RALLY
Stampede in Karur, Tamil Nadu (29 September 2025)

29 SEPT 2025 | **KARUR, TAMNAD**

ABOUT STAMPEDE
A sudden untcrrolled crowd surge causing injuries & deaths. India: ≈4,000 stampedes in 3 yars, 3,074 deaths (2000-2022).

CAUSES & TRIGER MANAGEMENT
- Breakdown Couraion Mintz): Panic leads to o chaos.

HUMAN BEHAVIOR
- Breakdown of Cooperation (Mintz): Panic lened rush for gain.

STRUCTUAL & MANAGEMENT
- Blocked exits, poor lighting routes.
- Misomnunication (e.pl, Tirupti 2025). Poor crowd segeration.

NDMA GUIDELINES

CROWD MANAGEMENT

CAPACITY PLANNING: Monitor flow, amenities multiple routes

RISK ASSESSMENT Identify threats, plan plan rescue/relief

ACTION PLAN Predefine steps, resources coordination

COLD DESERT BISOSBHERE RESERVE JOINS UNE CO NETWORK
India's 13th UNESCO Bioshere Reserve

UNESO 9. WORLD NETWORK OF BISSHEE RESERVES · 785 SITES GLOBALLY

26 NEW SITES GLOBALLY

13 INDIA'S TOTAL BISOPHERE RESERVES

ABOUT COLD DESERT BISOBHERE RESERVE

Ladach & Kargil

Himihalal Pramaur

PROTECTED AREAS: Pin Valley National Park, Chandratal, Sarchu, Kibber WLS.

BIOME: Extremely cold, dry due due drue rain-shadow & elevation

CULTURE: Rich Budchist heritage (Gompas, Mani Mani Walls): Ladarck chanting (UNESCO heritage)

LOCATION: High-altiude cold desert, Ladach to HP

1971: UNESCO MAB Programme → **1976:** World Network of Bisopherves (WNBR) established → **2023:** Cold Desert BR added

WNBR AIMS: Balance conservation & sustainable development; Link people & ecosstems.

SÃO TOMÉ & PRINCEIPE: First country with entire territory as a BR

INDIA NEW RAMSAR SITES
Bihar Adds Two More Wetlands of International Importance

93 TOTAL RAMSAR SITES IN INDIA · **91 SITES**

GOKUL RESERVIR (BUXAR, BIHAR) Oxbow lake on the southern edge the Ganga River

UDAIUIP LAKE (WEST CHAMPARAN, BIHAR) Oxbow lake within Udapnip Wildlife Sanctuary. Key winter ring ground for migrartoy birds (e.gl. Pochard).

BIHAR'S EARLIER RAMSAR SITES:
1. Kabar Jhel
2. Nagi Bird Sanctuary
3. Nakti Bird Sanctuary

1971 RAMSAR CONVENTION (UNECO Treay for Wetland Conservation) · **1982** INDIA RATIFES · **CRITERIA:** Sites must meet ≥1 of 9 (e.g), ≥20,000 water birds)

Cultural / Social Reform Figure

CULTURAL LEGACY
Founded the Dakshineswar Kali Temple, Patronized Sri Ramharksha Paramhansa

SOCIAL REFORM
Opposed polygamy, child marriage, sati, Submitted draft bill against polygamy

SUPPORT FOR REFORMERS
Backed Ishwar Chandra Vidayasagar, Supported social reform movements

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PM E-DRIVE SCHEME
Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhacement

MINISTRY: HEAVY INDUSTRIES (MHI)

GOAL: Speed up EV adoption and build a charging network for clean, clean, sustainable transport.

KEY COMPONENTS: DEMAND INCENTIVES
- Subsidies for e-2Ws, e-3Ws
- e-ambulances
- e-trucks, e-buses, and emerging EVS

KEY COMPONENTS: CAPITAL GRANTS
- Funding for e-bus procurement
- Public charging stations
- Uprading MHI testing facilities

MAKE IN INDIA

INDIA HOSTS GLOBAL SOUTH HIGH-LEVEL MEET AT UNGA WEEK
India pushes for UN reforms & South–South coporration

29 SEPTEMBER 2025

Nations shaped by colonial histories & economic marginalization

GLOBAL SOUTH — Africa — Latin America — Asia — Oceania

ROLE IN EMERGING WORLD ORDER

MULTILATRIIAL REFORMS
Restruucting UNSC, World Bank, WTO youtful for equity

Major drivers institutions BDP, largeees, yourfkforces

ECONOMIC POWER
Major drivers of global GDP, BRICS, African Union, New Development Bank

STRENTHI HING MULTIPLOIARITY DEVELOPMENT BANK
South-South copoeration: poverty, poverty, food, climate

INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT

ECONOMIC COPERATION
(Africa, Latin America)

MULTILARRIAL LEADERSHIP
ISA, CDRI, India-Africa Forum Summit

DEVELOPMENT ASISSTANCE
Infrasctuure, lines of credit, capacity-building

DIPLOMATIC BRIDGE
Connecting Global South & West (climate, trade)

NCR RECORDS INDIA'S HIGHEST OZONE POLLUTION
Delhi-NCR tops ground-level O_3 levels, followed by Mumbai

1 DELHI-NCR
STRATOSTHEERE: Protects from UV

2 MUMBAI
TROPOSHERE: (upo 10 km)

CPPB report: Highest ground-level O_3 levels by pollution

ABOUT OZONE (O_3)

SAFE LIMITS:
- 100 µg/m³ (8-hour avg)
- 100 µg/m³ (8-hour avg)
- 180 µg/m³ (1-hour peak)

GROUND-LEVEL OZONE

NOx + VOCs → O_3 (Secrudary Pollutant)

HUMAN
Vehicles, power plants, agriculture

NATURAL
Soil NOx, wildfire CO, biospperic methane

IMPACTS

HEALTH:
Triggers astrma, worness bronticits

CLIMATE:
Potent greenshouse gas, smog

AGRICULTURE &
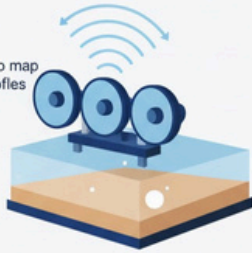Reduces photosthesis

SODAR (Sound Detection and Ranging) System
Advanced Atmostheric Monitoring for Weather & Air Quality

New Facility:
Inaugarated at IMD Delhi, developed by CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal.

HOW IT WORKS
- Sends sound pulses and analysies returing signals to map lower-atmosphere wind profles and temperature structure

KEY DATA

Measures inversion height, fog layer height

Measures turblance strength

Improved weather forecasing and air-quality assesment.

ACOUSTIC VEHICLE ALERTING SYSTEM (AVAS
EVs to Emit Alert Sounds for Pedesrian Safety

NEW RULE: FROM 1 OCT 2026
All new private & commercial EVS in India must have AVAS, per draft notification by MORTH.

PURPOSE: Warn pedesrians of approahing EVS, which of antreswihe nearly silent.

ABOUT AVAS
Emits variable external sounds that change with vehicle speed to signal movement.

Already mandatary in US, Japan, & parts of the the EU for EVS & hybrids.

ASTROSAT: INDIA'S FIRST SPACE ASTRONOMY OBERV-ATORY COMPLETES 10 YEARS

ISRO

MISSION: India's first dedicated astronomy satellite for simauernus X-ray-optical, and UV observations of celestial objects

LAUNCH: Deploved in 650 km orbit by PSLV-C30 from Sriahraka

2013 → 10 YEARS

KEY OBJECTIVES

Study high-energy phhomenia in binary with neutron stars & black holes

Investigate star formation regions & energetic energetic processes in star systems.

Detect new, transent in-Xay sources in space

NATIONAL SECURITY ACT (NSA), 1980
Preventive Detention for National Security & Public Order

Allows preventive detention to stop acts threating India's defence, foreign relations, nations, national secunal security order, or essential supplies

AUTHORITY:
District Magistares and Police Commisseors can issue detention orders with approval.

PROCEDURE:
Grounds for detention detention must ie shared within 5 days (extenable to 15)

CONTEXT: Sonam Wangchuk detained under NSA during Ladach statehood protest

NASA–ISRO SYNTHETIC APERTUR RADAR (NISAR)
Dual-Frequency Earth Observation Satelite

First-of its-kind satellite with dual-frequency synthetic aprture radars (L-band (L-band & S-band) on a single platform.

LAUNCH: Aboard ISRO's GSLV-F16—its first Sun-synchorsous Polar Orbit mission.

ORBIT: Sun-synchenous; revisits every 12 days

CAPABILITY: High-resolution, all-weather, day-night imaging of Earth's land's land and ice surfaces

USES

- Disaster management
- Climate monitoring
- Ecoystem studies

KEY LOGISTICS SECTOR INITIATIVES
Ministry of Commerce & Industry Launches 3
Initiatives for Efficiency & Cost Reduction

MINISTRY COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

1 ASSESSMENT OF LOGISTICS COST IN INDIA REPORT
- By NCAER: India's logistics cost is
- 7.97% of GDP, loghest cost iss GDP (₹24.01 lakh crore in FY 2023-24.
- Road transport forms the largest share (41.7%), followed by storage and warreruring.

