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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

# NATIONAL NEWS

### 1. BIHAR'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT -

- Bihar is set to become one of the first states in India to establish a nuclear power plant. This initiative is part of the country's new Nuclear Energy Mission. This decision is as it comes ahead of the assembly elections in Bihar.

#### Nuclear Energy Mission

- The Nuclear Energy Mission aims to expand clean and reliable nuclear power across India. The government has allocated Rs 20,000 crore for this mission in the Union Budget for 2025-26. The objective is to establish at least one nuclear power plant in every state. This is crucial for ensuring energy security as the demand for electricity continues to rise.
- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)
- **The nuclear plant in Bihar will utilise Small Modular Reactor technology. SMRs are designed to be more flexible and cost-effective compared to traditional reactors. They can be deployed in smaller grids and are considered safer due to their advanced design. This technology represents the future of nuclear energy, focusing on sustainability and reliability.**



### 2. RATH YATRA OF LORD JAGANNATH -

- Police personnel have been deployed in Puri to manage security and traffic for the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, starting June 27, which is expected to draw over 30 lakh devotees.
- Puri is revered as one of the char dham (four abodes) where Lord Jagannath is worshipped.

#### About the Ratha Yatra

- According to Hindu mythology, Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra go on a nine-day sojourn to their birthplace Gundicha Temple, staying there until the Bahuda Yatra, which falls on July 5 this year.
- The Yatra commemorates their journey from the 12th-century Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple, believed to be their aunt's home.
- **Goddess Ardhasini, also known as Mausima, is considered their aunt.**
- The Rath Yatra takes place on the second day of the Odia month of Ashadha Shukla Tithi (bright fortnight) every year.



#### Religious Beliefs

- It is believed that witnessing the deities on their chariots cleanses people of their sins and grants salvation.
- The Bamadeva Samhita states that those who see the deities at Gundicha Temple for a week attain Baikuntha (heaven) along with their ancestors.

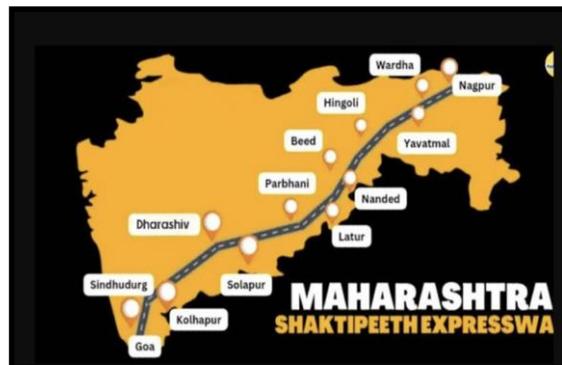
- As non-Hindus are not allowed inside the Jagannath Temple, Rath Yatra allows foreign devotees to see the deities.
- The Lord is believed to step out of his sanctum to meet all his devotees during Rath Yatra, symbolising inclusiveness.

### 3. SHAKTIPEETH EXPRESSWAY -

- The Shaktipeeth Expressway is infrastructure project in Maharashtra. Approved by the Maharashtra Cabinet on June 24, 2025, it aims to connect 12 districts from Pavnar in Wardha to Patradevi on the Maharashtra-Goa border.
- The project has a budget of ₹20,787 crore, with ₹12,000 crore earmarked for land acquisition. However, it faces strong opposition from farmers in the proposed corridor.

#### Project Overview

- **The Shaktipeeth Expressway spans 802 kilometres. It is designed to reduce travel time between Nagpur and Goa from 18 hours to 8 hours. The expressway will connect key pilgrimage sites known as Shakti Peethas, enhancing religious tourism. It will link 18 religious shrines across Maharashtra and Goa.**



### 4. 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIKKIM'S INTEGRATION WITH INDIA -

- The Prime Minister congratulated Sikkim on the 50th anniversary of its integration into the Indian Union, marking its official recognition as the 22nd state of India on 16th May 1975.

#### What are the Key Facts About Sikkim's Integration with India ?

- **Monarchical Background:** Sikkim was a hereditary monarchy ruled by the Chogyal dynasty from 1642 to 1975.
- **Sikkim's Autonomy:** It maintained its autonomy during British colonial rule and post Indian independence through:
- **Treaty of Tumlong (1861):** Sikkim became a protectorate state of British India.
- **Treaty of Titaliya (1817):** It gave the British authorities several commercial and political advantages in Sikkim.
- **Calcutta Convention (1890):** It demarcated the Sikkim-Tibet border, signed by Viceroy Lord Lansdowne and Qing China's Imperial Associate Resident in Tibet.

#### The Convention was affirmed by the Lhasa Convention (1904).

- Indo-Sikkim Treaty (1950): It made Sikkim an Indian protectorate, with India controlling defence, external affairs, and communication, while Sikkim retained internal autonomy.

### 5. ALCOHOL REGULATION IN INDIA -

- India is witnessing a steady rise in alcohol consumption, which, despite its well-documented links to health risks, violence, crime, suicides, and financial distress, remains unregulated by a unified national strategy, prompting urgent calls for a comprehensive National Alcohol Control Policy and Programme.

#### What are the Key Driving Factors for Alcohol Consumption in India ?



- Alcohol Prevalence in India: As per the NFHS-5, 14.6% of people aged 10–75 (16 crore) consume alcohol in India with 23% of men and 1% of women.
- **India ranks among the highest globally in heavy episodic drinking, with 2.6 million DALYs (Disability-Adjusted Life Years) and a societal cost of Rs 6.24 trillion (2021).**
- High-use States: Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa; High disorder prevalence (>10%): Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh.



## 6. WOMEN IN INDIAN ARMED FORCES -

- **For the first time in Indian military history, 17 women cadets graduated from the National Defence Academy (NDA), marking a historic step toward gender-inclusive military leadership and opening the path for future women service chiefs.**



### How did the Entry of Women in the Indian Armed Forces Begin?

- **Early Military Roles for Women:** Women first joined military service through the Military Nursing Service established in 1888, and later through the Indian Army Medical Corps in 1958, where women doctors received regular commissions.
- **Non-Medical Entry:** Non-medical roles for women began only in 1992 with the introduction of the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES), which inducted women as Short Service Commission officers in select non-combat branches such as the Army Education Corps, Corps of Signals, Intelligence Corps, and Corps of Engineers.
- **Legal Framework:** Entry of women into the Indian Army was initially governed by Section 12 of the Army Act, 1950, which allowed women to serve only in specific corps or branches as notified by the government.
- The government issued notifications allowing women officers in branches like the Army Postal Service, Judge Advocate General's (JAG) department, Army Education Corps (AEC), Ordnance Corps, and Service Corps, initially for five years, and later extended to more branches, including the Corps of Engineers and the Regiment of Artillery.

## 7. AIR INDIA FLIGHT AI171 CRASH NEAR AHMEDABAD -

- On June 12, 2025, Air India flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, crashed shortly after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad.
- **The flight was headed to London Gatwick Airport with 242 people on board. The pilot issued a mayday call shortly after takeoff, but the aircraft fell just 625 feet into a nearby residential area. The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.**

### Boeing 787 Dreamliner

- The Boeing 787, introduced in 2007, is a next-generation, long-haul jet designed for efficiency. It features a carbon fibre composite structure, making it



lighter than traditional aluminium aircraft. The aircraft consumes 25 per cent less fuel than its predecessors.

- The first commercial flight took place in 2012 after delays due to supply chain issues and technical problems. The 787 comes in three variants – 787-8, 787-9, and 787-10.

#### **8. HELICOPTER SAFETY ISSUES IN UTTARAKHAND'S CHAR DHAM -**

- Recently, a tragic helicopter crash in Uttarakhand resulted in the deaths of five passengers and the pilot. This incident has drawn attention to the safety of helicopter operations during the Char Dham pilgrimage season.
- **Helicopter rides in this region are already under scrutiny due to challenging terrain and unpredictable weather patterns. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been monitoring private operators closely, especially after a series of accidents.**

#### **Current Regulatory Framework**

- The DGCA oversees aviation regulations in India. However, the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) coordinates helicopter operations in the state. UCADA was established in 2013 to manage air traffic and safety. They set rules for operators, including landing fees and the number of flights. Despite these regulations, the absence of an Air Traffic Control system in the Kedarnath area raises concerns about safety.



