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GST 2.0

INDIA IS NOW DESIGNING
2 nm CHIPS

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1. Constitution and Polity

1. Visakhapatnam Declaration:

Context: The Declaration adopted at the 28th National Conference on e-Governance, called for a whole-of-government approach to strengthen civil services with digital competencies.

More about Declaration:

- **National Vision:** Promote inclusive, citizen-centric, and transparent governance.
- **Technology-Driven Governance:** Use AI, ML, Blockchain, IoT, GIS, and Data Analytics for real-time, multilingual, and ethical service delivery.
- **Successful Model Replication:** Scale up proven digital initiatives like SAMPADA 2.0, eKhata, Rohini GP, and NHAI's DAMS across India.
- **Grassroots & Inclusive Development:** Expand digital reach to remote areas (NE, Ladakh) and promote digital literacy among women and youth.
- **Cybersecurity & Resilience:** Implement Zero-Trust, post-quantum, and AI-based security for key sectors.
- **Agriculture & Sustainability:** Build a National Agri Stack to enhance access to farm credit, advisories, and markets.

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2. International Relations

1. **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):**

Context: The 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2025, held in Tianjin, China.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

- It is an intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance founded in 2001.
- It was initially launched by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- It is headquartered at Beijing.
- In 2015, at Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members and in 2017 they officially became part.
- Later Iran became part of SCO in 2021.
- The SCO aims to promote cooperation and mutual support in areas such as trade, investment, energy, transportation, and security.
- The Shanghai Spirit is the core value of the SCO.
- It is about mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect to pursuit of common development among the SCO members.

Members	China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran and Uzbekistan
Observers	Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia
Dialogue Partners	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Egypt, Nepal, Qatar and Saudi Arabia

Key outcomes:

- Condemnation of Terrorism: SCO condemned the Pahalgam terror attack, marking a diplomatic win for India against Pakistan-linked shielding.
- Support for CCIT: Members backed India's call for adopting the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
- Security Cooperation: Agreement to set up an SCO Anti-Drug Centre and a Universal Center for Countering Security Threats.
- Global Governance Initiative: Endorsed China's GGI promoting multilateralism and sovereign equality beyond Western dominance.
- Economic Cooperation: Steps taken toward creating an SCO Export Credit Mechanism and SCO Development Bank for Eurasian infrastructure.
- Technological Collaboration: Members allowed access to China's BeiDou navigation system as an alternative to GPS.
- India's Global Vision: Reaffirmed support for India's "One Earth, One Family, One Future" philosophy.
- Cultural Diplomacy: India proposed a Civilisation Dialogue Forum to foster cultural and people-to-people ties.

2. **International Criminal Court (ICC):**

   Context: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger recently withdrew from International Criminal Court (ICC).

International Criminal Court (ICC):

- It was created by the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and began functioning on 1 July 2002 when the Statute came into force.

- It investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes etc.

- It is the only permanent international criminal tribunal.

- 125 nations are States Parties to the Rome Statute and recognize the ICC's authority; the notable exceptions being the US, China, Russia, and India.

- Unlike the International Court of Justice, which hears disputes between states, the ICC handles prosecutions of individuals.

- It is Headquartered at Hague, Netherlands.

3. **Scarborough Shoal:**

Context: The Philippines strongly condemned China's move to set up a nature reserve at Scarborough Shoal.

About Scarborough Shoal:

- **Location:** A disputed atoll in the South China Sea, about 220 km west of the Philippines' Luzon Island.

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- **Geography:** Largest atoll in the South China Sea, mostly submerged at high tide with few rocks visible.
- **China's Claim:** China asserts historical ownership dating back to the Yuan Dynasty (1200s), calling it Huangyan Island.
- **Philippines' Claim:** Philippines bases its claim on proximity and UNCLOS, as the shoal lies within its 200-nautical-mile EEZ.
- **Legal Basis:** The Philippines relies on the 1982 UNCLOS provisions supporting its maritime rights.
- **Economic Importance:** Waters around the shoal are rich in fish, shellfish, and sea cucumbers, making it a key fishing zone.

4. Bagram Air Base:
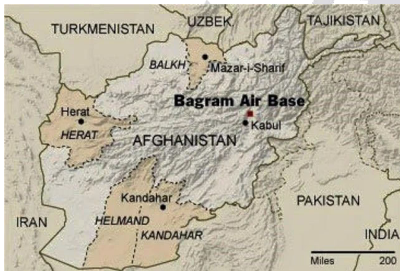
Context: United States is in talks with Afghanistan to regain the control of the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Bagram Air Base:

- **Location:** Largest air base in Afghanistan, situated north of Kabul.
- **Origin:** Constructed by the Soviet Union in the 1950s.
- **Post-Soviet Era:** Became a major battleground between the Taliban and Northern Alliance in the 1990s.
- **US Involvement:** Served as the main hub for US-led operations during the War on Terror after 2001.
- **Withdrawal:** US and NATO forces completely withdrew from Bagram in 2021.

3. Indian Economy and Development

1. Next gen GST reforms:

Context: The 56th meeting of the GST Council has approved Next-Gen GST reform (GST 2.0) that includes rate rationalization with a simplified two-slab structure.

About GST:

- **Definition:** A single indirect tax on the supply of goods and services across India.
- **Introduction:** Implemented through the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2017.
- **Components:** Includes CGST, SGST, UTGST (for intra-state) and IGST (for inter-state) transactions.
- **Collection:** IGST is collected by the Centre and shared with the destination state.
- **Nature:** It is a destination-based tax, where revenue accrues to the state or UT of consumption.

Save Big on Daily Essentials

Items	From	To
Hair Oil, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Soap Bar, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Cream	18%	5%
Butter, Ghee, Cheese & Dairy Spreads	12%	5%
Pre-packaged Namkeens, Bhujia & Mixtures	12%	5%
Utensils	12%	5%
Feeding Bottles, Napkins for Babies & Clinical Diapers	12%	5%
Sewing Machines & Parts	12%	5%

Uplifting Farmers & Agriculture

Items	From	To
Tractor Tyres & Parts	18%	5%
Tractors	12%	5%
Specified Bio-Pesticides, Micro-Nutrients	12%	5%
Drip Irrigation System & Sprinklers	12%	5%
Agricultural, Horticultural or Forestry Machines for Soil Preparation, Cultivation, Harvesting & Threshing	12%	5%

Relief in Healthcare Sector

Items	From	To
Individual Health & Life Insurance	18%	Nil
Thermometer	18%	5%
Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
All Diagnostic Kits & Reagents	12%	5%
Glucometer & Test Strips	12%	5%
Corrective Spectacles	12%	5%

Automobiles made affordable

Items	From	To
Petrol & Petrol Hybrid, LPG, CNG Cars (not exceeding - 1200 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
Diesel & Diesel Hybrid Cars (not exceeding - 1500 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
3 Wheeled Vehicles	28%	18%
Motor Cycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
Motor Vehicles for transport of goods	28%	18%

Affordable Education

Items	From	To
Maps, Charts & Globes	12%	Nil
Pencils, Sharpeners, Crayons & Pastels	12%	Nil
Exercise Books & Notebooks	12%	Nil
Eraser	5%	Nil

Save on Electronic Appliances

Items	From	To
Air Conditioners	28%	18%
Television (above 32") (including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%
Monitors & Projectors	28%	18%
Dish Washing Machines	28%	18%

About GST council:

- **Constitutional Basis:** Established under Article 279A as the apex decision-making body on GST.
- **Key Role:** Recommends GST rates, exemptions, thresholds, model laws, and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- **Meetings:** Convenes at least once every quarter, with special sessions for urgent issues.
- **Chairperson:** Headed by the Union Finance Minister.

- **Members:** Includes Union MoS (Revenue/Finance) and Finance Ministers of all States/UTs with legislatures.
- **Voting System:** Follows a weighted system—Centre holds one-third votes, States two-thirds.
- **Decision Rule:** Requires a three-fourths majority of weighted votes to pass decisions.
- **Headquarters:** Located in New Delhi.
- **Significance:** Promotes cooperative federalism and ensures uniformity and stability of GST across India.

2. **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT):**

   Context: Union Finance Minister formally launched the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), marking a significant milestone in India's GST journey.

About Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT):

- **Establishment:** Created under Section 109 of the CGST Act, 2017 as the second appellate authority.
- **First Appeal:** The initial appeal in GST disputes lies within the tax administration.
- **Purpose:** Provides an independent forum to hear appeals against orders of GST Appellate Authorities.
- **Benches:** Operates through a Principal Bench in New Delhi and 31 State Benches across 45 locations.
- **Structure:** Each Bench includes two Judicial Members, one Technical Member (Centre), and one Technical Member (State).
- **Significance:** Embodies cooperative federalism and ensures impartial, uniform, and accessible tax dispute resolution.

3. **Semiconductors:**

   Context: A 2 nm chip is being designed in India for the first time after inauguration of ARM's new semiconductor design office in Bengaluru.
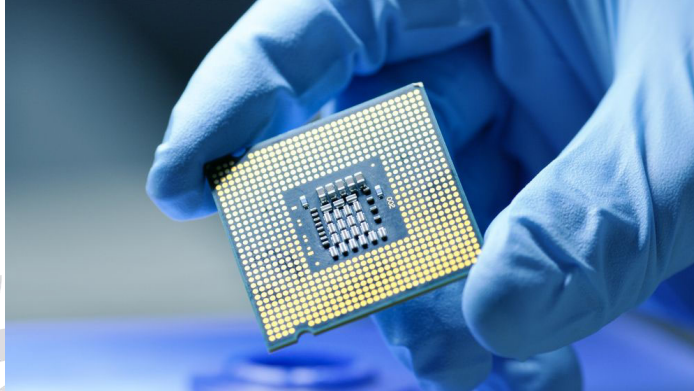
About Semiconductors:

- **Definition:** Semiconductors are materials with conductivity between conductors and insulators, like silicon or gallium arsenide.