2 INTEGRATED STATE & CITY LOGISTICS PLANS
- Under SMILE (Strensthhing Multimodal and Intgrated Logistics Ecoslytem) with ADB support.
- Covers 8 cities in 8 states to map infrastucture, identify gaps, and cut cost by improving efficiency

3 LOGISTICS DATA BANK (LDB) 2.0
- Developed by NICDC Data Services (NLDSL)
- Provides real-rime, multidodal container tracking, including containe export containers on high seas, to enhance supply-chain visibility.

Multimodal Transport

WAYS AND MEANS ADVANCES (WMA)
RBI's Temporary Credit to Government

RBI

RBI sets WMA limit for Central Government for the second half of FY 2025–26, in consultation with the government

ABOUT WMA

- Temporary advance by RBI to Central Government to cover mistsach in receipts & payments
- Not a source of financing fiscal deficit
- Available for State Governments & Union Terroties

LEGAL & RATE
RBI Act, 1934
Interest rate: RBI's Repo Rate
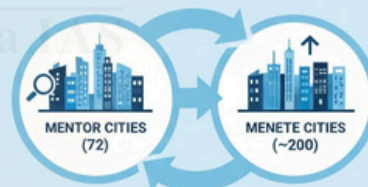Overdadf interest: 2% above Repo Rate

DURATION
Must be fully paid off within 13 months

CONTEXT
RBI sets limits for FY 2025-26

SWACHH SHEHAR JODI (SSJ) INITIATIVE
Peer Learning for Urban Sanitation & Waste Management

Ministry of Housing & Urban Aufharis
Swachh Barat Mission–(SBM-U)

MENTOR CITIES (72) ⟷ MENETE CITIES (~200)

Pairs 72 mentor cities with ~200 mentee cities for guided learning.

AIM
Promote peer learning, knowledge sharing, and replication of best practices in sanitation and waste management across urban India

- PEER LEARNING
- KNOWLEDGE SHARING
- BEST PRACTICES

LAUNCHED BY: MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URAN UFHAIS

EXERCISE SIYOM PRAHAR

The Indian Army held Exercise Siyom Prahar in Arunachal Pradesh to test drone integration in battlefield conditions.

PURPOSE

Validate drone use in surveillance, reconnaissance, target acquisition, and precision strikes

OUTCOME

Developed new tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) to integrate drone inputs with conventional firepower, joint targeting, and rapid decision-making

LOGISTICS EASE ACROSS DIFFERENT STATES (LEADS) 2025

Developed on lines of World Bank's Logistics Performance Index, LEADS analyzes logistics performance across States and Union Territories.

Features

Performance assessment of 5–7 key corridors based on journey time, truck speed, and waiting periods

API-enabled evaluation of section-wise speeds on major road corridors

API-enabled evaluation of section-wise speeds on major road corridors

INDIA'S MANUFACTURING EXPORTS STRENGTHEN AS TRADE STABILIZES
Manufacturing Sees Robust Growth & Policy Support

22 SEPT 2025

EXPORT & ECONOMIC SNAPHOT

EXPORTS:
Merchandise experts rose 2.52% YO YoO to US$184.13 bn (Apr–Aug 2025).

MANUFACTRING PERFORMANCE

IIP: Up 3.5% YOP in 2025; manufacturing grew 5.4%

PMI: Hit 59.3 in Aug 2025—fastest in 17 years

FDI: Manufacturing FDI grew 18% in FY 2024-25

ENGINES OF GROWTH

ELECTRONICS
2nd-largest mobile maker; 6x rise in outpe in exports 11 years. Import reliance fell from 75% (2014-15) to 0.02% (2024-25)

PHARMA
3rd globally by volume; supplies 50%+ of global vaccines.

AUTOMOTIVE
7.1% of GDP; 4th-largest producer worldwide

TEXTILES
2nd-largest employer; 2.3% of GDP. with 80% capacity in MSMEs

POLICY BOOST

PLI SCHEME
Incentives for 14 sectors

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING MISSION (2025-26)

SKILL INDIA
Tech-enabled, demand-demand-driven workforce

GST 2.0
Simplified structure, costs, stronger export competiznises

GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF PALESNTIAN STATE
UK, Canada & Portugal Join 140+ Nations

NEW RECOGNITION (22 SEPT 2025)

140+ UN MEMBERS RECOGNISE PALESTINE

India recognized Palestine in 198ks UN Two-State Solution.

ABOUT RECOGNITION OF STATES

- Meaning: Formal akhhowlddement
- Criteria (Monteotieee Convention, 1933): Population territotory, territory, gintrernational relations
- Effects: Diplomatic ties, treaties, UN rights, UN membership
  – Palestine is UN "Permanent Observer State"

UN'S ROLE

- UN cannot grant recognition; only states can.
- UN may admit new members after recognition by states

Centre notifies Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2025

Posted 02 Sep 2025   1 min read

Key Highlights

- **Streamlined Approval Process:** Extend fnin-incipiple approval validity from 2 to 5 years provisions for offine applications in defense, national importance, and emergency projects

- **Enhanced Compensatory Afforestation:** Introduced land banking systems and approvisions to meet Stage-I approval requirements

- **Strategic Resource Management:** Added special provisions for critical mineral mining, reduced minimum land use duration from 20 to 10 years

- **Strengthened Enforcement:** Expanded forest officers' authority to initiate legal proceedings

Evolution of the Forest (Conservation) Act

- **Pre-1980:** Forests were a State subject
- **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980:** Check deforestation
- **1988 Amendment:** Regulated leasing of forest land
- **Forest (Conservation Amendment Act, 2023:** Aimed to balance development, ecological protection, and aligns with climate goals

AFGHANISTAN

OVER 800 KILLED, 2,500 INJURED AS STRONG EARTHQUAKE STRIKES IN KUNAR PROVINCE

POLITICAL FEATURES

- It is landlocked mountainous country in Southern Asia
- Often referred as as the "Gateway to Asia"
- Bordering Countries: Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajlkistan to the north, Iran to west, Pakistan to southeast, and india and China to northeast

GEOGRACHICAL FEATURES

- Major rivers: Amu Darya, Helmand river, Kabul River
- Highest point: Mt: Nowshak
- Mountain ranges: Hindu Kush Pamir Mountains in den northeast, and Safed Koh range in south
- Climate: The country experiences a continental climate, characterized by hot summers and cold winters

IEPFA Launches "NIVESHAK DIDI" Phase II

Empowering Rural Communities, Especally Women, Through Financial Literacy

About IEPFA

- Ministry of Corporate Acfairs, Companies Act, 2013
- Promotes Investor Education, Awareness & Protection
- Manages IEPF, Refunds Unclamed Funds

Initiative Focus:

- Deepens Financial Awareness
- Empowers Rural Women
- Financial Inclusion for All

Posted 02 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

Posted 02 Sep 2025 | 2 min read

PRATUSH: Probing the Cosmic Dawn

A future radiometer in lunar orbit

Cosmic Dawn

About PRATUSH

- Developed by Raman Research Institute (RRI)
- RRI: Autonomous Institute funded by DST
- Purpose: Detect faint radio signal from Hydrogen atoms
- Reveals Universe's history after the Big Bang

What does PRATUSH stand?

- **P:** Probing
- **R:** Reionization of the
- **A:** Universe using
- **T:** Signal from
- **U:** Hydrogen

Unveiling the Universe's Transformation

EEPC: INDIA GLOBAL HUB AMBITION

President urges citizens during Platinum Junbile

ABOUT EPC

- Established: 1955 (Ministry of Commerce)
- Members: 60% SMES
- HQ. Kolkata
- Activities: Trade fiers, research, advisory
- Goal: Boost global Boost global competiiznizes

VISION 2025 & BEYOND

- Platinum Jubile (70 Years)
- Make India: Business & Knowledge Hub
- Higher Engineering Export Targets
- Global Global Competiienizes Drive

IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS ACT, 2025

- regulate immigration
- replaces four laws
- Immigration Posts
- Bureau of Immigration
- Registration of Foreigners
- Reporting Obligation
- Offences
- Controlling Places frequented by Foreigners

Posted 02 Sep 2025
2 min read

Supreme to Reccoender RTE Act Exemption for Minority Institutions

Article 30(1): Minority Rights

co-existence

Article 21A: Education for All

Key Observations of Court
- RTE Act does erode minority character
- 21A & 30(1) must co-exist mutualy Exemption leads to fragmentation of
- RTE 25% reservation can for minority children

About RTE Act, 2009
- Free & Compulisly Education (6-14 years)
- 25% Seat Reservation for Disandaugaed
- Ensures no child is prevented from completing education

Pramati Educational & Cultural Trust Case (2014) Judugement Under Review

Chief Justice of India to decide for reconinderation

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09 SEP 2025
2 MIN READ

INDIA-ISRAEL BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREAMENT (BIT)

Israel Becomes First OCED Country to Sign New Investment Pact with India

KEY FEATURES OF BIT

BOOST TO INVESTMENT
(Target: ↑ $800M+

INVESTOR PROTECTION
Fair Treatment, Regulatory Balance

DISPUTE RESOLUTION
Arbitration for Growth

EVOLVING COOPERATION

1. ECONOMIC
   Trade: $6.53B FY24, India Surplus US

3. REGIONAL
   INNOVATION & TECH
   I4F R&D Fund 2023–27

4. DEFENCE
   Barak-8 Missile, Haifa Haifa Port Calls

ABOUT BITs

- Recrripical legal pacts
- Promote & protect investments
- Binding under international law
- India's Parture, Health, Agri, Water MoUs
- Recent Partners: Uzatabtan (2024), (2024), Kyrscyragn, (2025)

NEPAL LIFTS SOCIAL MEDIA BAN AMID PROTESTS

Nationwide Gen Z protests turn violent, leading to Home Minister's resignation

POLITICAL FEATURES

- Landlocked South Asian nation.
- Borders: China (N), India (S), E. W).
- Federal Democratic Republic.