#### **9. INDIA'S AVIATION SAFETY STANDARDS -**

- India's aviation industry has recently garnered attention for its impressive safety ratings. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) conducted an audit in November 2022.
- The results showcased India's advancements in aviation safety. India surpassed the global average in key categories such as operations and airworthiness.

#### **Effective Implementation Score**

- **India's Effective Implementation score rose to 85.65% from 69.95% in 2018. This score indicates improvements in aviation safety measures. The ICAO assesses countries on various criteria.**
- These include legislation, organisation, licensing, operations, airworthiness, accident investigation, air navigation services, and aerodromes. India scored above the global average in all eight categories during the audit.



#### **10. CYBER SURAKSHA EXERCISE -**

- **The Defence Cyber Agency (DCA) of India initiated the 'Cyber Suraksha' exercise on June 16, 2025. This comprehensive cybersecurity drill is organised under the Integrated Defence Staff headquarters and will run until June 27, 2025.**



- Aimed at enhancing national cyber resilience, the exercise involves over 100 participants from various national agencies and defence sectors.

### **Purpose and Structure of Cyber Suraksha**

- The primary goal of Cyber Suraksha is to simulate real-world cyber threats. This exercise focuses on reinforcing secure practices and evaluating the analytical and defensive skills of participants. It is structured in multiple phases, including targeted training sessions and leadership engagement.

### **11. SHIPKI LA PASS REOPENS FOR DOMESTIC TOURISTS -**

- Himachal Pradesh has opened the Shipki La pass to domestic tourists, a step which locals hope will revitalise tourism and trade.

#### **About the Shipki La Pass**

- **Location:** Shipki La is a motorable mountain pass located in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh.
- **Altitude:** It sits at an elevation of 3,930 metres and connects India with Tibet (now part of China).
- The old name of Shipki La was Pema La, or Shared Gate, also known as Shared Pass.

#### **Historical Importance of the Pass**

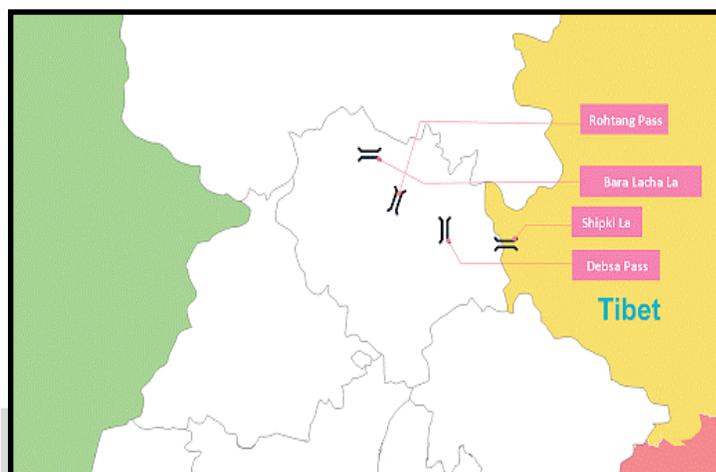
- **Centuries-Old Trade Route:** Functioned as a vibrant Indo-Tibetan trade corridor since at least the 15th century.

#### **Key Commodities Traded:**

- **Imports from Tibet:** Wool, yaks, turquoise, gold, religious items.
- **Exports from India:** Grains, spices, copper tools, timber.
- Supported local economies, especially artisans and farmers of Kinnaur.

#### **Strategic & Geopolitical Significance**

- **India-China Border Point:** Shipki La is one of the few official border passes between India and Tibet.
- **Border Surveillance:** It serves as a sensitive point for monitoring cross-border movement and maintaining national security.
- **Alternative Route to Kailash Mansarovar:** Reopening the pass could shorten the Delhi-Mansarovar pilgrimage route by 14 days, easing movement for pilgrims



### **12. INDUS VALLEY SCRIPT DECIPHERMENT: ASI TO HOST GLOBAL CONFERENCE, \$1 MILLION PRIZE ANNOUNCED -**

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is set to host an international brainstorming conference from August 20 to 22, aimed at exploring ways to decipher the Indus Valley script.
- The conference, titled “Decipherment of the Indus Script: Current Status and the Way Forward,” will bring together experts from India and abroad who are actively researching the Harappan civilization.
- In January 2025, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has also announced a \$1 million prize for deciphering the script.



**About the Indus Valley Script**

- The Indus script is a collection of symbols that appear primarily on diverse materials, including seals, pottery, bronze tools, stoneware bangles, bones, shells, ivory, steatite, bronze, and copper tablets.
- Undeciphered Nature: Despite extensive research and several hypotheses, the script has not been successfully deciphered, and its true meaning and connection to languages remain unknown.
- Pictogram-Based Writing: The script is written using pictograms, often accompanied by animal or human motifs.
- Some scholars suggest that the script could be “logo-syllabic,” meaning it may combine both logograms (symbols representing words) and syllabic components (symbols representing sounds).

**13. RECALCULATION OF INDIA’S COASTLINE LENGTH -**

- Recently in December 2024, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs reported a significant revision in India’s coastline length.
- The length of the coastline was re-assessed by the National Hydrographic Office (NHO) in coordination with the Survey of India (SoI).
- **Previous Length:** 7,516 km (as measured in the 1970s).
- **Revised Length:** 11,098 km (as of 2025) — a 48% increase (~3,582 km).
- **Cause:** Not physical expansion but technological improvements in mapping resolution and GIS-based measurement.
- The new coastline measurement exercise will now be repeated every 10 years.



**Key Reasons for Increase in Coastline Length**

- Higher Data Resolution
- Old maps used a scale of 1:4,500,000 (1 cm = 45 km).
- New measurement used 1:250,000 scale (1 cm = 2.5 km).
- Smaller-scale data smooths coastlines; higher resolution captures bends and curves, increasing total measured length.
- GIS-Based Techniques: Transition from manual to GIS software allowed for better mapping of land-water boundaries.
- GIS tools factor in minute geographical irregularities.

**14. TOTAL FERTILITY RATE -**

Global Total Fertility Rate Trends		
Country/Region	TFR (births per woman)	Source
India	1.975 (2023)	World Bank
United States	1.84 (2025)	World Bank
Japan	1.2 (2023)	World Bank
European Union	1.38 (2023)	Eurostat
Global Average	2.3 (2022)	World Bank

Category	State/UT	TFR
Highest TFR	Bihar	3.0
	Assam	2.1
	Gujarat / Haryana	2.0
Lowest TFR	West Bengal	1.4
	Delhi	1.4
	Kerala / Maharashtra / TN / AP / J&K / Punjab	1.5

**15. CCS FULL FORM, KNOW ABOUT ITS ROLE, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS -**

- **The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) is one of the most important decision-making bodies of the Government of India. It takes care of matters related to the country's safety and security.**
- This committee makes final decisions on defense policies, key appointments in security forces and big security-related expenses.



**Full Form of CCS**

- The full form of CCS is Cabinet Committee on Security. It is a top-level committee of the Indian government that takes final decisions on national security, defense and related matters. It includes the Prime Minister and key ministers, and helps keep the country safe from both internal and external threats.

**Role of the Cabinet Committee on Security**

- The CCS talks about and decides on many important topics related to India's national security. It looks under defense planning, law and order, internal security and how to deal with threats. It also discusses deals with other countries that affect India's safety.