- **Property:** Their resistivity lies between conductors and insulators, decreasing as temperature increases.

- **Core of Technology:** Semiconductor chips form the heart and brain of modern electronic and communication devices.

- **Support Emerging Tech:** Crucial for developing AI, 5G, autonomous vehicles, and other advanced technologies.

- **Trade Importance:** Among the world's most-traded products after petroleum and cars, with a $500 billion market.

- **Device Advancement:** Enable smaller, cheaper, and more powerful electronic devices like smartphones and gadgets.

- **Transformative Role:** Drive innovation across sectors such as aerospace, energy, healthcare, and consumer electronics.

Why is 2nm chip significant?

- **Core Role:** Semiconductors form the foundation of all modern electronic devices.

- **Function:** Microchips made from semiconductors store, process, and transfer digital information.

- **Structure:** Each chip houses millions of transistors that regulate electrical signals like brain neurons.
- **Efficiency:** Thinner 2nm chips pack more processing power into smaller, lighter devices.
- **Performance:** Smaller transistors enhance speed, efficiency, and reduce power consumption.
- **Strategic Value:** 2nm chips are vital for national security, defence, and space technologies.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):

TURNING INDIA INTO THE GLOBAL HUB OF ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURING

Union Cabinet approves programme for development of sustainable semiconductors and display ecosystem

- Incentives worth **Rs 2.3 lakh crore** to position India as global hub for electronics manufacturing
- **Rs 76,000 crore** approved for development of semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem
- Setting up of **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** to drive this sector

Read full at bitly.ws/kaNY

- **Launch:** Approved in 2021 to strengthen India's position in the global electronics value chain.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Objective:** Promote chip design startups, indigenous IP, R&D, and reduce semiconductor import dependence.
- **Focus Areas:** Establish chip fabs, packaging/testing units (ATMP/OSAT), support startups, and train skilled talent.
- **Investment Goal:** Attract global semiconductor manufacturers and investors to India.

- **Semiconductor Fabs Scheme:** Offers up to 50% fiscal support for semiconductor wafer fabrication units.
- **Display Fabs Scheme:** Provides up to 50% assistance for AMOLED and LCD display fabrication.
- **Compound Semiconductors & ATMP/OSAT Scheme:** Grants up to 50% support for compound semiconductors, MEMS, sensors, and packaging units.
- **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:** Supports chip design startups/MSMEs with funding up to ₹. 15 crore per company.

4. **PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks:**

Context: Recently, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of PM MITRA Park in Dhar District in Madhya Pradesh.

About PM MITRA Scheme:

- **Launch:** Introduced by the Ministry of Textiles with an outlay of ₹4,445 crore for 2021–22 to 2027–28.

- **Objective:** Establish large-scale textile parks with world-class infrastructure and integrated value chains.

- **Coverage:** Seven sites identified across India for developing textile manufacturing hubs.

- **Integration:** Parks to host the entire textile value chain—from spinning to garmenting and machinery production.

- **Vision:** Based on the "5F" concept — Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign.

- **Investment Goal:** Targeting ₹. 70,000 crore in investments.

- **Employment Goal:** Expected to create around 20 lakh direct and indirect jobs.

- **Eligibility for States:** Requires at least 1,000 acres of contiguous, encumbrance-free land and strong textile potential.

- **Implementation Model:** Each park managed by an SPV with 49% Centre and 51% State equity.

- **PPP Approach:** Developed through a public-private partnership with a master developer for infrastructure.

India's Textile and Apparel Sector:

- **Global Standing:** India is the 2nd largest textile manufacturer after China and the 6th largest exporter with a 3.91% global share.

- **Economic Contribution:** Accounts for around 2.3% of GDP, 13% of industrial output, and 12% of exports (US$34.4 billion in 2023–24).

- **Employment:** Second-largest employer after agriculture, providing jobs to over 45 million people, including many women and rural workers.

- **Inclusivity:** About 80% of textile manufacturing capacity lies within MSME clusters.

5. **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):**

   Context: Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) completed 5 years of its launch.

"Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)"

- It is a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada.
- It aims for formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises with an investment of over ₹. 6,000 crores.
- 50% i.e.₹.3,000 crore public finance including the World Bank and the AFD external financing.

- Rest 50% i.e. ₹. 3,000 crore being the anticipated investment from the beneficiaries/private sector leverage.
- It covers a period of next four years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 in all States/Union Territories.

Four components of the scheme:

- Formalization of fisheries sector and facilitating access of fisheries microenterprises to Government of India programs.
- Supporting microenterprises to improve fisheries sector value chain.
- Adoption and expansion of fish and fishery product safety and quality.
- Project management, monitoring and reporting.

6.   State Finances report 2022-23:

    Context: The report was released by released by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Key highlights of the report:

- **Total Debt:** States' combined debt in 2022–23 stood at 22.17% of India's GDP.
- **FRBM Target:** The FRBM Act, 2003, mandates states to limit debt to 20% of GDP by 2024–25.
- **Highest Debt-to-GSDP:** Punjab (40.35%), Nagaland (37.15%), and West Bengal (33.70%) recorded the highest ratios.
- **Fiscal Deficit:** All 28 states ran deficits, ranging from Gujarat (0.76% of GSDP) to Himachal Pradesh (6.46%).
- **FRBM Fiscal Deficit Benchmark:** States are required to keep fiscal deficit within 3.5% of GSDP for FY 2022–23.
- **Revenue Disparity:** States' Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) varied widely—70% in Haryana and only 9% in Arunachal Pradesh.

7.   Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) Publications for 2023-24:

    Context: It is released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

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Key Highlights of ASI 2023-24

ASI 2023-24 Central Sample Size - 83,620 (63,981 Census and 19,639 Sample)

Growth in current prices in the year 2023-24 over 2022-23
- GVA¹ △ 11.89%
- Output △ 5.80%
- Input △ 4.71%

Main drivers of this growth in 2023-24 were in industries, Manufacture of Basic metal, Motor vehicles, Chemical and Chemical products, Food Products and Pharmaceutical products, leading to..

- **48%** Contribution in total output of the sector.
- **6.35%** Output Growth
- **12.29%** GVA growth

The sector added more than 57 lakh jobs during the last decade 2014-15 to 2023-24.

- **5.92%** Employment showed a robust Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth of 5.92% in comparison to 2022-23
- Compared to 2022-23, Average emoluments per persons engaged grew by **5.6%**

About Annual Survey of Industries (ASI):

- ASI provides insights into the composition, growth, and structure of manufacturing industries (output, value added, employment, capital formation).
- Conducted annually under the Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Act, 2017.
- Covers factories under the Factories Act, 1948, Bidi and Cigar units (1966 Act), and non-CEA electricity undertakings.
- Excludes defence establishments, oil depots, railway workshops, and gas storage units.
- Results are released at state and major industry level.

Key highlights of the survey:

- **Top 5 industries by GVA:** Basic Metals, Motor Vehicles, Chemicals, Food Products, and Pharmaceuticals.
- **Top 5 States by employment:** Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka.
- **GVA growth:** 11.89% over the previous year.
- **Industrial output:** Increased by 5.80% over the previous year.
- **Average emoluments per person:** Grew by 5.6% compared to 2022–23.

8. Infrastructure status:

Context: Large ships are now included in 'Transport and Logistics' category of the Infrastructure Harmonized Master List (HML) of Infrastructure Sector, aimed to strengthen domestic shipbuilding and maritime industry.

What is Infrastructure status?

- "Infrastructure status" refers to a special recognition given by the Government of India to certain sectors that are vital for economic development and require large, long-term investments.
- **Significance of HML inclusion:** Enables easier infrastructure lending, higher ECB limits, viability gap funding, and tax incentives.

Criteria for large ship:

- Gross tonnage (GT) of 10,000 or more, under the Indian ownership and flag; or
- GT of 1,500 or more which are built in India and are under Indian ownership and flag.

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9. **Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement (BHARATI) initiative:**
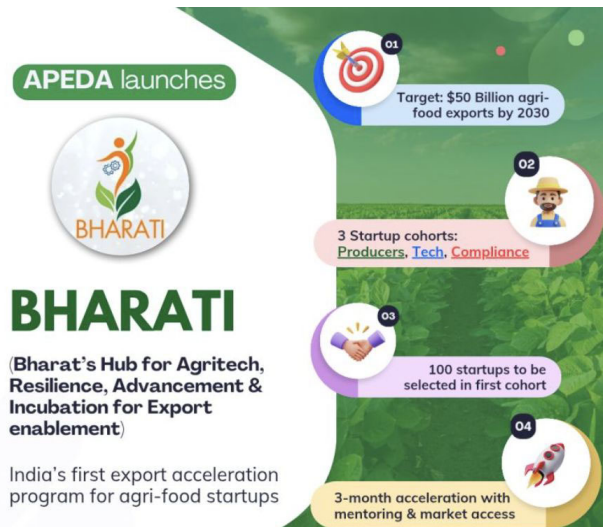
Context: APEDA has launched BHARATI to support Agri Food Startups and boost India's agri Food Export.

About BHARATI initiative:

- Aims to support 100 agri-food startups and achieve $50 billion exports by 2030.
- 3-month acceleration programme for startups on product development, export readiness, and market access.
- Attracts startups using AI, blockchain, IoT, and agri-fintech technologies.
- Promotes innovation in GI-tagged, organic, super foods, livestock, and AYUSH products.
- Seeks to resolve export challenges like quality, perishability, wastage, and logistics.