GEOGRAP-ICAL FEATURES

- Terrain: Point: Himalyas (N), Hills-Hills (C), Plains S.).
- Major Rivers: Kosi, Nărayai, Karnali.
- 8 of 14 peaks above 8,000m.
- Lumbini — Birthplace of Buddha.

FRANCE'S POLITICAL TURMOIL
5th Prinistre in Less Than Years

The French Parliament receintly voted out government and Prinitre and Prinitre, deepeing political instability

INDIA–FRANCE POLITICAL SYSTEM: KEY SIMIARITIES

1. Both are republics with elected heads of state.
2. Bicanmal lewisratures.
3. Democratic systems rooted in liberty, equality, and fratenity.

AADHAAR ACCEPTED FOR BIHAR REVISION

SC directs poll panel to accept Aadahar as 12th document for SIR

ABOUT AAARAAR

- 12-digit random number
- Issued by UIDAI Demograhic & Biomteric Data
- Mandatory for Subsicies (Sec , 7, Aadahar Act)
- Meta Data: Max 6-month storage

RELATED SC JUDGMENT

- Puttassamy Judgrment (2018): UPHOLDS UPHOLDS Aadahar for welfare schemes

BAGHRAM AIR BASE: AFGHANSTAN'S STRATEGIC AIRFIELD

LOCATION:
Largest air base in Afghanistan, north of Kabul.

1950s: SOVIET CONSTRUCTION	1990s: TALBAN VS NORTHERN ALLIANCE	US COUNTER-TERROR HUB	POST-9/1. HUB	2021: US/NATO WITHRDWAAL

US ROLE:
Post-9/1, turned into the the hub of US counter-terror operations in Afghanistan

HISTORY:
Built by Soviets in the 1950s; after their 19908 wathdrewal, became a became a frontline Tatween Talban and Northern Alliance.

EXIT
US and NATO forces whtrdrow in 2021.

MANGANESE

MOIL AS STE: Govt. of India appoints MOIL as State Trading Enterprise for export of low-grade manganese ore (<46% Mn).

PROPERTIES Silvery-grey, very hard and brittle.

RESERVES Odisha has the highest reserves, followed by Karnataka.

PRODUCTION Madhya Pradesh is top producer (2021–22).

SIGNIFICANCE India holds surplus low-grade manganese ore, making exports crucial.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

Recent Development: India–UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments held

CAPITAL: Abu Dhabi

POLITICAL: Federation of 7 emirates (Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, etc.)

BORDERS: Saudi Arabia (west, south); Oman (southeast)

COASTLINE: Persian Gulf (north, northwest); Gulf of Oman (east)

GEOGRAPHY: Eastern Arabian Peninsula; strategic Strait of Hormuz

CLIMATE: Desert—hot, humid summers; mild winters; cooler in eastern mountains

LATITUDE: Tropic of Cancer crosses Abu Dhabi

mRRA Vaccines: How They Work, and Their Challenges

How mIRA Vaccines Work

1. Delivery

mIRA, packed in lipid natoprialices, delivers genetic instructions...

Example: COVID-19 taught cells to make the spike protein.

2. Protein Production

prompt cells to produce pathonen-specific proteins (antigens)

3. Immune Response

Immune system recognizes these ais threats, generating antibodies and T-cells

Challenges

Storage

-70°C

Require ultra-cold temperatures, complicating distribution.

Side Effects

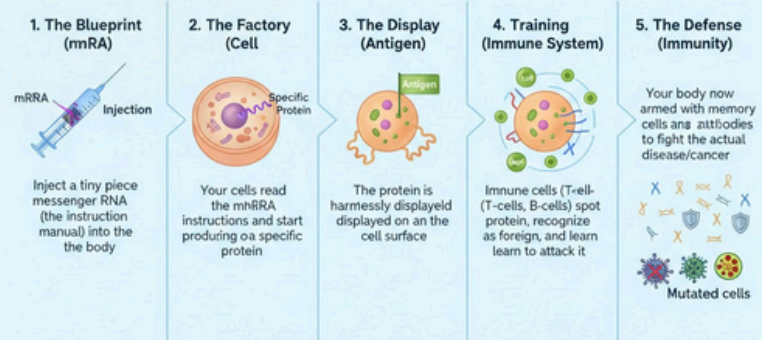Temporary fever, fatigue, sourness

Long-Term Safety

?

Still under study as the the technology is new

MRRA Vaccines Explained: Training Your Immune System

How a genetic blueprint fights disease

1. The Blueprint (mRA)

mRRA Injection

Inject a tiny piece messenger RNA (the instruction manual) into the the body

2. The Factory (Cell

Specific Protein

Your cells read the mhRRA instructions and start produring oa specific protein

3. The Display (Antigen)

Antigen

The protein is harmlessly displayeld displayed on an the cell surface

4. Training (Immune System)

Immune cells (T-ell- (T-cells, B-cells) spot protein, recognize as foreign, and learn learn to attack it

5. The Defense (Immunity)

Your body now armed with memory cells ans antibodies to fight the actual disease/cancer

Mutated cells

mRRA is quickly broken down and doct alter DNA

25TH SCO SUMMIT ADOPTS TIANJIN DECLARATION

Regional Conflicts and Non Proliferation
- Rejected double standards in counterterrorsism efforts and embimasized terrorist attack in Pahalgam
- condemnended military strikes in Jammu and Kashmit
- Condemns military strikes by Israel and the States on IIran

UN Reform
- Adapting the UN to modern realities by enhancing developing countries' representation in its governing bodies

Sustainable Development and Social Agenda
- Support for equal rights for Artificial Intielligencental and use

Indian PM Statement at the Summit
SCO members can now use SCO pilituns:
- security (Security of the Region) – GPS aternarive
- connectivity (Revolutionising SCO as 'connectivity' hub) and opportunity

About Shanghai Cooperætion Organisation (SCO)
- Hqr: Beijing, China
- Founded in 2001 at Shanghai Summit by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Repubiic, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan
- 10 member countries, 2 observer states a 15 dialogue partners
- Official language: Russian and Chinese

Structure
- The Counil of Heads of States: apex decision-making body
- Council of Heads of Governments: second-highest council
- Two permanent bodies: the Secretariat in Beljing (Chin and Regional AntiTerrorist Structure (RATS)

EXTREME NUCLEAR TRANSIENTS (ENTs)

ABOUT ENTs
- ENTs occur when stars with masses at least three times greater than that of the Sun are torn apart by supermassive black holes.
- As a star nears a black hole's event horizon, extreme tidal forces stretch and compress the star into a long, thin spaghetti-like shape, releasing enormous amounts of electromagnetic energy. This emission is the ENT.

Star with mass $\leq$ 3 times that of the Sun

Supermassive black hole

Star with mass $\geq$ 3 times that of the Sun

Supermassive black hole
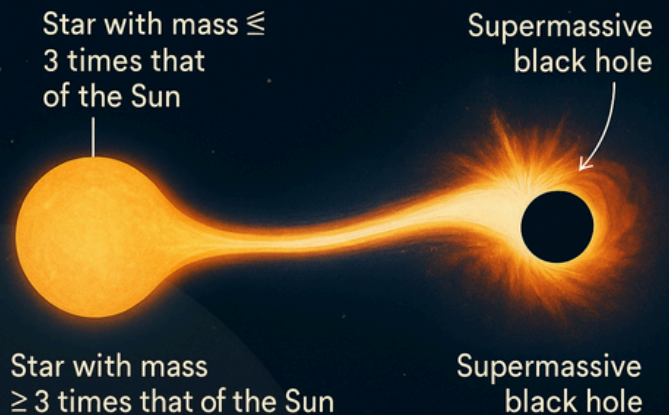
PROJECT VIJAYAK
OF THE BRO CELEBRATED ITS 15TH RAISING DAY AT KARGIL, LADAKH

About Project Vijayak

- Raised in 2010 and entrusted with the responsibility of providing road connectivity in the areas of Kargil and Zanskar, which previously were under Project Himank
- The Project drew its name from *Operation Vijay* (Kargil War) of 1999
- It played a significant role in strengthening the security infrastructure along the Line of Control

BRO
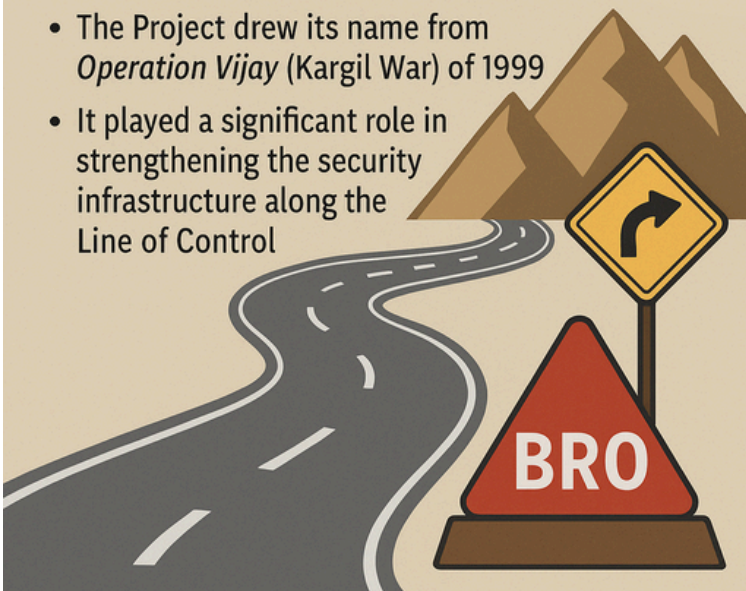
OBINCOV

SMOG-EATING TECHNOLOGY

DELHI GOVT: Ordered study on using photocatalytic road coatings to fight air pollution