**Members of the ICS**

**The Cabinet Committee on Security has five main members:**

- The Prime Minister
- The Minister of Defense
- The Minister of Home Affairs
- The Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs
- The Minister of External Affairs

**16. GANGA EXPRESSWAY NIGHT LANDING -**

- **In a landmark event, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to enable night landings for fighter jets on an expressway. This achievement was marked by the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducting trials on a newly constructed 3.5-kilometre airstrip along the Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur. This airstrip is strategically important for defence preparedness, particularly during times of national emergencies.**

**Ganga Expressway**

- Ganga Expressway is a greenfield expressway project in Uttar Pradesh, aiming to connect Western UP (Meerut) with Eastern UP (Prayagraj).
- Total Length: 594 km
- The expressway passes through 12 districts: Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj

**Strategic Importance:**

- Improves East-West connectivity in UP
- Links with other expressways: Yamuna Expressway, Agra-Lucknow Expressway, and Purvanchal Expressway
- Boosts connectivity to Delhi from Eastern UP
- Facilitates last-mile access to rural areas



**17. WAVES 2025 SUMMIT AND ORANGE ECONOMY -**

- **On May 1, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the WAVES 2025 Summit in Mumbai, highlighting India's emerging leadership in the 'orange economy'.**

- WAVES 2025 covered diverse sectors: Films, TV, Radio, Broadcasting, Animation, Gaming, Comics, Advertising, and emerging technologies such as Generative AI, AR/VR/XR, and digital media platforms.

- Launch of WAVES Bazaar: WAVES Bazaar is a global e-marketplace launched to connect Indian content creators with international markets, enabling project pitching, funding access, and global collaboration.

- Funds for Creators Economy: Ahead of the Summit, the Centre last month announced a \$1 billion fund to give a boost to India's emerging creator economy.



**18. INDIA SET TO BECOME FASTEST-GROWING MAJOR AVIATION MARKET BY 2026 -**

- **India is poised to become the world's fastest-growing large aviation market by 2026, according to Airports Council International (ACI). While China remains significantly ahead in overall aviation market size, India's growth is being fuelled by increasing demand for air travel among its vast population, where per capita air travel remains low.**

- The rapid pace of infrastructure development, policy reforms, and growing middle-class aspirations are contributing factors. Over the next three decades, India is projected to maintain its third-largest aviation market position globally but lead in terms of growth rate.



### Key Highlights

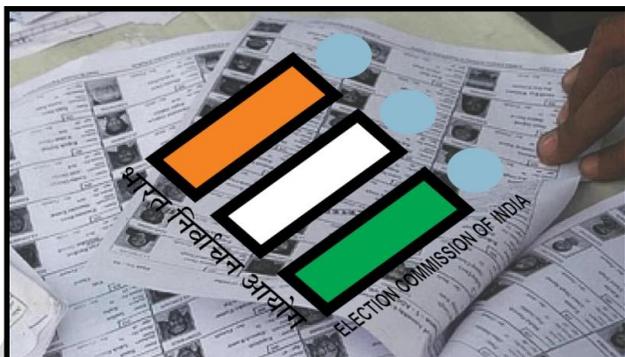
- India's Growth to Surpass China (2026)
- India's air passenger traffic expected to grow 10.5% in 2026 vs China's 8.9%.
- In 2027: India – 10.3%, China – 7.2%.
- India's CAGR (2023–2027) pegged at 9.5%, higher than China's 8.8%.

### 2025 Projection

- China: 12% growth
- India: 10.1%

## 19. ELECTION COMMISSION UNVEILED THREE NEW VOTER-CENTRIC REFORMS -

- **On May 1, 2025, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced three new initiatives to improve electoral roll accuracy, streamline voter information, and enhance the credibility of Booth Level Officers (BLOs).**
- These measures align with the vision laid out by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during the Conference of Chief Electoral Officers earlier this year.



### Electronic Death Registration Data Integration

- The ECI will now electronically obtain death data from the Registrar General of India.

### Legal basis,

- Rule 9 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
- Section 3(5)(b) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (amended 2023)
- This allows timely deletion of deceased voters from electoral rolls, reducing errors.
- BLOs will re-verify this information on the ground—no need to wait for Form 7 submissions.

### More Voter-Friendly Voter Information Slips (VIS)

- VIS design updated to highlight serial and part numbers in larger fonts.
- This helps voters easily find their polling stations and locate their names in the voter list.
- Also aids polling officials in quick identification, saving time on election day.

### Photo Identity Cards for BLOs

- BLOs will now be issued standard photo ID cards under Section 13B(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- This ensures BLOs are recognizable, improving citizen trust and engagement during voter verification and house-to-house drives.

### Significance of the Reforms

- **Accuracy:** Reduces chances of duplication and presence of deceased voters in electoral rolls.
- **Transparency:** Citizens will be more confident in the system due to visible and identifiable BLOs.
- **Efficiency:** Faster voter identification and better coordination on polling days.

## 20. PM INAUGURATES VIZHINJAM INTERNATIONAL SEAPORT -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vizhinjam International Seaport (VIS) in Kerala, marking a significant milestone in India's maritime infrastructure.
- **Vizhinjam International Seaport:** It is India's first deep-water transshipment port, designed for container and multi-purpose cargo.
- The port is developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.

- **Strategic Location:** VIS, positioned just 10 nautical miles from major international shipping routes connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East, enhances accessibility for large vessels (depth of 18 to 20 meters).
- **Technological Advancement:** Vizhinjam seaport, India's first semi-automated port, is equipped with an AI-driven control room and the country's first Indigenous Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS).
- It reduces vessel turnaround times, optimizes traffic flow, and enhances capacity for large ships with real-time updates.
- **Economic Impact:** The port aims to reduce India's reliance on international facilities, as 75% of transshipment cargo is currently handled abroad.
- By handling transshipment domestically, the port is expected to save India USD 200-220 million in potential revenue loss annually.



## 21. INDIA TO ALLOW 49% FOREIGN STAKE INVESTMENT IN NUCLEAR POWER -

- India is considering allowing foreign companies to take up to a 49% stake in its nuclear power plants a major policy shift for one of the country's most protected sectors.
- This initiative is part of a larger strategy to boost clean energy production, lessen dependence on coal, and achieve ambitious carbon emission reduction goals.
- **To support this move, the government is working on amending key nuclear legislations, with the objective of opening the sector to both foreign investors and domestic private firms by the monsoon session of Parliament in July 2025.**



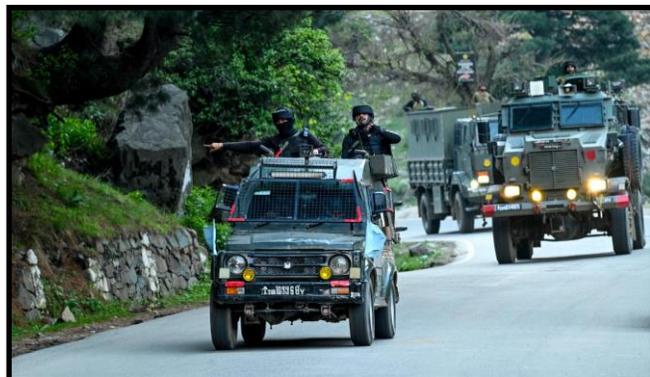
## 22. KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA 2025: RESUMPTION AFTER FIVE YEARS -

- The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY) is a significant annual pilgrimage symbolizing deep religious and cultural ties between India and China. It holds immense importance for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and followers of the Bon religion.
- **Circumambulating Mount Kailash is believed to bring spiritual merit, and bathing in Lake Mansarovar is thought to cleanse one's sins. The pilgrimage was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions.**
- Its resumption after five years marks a positive development in religious tourism and bilateral cooperation.