10. **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025:**

Context: World Intellectual Property Organisation released the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025.

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Top 10 Most Innovative Economies

Global Innovation Index 2025

- Switzerland
- Sweden
- United States of America
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore
- United Kingdom
- Finland
- Netherlands
- Denmark
- China

Key Highlights of GII 2025:

- India ranks 38th in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, improving from 81st in 2015.

- India and Vietnam are the longest-standing innovation overperformers for 15 consecutive years.

- Switzerland is the world's most innovative economy, followed by Sweden, USA, South Korea, and Singapore.

- The top global innovation cluster is Shenzhen–Hong Kong–Guangzhou, followed by Tokyo–Yokohama and San Jose–San Francisco.

- India has four innovation clusters in the global top 100: Bengaluru (21st), Delhi (26th), Mumbai (46th), and Chennai (84th).

Some reports:

Report	Released by	Key Highlight	India Highlights
GII 2025	WIPO	• Switzerland 1st. • Top clusters: • Shenzhen-HK-Guangzho, Tokyo - Yokohama	• India rank 38. • 15-year overperformer. • 4 clusters in Top 100: Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai.
World Trade Report 2025	WTO	• AI can boost global trade 34-37% by 2040. • Skill premium falls 3-4%. • 10% rise in digital trade → 2.6% more AI patent citations.	• Needs digital infra, skills, and competition reforms.

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| OECD Economic Outlook 2025	OECD	• Biannual economic forecast. • Covers GDP, inflation risks.	• India GDP 6.7% (2025), Inflation 2.9%

11. Polymetallic sulphides (PMS):

Context: India has signed a 15-year contract to explore polymetallic sulphides (PMS) with ISA in Carlsberg Ridge in Indian Ocean

Key highlights:

- India signed its third exploration contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA).
- It is India's second contract for Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS).
- **Earlier contracts:** Polymetallic Nodules (PMN) in Central Indian Ocean Basin and PMS in Indian
- Ocean Ridge.
- Polymetallic nodules are rock concretions of iron and manganese hydroxides formed around a core.
- India received the world's first licence to explore PMS in the Carlsberg Ridge.
- The Carlsberg Ridge is a 3,00,000 sq km area in the Arabian Sea, northwest Indian Ocean.
- It forms the boundary between the Indian and Arabian tectonic plates.
- It extends from Rodrigues Island to the Owen Fracture Zone.
- India has also applied for exploration in the Afanasy–Nikitin Seamount (ANS).
- ANS lies in the Central Indian Ocean and is claimed by Sri Lanka for exploration rights.

Polymetallic sulphides (PMS):
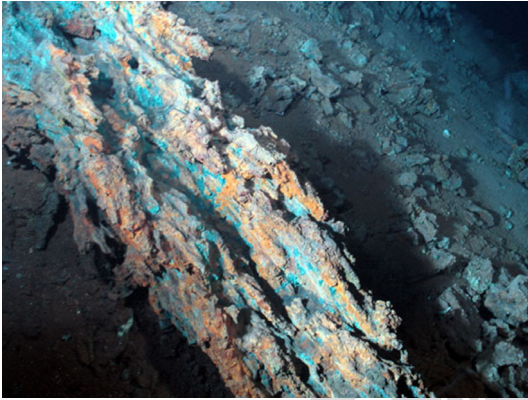
- PMS are metal-rich deposits found on the ocean floor.
- They contain valuable metals like copper, zinc, gold, and silver.
- PMS form where hot, mineral-rich mantle fluids meet cold ocean water.
- This mixing causes precipitation of metal sulphides, creating PMS deposits.

12. Hallmarking Unique Identification (HUID):

Context: The Indian government has introduced voluntary Hallmarking Unique Identification (HUID)-based hallmarking for Silver jewellery under revised standard aligning with the gold hallmarking system and enhancing traceability.

Hallmarking:

- Hallmarking means certifying the purity of precious metal articles.
- It ensures authenticity, quality, traceability, and consumer protection.
- In India, hallmarking is regulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

WHAT JEWELLERY HALLMARKING DENOTES

The Bureau of India Standards (BIS) logo · Purity of gold · Assay Centre · Jeweller's identification mark · Year of hall-marking

916

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

- National standards body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

- Established under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, now operates under BIS Act 2016.

- Formulates standards, certifies products (ISI mark, Hallmarking) and operates testing labs.
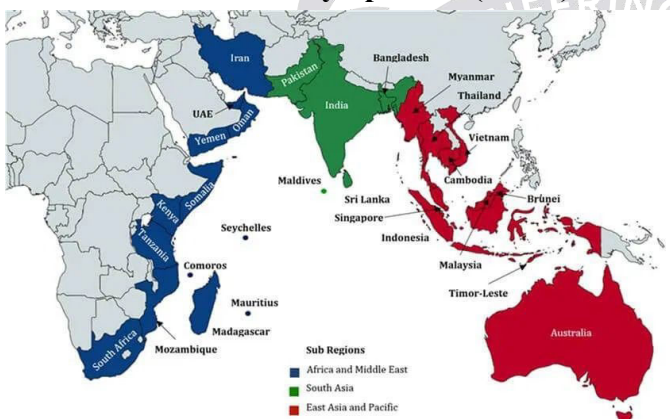
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4. Security and Defence

</div>

01.   Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

Context: Emerging Leaders Panel Discussion was held under the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) at Kochi.

About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- IONS is a voluntary initiative launched by the Indian Navy in 2008.
- **Aim:** Enhance maritime cooperation among navies of Indian Ocean littoral states.
- **Inaugural session:** 2008, New Delhi.
- **Membership:** 25 member nations + 9 observers.
- **Eligibility:** Any state with territory/border on the Indian Ocean and having a Navy/maritime agency.
- **Chairmanship:** Rotates every 2 years.
- India will chair IONS during 2025–27.

2.   India's first overseas defence manufacturing plant:

Context: Recently, the Defence Minister inaugurated India's first overseas defence manufacturing plant in Morocco.

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- The facility will produce the indigenously developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8×8, jointly designed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and DRDO.

More about:

- WhAP is India's first amphibious wheeled Infantry Combat Vehicle (ICV).
- **Designed for:** High survivability, all-terrain mobility, and enhanced lethality.
- **Developed by:** DRDO and Tata Motors (8×8 configuration).
- **Amphibious capability:** Equipped for water floatation and propulsion.
- **Key technologies:** Integrated power pack, automatic transmission, and amphibious systems.
- **Role:** Troop transport, reconnaissance, and combat support in varied terrains.

3. **Androth:**

Context: The Indian Navy has received an indigenously built anti-submarine warfare ship Androth.

About Androth:

- Androth is the second of the eight ASW Shallow Water Crafts (SWCs) being built by GRSE, Kolkata.
- Arnala is the first ship of this ASW SWC series.

- The ship's name is taken from Androth Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago.
- **Propulsion:** Diesel engine–waterjet combination for high maneuverability in shallow waters.
- **Armament:** Fitted with lightweight torpedoes and indigenous ASW rockets.
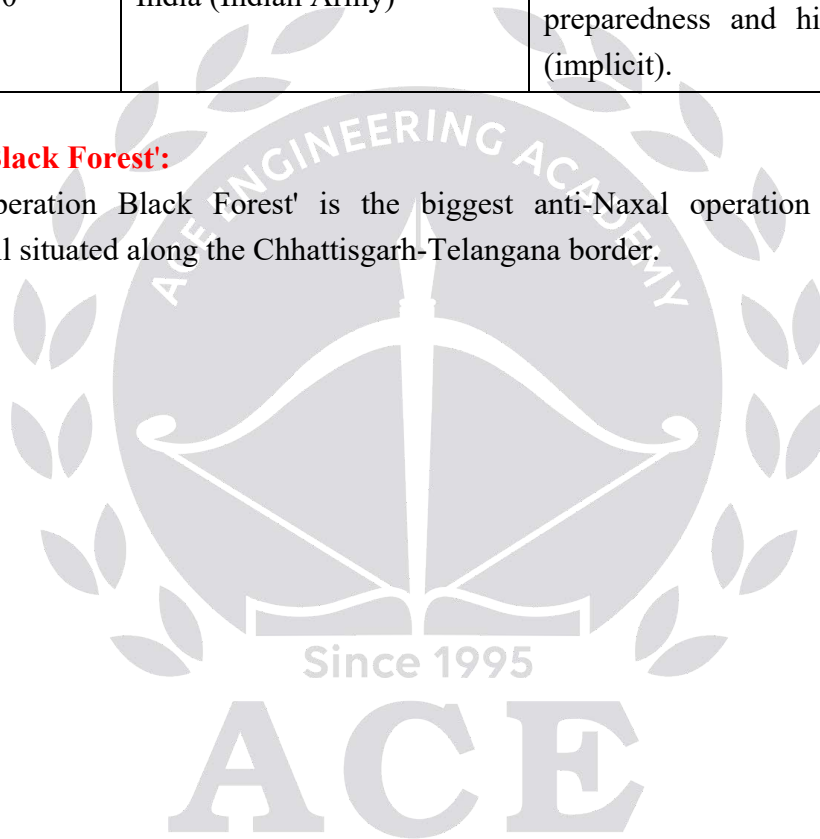
4. Exercises in news:

Exercise Name	Between Countries / Particulars	Key Features / Notes
Bright Star	Multilateral; originally US-Egypt	First held in 1980; originated after Camp David Accord (1977); expanded in 1995; among the larges tri-service multilateral exercises in the region; India to participate in 2025.
Maitree (MAITREE-X IV)	India – Thailand	Started in 2006; 14th edition in Meghalaya; focuses on company-level counter – terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain under UN Charter Chapter VII.
Zapad-2025	Russia, Belarus, and other participating nations including India	Launched in 1999; held every 4 years since 2009; aims to test defence against external threat; includes training with nuclear-capable systems like Zircon hypersonic missile.
Yudh Abhyas (2025)	India – USA	Annual since 2004; focuses on UN peacekeeping operations, multi-domain readiness.
Pacific Reach 2025	Multilateral; hosted in Singapore	India participating via INS Nistar (DSV); biennial; Harbour Phase: SMEEs, medical symposium, cross-deck visits; Sea Phase: submarine intervention & rescue operations.