OBJECTIVE

NO_2

Cut nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and harmfull hicołborbocans, improving air & water quality

HOW IT WORKS

PHOTOCATALYSIS uses light energy to break down pollutants into harmless matter

TITANIUM DIOXIDE (TiO_2) coatings under UV light decompose NOx and organic waste

NOx   UV LIGHT

MECHANISM

PHOTOCATALYSIS uses light energy to break down pollutants into harmless matter

PHOTOCATILICCOAT

PARKS RATING SYSTEM (IPRS) 3.0

LAUNCHED BY:
Ministry of Commerce & Industry

DEVELOPED BY:
DPIIT with ADB support

FRAMEWORK:
Industrial parks planken as Leaders, Challengers, and Aspirers

NEW FEATURES:
- Sustainability, green infrastructure
- Logistics connectivity, digitalization
- Skill linkages, and talent feedback

LEADERS
CHALLENGERS
ASPIRERS

India's Space Economy: Fivefold Growth by 2033
USD 8.4 Billion (2022) to USD 44 Billion (2033)

Key Trends
2% — 8%

Focus Shift: Downstem Services (EO, Satcom, Nav)

Growth Drivers: 200+ Startups, IN-SPACe Reforms, Bhoonidhi

Challenges
- ⚠ Limited Global Reach
- ⚠ Limited Global ReavIC)
- ⚠ Underdlrowed EO Data Market
- ⚠ High Capitued EO Data Market
- ⚠ Skilled Workral & Long Incubation
- ⚠ Regulatory Issues & Space Debris

Government Intitatives
- ⚠ Indian Space Policy 2023 (Pvt Sector)
- ⚠ NSIL (ISRO's Commercial Arm)
- ⚠ Other Measures (100% FDI, VC Fund)

CII-KPMG
Source: CII-KPMG Report

DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD

- India's highest cinema honor, awarded annually for lifetime contribution to Indian cinema
- Presented by: President of India
- Instituted: 1969, marking Dadasaheb Phalke's birth centenary (father of Indian cinema)
- First recipient: Devika Rani

- It is a run-of-the-river project proposed on the river Chenab.

Location: District Ramban & Udhampur of UT Jammu & Kashmir

NHPC
एनएचपीसी

JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)
SAWALKOTE PROJECT

- Implementing Agency: National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (Government of India Mini Ratna Category-I Public Sector Enterprise under

SWELL WAVES

- Long-wavelength ocean waves that travel long distances away from their origin

- They are generated mainly by windstorms / strong air currents

- They are largely unaffected by local winds or currents and often go undetected by satellites due to their low frequency and lack of surface whitecaps

- They are also called Kallakkadal waves in India. The term has now been approved for scientific use by UNESCO

WORLD'S LARGEST NEUTRINO DETECTOR ACTIVATED IN CHINA
Jiaingmen Underground Neutunino Obsorvatory (JUNO)
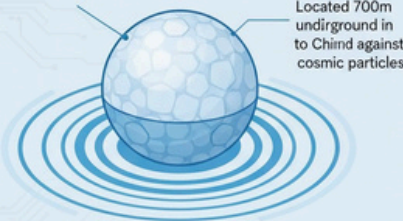
JUNO

Located 700m undirground in to Chirnd against cosmic particles

GOALS OF JUNO

Mass hierarchy: Determine mass order of thre nuetrrio types— electron, muon, tau

Ossalation frequency: Measure how often of Measure how uttinos nuetrinos switch types

ABOUT NEURTIONOS

- **Nature:** Substamic "ghost particles" with tiny mass, no charge, mss, no size.

- **Abundance:** Hard 2nd abouant after phone: abterh: aturanct only via weak force & gravity, gravity), move in straight lines, nearly of sigeht, uffafated at magnetic fleelds.

OTHER NEUTRINO OBSERVATORIES

| INO (India) | IceCube So Pole Solt | TRIDENT (China) | DUNE (US) |

FOSSIL FUELS: A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
GCHA Report Warns of "Cradle to Grave" Health Toll & Calls for Just Transtion

Global Climate and Health Alliance

GCHA REPORT: CRADLE TO GRAVE

Fossil fuels endagrer not only the environment butallus human health

HEALTH IMPACTS

- Harm at all life stages—asthma, cancer, cordivaacular diseases.

- Toxic releases at every stage—extraction (benzeing (VOCs), diseases

- Legacy pollution: Lead, mercury PFAS in soil, water, food; biomanglconfcastion, disposal

- Legacy pollution: Lead, mercury PFAS in soil, water, food;

- Margialaized communities dispopforenataly affected (proximity to mines/refiories)
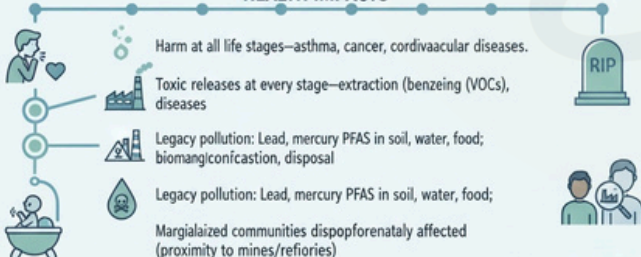
POLICY RECOMENDATIONS

- Phase out exploration & subscies; redrect funds to clean energy

- "Polluter Pays" principle: Internalize health costs

- Enforce strict regulation, monitoring & cleacy sites

- Align finance & health sectors with climate & public health goals

GCHA

INDIA'S MANUFACTURING EXPORTS STRENGTHEN AS TRADE STABILIZES
Manufacturing Sees Robust Growth & Policy Support

22 SEPT 2025

EXPORT & ECONOMIC SNAPHOT

EXPORTS: Merchandise experts rose 2.52% YO YoO to US$184.13 bn (Apr–Aug 2025).

MANUFACTRING PERFORMANCE

IIP: Up 3.5% YOP in 2025; manufaduring grew 5.4%

PMI: Hit 59.3 in Aug 2025—fastest in 17 years

FDI: Manufacturing FDI grew 18% in FY 2024-25

ENGINES OF GROWTH

ELECTRONICS
2nd-largest mobile maker; 6x rise in outpe in exports 11 years. Import reliance fell from 75% (2014-15) to 0.02% (2024-25)

PHARMA
3rd globally by volume; supplies 50%+ of global vaccines.

AUTOMOTIVE
7.1% of GDP; 4th-largest producer worldwide

TEXTILES
2nd-largest employer; 2.3% of GDP, with 80% capacity in MSMEs

POLICY BOOST

PLI SCHEME
Incentives for 14 sectors

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING MISSION (2025-26)

SKILL INDIA
Tech-enabled, demand-demand-driven workforce

GST 2.0
Simplified structure, costs, stronger export competiliznises

Baltic Sea

About Baltic Sea

Location
North Atlantic Ocean, extending north from southern Denmark to near Arctic Circle

Surrounding Countries
Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland

Features
- It is the yuoungest sea on our planet
- Largest expanse of brackish water in the world, semi-enclosed & shallow
- Kiel Canal (Germany) links the Baltic with the North Sea
- Gulf of Bothnia, Gulf of Finland, and Gulf Gdaǹsk

KEY LOGISTICS SECTOR INITIATIVES
Ministry of Commerce & Industry Launches 3
Initiatives for Efficiency & Cost Reduction

MINISTRY COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

1 ASSESSMENT OF LOGISTICS COST IN INDIA REPORT
- By NCAER: India's logistics cost is
- 7.97% of GDP , loghest cost iss GDP (₹24.01 lakh crore in FY 2023-24.
- Road transport forms the largest share (41.7%), followed by storage and warheruring.

2 INTEGRATED STATE & CITY LOGISTICS PLANS
- Under SMILE (Strensthhing Multimodal and Intgrated Logistics Ecoslytem) with ADB support.
- Covers 8 cities in 8 states to map infrastucture, identify gaps, and cut cost improving efficiency

3 LOGISTICS DATA BANK (LDB) 2.0
- Developed by NICDC Data Services (NLDSL)
- Provides real-rime, multidodal container tracking, including containe export containers on high seas, to enhance supply-chain visibility.

Multimodal Transport

LOGISTICS EASE ACROSS DIFFERENT STATES (LEADS) 2025

Developed on lines of World Bank's Logistics Performance Index, LEADS analyzes logistics performance across States and Union Territories.