### 23. PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK COWARD ATTACK BY TERRORISTS ON TOURISTS -

- On April 22, 2025, a deadly terrorist attack in Baisaran, Pahalgam, shook the heart of Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector.
- **The attack, which killed at least 28 and injured several others, targeted a popular tourist meadow during peak travel season. As the valley was beginning to experience a revival in economic and tourism activity post-COVID and post-conflict normalization efforts, this incident has reignited fears and insecurity, potentially derailing the region's hard-earned gains.**



#### Key Details of the Terror Attack

- **Date & Location:** April 22, 2025, in Baisaran, Pahalgam (Anantnag district), South Kashmir.
- **Casualties:** 28 people killed, several injured; two critically wounded.
- **Target:** Tourists at the meadow of Baisaran, accessible only by foot.
- **Method:** Two to three terrorists opened indiscriminate fire.
- **Response:** Police, Army, and paramilitary forces launched a search and evacuation operation.
- **Nature of Site:** Baisaran is a scenic off-road meadow, heavily frequented during peak tourist seasons.

#### Impact on Tourism Sector

- **Massive Setback:** Industry stakeholders call it a "huge blow" to J&K's tourism, which had shown steady growth post-2018.
- **Cancellations Rising:** Travel agents are already reporting cancellations and panic among tourists and business partners.
- **Sector-Wide Impact:** Thousands of locals who rely on tourism — from hotel staff to shikara operators — will feel the economic shockwaves.
- **Historical Significance:** Pahalgam is not only a tourist hub but also one of the Amarnath Yatra routes.

### 24. E-ZERO FIR INITIATIVE -

- India took step in combating cybercrime with the launch of the e-Zero FIR initiative. This initiative was announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah as part of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- The primary aim is to expedite the process of registering First Information Reports (FIRs) for high-value cyber financial fraud cases. The pilot project commenced in Delhi and is set to expand nationwide.

#### Overview of e-Zero FIR Initiative

- The e-Zero FIR initiative allows victims of cyber financial crimes to report incidents without visiting a police station. If the financial fraud exceeds Rs 10 lakh, the complaint filed through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or the helpline 1930 is automatically converted into an FIR. This innovation is designed to reduce the response time for law enforcement agencies.

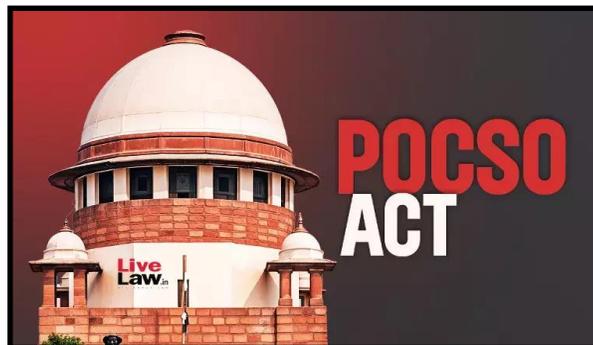


## 25. SUPREME COURT ORDERS MORE POCSO COURTS FOR SPEEDY CHILD SEXUAL OFFENCE TRIALS-

- Recently, the Supreme Court ordered the Centre to urgently establish dedicated POCSO courts across states to ensure timely trial of child sexual offence cases.
- The Court had earlier mandated one special court in each district with over 100 FIRs, and now requires two courts where pendency exceeds 300 cases.

### What is a POCSO Court?

- A POCSO Court is a designated court exclusively tasked with trying cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
- These courts aim to provide a child-friendly, sensitive environment for speedy justice.
- As of Jan 2025 there are 754 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 404 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs, which have disposed of more than 3,06,000 cases.



### About the POCSO Act, 2012

- The POCSO Act was enacted in 2012 to protect children from sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and pornography.
- It ensures child-friendly procedures at every stage of the legal process, from investigation to trial.
- The Act covers both contact and non-contact sexual offences against children below 18 years.

## 26. GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ENROLMENT DROPS IN 23 STATES: MOE SEEKS URGENT PROBE -

- The Ministry of Education has expressed “deep concern” over significant declines in student enrolment in government and government-aided schools across 23 states.
- The issue surfaced during an April 2025 review of the PM-POSHAN scheme, revealing a potential reversal of post-pandemic trends and raising questions about student data accuracy and school choice shifts.

### Key Observations from the PM-POSHAN Meetings

- Enrolment dropped in 23 states/UTs, with 8 states witnessing over 1 lakh decrease.

### Major declines

- **Uttar Pradesh:** -21.83 lakh
- **Bihar:** -6.14 lakh
- **Rajasthan:** -5.63 lakh
- **West Bengal:** -4.01 lakh
- **Karnataka:** -2 lakh
- **Assam:** -1.68 lakh
- **Tamil Nadu:** -1.65 lakh
- **Delhi:** -1.05 lakh

### Probable Reasons Cited by Officials

- **Data Cleansing:** Transition from school-wise to student-wise enrolment tracking (with Aadhaar verification) eliminated fake or duplicate “ghost” entries.
- **Shift to Private Schools:** Post-Covid migration back to private schooling, reversing earlier government school preference.



**27. INDIA ELIMINATES TRACHOMA AS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM, RECOGNISED BY WHO -**

- India has officially received recognition from the World Health Organisation for successfully eliminating trachoma, a leading cause of preventable blindness.
- **The announcement was made on May 19, 2025, during the inauguration of the 78th World Health Assembly. This recognition validates India's sustained efforts in public health and its broader commitment to global health cooperation.**



**What is Trachoma-**

- Trachoma is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) caused by the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis.
- It is a leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide, especially in areas with poor sanitation.
- It spreads through contact with eye or nasal discharge of infected individuals, or through flies.

**28. HOCH TRAGEDIES IN INDIA -**

- A major hooch tragedy in Punjab's Amritsar district has claimed 21 lives and left several hospitalised after the consumption of spurious liquor suspected to contain methanol, a highly toxic chemical.
- **Hooch refers to poor-quality, often illicitly produced alcohol, a term derived from the Hoochinoo tribe of Alaska known for brewing strong liquor.**
- It is typically made in unregulated and unhygienic conditions. Sometimes, hooch contains a high quantity of methanol (an industrial alcohol along with ethanol), which is highly toxic and can be fatal when consumed.



**What are the Causes of Hooch Tragedies in India?**

- **Economic Vulnerability and Poverty:** People from economically weaker sections often resort to cheap, locally brewed alcohol (hooch) as they cannot afford licensed, quality liquor. The cost of hooch is significantly lower than legal alcohol due to evasion of excise duty and taxes.
- **Widespread Misuse of Methanol:** Methanol, an inexpensive industrial chemical, is often stolen and illegally added to illicit liquor to increase potency, despite its extreme toxicity. Bootleggers frequently use methanol to produce deadly hooch, as seen in several mass poisoning cases.
- **Lack of Regulation and Enforcement:** Despite the Excise Act, 1944 and local regulations, enforcement is often weak, allowing illegal brewing and distribution to flourish. In states with alcohol prohibition (e.g., Bihar, Gujarat), hooch networks expand underground, exploiting weak enforcement.

**29. ISRO SATELLITES FORECAST INDIA'S WHEAT PRODUCTION FOR 2024-25 -**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has used satellite technology to estimate India's wheat production for the 2024-25 Rabi season.
- ISRO Monitored Wheat Crops using a system called Comprehensive Remote Sensing Observation on Crop Progress (CROP).
- **Output Forecast:** The forecast predicts a total output of 122.724 million tonnes from eight major wheat-growing states.
- **Wheat Sown Area:** Satellite data shows 330.8 lakh hectares under wheat cultivation by March 31, 2025.
- **Major Wheat-Producing States:** The eight states contributing to the estimated production are:

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Punjab
- E. Haryana
- F. Bihar
- G. Gujarat
- H. Maharashtra



### 30. INDIA IS NOT A DHARMSHALA: SC ON DEPORTATION OF SRI LANKAN TAMIL UNDER UAPA -

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India upheld the deportation of a Sri Lankan Tamil national, reiterating that India cannot be a “dharamshala” for foreign nationals.
- **Current Deportation Issue:** The Case of Subaskaran
- **Background:** Subaskaran was convicted under Section 38(1) of UAPA for being associated with the banned LTTE.
- Originally sentenced to 10 years, reduced to 7 years by the Madras High Court in 2022.
- **Plea Rejected:** Despite claims of threat to life in Sri Lanka and familial ties in India, the Court refused to intervene in the deportation process.