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Siyom Prahar	India (Indian Army)	Conducted in Arunachal Pradesh; validates drone integration for surveillance, reconnaissance, target acquisition, and precision strikes.
Yudh Kaushal 3.0	India (Indian Army)	Held in Kameng region, Eastern Himalayas; focused on operational preparedness and high-altitude warfare (implicit).

5.   **'Operation Black Forest':**

Context: 'Operation Black Forest' is the biggest anti-Naxal operation ever conducted on Karregutta hill situated along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border.

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5. Environment and Disaster Management

</div>

1. High Seas Treaty:

What are the high seas?

They make up nearly **2/3** of the world's ocean ... and **95%** of its volume

They represent **95%** of Earth's occupied habitat

But less than **1%** of the high seas are protected

Context: Treaty for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ agreement) also known as the High Seas Treaty is set to enter into force after ratification by 60th country.

Division of seas:
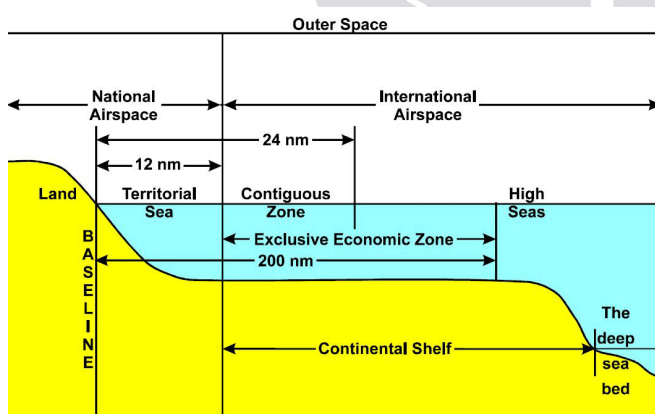
Territorial Sea	• The coastal states have sovereignty and jurisdiction over the territorial sea. These rights extend not only on the surface but also to the seabed, subsoil, and even airspace.

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	• But the coastal states' rights are limited by the innocent passage through the territorial sea.
Contiguous Zone	• The coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its territory and territorial sea. • Unlike the territorial sea, the contiguous zone only gives jurisdiction to a state on the ocean's surface and floor. It does not provide air and space rights.
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):	• Within its EEZ, a coastal state has: Sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing natural resources, whether living or nonliving, of the seabed and subsoil. • Rights to carry out activities like the production of energy from the water, currents and wind.
High Seas:	• It is considered as "the common heritage of all mankind" and is beyond any national jurisdiction. • States can conduct activities in these areas as long as they are for peaceful purposes, such as transit, marine science, and undersea exploration.

What is the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty (BBNJ)Treaty?

- BBNJ treaty commonly referred to as the Treaty of the High Seas was agreed upon in March 2023 for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

- The treaty aims to address the challenges faced by the high seas, which constitute areas beyond 200 nautical miles from the exclusive economic zones of coastal countries.
- The treaty seeks to increase the percentage of protected areas on the high seas, which currently stands at a mere 1.44%, despite covering more than two-thirds of the global ocean.
- Additionally, it aims to ensure fair and equitable sharing of profits from marine genetic resources (MGR)
- The treaty is mandated to enter into force 120 days after 60 countries ratified it.
- As on 30th September 2025, 145 countries signed, and 74 countries ratified the treaty.
- India signed the treaty but not ratified yet.

Key Pillars of the Treaty:

- **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):** Provides a global mechanism to create MPAs on the high seas for conserving marine biodiversity.
- **Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs):** Ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources taken from high-seas organisms.
- **Capacity Building & Technology Transfer:** Supports developing countries through knowledge-sharing, training, and marine technology transfer.
- **Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs):** Mandates international-standard EIAs for activities like deep-sea mining beyond national jurisdiction.

2. **Environment impact assessment (EIA):**

Context: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) exempted mining projects involving Atomic, Critical, and Strategic minerals (like Rare Earth Elements) from Public Consultation under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), 2006.

Reasons for exempting from Public Consultation?

- **Ensuring Energy Security:** Exemption helps fast-track Uranium and Thorium mineral production for India's nuclear power programme.

- **Strategic Applications:** Supports defence needs, as REEs are essential for radars, sonars, lasers, and other strategic technologies.

- **Reducing Import Dependence:** Minimizes reliance on scarce global REE supplies and lowers vulnerability to supply-chain disruptions.

- **Attracting Investment:** Faster clearances reduce project delays, boosting investment, competitiveness, and operational efficiency.
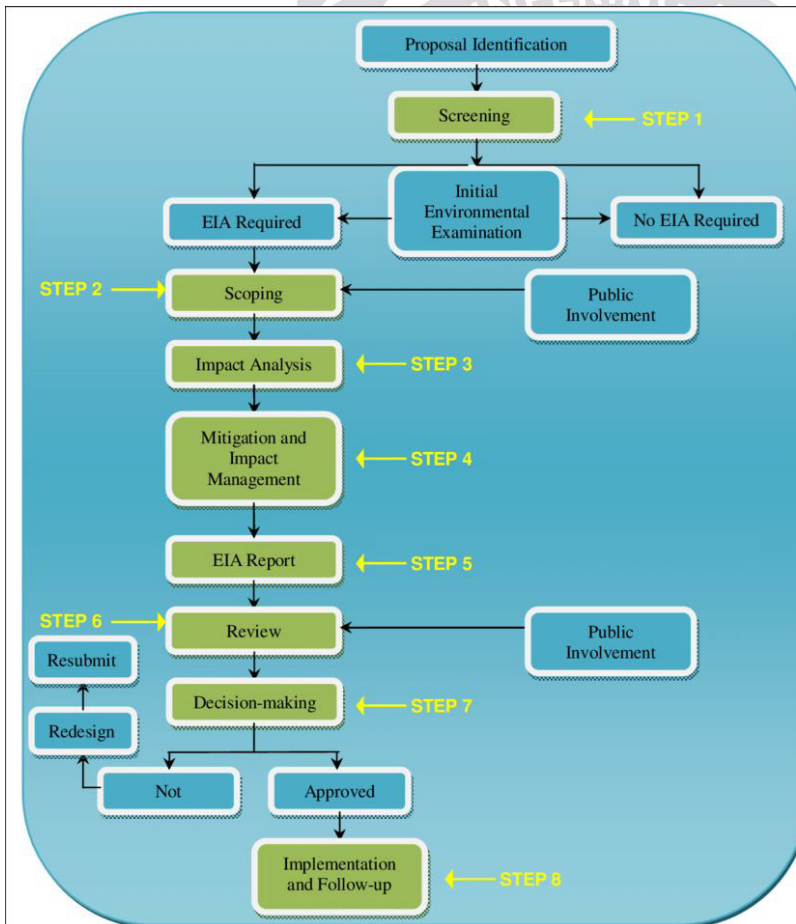
EIA process:

Step	Description
1. Screening	Determines whether a proposed project requires an EIA based on size, type, and potential environmental impacts.
2. Scoping	Identifies key environmental issues, impacts, and Terms of Reference (ToR) to be addressed in the EIA study.
3. Baseline Data Collection	Collects data on existing environmental conditions (air, water, soil, biodiversity, socio-economic aspects).
4. Impact Prediction	Predicts potential environmental impacts using scientific techniques and modeling based on baseline data.
5. Mitigation Measures	Proposes actions to avoid, reduce, or offset adverse environmental impacts of the project.
6. Alternatives Assessment	Evaluates alternative project designs, technologies, and locations to choose the least damaging option.
7. Public Consultation	Engages affected communities and stakeholders to gather feedback and ensure transparency.
8. Review of EIA Report	Authorities examine EIA findings, public inputs, and mitigation plans for accuracy and adequacy.
9. Decision-Making	Approves, rejects, or conditionally approves the project based on the EIA review.
10. Monitoring&Compliance	Ensures the project adheres to environmental clearance conditions during implementation.

Public Consultation in EIA:

Aspect	Details
Definition	A process to ascertain concerns of locally affected people and other stakeholders regarding the environmental impacts of a proposed project.
Projects Requiring Public Consultation	Generally mandatory for Category A and Category B1 projects under the EIA Notification.

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Components of Public Consultation	1. Public Hearing at or near the project site. 2. Written Responses from concerned stakeholders.
Conducting Agency	State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or UT Pollution Control Committee (UTPCC) conducts the process.
Timeline for Submission	Public hearing proceedings must be submitted to the regulatory authority within 45 days of receiving the applicant's request.

3. Green Credit programme:

Context: Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has issued a new methodology for calculating Green Credit for tree plantation under the Green Credit Rules, 2023

More about:

- Green Credit Rules, 2023 were notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- They enable Forest Departments of States/UTs to identify degraded land parcels under their jurisdiction.
- The aim is to restore these lands and enhance overall green cover through a credit-based mechanism.

What are Green credits or carbon credits?

- The Green Credit Programme is a government scheme where people, companies, or organisations earn "green credits" for doing activities that help the environment—like planting trees or restoring degraded land.
- These credits can later be traded or used as incentives, encouraging more participation in environmental conservation.