Features

Performance assessment of 5–7 key corridors based on journey time, truck speed, and waiting periods

API-enabled evaluation of section-wise speeds on major road corridors

API-enabled evaluation of section-wise speeds on major road corridors

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ULLAS
Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society

Himachal Pradesh Achieves Full Functional Literacy
Fifth State/UT to reach this milestone under Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram

About ULLAS

Background: Centrally sponsoror scheme, New India Literacy Program) (Ministry of Education)
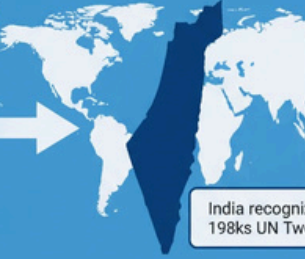
Duration: Period of five years, from 2022-2027

Aim: To empower all adults aged 15 years and above, who have not had the opportunity to educate themselves
Acn acqurie reading,ṽting and numeracy skills and critical life skills

GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF PALESNTIAN STATE
UK, Canada & Portugal Join 140+ Nations

NEW RECOGNITION (22 SEPT 2025)

140+ UN MEMBERS RECOGNISE PALESTINE

India recognized Palestine in 198ks UN Two-State Solution.

ABOUT RECOGNITION OF STATES

- Meaning: Formal akhhowlddement
- Criteria (Monteotieee Convention, 1933): Population territotory, territory, gintrernational relations
- Effects: Diplomatic ties, treaties, UN rights, UN membership
  – Palestine is UN "Permanent Observer State"

UN'S ROLE

- UN cannot grant recognition; only states can.
- UN may admit new members after recognition by states

LARGE SHIPS GET INFRASTARCTURE STATUS
Ministry of Finance Boosts Domestic Shilblbling & Maritme Sector

DEFINITION OF LARGE SHIPS
- Commercial vessles under Indian ownnship & flag with:
- ≥10,000 GT, or
- ≥1,5,00 GT if built in India

BENEFITS OF HML INCLUSION
- Easier access to infrastucture lending, external commercial borowings (ECBS)
- Viablity gap funding
- Tax incentives

INDIA'S SHIPPING SECTOR

CURRENT SCENARIO:
- 95% trade handled by foreign ships; SS75B paid annually for shipping service services.
- Shipbulding share: Only 0.06% globally.

TARGET 2047:
- Among top 5 shipbulders
- ₹54 trillion investment planned und Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision
- High borowing ceing flet, tax gaps, skill shortaces

KEY INITIATIVES

Bharat Container Shipping Line under SCI

Coastal Green Shipping Corridor (Kandla–Tuticorrin)

S2I2 (Sagarmala Startup &'luation & Maritime Innovation Hubs

SWACHH SHEHAR JODI (SSJ) INITIATIVE
Peer Learning for Urban Sanitation & Waste Management

Ministry of Housing & Urban Aufharis
Swachh Barat Mission–(SBM-U)

MENTOR CITIES (72)

MENETE CITIES (~200)

Pairs 72 mentor cities with ~200 mentee cities for guided learning.

AIM
Promote peer learning, knowledge sharing, and replication of best practices in sanitation and waste management across urban India

PEER LEARNING   KNOWLEDGE SHARING   BEST PRACTICES

LAUNCHED BY: MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URAN UFHιAIS

WAYS AND MEANS ADVANCES (WMA)
RBI's Temporary Credit to Government

RBI sets WMA limit for Central Government for the second half of FY 2025–26, in consultation with the government

ABOUT WMA

- Temporary advance by RBI to Central Government to cover mistsach in receipts & payments
- Not a source of financing fiscal deficit
- Available for State Governments & Union Terroties

LEGAL & RATE
RBI Act, 1934
Interest rate: RBI's Repo Rate
Overdadf interest: 2% above Repo Rate

DURATION
Must be fully paid off within 13 months

CONTEXT
RBI sets limits for FY 2025-26

NASA–ISRO SYNTHETIC APERTUR RADAR (NISAR)
Dual-Frequency Earth Observation Satelite

First-of-its-kind satellite with dual-frequency synthetic aprture radars (L-band (L-band & S-band) on a single platform.

LAUNCH: Aboard ISRO's GSLV-F16—its first Sun-synchorsous Polar Orbit mission.

ORBIT: Sun-synchenous; revisits every 12 days

CAPABILITY:
High-resolution, all-weather, day-night imaging of Earth's land's land and ice surfaces

USES
- Disaster management
- Climate monitoring
- Ecoystem studies

ACOUSTIC VEHICLE ALERTING SYSTEM (AVAS
EVs to Emit Alert Sounds for Pedesrian Safety

NEW RULE: FROM 1 OCT 2026
All new private & commercial EVS in India must have AVAS, per draft notification by MORTH.

PURPOSE: Warn pedesrians of approahing EVS, which of antreswihe nearly silent.

ABOUT AVAS
Emits variable external sounds that change with vehicle speed to signal movement.

Already mandatary in US, Japan, & parts of the the EU for EVS & hybrids.

ASTROSAT: INDIA'S FIRST SPACE ASTRONOMY OBERV-ATORY COMPLETES 10 YEARS

MISSION: India's first dedicated astronomy satellite for simauernus X-ray-optical, and UV observations of celestial objects

LAUNCH: Deploved in 650 km orbit by PSLV-C30 from Sriahraka

2013 → 10 YEARS

KEY OBJECTIVES
- Study high-energy phhomenia in binary with neutron stars & black holes
- Investigate star formation regions & energetic energetic processes in star systems.
- Detect new, transent in-Xay sources in space

NATIONAL SECURITY ACT (NSA), 1980
Preventive Detention for National Security & Public Order

Allows preventive detention to stop acts threating India's defence, foreign relations, nations, national secunal security order, or essential supplies

AUTHORITY:
District Magistares and Police Commisseors can issue detention orders with approval.

PROCEDURE:
Grounds for detention detention must be shared within 5 days (extenable to 15)

CONTEXT: Sonam Wangchuk detained under NSA during Ladach statehood protest

100

SODAR (Sound Detection and Ranging) System
Advanced Atmostheric Monitoring for Weather & Air Quality

New Facility:
Inaugarated at IMD Delhi, developed by CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal.

HOW IT WORKS
- Sends sound pulses and analysies returing signals to map lower-atmosphere wind profiles and temperature structure

KEY DATA

- Measures inversion height, fog layer height
- Measures turblance strength
- Improved weather forecasing and air-quality assesment.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU)

- Established: 1874; UN specialized agency since 1948
- HQ: Berne, Switzerland
- Members: 192 (including India)
- Second-oldest international organization after ITU (1865)
- Role: Global forum for postal cooperation, ensuring a universal network of modern postal products and services.

PM E-DRIVE SCHEME
Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhacement

MINISTRY: HEAVY INDUSTRIES (MHI)

GOAL: Speed up EV adoption and build a charging network for clean, clean, sustainable transport.

KEY COMPONENTS: DEMAND INCENTIVES
- Subsidies for e-2Ws, e-3Ws
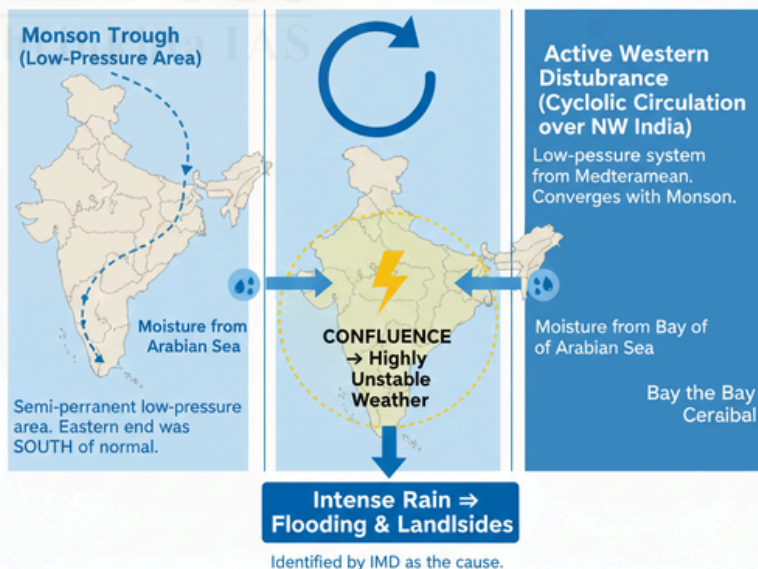- e-ambulances
- e-trucks, e-buses, and emerging EVS

KEY COMPONENTS: CAPITAL GRANTS
- Funding for e-bus procurement
- Public charging stations
- Uprading MHI testing facilities

MAKE IN INDIA

The "2-System Interaction: Extreme Rains in NW India

Heavy Rainfall & Landlsides

Monson Trough (Low-Pressure Area)

Active Western Distubrance (Cyclolic Circulation over NW India)
Low-pessure system from Medteramean. Converges with Monson.

Moisture from Arabian Sea

Semi-perranent low-pressure area. Eastern end was SOUTH of normal.

CONFLUENCE → Highly Unstable Weather

Moisture from Bay of of Arabian Sea

Bay the Bay Ceraibal

Intense Rain ⇒ Flooding & Landlsides

Identified by IMD as the cause.

WORLD NEEDS FAIR, TRANSPARENT TRADE SYSTEM: EAM

At the virtual BRICS summit on global trade disruptions, the External Affairs Minister emphasized the need for fair, transparent, and rules-based economic practices.