#### Supreme Court Observation

- The right to reside and settle in India is exclusively available to Indian citizens under Article 19(1)(e).
- While Articles 14 and 21 apply to all persons, they do not create a right to stay in India for foreign nationals.
- The Court reaffirmed that foreign nationals have no automatic right to stay in India and that their continued presence must comply with national laws.

#### What is Deportation?

- Deportation is the forced removal of a foreign national from a country due to violations of immigration laws or national security concerns.

### 31. CEASEFIRE DECLARED BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN AMID ESCALATING TENSIONS -

- The National Technology Day 2025 is in the spotlight as the country marks 27 years since the Pokhran-II nuclear tests, which placed India on the global map as a nuclear power.
- With the 2025 theme focusing on sustainability through innovation, the day reinforces India’s commitment to becoming a global leader in responsible technological progress.

#### Background and Historical Significance

- **Date of Observance:** May 11, annually.
- **Established:** Declared in 1999 by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Historical Event:** Commemorates the Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted on May 11 and 13, 1998, under the leadership of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- **Operation Name:** Operation Shakti.
- **Warhead:** 200 to 300 kg conventional warhead, capable of high explosive or semi-armour-piercing strikes.

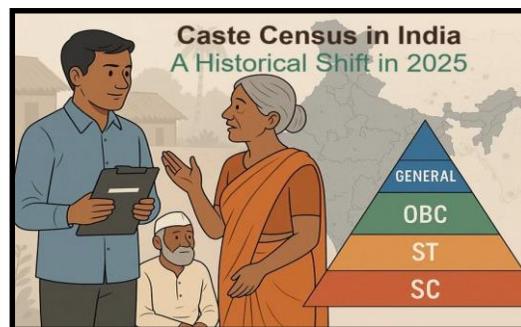


### 32. CASTE CENSUS IN INDIA: NEED AND CHALLENGES -

- The Indian government has approved the inclusion of caste enumeration in the delayed Census 2021, reviving a practice discontinued after independence. Triggered by growing political and social demands, this move is expected to significantly impact governance, affirmative action, and social justice efforts.

#### What is a Caste Census-

- Definition:** A caste census is a systematic collection of data on individuals' caste identities during a nationwide population census.
- The word "caste" comes from the Spanish word 'casta', meaning 'race' or 'hereditary group'. The Portuguese used it to denote 'Jati' in India.
- M. N. Srinivas (Indian sociologist) defines caste as a hereditary, endogamous, and usually localized group, linked to a specific occupation, and occupying a certain position in the social hierarchy.
- Objective:** It aims to understand the socio-economic distribution of various caste groups to inform policies on social justice, reservations, and welfare.
- Historical Context of Caste Enumeration:** Caste enumeration was a regular feature of census exercises during British rule from 1881 to 1931, while the 1941 Census also collected caste information but did not publish it due to the onset of World War II.
- Since the 1951 Census, caste enumeration was discontinued for all except Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), leaving no reliable national data on Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and other caste groups.**
- In 1961, the central government allowed states to conduct surveys and compile state-specific lists of OBCs.
- The last national caste data collection was in 2011 through the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), aimed at assessing households' socio-economic conditions along with caste information.



### 33. PUNJAB OPPOSES THE BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (BBMB)'S DECISION TO RELEASE AN ADDITIONAL 4,500 CUSECS OF WATER TO HARYANA -

- Meanwhile, Haryana has threatened to move the Supreme Court to secure its share, escalating a decades-old dispute over sharing the water of Bhakra Nangal Dam.

#### What are the Key Facts Regarding the Punjab-Haryana Water Sharing Dispute?

- Current Crisis:** Haryana demanded 8,500 cusecs from the Bhakra-Nangal project—4,500 cusecs more than its current allocation. Punjab refused, forcing the BBMB to intervene.
- In a BBMB meeting, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi voted in favor of releasing extra water.**
- Punjab has refused to open additional sluice gates, leading Haryana to approach the Supreme Court.
- Role of BBMB:** Before the division of Punjab in 1996, the Bhakra-Nangal project was managed by Punjab. In 1966, the Bhakra Management Board (BMB) was formed under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 to oversee the project, ensuring it benefited Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.
- BMB was renamed BBMB in 1976, it now manages Bhakra Dam (Himachal), Nangal Dam (Punjab), Beas-Satluj Link Project (Pandoh Dam), and Pong Dam.

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## 1. BANGLADESH UNVEILS NEW BANKNOTES, DROPS MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S PORTRAIT -

- **The unveiling of these new banknotes comes at a time of deep political transition in Bangladesh. With Sheikh Hasina's government ousted in 2024 and the country currently led by an interim advisory council, the decision to remove Mujibur Rahman's portrait is seen as an attempt to present a more neutral and inclusive national identity.**
- The issue also coincides with legal proceedings against Hasina, adding to the relevance and controversy surrounding this monetary redesign.
- Key Highlights of the New Banknotes
- The new banknotes are of three denominations: Taka 1000, Taka 50, and Taka 20.
- The design excludes human portraits entirely.



### Instead, they feature,

- Natural landscapes
- Archaeological sites
- Hindu and Buddhist temples, reflecting the country's cultural and historical diversity.
- Leadership & Execution
- Unveiled by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.
- Banknotes were handed over by Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur.

## 2. STRAIT OF HORMUZ -

- The Strait of Hormuz is important maritime route. It connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. Recent tensions between Iran and the United States have raised concerns about the possibility of Iran blocking this vital waterway. This action could have implications for global oil and gas markets, particularly affecting countries dependent on energy supplies from the region.

### Geographical Importance of the Strait of Hormuz

- The Strait of Hormuz is only 33 kilometres wide at its narrowest point. It serves as a vital shipping lane for oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG).
- **Approximately 20 million barrels of oil flow through the strait each day. This represents over one-quarter of the world's seaborne oil trade. The strait is bordered by Iran and Oman, making its control strategically.**



## 3. PM MODI TO ATTEND G-7 SUMMIT IN CANADA, SIGNALING THAW IN BILATERAL TIES -

- PM Modi has officially accepted Canadian PM Mark Carney's last-minute invitation to attend the upcoming G-7 Summit in Alberta, Canada, on short notice. The development is highly significant given the recent low

point in India-Canada relations and indicates a potential reset in diplomatic ties following political transitions and ongoing international dialogues.

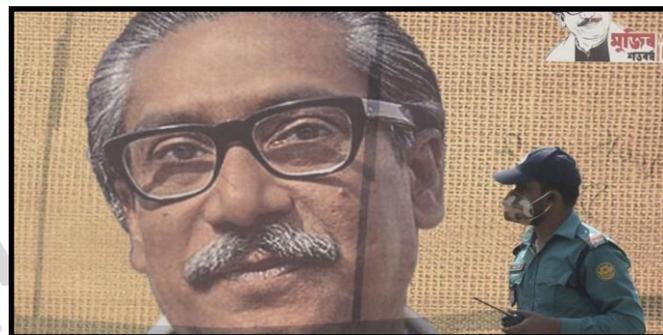


**Key Highlights**

- **Event:** G-7 Summit 2025
- **Location:** Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada
- **Date:** Next week (Mid-June 2025)
- **Invited by:** Canadian PM Mark Carney
- First India-Canada visit by PM Modi since 2015
- **Theme of visit:** Resetting bilateral relations with “renewed vigour”

**4. BANGLADESH DROPS ‘FATHER OF THE NATION’ TITLE FOR SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN -**

- On June 3, 2025, the interim government of Bangladesh, led by Prof. Mohammed Yunus, issued a revised version of the Liberation War Act, omitting Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s title as the ‘Father of the Nation’.