What is Green credit programme?

- This programme was officially unveiled in October 2023.
- Its goal is to lay an emphasis on sustainability, reduce waste and improve the natural environment.

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- The GCP programme presents itself as an "innovative, market-based mechanism" to incentivise "voluntary actions" for environmental conservation.
- An autonomous body of the Ministry, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), is in charge of administering the programme.
- They will define methodologies to calculate 'green credits' that result from the activities prescribed.
- They will also manage a trading platform whereby such credits could be traded.

How it works?

- Under this, individuals, organisations and companies would be encouraged to invest in sectors ranging from afforestation, water conservation, mangrove conservation etc in return be eligible to receive 'green credits.'
- Companies, organisation and individuals could offer to pay for afforestation projects in specific tracts of degraded forest and wasteland. It said, the actual tree planting would be carried out by the State forest departments.
- Two years after planting and following an evaluation by the ICFRE, each such planted tree could be worth one 'green credit.'
- Public sector companies such as Indian Oil have reportedly registered to invest in the programme.

Revised Green Credit calculation Methodology:

- **Green Credit Claim:** Earned after 5 years of restoration on degraded forest land with at least 40% canopy density achieved.
- **Credit Definition:** 1 Green Credit = 1 new tree that has grown for over 5 years.
- **Credit Transfer Rule:** Credits are non-tradable and non-transferable, allowed only one exchange and cannot be reused.

4. **Great Nicobar Island Project:**

   Context: The Tribal Affairs Ministry has asked the Andaman & Nicobar administration for a report on allegations that forest rights were not settled under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 before approving forest land diversion for the Great Nicobar Island Project.

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More about:

- Tribal Councils in Andaman & Nicobar Islands are statutory bodies under the 2009 Regulation with only advisory and limited executive powers.
- Unlike Sixth Schedule Autonomous Councils, they do not have legislative or judicial powers or significant autonomy.
- The A&N administration argues FRA is unnecessary as tribal rights are already protected under the Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Act, 1956.
- PAT, 1956 allows unilateral diversion of forest land by the administration, whereas FRA requires Gram Sabha consent after recognition of rights.

About Great Nicobar Island Project:
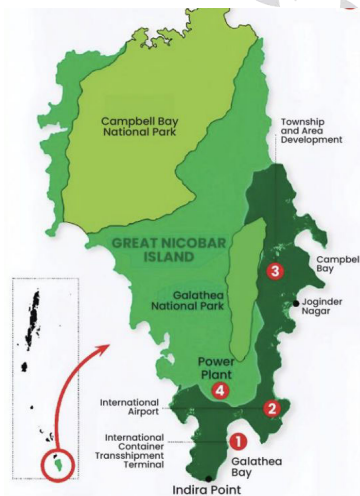
- The Great Nicobar Island Project is a major Greenfield infrastructure initiative conceptualised by NITI Aayog and approved in 2021.
- ANIIDCO is the nodal agency responsible for implementing the project.
- Key components include a deep-sea international transshipment port at Galathea Bay (overseen by MoPSW), a Greenfield international airport, a 450 MW power plant, and a modern township.

5. Great Rhino Event:

Context: A study has revealed that Wayanad landslides were grey rhino event.

What is a Great Rhino Event?

- A Great Rhino Event refers to a highly probable, high-impact crisis that is neglected despite clear warnings.
- Unlike Black Swan events, Grey Rhinos are predictable and occur after visible signs and accumulated evidence.
- The Wayanad landslide qualifies as a Great Rhino Event because it occurred in a repeatedly identified landslide-prone zone that authorities failed to act upon.

6. Hydro projects in news:

Project	Type / River	Location	Key Details
Sawalkote Project	Run-of-the-river project on' Chenab River	Ramban & Udhampur district, Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	Major hydroelectric project proposed on the Chenab.

Heo & Tato-I Projects	Hydropower project on Siyom River	Arunachal Pradeh, near India- China border	Siyom flows west to east and joins the Siang (Brahmaputra)
Oju Hydroelectric Project	Hydropower project on Subansiri River	Near India-China border, Arunachal Pradeh	Subansiri originates in Tibet, is the largest Brahmaputra tributary, and is known as the "Gold River."

7. Barren Island:

Context: Fresh Eruption Reported at Barren Island Volcano, Andaman Islands

About Barren Island:

- Situated in the Andaman Sea, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. Northeast of Port Blair
- India's only active volcano.
- Strato volcano, part of the Andaman volcanic arc.

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6. Social Issues

1. **"Gen Z protest" in Nepal:**

Context: Sushila Karki was appointed as interim Prime Minister of Nepal until 2026 elections after the fall of the government due to "Gen Z protest" in Nepal.

Reasons for Gen Z protests in Nepal:

- Gen Z protests in Nepal were triggered by the government's nationwide ban on 26 social media platforms, seen as suppressing freedom of expression.
- Widespread corruption, elite privilege, and lack of accountability fuelled public anger among young people.
- Other factors included harsh state response, a large youth population, inspiration from global youth movements, and Nepal's long history of political uprisings.
- The protests showcased a new style of youth-led, tech-driven mobilisation in Nepal.

2. **Sample Registration System (SRS) statistical report, 2023:**

Context: According to the Sample Registration System (SRS) statistical report, 2023 shows Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for rural India for the first time touched 2.1, the replacement rate.

Indicator	Key Findings (2023)
Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – National	1.9
TFR – Rural / Urban	Rural: 2.1 (first time reaching replacement level) Urban: 1.5
States Below Replacement TFR (2.1)	18 States/UTs
Highest TFR	Bihar – 2.8
Lowest TFR	Delhi – 1.2
TFR in Education	Illiterate women: 3.3 Literate women: 1.8 (inverse relationship with education)
Gross Reproduction Rate (GRR) - National	0.9

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GRR – Rural / Urban	Rural: 1.0 Urban: 0.7
Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) Trend	Decreased for ages 15-29; increased for ages 30-49
Highest ASFR Age Group	25-29 years (1368), followed by 20-24 years (107.5)
Crude Birth Rate (CBR) – National	18.4 (declined by 0.7 from 2022)
CBR – Rural / Urban	Rural: 20.3 Urban: 14.9
Highest CBR	Bihar – 25.8
Lowest CBR	Tamil Nadu – 12.0

3. **'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' Abhiyan:**

Context: Recently, Prime Minister launched 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' Abhiyan.

About Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan:

- The Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan will conduct over one lakh health camps to screen women for anaemia, hypertension, diabetes, and cancer while promoting immunization and nutrition.
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- The SASHAKT portal will monitor progress and ensure real-time accountability.
- Community partners like Anganwadis, Nikshay Mitras, and private hospitals will support the campaign.

4. NIRF rankings 2025:

Context: The Ministry of Education's NIRF 2025 rankings placed IIT Madras as India's top overall institution for the seventh consecutive year.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

- NIRF was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Education to rank Indian higher education institutions.
- It offers a transparent and reliable evaluation system for students, parents, and policymakers.
- Institutions are assessed across five weighted parameters: Teaching, Learning & Resources (30%), Research & Professional Practice (30%), Graduation Outcome (20%), Outreach & Inclusivity (10%), and Perception (10%).

THE TOPPERS

OVERALL

	2025	2024
1	IIT Madras	IIT Madras
2	IISc Bangalore	IISc Bangalore
3	IIT Bombay	IIT Bombay
4	IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi
5	IIT Kanpur	IIT Kanpur

ENGINEERING

	2025	2024
1	IIT Madras	IIT Madras
2	IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi
3	IIT Bombay	IIT Bombay
4	IIT Kanpur	IIT Kanpur
5	IIT Kharagpur	IIT Kharagpur

MANAGEMENT

	2025	2024
1	IIM Ahmedabad	IIM Ahmedabad
2	IIM Bangalore	IIM Bangalore
3	IIM Kozhikode	IIM Kozhikode
4	IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi
5	IIM Lucknow	IIM Calcutta

UNIVERSITIES

	2025	2024
1	IISc Bangalore	IISc Bangalore
2	JNU	JNU
3	Manipal Academy of Higher Education	Jamia Millia Islamia
4	Jamia Millia Islamia	Manipal Academy of Higher Education
5	Delhi University	Banaras Hindu University

COLLEGES

	2025	2024
1	Hindu College	Hindu College
2	Miranda House	Miranda House
3	Hans Raj College	St. Stephen's College
4	Kirori Mal College	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, West Bengal
5	St. Stephen's College	Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, Delhi

Source: NIRF 2025 report

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7. Science and Technology

1. mRNA Vaccines:

Context: Russia is developing oncolytic vaccine Enteromix and Personalized mRNA cancer vaccines for cancer treatment.

More about:

- Oncolytic vaccines use specially selected viruses to kill cancer cells and trigger strong anti-tumor immune responses.
- Enteromix is a four-virus, non-pathogenic oncolytic vaccine that destroys malignant cells while activating the patient's immunity.
- It showed 100% success in preclinical trials.
- Its initial target is colorectal cancer, with promising progress for glioblastoma and certain melanoma types.

About mRNA:
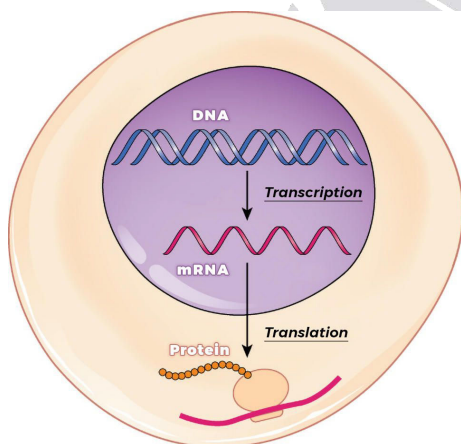
- mRNA (messenger RNA) is a single-stranded RNA molecule involved in protein synthesis.
- It is produced from DNA during the process of transcription.