KEY CHALLENGES TO GLOBAL TRADE

Protectionism & Tarriffs
U.S. imposition of 50% tarifts on Brazil and Inndia (2025) weeakens the WTO framework

Supply Chain Fragility
COVID-19 shocks. geopolitical confiicts (e.g. Ukraine war), sanctions and maritime crises (e.g. Red Sea) disrupt trade

Other Pressures
Food, energy and fertilizer insecurity in the Global South: climate extremes EU's carbon border tax

Weak Multilateralism
Revive WTO's dispute mechanism and push UN reforms

Refashion Trade Ties
Engage with neighbors, including China

Aatmanirbhar Bharat
Ease business processes, cut bureaucratic costs, and ensure policy stability

INDIA'S PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

Resilient Supply Chains
Diversify hubs via Act East and Quad initiatives

Other Measures
Negottate FTAs, promote exports in new markets

Reform Multilateralism
Revive WTO's dispute mechanism and push UN reforms

Negociate FTAs, promote exports in new markets, and support the Global South

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CHOLESTEROL

Scientists at INST, Mohali have developed cholesterol-based nanomaterials for advanced quantum technologics and spintronic applications

WHAT IT IS
A waxy, fat-like lipid in the steroid family, made by the liver and obtained from animal foods
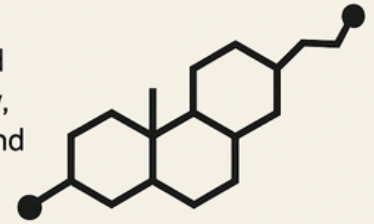
TYPES
LDL ("bad'): Builds up in arteries

HDL ("good): Removes excess LDL

FUNCTIONS
Supports hormone production

Vitamin D synthesis

Cell membranes

HEALTH RISK
High LDL raises chances of heart disease and stroke

MHADEI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- The Supreme Court recently stayed projects at Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, also proposed as a tiger reserve

ABOUT MHADEI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1999 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Location: North Goa, along the Western Ghats, bordering Karnataka and Maharashtra
- Mahadei (Mandovi) River flows through the sanctuary

FAUNA: Tigers, leopards, sloth bears, gaurs, sambar deer, etc.

FLORA: Moist deciduous vegetation and some evergreen species, e.g., the rare Ashoka tree with saffron-coloured flowers

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First photo f Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus* manul)

- Physical Features : 30–35 cm tall, very dense fur coat
- Habitat: Inhabits rocky steppes, montane grasslands and shrublands across Central Asia, including Iran, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan north'errn India
- Diet: Small prey marmots, pikas, ground squirrels, yoles
- Conservation Status   Least Concern on IUCN Red List
- Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

What is 2FA?
A security method requiring two forms of identification

Mechanism
something you know
something you have
something you are

Examples
OTP codes
authenticator apps
security keys
fingerprint scans

Benefits
Reduces risk of account breaches, phishing, and identity theft
even if passwords are compromised

PM EMPHASIZES 'VOCAL FOR LOCAL' AS PATH TO VIKSIT BHARAT

PM urges people to embrace Swadeshi goods in upcoming festive season to walk the path of Aatmanirbhar Bharat for reallsing the vision of Viksit Bharat

WHY 'VOCAL FOR LOCAL' AND AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT FOR INDIA?

Economic imperatives: Withstand global disruptions like geopolitical conflicts and trade wars

Demographic dividend: Large-scale employment in manufacturing, MSMEs and agriculture

- **National security:** Protect against imminent cyber threats
- **Sustainable development:** Indigenous capabilities and reduced carbon footprint
- **Diplomatic:** Build strengt to compete globally

MEASURES TAKEN FOR AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT AND 'VOCAL FOR LOCAL

Policy and structural reforms: Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, PLI schemes, EoDB reforms

Infrastructure and industrial development: PM Gati Shakti, Nation Infrastructure Pipeline

Digital self-reliance: Digital Public Infrastructure, Semicon India

Promotion of 'Vocal for Local': Khadi for Nation, GeM. NITI Aayog initiative

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REVISED NORMS ON TREE PLANTATION-BASED GREENC CREDITS

Revised norms issued under Green Credit Rules, 2023 focus on the growth and survival of trees, rather than the earlier benchmark of trees per hectare.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF REVISED NORMS

5 After 5 years of restoration on degraded forest land ao least 40% canopy density = 1

Credits may exchanged once for mesting compensatory afforestation requirements, CSR obligations and project-specific legal plantation

Credits are non-tradable and non-transferable, except between a company and its subsidiaries

Credits may be exchanged once for meeting compensatory afforestation requirements, CSR obligations and project specific legel plantation Once exchanged, credits cannot be reused

WHAT ARE GREEN CREDITS (GCs)?
A form of environmental rewards that represent the positive environmental actions awarded to entities who participate in tree plantation initiatives under Green Credit Program

ABOUT GREEN CREDIT PROGRAM (GCP, 2023)
It is an innovative market-based mechanism to encourage voluntary plantation activity across the country

Land Bank Creation: Through registration of degraded forest lands by Forest departments

Incentylvisation Issue Green Credits as rewards for tree plantation

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CSEP REPORT
LARGE CLIMATE FINANCE NEEDED TO DECARBONIZE 'HAR-TO-ABATE' SECTORS

A paper on India's climate finance requirements by Centre for Social and Economic Frogress assesses the substantial decabonization of four hard-to-abate sectors—power, road transport, steel, and cement—due to their energy–and emission-intensive nature

RISING EMISSIONS
2.2% India's share from 2.5% to emissimatins 'n 1990 in 2023

India's per capita emissions remain lober global average

ECONOMIC RISKS
Potential per capita GDP loss from **2.0% in 2030 to 3-9% by 247**

ECONOMIC RISKS
Potential per capita GDP losses **2.0% in 2030 to 3-9% by 247**

ESTIMATED CLIMATE FINANCE
Average annual **1.3% of GDP** for decaronization tion of four key sectors

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

INCENTIVIZE PRIVATE INVESTMENT Provide Incentives and regulatory mvers

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION Request CCS tehnology

GOVERNMENT ROLE IN INFRASTRUCTURE Develop EV charging R&D

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION Technology transsfer

Bilateral Meeting with Chinese President
on the sidelines of SCO Summit

Signal to enhance and stabilize India-China relations amid global trade tensions

🤝 **Partnership and stability**
Commitment to fair and mutually acceptabilé resolution of boundary question

💬 **Strengthening P2P ties**
Enhancing people-people connctions through direct flights and visa facilitation

📈 **Economic and trade relations**
Expanding bilateral trade and investment and reducing the trade deficit

(Conclusion)
A concerted strategy to reca**librrate** and strengthen India-China relations

APK SCAM

ABOUT APK SCAM

A type of fraud where criminals use social engineering to trick victims into installing malicious Android Package Kit (APK) files on their smartphones.

Social engineering techniques may involve impersonating trusted individuals or entities, creating urgency or fear, etc.

Once installed, fraudsters can conduct unauthorized financial transactions without the victim's consent, causing significant financial losses

FDI IN INSURANCE

Government has issued draft Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules, 2025

ABOUT RULES

Issued by: Ministry of Finance (Dept. of Financial Services) under powers of Insurance Act, 1938.

100% **Change in Foreign Investment Cap**
Enable 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance from aarlier 74%, subject to parliamentary approval

Permitted via: The automatic route, with oversight by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authoity of India (IRDAI)

Aims: To unlock the insurance sector's potential and bolster its projected 7,1% annual growth
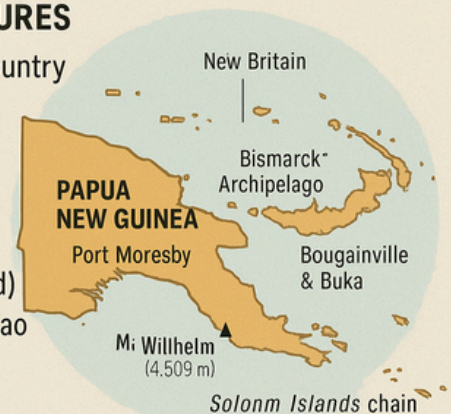
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
(PORT MORESBY)

Indian navy warship visits Port Moresby for Papua New Guinea's 50th independence day celebrations

POLITICAL FEATURES

- Location: Island country in Southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- Encompasses:
  - Eastern half of New Guinea (2nd largest island)
  - Bismarck Archipelao
    - New Britain. New Ierland, Admiralty Islands
- Land Boundary: Irhdonesia on westeren-side

New Britain

Bismarck Archipelago

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Port Moresby

Bougainville & Buka

Mt Willhelm (4.509 m)

Solonm Islands chain

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

- Highest Peak: Mount Wilhelm (4,509 m) in Bismarck Range
- Geological history shaped by collision of Australian Plate & Pacific Plate

Southvsterm/ Pacific Ocean

ADVANCE AUTHORISATION SCHEME

EXPORT OBLIGATION PERIOD EXTENDED

Union government has extended the Export Obligation (EO) Period under the Advance Authorisation Scheme to support textile exporters

ABOUT THE SCHEME

MEANING
An export promotion scheme that permits duty-free import of inputs used in export products (with allowance for wastage)

EXEMPTION
Inputs under the scheme are not bound by Quality Control Order (QCO) compliance

ELIGIBILITY
- Manufacturer exporters
- Merchant exporters tied to supporting manufacturers

INPUT QUANTITY
Determined by predefined norms for each export product

EXERCISE YUDH KAUSHAL 3.0

📍 Kameng Region, Eastern Himalayas

HIGHLIGHTS

Debut of ASHNI Platoons
Advanced tech integrated with traditional combat

Decisive Battlefield Advantage
Boost to indigenous defence innovation

Defence Industry Participation
Boost to indigenous defence innovation

Aligned with Aatmanirbhar Bharat
Strengthening self-reliant defence ecosystem

BLUE DRAGONS

Several beaches in Spain have been closed due to blue dragons.