- **This development follows the earlier release of new currency notes that no longer feature his image. These steps mark a significant shift in how Bangladesh’s official narrative now views its founding leader and the legacy of the 1971 Liberation War.**

- A new notification dated June 3, 2025, removed references to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Jatir Pita (Father of the Nation) in relation to the 1971 war of independence.
- **New currency notes released recently by the interim government also exclude Mujib’s image, which had been featured in earlier series.**
- The Liberation War Act 2022 earlier highlighted Sheikh Mujib’s leadership and the Mujib Bahini, but the 2025 version does not mention either.

**5. NEW NON-PERMANENT COUNTRIES TO UNSC -**

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has elected Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Latvia, and Liberia as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a 2-year term starting 1st January 2026.
- They will join Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, Somalia (elected in 2024, serving through 2026).
- Also, Pakistan has been appointed as the Chair of the UNSC 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee for 2025 and will also serve as vice-chair of the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee during its 2025–26 tenure as a non-permanent member of the Council.

**What is the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) ?**

- **The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), established in 1945 under the UN Charter, constitutes one of the UN's six**



**principal organs, entrusted with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.**

- The Council comprises 15 members, including 5 permanent members (P5)- China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—who possess veto power, and 10 non-permanent members elected for 2-year terms by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
- These non-permanent seats are allocated on a regional basis: 5 for African and Asian States, 1 for Eastern European States, 2 for Latin American and Caribbean States, and 2 for Western European and Other States.
- Elections are held annually through a secret ballot, requiring a two-thirds majority vote, even when candidates are unopposed.
- The UNSC remains the only UN body whose decisions member states are obligated to implement under the UN Charter.
- India's participation in the Security Council has been as a non-permanent member during the periods of 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12, and 2021-22.

**6. ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT ESCALATES: OPERATION RISING LION TARGETS NUCLEAR SITES, IRAN RESPONDS -**

- Israel has launched 'Operation Rising Lion' to prevent Iran from building nuclear weapons targeting its nuclear facilities, missile bases.
- Key Casualties: Hossein Salami (Iran's IRGC chief) and two top nuclear scientists.



**Iran responds with 'Operation True Promise 3' after the Israeli attack.**

- **Iran-Israel Relations:** Background & Timeline

**Phase I: Strategic Cooperation (1948–1979)**

- **1948:** Iran did not recognize Israel officially, but did not join Arab-Israeli wars.
- **1950s:** Iran quietly aligned with Israel under Ben-Gurion's "Periphery Doctrine" — alliance with non-Arab states (Iran, Turkey, Ethiopia) to counter Arab hostility.
- **1958:** Formation of "Trident" intelligence pact (Iran-Israel-Turkey); joint operations against Baathist Iraq.
- **Post-1967 War:** Despite rising criticism in the Muslim world, the Shah of Iran maintained relations with Israel.
- **1970s:** Secret energy and military cooperation peaked:

**Phase II: Ideological Confrontation (Post-1979)**

- **1979 Islamic Revolution:** The Shah was overthrown; the Islamic Republic of Iran was established under Ayatollah Khomeini.
- Iran severed all ties with Israel and handed its embassy in Tehran to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).
- Israel was labeled the "Little Satan", USA the "Great Satan".
- **1980s:** Paradoxical Relations: Despite hostility, Israel supplied weapons to Iran during the Iran-Iraq War:
- **Iran-Contra Affair (1985–86):** Covert US-Israel-Iran arms-for-hostages deal.
- Both countries opposed Saddam Hussein and viewed Iraq as a bigger threat.

**Phase III: Shadow War & Nuclear Tensions (1990–2020)**

- Iran emerged as a key backer of Hezbollah (Lebanon) and Hamas (Gaza) — both anti-Israel militant groups.
- Iran was suspected of developing nuclear weapons. Israel viewed this as an existential threat.

- **Cyber warfare era:** Israel and the US launched Stuxnet virus on Iran's Natanz facility (2010).
- **Covert operations:** Multiple Iranian nuclear scientists were assassinated (e.g., Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, 2020).

#### **Phase IV: Escalation & Open Conflict (2020–2025)**

- **2021–2023:** Proxy escalation: Iran's proxies — Houthis, Hezbollah — stepped up attacks post-Gaza conflict.
- Israel responded with targeted assassinations in Lebanon and Syria.
- **April 2024:** Iran launches 300 drones and missiles on Israel after its consulate was bombed in Damascus.
- Israel retaliated with strikes on Iranian anti-aircraft systems and IRGC facilities.

#### **June 2025 – Operation Rising Lion**

- Israel launched open military strikes on Iran, targeting:
  - Natanz nuclear site
  - IRGC command chain
  - Nuclear scientists
- Iran responded with missile and drone retaliation, no major Israeli casualties reported.
- IAEA censured Iran for secret enrichment; Iran threatened NPT withdrawal.

### **7. GLOBAL DISPLACEMENT CRISIS -**

- The global displacement crisis has reached alarming levels as of April 2025. **The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 122.1 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide.** This figure marks the urgent need for international attention and support. Despite a slight decrease in numbers from the previous year, the overall situation remains critical.



#### **Current Displacement Statistics**

- By April 2025, the number of forcibly displaced people rose by 2.1 million compared to the previous year. The total of 122.1 million includes refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). In 2024, the total peaked at 123.2 million. The ongoing conflicts in various regions continue to drive these numbers higher.

### **8. PAKISTAN SECURES KEY ROLES IN UNSC COMMITTEES -**

- Recently, Pakistan was elected as the Chair of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee, Vice Chair of the 1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), and a Co-Chair in two informal working groups of the UNSC.

#### **Reasons For Pakistan's Appointment to UNSC Committees**

- **Procedurally Inevitable:** As per Article 28 of the UN Charter, the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee and 1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee are subsidiary organs comprising all 15 UNSC members.
- By virtue of its two-year UNSC membership, any elected non-permanent member invariably takes the helm of at least one of the Council's several subsidiary bodies, at some point in their tenure.
- Pakistan being voted as a UNSC non-permanent member from the Asia-Africa grouping in June 2024 already set it up for eventual committee chairmanships.



- **P5:** Permanent members (China, France, Russia, UK, US) avoid chairing such bodies to prevent conflicts of interest. e.g., the US enforces major sanctions but has never chaired the 1988 Committee.
- **Systemic Overload:** The existing system burdens non-permanent members.
- A 2018 UNSC briefing called for a new system for fairer chairmanship distribution.

## 9. AUKUS SUBMARINE AGREEMENT -

- The United States has launched a formal review of the AUKUS submarine agreement with Australia and the United Kingdom.

### Reasons for the US Review

- **“America First” Alignment:** The review aims to ensure the agreement aligns with the “America First” priorities of the current US administration.
- **Production and Spending Concerns:** The review will examine the production rate of Virginia-class submarines, which are behind schedule, raising concerns about the US ability to meet its own fleet demands while supplying Australia.
- **Australia’s Defense Spending:** The US is pressuring Australia to increase its defense spending from 2% to 3.5% of GDP.



### What is Aukus?

- AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The AUKUS pact was officially announced in September 2021.
- Countering China: Its primary goal is to counter China’s growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

## 10. OPERATION SINDHU EVACUATION FROM IRAN -

- **India announced launching ‘Operation Sindhu’ to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran through Armenia as fears of an all-out Israeli-American military strikes on Iran increased.**
- It highlighted Armenia’s crucial role as a strategic and viable evacuation route, thanks to its geographic position and strong diplomatic ties with India.
- Iran borders Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan to the north. It shares borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan to the east, Iraq to the west, Turkey to the northwest, and has a southern coastline along the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.



## 11. OPERATION TRUE PROMISE 3: IRAN’S RETALIATORY STRIKE REDEFINES MODERN WARFARE -

- Iran launched Operation True Promise 3 as retaliation against Israeli strikes on nuclear enrichment facilities and high-ranking Iranian military officials. The operation marks a strategic escalation in the conflict and reveals new offensive tactics with implications for missile defence systems worldwide.