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- mRNA carries genetic instructions from the DNA in the nucleus to the cytoplasm for protein production.
- The cell's machinery reads mRNA codons and translates them into amino acids to form proteins.
- In essence, mRNA enables the information in DNA to be decoded and used by the cell.

About mRNA Vaccines:
- mRNA vaccines deliver a small piece of mRNA that codes for a viral protein.
- Body cells use this mRNA to produce the harmless viral protein.
- The immune system recognizes the protein as foreign and makes antibodies.
- These antibodies stay in the body to provide future protection.
- On real infection, antibodies quickly neutralize the virus and prevent severe illness.
- mRNA vaccines do not contain the virus and cannot cause infection.

How mRNA Vaccines Are Made?
- Scientists first identify a suitable target protein on the virus.
- They ensure the target protein is different from human cell proteins.
- DNA coding for the target protein is identified.
- This DNA is used to produce mRNA for the protein.
- After enough mRNA is made, the DNA template is destroyed.
- Only purified mRNA is packaged into the vaccine.

About Personalized mRNA Vaccines:
- Personalized mRNA vaccines are tailored using the genetic profile of an individual patient's tumor.
- The vaccine trains the immune system to specifically recognize and attack that person's cancer cells.
- mRNA vaccines use a small piece of messenger RNA to make cells produce a target protein.
- The mRNA is delivered into the body inside lipid nano-particles for protection and entry into cells.
- The produced protein mimics a pathogen (antigen) that triggers an immune response.

- Example: COVID-19 mRNA vaccines instruct cells to make the spike protein of the virus.
- The immune system identifies these proteins as foreign and produces antibodies and T-cells.
- This response "prepares" the immune system to fight real cancer cells or pathogens in the future.

2. Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO):
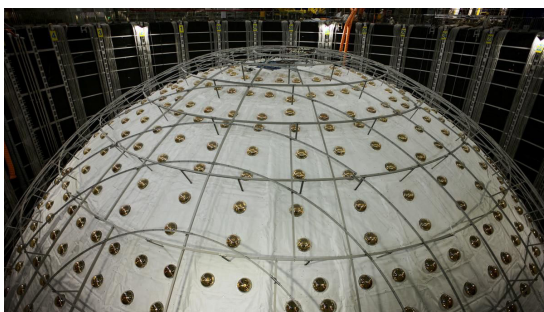
Context: The Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO), the world's largest neutrino detector, has been activated in China after a decade of construction.

More about JUNO:

- The observatory is located 700 meters underground to block interfering particles.
- Neutrino observatories are placed underground because Earth's crust shields them from most particles like muons.
- JUNO's main goal is to determine the mass hierarchy among the three neutrino types.
- The three neutrino types are electron, muon, and tau neutrinos.
- JUNO also aims to precisely measure neutrino oscillation frequency (how neutrinos change from one type to another).

About Neutrinos:

- Neutrinos are subatomic "ghost particles" with no charge, no size, and extremely tiny mass.
- They are the second-most abundant particles after photons in the universe.
- They are hard to detect because they interact only through the weak nuclear force and gravity.
- Neutrinos aren't affected by magnetic fields and travel in straight lines at nearly the speed of light.

What is the Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO)?

- INO is a proposed particle-physics mega project to study neutrinos.
- It aims to conduct research in a 1,200-metre-deep underground laboratory.
- The site is proposed at Pottipuram village, Theni district, Tamil Nadu.
- The project was initially conceived by the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, later taken up by TIFR.

3. **India's Largest Lithium-ion (Li-ion) Battery Manufacturing Plant:**

  Context: India's Largest Lithium-ion (Li-ion) Battery Manufacturing Plant was inaugurated in Haryana. It was established under the Centre's Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) scheme.

About Li-ion Battery:

PARTS OF A LITHIUM-ION BATTERY
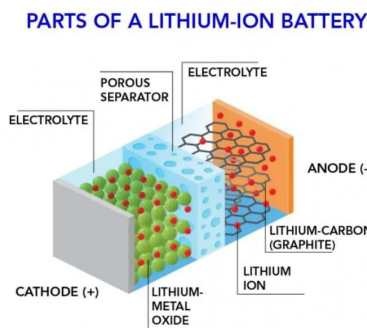
- Li-ion batteries have anode, cathode, separator, electrolyte, and current collectors.
- Cathode is made of lithium metal oxides like $LiCoO_2$, $LiMn_2O_4$, $LiFePO_4$, which determine battery performance.
- Anode is usually graphite, where lithium ions move during charging.
- Electrolyte is a lithium salt solution enabling ion flow between electrodes.
- Separator is a porous membrane preventing short circuits while allowing ion movement.
- Li-ion batteries are highly rechargeable, lasting hundreds to thousands of cycles depending on usage.
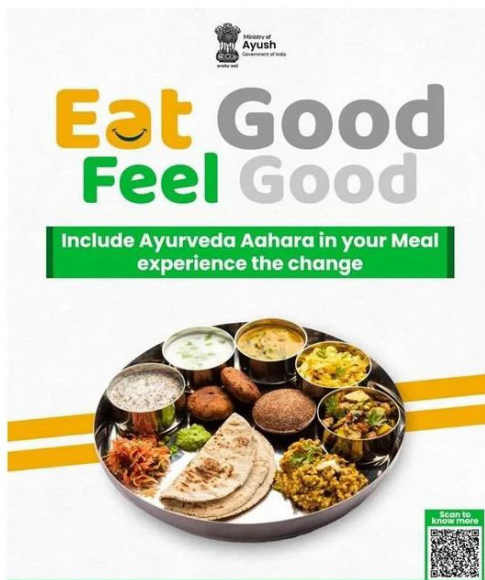
Benefits of Lithium-ion Batteries:

• Li-ion batteries offer high energy density (75–200 Wh/kg) for longer usage between charges.

• They are lightweight and use fewer toxic heavy metals than lead-acid batteries.

• They provide excellent performance with good cycle life, low self-discharge, and no memory effect.

4. Ayurveda Aahara Products:

Context: Recently, FSSAI and Ministry of Ayush released definitive list of 'Ayurveda Aahara' Products.

About Ayurveda Aahara:

• Ayurveda Aahara is regulated under the Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022.

• It sets clear standards for FBOs to ensure authenticity and safety of Ayurvedic food products.

• Formulations are based on classical Ayurvedic texts.

• Includes traditional foods like Angarkarkati, Krishara, Panaka, Dadhi, and Gulkand.

5.   DRAVYA portal:

Context: DRAVYA (Digitized Retrieval Application for Versatile Yardstick of AYUSH Substances) portal was launched on National Ayurveda Day (Sep 23, 2025).

About DRAVYA Portal:

- Initiatives of Ministry of Ayush.
- It is the largest collection of data on Ayurvedic Ingredients and Products made available to everyone.
- It is an ever growing, ever evolving database that covers classical Ayurveda textbooks as well as contemporary scientific literature and field studies.

6.   Dadabhai Naoroji:

Context: Recently, the 200th Birth Anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji was celebrated across the nation.

About Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1917):

- Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1917) was an Indian scholar, trader, and politician.

- He was called the "Grand Old Man of India" and "Unofficial Ambassador of India."
- He was a founding member of the Indian National Congress and its president three times (1886, 1893, 1906).
- In 1906, he became Congress president to bridge moderates and extremists.
- He was the first Indian Professor at Elphinstone College, promoting women's education.
- In 1855, he moved to London for business and later became Professor of Gujarati at University College London.
- In 1875, he was elected as a Member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation.

Key Contributions of Dadabhai Naoroji:

- Promoted women's education and helped establish six girls' schools through the Student Literary and Scientific Society.
- Founded the reformist newspaper Rast Goftar to spread social awareness.
- Co-founded the Rahnumai Mazdayasan Sabha (1851) to reform Parsi society.
- Formulated the Drain of Wealth Theory highlighting British economic exploitation. Authored Poverty of India and Poverty and Un-British Rule in India.
- His work led to the creation of the Welby Commission, where he served as a member.
- Started the nationalist newspaper Voice of India.
- Was a leading moderate advocating constitutional and peaceful political methods.
- Founded the London Indian Society (1865) and the East India Association (1866).
- Became the first Indian MP in the British Parliament in 1892.
- Mentored nationalist leaders like Tilak, Gokhale, and Gandhi.
- Emphasized purity in thought, speech, and action in The Duties of the Zoroastrians.
- Championed universal compulsory primary education in India.
- Along with Jyotiba Phule, demanded four years of compulsory primary education before the Hunter Commission.

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7. Self-Respect Movement:

Context: 2025 marks the centenary of the Self-Respect Movement which changed the course of the political discourse in South India.

About Self Respect Movement:

- The Self-Respect Movement was launched by Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy in 1925.
- It aimed to build an egalitarian society free from caste, gender, and religious discrimination.
- Periyar described it as Arivu Vidutalai Iyakkam (movement for intellectual liberation).
- Its goals were detailed in the pamphlets Namathu Kurikkol and Tiravitak Kalaka Lateiyam.
- It fought for social upliftment, opposing the Devadasi system, caste bias, and restrictions on widow remarriage.
- It promoted Self-Respect Marriages, removing priests and reducing ritual dominance and costs.
- The movement encouraged love marriages and inter-caste marriages, opposing child marriage.
- The first Self-Respect Conference was held in 1929 at Chengalpattu under W.P.A. Soundara Pandian.