About

Blue dragons (*Glaucus atlanticus*) are tiny (4 cm long) floating sea slugs that live on the ocean surface.

Occurrence

They are generally found along the warm tropical waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans.

Impact on Humans

A sting from a blue dragon can be extremely painful to humans and cause redness, swelling, nausea, and vomiting. However, it cannot lead to death.

Opportunities for India Amidst USA's $100,000 H-1B Visa Fee

The steep U.S. H-1B visa strengthens the case for India to boost its innovation and technology ecosystem.

Opportunities

- **Reversing Brain Drain:** Retain STEM talent to fuel domestic innovation.
- **Start-up Growth:** Leverage the world's 3rd largest start-up hub, creating unicorns in fintech, ed-tech, health-tech.
- **Policy Push:** Programs like Startup India, Digital India, Make in India, and Atal Innovation Mission drive entrep-reil-eurship. Cost & Market Edge: Affordable operations plus a vast consumer base attract talent and investors.
- **Emerging Tech:** AI and frontier technologies can help build an "Asian Silicon Valley."

Challenges

- **R&D & Skills:** Low research spend (0.7% of GDP) and education gaps.
- **Infrastructure & Regulation:** Weak infrastructure, cumbersome policies.
- **IPR & Commercialization:** Poor IP protection and limited global productization.

Conclusion

India has the talent and momentum; economic pragmatism and innovation are key to realising its full potential.

REPLACE MERCATOR'S MAP

AFRICAN UNION ENDORSES 'CORRECT THE MAP' CAMPAIGN

supporting alternatives like the Equal Earth map

supporting alternatives like the Equal Earth map

ABOUT MERCATOR'S MAP

Origin & Purpose
Designed in 1569 by Gerrardus Mercator, meant to aid navigation by making rhumb lines straight

Characteristics
A conformal map distorting north-south scale but preserving local shapes

Distortions
Distorts size, enlarging lands near poles and shrinking them near the equator. Eg., Africa appears similar in size to Greenland

SECTION 29A OF RPA, 1951
ECI to verify antecedents of founding members for political party registration

APPLICATION TO ECI
- Within 30 days of formation
- Per ECI guidelines under Art. 324 of the Constitution and Sec. 29A

MANDATORY PLEDGE
Association or body shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, to the principles of socialism, secularism, and democracy, and to uphold sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India

FINAL DECISION
Decision of Election Commission is final

BLUE DRAGONS FORCE BEACH CLOSURES IN SPAIN

WHAT ARE BLUE DRAGONS?

Small (4 cm), floating sea slugs

Known for striking blue color

WHERE ARE THEY FOUND?

Pacific | Atlantic | Indian Oceans

WHY ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

Sting = Painful + swelling, nausea, vomiting

Not life-threatening

Beachgoers advised to stay cautious

'Solar PV Potential Assessment of India (Ground-Mounted)' Report Launched

The National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy released a report providing a policy-linked, investment-ready framework to guide solar project siting, infrastructure, and private sector participation. It ligns with Indias Panchamrit commitments, energy independence by 2047, and net-zero by 2070.

Key Highlights

- **Updated Potential:** India's solar capacity reassessed at ~ 3,343 GWp (up from 749 GWp in 2014).
- **Geographic Spread:** Beyond Rajasthan & Maharashtra, several states show very high potential.
- **Land Use:** ~ 6.69% of feasible wasteland identified as usable for solar projects.

Challenges

- **Land Acquisition:** Conflicts with agriculture & biodiversity (e.g., Rajasthan, Gujarat).
- **Grid Integration:** Limited storage technologies for intermittent solar supply.
- **High Capital Costs:** Upfront investments remain steep despite cheaper modules.
- **Other Issues:** DISCOM financial stress, 80% import dependerice on China, policy gaps, and skill shortages.

Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission (TN-SHORE)

Tamil Nadu launched TN-SHORE, a ₹1,675-crore World Bank–funded project to boost the coastal economy and climate resilience.

KEY FEATURES

- **Mangrove Restoration:** 1,000 ha to be restored/plantated, with funds directly managed by local village mangrove councils
- **Seascapes & Biodiversity:** 30,000 ha of seascapes to be restored; protection of dugongs, turtles, and other endangered species

MANGROVES – WHY IMPORTANT?

- **Definition:** Salt-tolerant plant community in tropical/subtropical intertidal regions
- **Climate Role:** "Nature's Carbon Vault," storing 7.5–10× more carbon per acre than tropical forests
- **Livelihoods:** Support sustainable jobs (e.g., women-led mud crab farming in Maharashtra)

MANGROVES IN INDIA (ISFR-2023)

- **Total Cover:** 4,991.68 sq. km.
- **Growth:** 11.4% net increase (2001-2023).
- **Distribution:** West Bengal (42,45%), Gujarat (23.32).

EDUCATE GIRLS WINS RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD

Milestone: First Indian NGO to receive this honor.

About Ramon Magsaysay Award

Established: 1957 (First award in 1958)

Status: Asia's highest honor; often called "Asia's Nobel Prize"

Purpose: Commemorrates the leadership of Philippines' 7th President, Ramon Magsaysay

SPECIAL EDITION: CULTURE

IGNCA Launches 'Hindi Maah 2025' with Cultural Fervour

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Rajbhasha Anubhag, inaugurated Hindi Maah 2025 on 2 September with a vibrant cultural and literary programme. The event opened with a lamp-lighting ceremony and a Gaudiya dance performance on Ganesh Stuti.
- Prof. Sudha Singh, Head of the Hindi Department at the University of Delhi, was the Chief Guest, while Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA, presided over the session. In his address, Dr. Joshi highlighted the value of promoting India's linguistic diversity and urged citizens to learn an additional Indian language. Prof. Singh encouraged participants to nurture a genuine love for Hindi and expand its use in professional and knowledge domains.
- The month-long celebration will include literary competitions, cultural performances, and interactive sessions, concluding on 30 September.

'Gyan Bharatam' International Conference Showcases India's Knowledge Legacy

- The Ministry of Culture launched Gyan Bharatam, a national initiative to preserve, digitise, and promote India's manuscript heritage, with the inaugural Gyan Bharatam International Conference on Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy held on 11 September 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Inaugurated by Union Culture Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the three-day conference hosts over 1,100 scholars and experts from India and abroad. Keynote speaker Prof. Manjul Bhargava underscored the global significance of India's manuscript tradition. The sessions focus on manuscriptology, digitisation, conservation, and repatriation.
- The Prime Minister will address the conference on 12 September, followed by a valedictory session chaired by the Home Minister on 13 September. The initiative marks a cultural revival, reaffirming India's role as a global knowledge leader and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

PM Modi Addresses Gyan Bharatam International Conference at Vigyan Bhawan

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Gyan Bharatam International Conference at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, calling it a landmark step in preserving and digitising India's manuscript heritage. He noted that manuscripts are living records of India's civilisational wisdom—spanning philosophy, science, medicine, art, and literature—and that India's one crore manuscripts reflect generations of devotion to knowledge.
- The Prime Minister outlined four pillars of the Gyan Bharatam Mission—preservation, innovation, addition, and adaptation—aimed at creating a National Digital Repository powered by AI, research, and global collaboration. Emphasising protection against intellectual piracy and new opportunities for youth, he urged young scholars to join the mission to make India's knowledge legacy a guiding light for the world.

'Gyan Bharatam' Initiative Heralds a Cultural Renaissance for India's Manuscript Heritage

- The Ministry of Culture's Gyan Bharatam initiative marks a major step in preserving, digitising, and promoting India's manuscript heritage. The inaugural Gyan Bharatam International Conference on Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy was held from 11–13 September 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, bringing together over 1,100 scholars and cultural practitioners from India and abroad to revive India's timeless knowledge traditions.
- The conference concluded with the Delhi Declaration, affirming a national commitment to protect manuscripts as vital cultural and intellectual assets for Viksit Bharat 2047. In his valedictory address, Union Culture Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat called Gyan Bharatam a cultural renaissance—transforming manuscript preservation into a people's movement that bridges India's ancient wisdom with future generations.

IGNCA to Inaugurate 'Mann Ki Baat' Art Exhibition in New Delhi

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Kaladarsana Division, Ministry of Culture, will inaugurate the Mann Ki Baat art exhibition on 16 September 2025 at 4:00 PM at the Samvet Auditorium, IGNCA, New Delhi. Curated by Prof. (Dr.) Richa Kamboj, HoD, Kaladarsana Division, the exhibition features paintings by senior artist Shri Manjit Singh, inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's iconic radio programme Mann Ki Baat.
- The inaugural ceremony will be graced by Smt. Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi, as Chief Guest, with Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President, IGNCA, and Ms. Lily Pandeya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, as Guests of Honour. Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA, will preside over the event.
- The exhibition will remain open to the public from 17–22 September 2025 at Darshnam I & II, IGNCA, from 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM, celebrating art, culture, and creative expression.

Ministry of Culture Proposes Multinational Nomination of Chhath Mahaparva to UNESCO Heritage List

- The Ministry of Culture held a high-level consultation at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, with diplomatic representatives from the UAE, Suriname, and the Netherlands to advance the multinational nomination of Chhath Mahaparva for inclusion in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Chaired by Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, the meeting included officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, Sangeet Natak Akademi, and IGNCA. Partner nations welcomed the proposal, recognising Chhath's cultural significance and strong diaspora presence.
- Celebrated in India and across global diaspora communities, Chhath Mahaparva honours the Sun God and Goddess Chhathi Maiya, reflecting ecological harmony, inclusivity, and collective devotion. The nomination highlights India's commitment to safeguarding living traditions and strengthening cultural diplomacy.