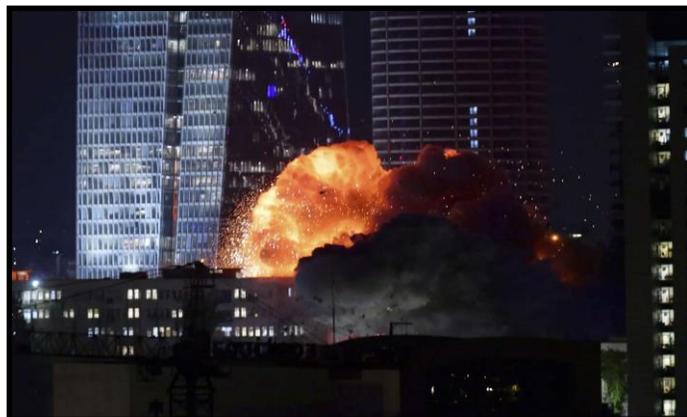
### What is Operation True Promise 3?

- A retaliatory military campaign by Iran, targeting Israeli cities and infrastructure.
- **Led by:** Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

- **Cause:** Triggered by Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear sites (Natanz, Isfahan) and the killing of top generals.
- **Targets:** Major urban centers—Tel Aviv, Haifa, Rehovot.

**Damage Inflicted**

- Power stations, oil refineries, and scientific research centers.
- Urban and civilian zones disrupted.
- The “New Method” of Missile Warfare
- Introduced by the IRGC to defeat Israeli air defence systems, especially Iron Dome.



**12. EU PROPOSES BAN ON RUSSIAN GAS IMPORTS BY 2027 -**

- **The European Commission has recently proposed a legally binding ban on the import of Russian gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) by 2027. This decision follows the EU’s commitment to sever its longstanding energy ties with Russia, a move prompted by the geopolitical tensions arising from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022.**
- The proposal aims to ensure that EU member states cannot block the ban, particularly Hungary and Slovakia, which have expressed opposition.

**Implementation Timeline**

- The ban will be implemented in stages. Starting from January 1, 2026, all new Russian gas and LNG contracts signed in 2025 will be prohibited. Short-term contracts, defined as those lasting less than one year and signed before June 17, 2025, will face a ban from June 17, 2026. The final phase will see a prohibition on existing long-term contracts beginning January 1, 2028, effectively ending the EU’s reliance on Russian gas.



**13. 51ST G7 SUMMIT -**

- India’s Prime Minister attended the 51st G7 Summit at Kananaskis, Canada. Though India is not a part of the G7 grouping, it has been invited for the global summit each year for the last six years and twelve times in total as an outreach country.
- The President of the European Commission was invited to attend the G7 Summit for the first time.

**What are the Key Outcomes of the G7 Summit?**

- **Kananaskis Wildfire Charter:** It commits to addressing wildfire threats through science-based, local actions and nature-based solutions, aligning with the goal to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030 under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration (2021).



- **G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan:** It focuses on diversifying critical mineral production, boosting investment and local value creation, and promoting innovation, building on the 2023 Five-Point Plan for Critical Minerals Security (also endorsed by India).
- The G7 also committed to strengthening the World Bank-led Resilient and Inclusive Supply Chain Enhancement (RISE) Partnership.
- **Condemned Transnational Repression (TNR):** The G7 condemned Transnational Repression (TNR), which refers to aggressive foreign interference where states or their proxies seek to intimidate, harass, harm, or coerce individuals or communities beyond their own borders.
- **Prevent Migrant Smuggling:** G7 committed to preventing migrant smuggling through the G7 Coalition to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants and the 2024 G7 Action Plan targeting this issue.

#### What is G7?

- **About:** The G7 (Group of Seven) is an informal forum of the world's most advanced economies — France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Japan, the US, and Canada.

#### 14. THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ: THE WORLD'S MOST CRITICAL OIL CHOKEPOINT -

- **The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran to the north and the United Arab Emirates and Oman to the south. It is the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean, making it a strategic bottleneck for any maritime traffic entering or leaving the Persian Gulf.**



- At its narrowest point, the Strait is only about 33 kilometers (21 miles) wide.
- The shipping lanes, however, are even narrower: each is only 2 miles wide, separated by a 2-mile buffer zone.
- This limited navigable width makes the Strait both vulnerable to disruptions and easy to control militarily, which is why it features prominently in Middle Eastern security calculations.

#### 15. PAKISTAN SUSPENDS SIMLA AGREEMENT AND CLOSES BORDER, AIRSPACE, TRADE WITH INDIA- Suspension of Simla Agreement (1972)-

- Pakistan has put the agreement in abeyance, citing India's alleged involvement in terrorism and violations of international law in Kashmir.
- The Simla Agreement had upheld the sanctity of the Line of Control (LoC).

#### Closure of Wagah Border Crossing

- The border is closed with immediate effect.
- All cross-border movement through Wagah is suspended.
- Deadline of April 30 set for those with valid travel endorsements to return.

#### Suspension of All Trade with India

- Bilateral trade has been completely paused.
- Trade via land routes, sea, and air are impacted.
- Airspace Closure



- Indian airlines are now banned from using Pakistani airspace.
- This affects major commercial flight routes over Pakistan.
- All Bilateral Agreements Suspended
- Apart from Simla Agreement, all other agreements are under review and suspension.

**16. TRUMP ANNOUNCES REMOVAL OF ALL U.S. SANCTIONS ON SYRIA, SIGNALING NEW DIPLOMATIC CHAPTER -**

- **This announcement is highly relevant as it signals a major policy change by the U.S. regarding Syria, potentially impacting regional geopolitics, humanitarian aid, and economic recovery. It also follows the recent overthrow of the Assad regime and the establishment of a new government, offering hope for Syria's reconstruction and reintegration into the global community.**



**Aim and Objectives**

- To give Syria a chance at economic recovery and political stability.
- To encourage the new transitional government to maintain peace and rebuild the nation.
- To lift economic and trade restrictions that have hindered Syria's growth and humanitarian relief.

**Background**

- Syria has been designated a state sponsor of terrorism by the U.S. since 1979.
- U.S. sanctions were imposed in 2004 and tightened after 2011 due to Assad's crackdown on uprisings.
- The country suffered a devastating civil war, extremist insurgencies, and foreign military interventions over the past decade.
- In December 2024, anti-Assad militia toppled the regime, leading to a new government led by Ahmed al-Sharaa, a former al-Qaeda member claiming reform.

**17. CHINA'S RENAMING OF PLACES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH -**

- **Recently, India rejected the cartographic aggression of China over attempts to rename Arunachal Pradesh names in its own dialect.**

- India reaffirmed that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.
- This is not a new strategy; China has periodically released lists with "standardised" Chinese names for places in Arunachal Pradesh since 2017.
- The Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approved five mega hydropower projects with a combined capacity of 2,626 megawatts (MW) near the China border namely:
  - Heo, Tato I, Tato II, Naying, and Hiron.
  - The Heo and Tato I projects, both located on the Yarjep River



### Historical Background of the Dispute

- The Simla Convention (1914) and the McMahon Line: Held between British India, Tibet, and China in Simla (now Shimla), British India.
- The McMahon Line was drawn as the boundary between British India and Tibet, placing Arunachal Pradesh (then NEFA) within British India.
- **China's Stand:** The Chinese plenipotentiary initiated but later rejected the agreement.
- China claims Tibet lacked sovereignty, hence had no legal authority to sign treaties.
- **India's Position:** Recognizes the McMahon Line as the legal boundary.

### 18. INDIA OPENS NUCLEAR ENERGY SECTOR TO PRIVATE OPERATORS WITH LIABILITY REFORM -

- The government is preparing to revamp its nuclear energy regulations to permit private operators, reducing liability risks that have long been a deterrent for private and foreign participation.
- **This comes shortly after the U.S. government's decision to allow its nuclear firms to collaborate with India — a strategic move that will strengthen India's civil nuclear capabilities and energy security.**



#### Private Participation

- For the first time, private companies will be allowed to operate nuclear power plants in India.
- This move aligns with global best practices and aims to meet India's growing energy demands.