About E. V. Ramaswamy (Periyar):

- Periyar (E.V. Ramaswamy, 1879–1973) was a social reformer and rationalist advocating equality through scientific thinking.
- He was influenced by Gandhi's constructive programmes like Khadi and temple entry for the oppressed.
- He published the Tamil weekly Kudi Arasu and participated in the Vaikom Satyagraha and Non-Cooperation Movement.
- He earned the titles "Vaikom Veeran" and "Periyar" (great man) from his followers.
- He supported proportionate representation in government based on community population share.
- In 1932, he co-founded the Self-Respect Socialist Party with Singara Velu Chattiyar.

8. FIDE World Cup:

Context: International Chess Federation (FIDE) announced that the FIDE World Cup 2025 will be hosted in Goa.

More about:

- The FIDE World Cup is a major global chess tournament conducted by FIDE.
- FIDE was founded in 1924 in Paris and is now headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- The top three players from the FIDE World Cup qualify for the 2026 Candidates Tournament.

9.   World Boxing Championships 2025:

Context: Jaismine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda have won gold in the recently held World Boxing Championships, 2025.

More about:

- The 2025 World Boxing Championships were held in Liverpool, UK.
- For the first time, the event featured men's and women's competitions together.
- India won four medals: golds by Jaismine Lamboria (57 kg) and Minakshi Hooda (48 kg), a silver by Nupur Sheoran, and a bronze by Pooja Rani.
- Kazakhstan finished at the top of the medal table.

10.   Ramon Magsaysay Award:

Context: Educate Girls NGO becomes first Indian organisation to win Ramon Magsaysay Award, in 2025.

A Historic Moment for Girls' Education!

Educate Girls becomes the first Indian organisation to receive the

2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award
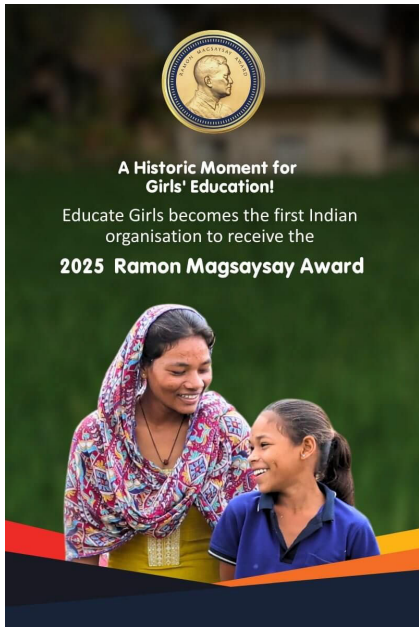
About Ramon Magsaysay Award:

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1957, with the first awards given in 1958.
- It is considered Asia's highest honour and often called the Asian Nobel Prize.
- The award is presented annually in memory of former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay.
- It honours individuals and organisations in Asia for selfless service and outstanding contributions without seeking public recognition.

11. Gyan Bharatam Portal:

Context: PM launched the Gyan Bharatam Portal for preserving manuscripts.

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Head Office:
3rd Floor, Suryalok Complex, Rosary Convent School, Road, Gun Foundry, Hyderabad, Telangana 500001, India

Phone
7799996602

www.aceec.ac.in | E-Mail: info@aceec.ac.in

More about:

- The initiative will digitize India's manuscript heritage for easier access and cultural preservation.
- The Union Budget 2025-26 announced the Gyan Bharatam Mission for surveying, documenting, and conserving India's manuscript heritage.

12. PM SVANidhi Scheme:

Context: Cabinet recently approved restructuring & extension of lending period (beyond 2024) of PM Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.

PM SVANidhi:

- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020.
- It aims to provide affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to the Covid-19 lockdown.
- It is a micro-credit facility that provides street vendors with a collateral-free loan of ₹.10,000 with low rates of interest.
- The duration of the scheme initially was until March 2022.
- It has been extended till December 2024, with a focus on increased adoption of digital transactions and holistic socioeconomic development of the Street Vendors.

Eligibility for the Loan?

- All vendors who have been vending from or before (March 24, 2020) and with a certificate of vending can avail the loan.
- As per the Street Vendors Act 2014, the Town Vending Committees issue a certificate of vending after a survey has been conducted of all the vendors.

PM SVANidhi Scheme Benefits

- Vendors can avail of a working capital loan of up to ₹. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly installments in the tenure of one year.
- On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries on a quarterly basis.
- The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of ₹. 100 per month.
- The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the Implementation agency.

New Features:

- First working-capital loan tranche raised to ₹15,000; second to ₹25,000; third remains ₹50,000.
- A UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card is offered after repayment of the second loan.

- Vendors get up to ₹1,600 cashback for digital retail and wholesale transactions.
- Scheme coverage expanded from statutory towns to census towns and peri-urban areas.
- Capacity building includes training in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, digital skills, and marketing.
- Street food vendors receive special hygiene and food-safety training with FSSAI.
- The SVANidhi se Samriddhi initiative is strengthened through monthly Lok Kalyan Melas to link vendors with welfare schemes.

13. Important days:

Date	Day / Event	Significance	Theme (2025)
2 Sept	World Coconut Day	Declared by Asian & Pacific Coconut Community (1998)	Uncovering Coconut's Power, Inspiring Global Action
5 Sept	National Teacher's Day (India)	Birth anniversary of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan	"Inspiring the Next Generation of Learners."
5 Sept	International Day of Charity	UN declared day in memory of Mother Teresa (2012)	"Solidarity, Ethical Giving, and Connecting Charity to Broader Goals like Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"
8 Sept	World Literacy Day	Declared by UNESCO in 1966	"Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era"
8 Sept	World Physical Therapy Day	Recognized by WCPT in 1996	"Healthy Ageing,"
10 Sept	World Suicide Prevention Day	Started in 2003 to raise suicide prevention awareness	Changing the Narrative on Suicide
11 Sept	National Forest Martyrs Day	Honor Bishnoi martyrs of Khejarli incident (1730)	"Remembering Martyrs, Protecting Forests,"
13 Sept (Second Saturday)	World First Aid Day	IFRC initiative (2000)	First Aid and Climate Change

14 Sept	Hindi Diwas	Hindi adopted as official language (1949)	The Power of National Unity and Global Identity
15 Sept	Engineers Day (India)	Birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya	Deep Tech and Engineering Excellence: Driving India's Techade
15 Sept	International Day of Democracy	Observed since 2008	"Achieving gender equality, action by action,"
16 Sept	World Ozone Day	Marks Montreal Protocol implementation	From Science to Global Action
17 Sept	World Patient Safety Day	Observed since 2021	Safe Care for Every Newborn and Every Child
18 Sept	World Bamboo Day	Recognized by World Bamboo Organization (2009)	"Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design"
20 Sept (3rd Saturday)	International Red Panda Day	Celebrates conservation of red pandas	"Packs for Pandas: Empowering the Future of Red Panda Conservation"
21 Sept	International Day of Peace	Global peace promotion	Act Now for a Peaceful World
21 Sept	World Alzheimer's Day	Awareness of Alzheimer's disease	Ask About Dementia
22 Sept	World Rhino Day	Conservation awareness (est.2011)	"Progress, Challenges, and the Road Ahead"
25 Sept	World Pharmacists Day	Promoting pharmacists' role	Think Health, Think Pharmacist
25 Sept	Antyodaya Diwas	Birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyaya	"Antyodaya se Sarvodaya"
26 Sept	World Contraception Day	Awareness of contraceptive methods	"A choice for all. Freedom to plan, power to choose"
26 Sept	World Environmental Health Day	Awareness on environmental health	Clean Air, Healthy People

27 Sept	World Tourism Day	UNWTO observance	Tourism and Sustainable Transformation
28 Sept	World Rabies Day	Global rabies control awareness	Act Now: You, Me, Community
29 Sept	World Heart Day	Heart disease prevention awareness	Don't Miss a Beat
30 Sept	International Translation Day	Promoted by FIT (since 1991)	"Translation, shaping a future you can trust"

Other Important National news:

Event / Initiative	Details / Significance	Key Points / Full Forms
Launch of "Adi Vaani" – India's First AI-Powered Tribal Language Translator	Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Beta version of Adi Vaani under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh to preserve tribal languages.	• Available on Play Store & web; iOS soon. • Bridges communication between tribal & non-tribal communities. • Support: Santali (Odisha), Bhili (Madhya Pradesh), Mundari (Jharkhand), Gondi (Chattisgarh). • Next: Kui, Garo.
Semicon India 2025 – Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Major event at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem.	• Attended by global semiconductor CEOs, start-ups, and delegates from 48+ countries. • India's Q1 GDP: 7.8%. • Semicon India Programme launched 2021. • 10 semiconductor project underway worth #18 billion (₹. 1.5 lakh crore).

DIKSHA 2.0 Launched at 65th Foundation Day of NCERT	Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched DIKSHA 2.0.	• DIKSHA = Digigal Infrastructure for Knowledge sharing. • Book released: Utkal Jananinkara Sujogya Santana (on 100 Odisha personalities).
India Develops Anti-Doping Reference Material – Methandienone LTM	Developed by NIPER Guwahati & National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).	• NIPER = National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research. • Launched by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. • Since 2020: 12 of 22 Reference Materials prepared.
Angikaar 2025 – For PMAY-U 2.0	Launched by Minister Manohar Lal to strengthen housing delivery.	• PMAY-U = Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0. • Duration: 4 Sep – 32 Oct 2025. • Coverage: 5,000+ Urban Local Bodies. • Goals: Awareness, timely completion, last-mile delivery.
Andhra Pradesh to Set Up Space City & Defence Hubs	Government to establish Space City (Tirupati) and Defence Manufacturing Hubs (Madakasira)	• Total investment: ₹. 3,400 crore. • In partnership with skyroot Aerospace (Hyderabad-based space start-up founded by former ISRO scientists).
India's First Overseas Atal Innovation Centre Launched in UAE	Launched by Union Education Minister at IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi.	• Promotes global innovation, research, entrepreneurship.
10th Ayurveda Day – 23 September 2025	Celebrated at All India Institute of Ayurveda, Goa	• First time on a fixed date (not Dhanvantari Jayanti) • Theme: Ayurveda for People & Planet.
Tirumala Hills & Erra Matti Dibbalu Enter UNESCO Tentative List	Andhra Pradesh sites added to UNESCO's Tentative List.	• Highlights: geological & ecological significance.