Ministry of Culture Launches 7th Edition of Prime Minister's Mementos E-Auction

The Ministry of Culture has launched the 7th edition of the Prime Minister's Mementos E-Auction, organised by the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi. Over 1,300 gifts received by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi are being auctioned online from 17 September to 2 October 2025 on www.pmmementos.gov.in. The collection features paintings, artefacts, sculptures, handicrafts, tribal art, and sports memorabilia from the Paris Paralympics 2024, symbolising resilience and national pride.

Since its launch in 2019, the e-auction has raised over ₹50 crore, with proceeds supporting the Namami Gange Project. The mementos are also on public display at NGMA, New Delhi, allowing citizens to view them before bidding. This initiative offers people a chance to own a piece of history while contributing to India's cultural and ecological conservation efforts.

Ministry of Culture Launches 'Sewa Parv 2025' Across India

The Ministry of Culture has launched Sewa Parv 2025 (17 September–2 October), a nationwide celebration of service, creativity, and cultural pride inspired by the Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Under the theme "Viksit Bharat ke Rang, Kala ke Sang", art and painting workshops are being held at 75 key locations, engaging thousands of artists, students, and citizens to express India's developmental journey through art.

The inaugural day saw enthusiastic participation nationwide — including 1,500 artists in Lucknow, 2,000 in Vadodara, 1,300 in Jammu, and hundreds more across Thanjavur, Hyderabad, Damoh, Shantiniketan, and Anand. Citizens are also sharing their creative works digitally via the Sewa Parv Portal. The celebrations will continue until 2 October, culminating on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.

Seven Indian Natural Heritage Sites Added to UNESCO's Tentative List

India has added seven new natural heritage sites to UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, raising its total from 62 to 69. The new inclusions are:
- Deccan Traps (Panchgani & Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra)
- St. Mary's Island Cluster (Karnataka)
- Meghalayan Age Caves (Meghalaya)
- Naga Hill Ophiolite (Nagaland)
- Erra Matti Dibbalu and Natural Heritage of Tirumala Hills (Andhra Pradesh)
- Varkala Cliffs (Kerala)

With this, India now has 49 cultural, 17 natural, and 3 mixed properties under UNESCO consideration. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) led the nominations, earning praise from India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO.

This milestone strengthens India's global leadership in heritage conservation, following the successful hosting of the 46th World Heritage Committee Session in New Delhi in 2024.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

IGNCA Launches 'Hindi Maah 2025'

When was Hindi Maah 2025 inaugurated by IGNCA?
 A) 1 September 2025
B) 2 September 2025
C) 5 September 2025
D) 15 September 2025

2. Which department organized Hindi Maah 2025?
A) Kaladarsana Division
B) Rajbhasha Anubhag
C) Manav Anubhag
D) Sanskriti Division

3. What performance marked the opening of Hindi Maah 2025?
A) Bharatanatyam
B) Gaudiya dance on Ganesh Stuti
C) Kathak recital
 D) Odissi performance

4. Who was the Chief Guest at the Hindi Maah 2025 inauguration?
A) Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi
B) Prof. Sudha Singh
C) Smt. Rekha Gupta
D) Prof. Manjul Bhargava

5. Who presided over the inaugural session?
A) Prof. Sudha Singh
B) Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi
C) Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
D) Prof. Richa Kamboj

'Gyan Bharatam' International Conference

Where was the Gyan Bharatam International Conference held?
A) IGNCA, Delhi
B) India Habitat Centre
C) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
D) NGMA, New Delhi

When was the Gyan Bharatam Conference inaugurated?
A) 9 September 2025
B) 10 September 2025
C) 11 September 2025
D) 13 September 2025

Who inaugurated the Gyan Bharatam Conference?
A) Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
B) Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi
C) PM Narendra Modi
D) Prof. Manjul Bhargava

How many scholars and experts participated?
A) 500
B) 800
C) 1,100+
D) 2,000

Who delivered the keynote address?
A) PM Narendra Modi
B) Dr. Joshi
C) Prof. Manjul Bhargava
D) Shri Vivek Aggarwal

The Prime Minister addressed the conference on—
A) 11 September
B) 12 September
C) 13 September
D) 10 September

Mann Ki Baat Art Exhibition

Who is curating the Mann Ki Baat exhibition?
A) Prof. (Dr.) Richa Kamboj
B) Dr. Joshi
C) Shri Ram Bahadur Rai
D) Prof. Sudha Singh

Who is the artist behind the exhibition paintings?
A) Shri Manjit Singh
B) Raja Ravi Varma
C) M.F. Husain
D) Anjolie Ela Menon

Where is the exhibition being held?
A) NGMA
B) Samvet Auditorium, IGNCA, New Delhi
C) Lalit Kala Akademi
D) India International Centre

Who is the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony?
A) PM Narendra Modi
B) Smt. Rekha Gupta
C) Dr. Joshi
D) Prof. Richa Kamboj

The exhibition will remain open to the public from—
A) 15–20 September
B) 17–22 September
C) 18–25 September
D) 20–27 September

Public visiting hours are—
A) 9 AM – 5 PM
B) 10:30 AM – 6:30 PM
C) 11 AM – 7 PM
D) 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Chhath Mahaparva UNESCO Nomination

The multinational nomination for Chhath Mahaparva involves which countries?
A) Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh
B) UAE, Suriname, Netherlands
C) Mauritius, Fiji, UK
D) Sri Lanka, Trinidad, Guyana

Who chaired the consultation meeting?
A) Shri Vivek Aggarwal
B) Dr. Joshi
C) Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
D) Prof. Manjul Bhargava

The festival of Chhath Mahaparva primarily worships—
A) Goddess Durga
B) Sun God and Goddess Chhathi Maiya
C) Lord Shiva
D) Mother Ganga

The nomination aims to include Chhath under which UNESCO list?
A) World Heritage List
B) Intangible Cultural Heritage List
C) Memory of the World Register
D) Cultural Landscape List

Prime Minister's Mementos E-Auction (7th Edition)

Which institution is organizing the e-auction?
A) IGNCA
B) National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)
C) ASI
D) Sangeet Natak Akademi

The e-auction runs from—
A) 1–15 September 2025
B) 17 September–2 October 2025
C) 10–25 September 2025
D) 20 September–5 October 2025

How many items are being auctioned?
A) 500
B) 900
C) 1,300+
D) 2,000

The proceeds from the auction support which project?
A) Clean India Mission
B) Namami Gange Project
C) Smart Cities Mission
D) Swachh Bharat Mission

Since 2019, how much has the auction raised?
A) ₹25 crore
B) ₹50 crore+
C) ₹75 crore
D) ₹100 crore

The collection includes memorabilia from which sporting event?
A) Tokyo Olympics 2020
B) Asian Games 2022
C) Paris Paralympics 2024
D) Cricket World Cup 2023

Sewa Parv 2025

Sewa Parv 2025 runs from—
A) 17 September–2 October
B) 15–30 September
C) 10–25 October
D) 1–15 October

The theme of Sewa Parv 2025 is—
A) Art for All
B) "Viksit Bharat ke Rang, Kala ke Sang"
C) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
D) Sabka Prayas

Sewa Parv aims to celebrate—
A) Trade and Commerce
B) Service, Creativity, and Cultural Pride
C) Tourism and Heritage
D) Language and Literature

How many artists participated in Lucknow?
A) 1,000
B) 1,500
C) 2,000
D) 3,000

How many artists participated in Vadodara?
A) 1,000
B) 1,200
C) 2,000
D) 1,800

The event will conclude on which day?
A) Hindi Diwas
B) Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary
C) Republic Day
D) World Heritage Day

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C) Republic Day
D) World Heritage Day

Seven Indian Natural Heritage Sites Added to UNESCO Tentative List

How many new sites were added to the tentative list?
A) 5
B) 6
C) 7
D) 9

The total tentative sites after addition are—
A) 62
B) 65
C) 69
D) 71

Which site is located in Maharashtra?
A) St. Mary's Island Cluster
B) Deccan Traps (Panchgani & Mahabaleshwar)
C) Varkala Cliffs
D) Meghalayan Caves

St. Mary's Island Cluster is in—
A) Kerala
B) Maharashtra
C) Karnataka
D) Goa

Meghalayan Age Caves are in—
A) Mizoram
B) Meghalaya
C) Manipur
D) Nagaland

Varkala Cliffs are located in—
A) Tamil Nadu
B) Kerala
C) Goa
D) Karnataka

Which organization led the nominations for UNESCO's tentative list?
A) Ministry of Culture
B) IGNCA
C) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
D) National Museum

📖 Answer Key: IGNCA & Ministry of Culture Updates 2025

No.	Answer	No.	Answer	No.	Answer	No.	Answer
1	B	11	A	21	B	31	B
2	B	12	C	22	A	32	B
3	B	13	C	23	A	33	B
4	B	14	B	24	B	34	C
5	B	15	B	25	B	35	B
6	B	16	C	26	B	36	B
7	C	17	B	27	B	37	C
8	B	18	B	28	B	38	A
9	C	19	B	29	A	39	B
10	C	20	C	30	B	40	B

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