14th Sirarakhong Hathei Chilli Festival – Manipur	Three-day festival in Ukhrul district celebrating GI-tagged Hathei Chilli.	• Famous for bright red colour, medium pungency, aroma.
India's Largest Sports Complex Inaugurated in Ahmedabad	Launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.	• Cost ₹. 825 crore. • International aquatic arena + indoor/outdoor infrastructure + residential facilities.
Tamil Nadu – First State to Issue ID Cards to Women SHG Members	Launched by Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin in Salem district.	• SHG = Self-Help Group. • Loans distributed: ₹. 3,500 crore. • Benefits 5 lakh + SHGs.
Ahmednagar Railway Station Renamed 'Ahilyanagar'	Renamed to honour Devi Ahilyabai Hokar.	• Aligns with renaming of Ahmednagar district → Ahilyanagar. • Recognises Maratha queen's welfare & temple-building legacy.
Himachal Pradesh's Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve Added to UNESCO WNBR	Added to UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves on 27 Sept 2025.	• India now has 13 biosphere reserves in WNBR. • Decision made at 37th session of UNESCO's International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. • Six countries got first-ever biosphere reserves: Angola, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Iceland, Oman, and Tajikistan.

Other important International news:

Topic / Event	Key Details	Country / Organisations Involved	Important Points
International Pali Conference in Kandy	First-ever international conference on Future of Pali Studies held in Kandy	Assistant High Commission of India (Kandy), University of Peradeniya	Scholars from Sri Lanka, India & other nations participated; focuses on legacy & contemporary relevance of Pali; first such event hosted by University of Peradeniya
India-Japan Chandrayaan-5 / LUPEX Pact	Implementing arrangement signed to jointly explore Moon's South Pole	ISRO (India), JAXA (Japan)	Mission part of LUPEX; signed during PM Modi's Japan visit; aims to study volatiles incl. water of lunar surface
India Adds 7 New Sites to UNESCO Tentative List	Total Tentative List now: 69 sites (49 cultural, 17 natural, 3 mixed)	UNESCO, Government of India	7 new natural sites included: • Deccan Traps – Maharahtra • St Mary's Island – Karnataka • Meghalayan Age Caves – Meghalaya • Naga Hill Ophiolite – Nagaland • Erra Matti Dibbalu – AP • Tirumala Hills – AP • Varkala – Kerala
44th SCO-RAT Council Meeting	44th meeting held at Cholpob Ata, Kyrgyz Republic	SCO-RATS, Kyrgyz Republic (Chair), India	Indian delegation led by Deputy NSA T.V. Ravichandran; RTS condemned Pahalgam terror attack; RATS is a permanent anti-terror body of SCO

Awards and Honours:

Event / Award	Winner /Key Entity	Country / Organisation	Key Points
Roman Magsaysay Award 2025	Educate Girls (First Indian Organisation)	Ramon Magsaysay Foundation	NGO working for out-of-school girls; founded awardees – Shaahina Ali (Maldives), Flaviano Villanueva (Philippines)
National Teachers' Awards 2025	45 teachers	Ministry of Education	24 Male, 21 Female; Representation: 27 states, 7 UTs, 6 National Organisations; Most awardees from UP, Maharashtra, MP, Bihar, Gujarat.
Prof. V.K. Gokak Award	Anand V. Patil	Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan & Gokak Trust	Award ceremony on 7 Sept 2025: for contributions to children's literature
77th Primetime Emmy Awards 2025	Major Winners	CBS/Paramount +	Best Drama: Severance; Best Comedy: The Studio; Best Limited Series: Adolescence
	Major Acting Awards		Britt Lower (Drama Actress), Sterling K. Brown (Drama Actor), Seth Rogen (Comedy Actor), Jean Smart (Comedy Actress)
ASME Holley Medal 2025	Baba Kalyani	ASME	For engineering innovation; Chairman of Bharat Forge
National Energy Conservation Awards 2025	New Category Added	Ministry of Power, BEE	New: Concept Creators & Influencers category (Mission LiFE aligned)
Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023	Mohanlal	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	To be presented at 71st National Film Awards; 400 + films; Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan recipient.

India's Official Entry to Oscars 2026	Homebound (Dir. Neeraj Ghaywan)	Film Federation of India	Selected for Best International Feature Film category.
National e-Governance Award 2025 (GP Category)	Gold: Rohini GP (Maharashtra)	DARPG	First year for GP category; digital governance innovations
	Silver: West Majlishpur GP (Tripura)		Citizen Charter-based governance
	Jury Awards: Palsana (Gujarat), Suakati (Odisha)		Strong digital penetration & service delivery
71st National Film Awards 2023	Best Feature Film: 12th Fail	Gove of India	Best Actor: SRK & Vikrant Massey (ties); Bet Actress: Rani Mukerji.
Living Bridge Honour (India-UK FTA)	UK PM Keir Starmer	India Business Group	For concluding India – UK FTA
Krishi Media Award 2025	Amshi Prasannakumar	UAS Bangalore Alumni Association	For excellence in agricultural journalism
National Geoscience Awards 2024	20 Awardees	Ministry of Mines	For achievements in mineral exploration & geoseiences

Sports:

Event	Key Details
ICC partners with Google (Women's – only partner)	Google becomes ICC's 2nd global women's – only partner after Unilever. Partnership covers Android, Google Gemini, Google Pay, Google Pixel. Linked to Women's World Cup 2025 (India-SL) & T20 WC 2026 (England).

ICC Record Prize Money – Women's WC 2025	Winner go get USD 4.48 million (₹. 39.55 crore) – highest ever. Tournament: 30 Sep-2 Nov 2025. Host: India & Sri Lanka.
ICC launches "Will to Win" campaign	Ahead of Women's Cricket World Cup 2025; highlights determination & resilience.
ICC launches official anthem "Bring it Home"	Sung by Shreya Ghoshal; for ICC Women's WC 2025.
USA Cricket suspended by ICC	Suspended for governance & compliance failures.
Smriti Mandhana – Fastest Indian ODI century	50 bal v Australia; breaks Kohli's 52-ball record.
Arshdeep Singh – First Indian to 100 T20I wickets	Achieved in 64 matches; 1329 deliveries; 3 yrs 74 days.
Men's Player of the Month (Aug 2025)	Mohammed Siraj – 23 wickets in Anderson – Tendulkar Trophy.
A. Ashwin signs BBL contract	First capped Indian male to join Big Bash League (Sydney Thunder)
Satwik-Chirag win Bronze (BWF World Championships 2025)	Lost semifinal vs Chen Bo Yung-Liu Yi (CHN); second World's medal (after 2022).
World Championships 2026 host	New Delhi, India to host August 2026.
India's past BWF Worlds medalists	PV Sindhu (5 medals), Satwik-Chirag, H.S. Prannoy, Jwala Gutta, Ashwini Ponappa, Prakash Padukone.
Dutch GP 2025 Winner	Oscar Piastri (McLaren); Verstappen 2nd; Isack Hadjar 3rd (first podium)
Italian GP 2025 Winner	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
2025 GP Winners list	Australia-Lando Norris; China-Piastri; Japan – Verstappen; Bahrain – Piastri; Saudi – Piastri; Miami – Piastri; Emilia – Romagna – Verstappen; Monaco – Norris; Spain Piastri; Canada – George Russell; Australia – Borris; Great Britain – Norris; Belgium – Piastri; Hungary – Norris; Netherlands – Piastri.

India wins Bronze – CAFA Nations Cup 2025	Beat Oman via penalties; India's first win over Oman & first CAFA medal.
Retirements	Samuel Umtiti (France) retires at 31; Jerome Boateng (Germany) retires at 37, Sergio Busquets retires at end of 2025 MLS season.
FIFA 2026 Mascots launched	Clutch (USA), Maple (Canada), Zayu (Mexico). First time multiple mascots.
Abhimanyu Mishra creates history	Becomes youngest ever to defeat a reigning World Champion (Gukesh)
FIDE Grand Swiss 2025 Winners	Open-Anish Giri (NED); Women – Vaishali Rameshbabu (IND).
Marium Fatima becomes Bihar's first Woman FIDE Master	Requires 2100+ rating.
India wins first-ever Archery World's Gold (2025)	Men's Compound Team – Rishabh Yadav, Aman saini, Prathamesh Fuge. Beat France 235-233.
Rishabh Yadav wins Silver (Mixed)	With Jyothi Surekha Vennam.
US Open 2025 Women's Singles	Aryna Sabalenka wins back-to-back titles (2024, 2025)
US Open 2025 Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz wins; becomes 2nd youngest with 6 Grand Slams; extends lead over rivals.
Laver Cup 2025	Team World defeats Team Europe 15-9; Taylor Fritz seals victory.
India qualities for Davis Cup 2026 Qualifiers	Beat Switzerland 3-1; first European away win since 1993.

Event	Host City & Year
2025 Asian Aquatics Championship	Ahmedabad, Gujarat – first-ever for India.
2025 Asian Table Tennis Team Championships	Bhubaneshwar, Odisha (Oct 14-15, 2025)
2026 BWF World Championships	New Delhi.