### 19. "INDIA CHARTS NEW SEA ROUTE FOR NORTH-EAST VIA MYANMAR, SKIPPING BANGLADESH" -

- On April 30, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved a Rs 22,864 crore project for a 166.8-km highway from Mawlyngkhung (Meghalaya) to Panchgram (Assam).
- **This road will become a crucial land segment of a new multi-modal sea route connecting the North-East to Kolkata through Myanmar, thus bypassing the dependence on Bangladesh for maritime access. This project is seen as a strategic response to recent diplomatic tensions and regional assertions made by Bangladeshi leadership.**



#### Key Highlights

- **Project Name:** Shillong to Silchar High-Speed Corridor (NH-6)
- **Length:** 166.8 km (144.8 km in Meghalaya, 22 km in Assam)
- **Estimated Cost:** ₹22,864 crore
- **Expected Completion:** By 2030
- **Mode of Implementation:** Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) under Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
- **Executing Agency:** National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)

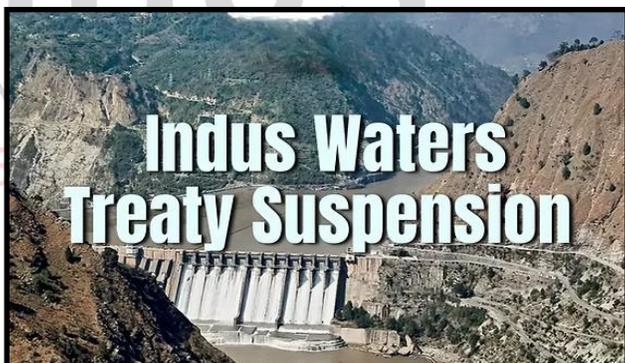
## 20. SHINKANSEN TRAINS AND BULLET TRAIN PROJECT -

- Japan is set to provide India with two Shinkansen train sets (E5 and E3 series) at no cost in 2026.
- **Shinkansen Trains (E5 Series):** It has been operational since 2011. With a speed of 320 km/h, it was initially chosen for India's first bullet train line.
- Known for its aerodynamic design, advanced safety systems, and smooth ride quality, it represents the cutting edge of high-speed rail technology.
- **Shinkansen Trains (E3 Series):** A slightly slow and older model primarily used for mini-shinkansen services, it shares similar features to the E5 series, such as safety mechanisms.
- **Bullet Train Project (Mumbai-Ahmedabad):** Implemented by the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL), the project incorporates Japanese Shinkansen technology.
- The project is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), covering about 80% of the costs.
- The Project was initially scheduled for completion by 2022, but the revised deadline is now 2028.
- The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor is part of India's National Rail Plan (NRP) 2030.



## 21. PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK AND SUSPENSION OF THE INDUS WATERS TREATY -

- **The Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a 5-point action plan against Pakistan following the deadly terrorist attack in Baisaran valley (Pahalgam), Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians.**
- The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack.
- **Note:** The TRF surfaced in 2020. It was declared a terrorist organisation by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2023 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for its involvement in terror recruitment, infiltration, and smuggling from Pakistan into J&K.
- **TRF's rise followed two key developments: the decapitation of LeT's top leadership in 2018 and the revocation of J&K's special status in 2019.**



### **What is the 5-Point Action Plan Announced by India After the Pahalgam Terror Attack?**

- **Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty:** India has suspended the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) until Pakistan ceases its support for cross-border terrorism.
- It reflects a shift in India's strategic calculus, using hydrological leverage as a pressure tool.
- **Closure of the Attari-Wagah Border Check Post:** India has shut down the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari, Punjab suspending all movement of people and goods.
- Only individuals who have crossed over with valid documents will be permitted to return by 1st May 2025.
- **Cancellation of SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme for Pakistan:** India has revoked the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) for Pakistani nationals.

**All SVES visas already issued are considered void.**

- **Expulsion of Pakistani Military Advisors:** Pakistan's Defence, Naval, and Air advisors in New Delhi have been declared persona non grata and must exit India. India will also withdraw its own advisors from Islamabad.
- **Reduction of Diplomatic Personnel:** India will reduce the staff strength at its High Commission in Islamabad to 30, down from 55, by 1st May 2025.

**22. US-CHINA AGREE TO SLASH TARIFFS AMID TRADE WAR DE-ESCALATION -**

- **This agreement comes after years of escalating trade tensions between the US and China, which had led to hundreds of billions of dollars in tariffs, supply chain disruptions, and global economic uncertainty. The 115% reduction in reciprocal tariffs signals a shift toward cooperation and economic diplomacy.**



**Agreement Details**

- Reciprocal tariffs reduced by 115%.
- A 90-day freeze on additional tariff measures.
- China to set tariffs on US goods at 10%.
- China suspends additional 24% tariffs and cancels 91% extra duties.

**Background of Trade War**

- US imposed 145% tariffs on Chinese goods.
- China retaliated with 125% tariffs on US imports and restrictions on rare earth exports.
- The conflict disrupted global trade and caused inflationary pressures

# IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

## 1. 50 YEARS OF THE 1975 EMERGENCY -

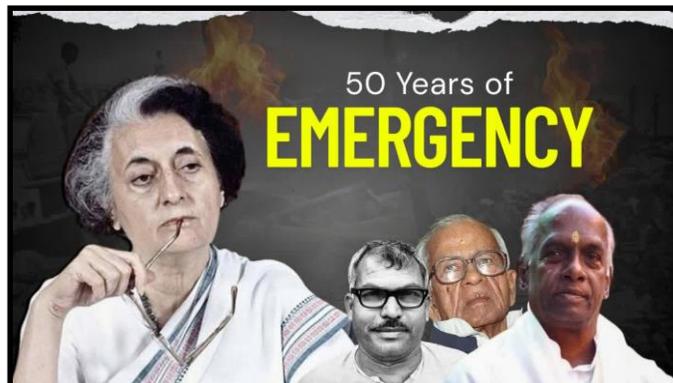
- **On the 50th anniversary of the 1975 Emergency, the Indian Prime Minister paid tribute to Indians who defended democracy during a dark period in India's history.**
- June 25th is observed as Samvidhan Hatya Diwas.

### About 1975 Emergency

- **Date of Declaration:** June 25, 1975
- **Duration:** The Emergency lasted for 21 months, from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977.
- **Declared by:** President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed under Article 352, on the advice of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- **Reason for Declaration:** Cited as a response to "internal disturbances" threatening national security.

### Key Reasons for the Emergency of 1975:

- **Electoral and Legal Challenges:** Indira Gandhi's 1971 election was challenged by Raj Narain.
- The Allahabad High Court in State of Uttar Pradesh v. Raj Narain (1975) found her guilty of electoral malpractices, disqualifying her from Parliament and barring her from re-election for six years.
- **Political Instability and Opposition Movements:** Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) led a "Total Revolution" movement.
- Widespread student protests in Gujarat and Bihar against inflation, unemployment, and corruption created political chaos.
- **External Geopolitical Factors:** The Bangladesh War (1971) led to economic strain.
- The US aid cessation and rising global oil prices worsened India's financial challenges.
- **Economic Crisis:** High inflation (23% in 1973, 30% in 1974) caused hardship.



## 2. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) 2025 IS BEING CELEBRATED ON 5TH JUNE 2025, WITH SOUTH KOREA (REPUBLIC OF KOREA) SERVING AS THE GLOBAL HOST -

- **Additionally, the Prime Minister will plant a Banyan sapling under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative as part of the 'Aravalli Green Wall project'.**

### What is World Environment Day 2025?

- **About:** WED was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972, coinciding with the opening day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment—the first major global summit focused on environmental issues.
- The event has been led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), since its inception in 1973.
- This landmark conference marked a turning point in the global environmental movement.



- **Theme:** The theme "Beat Plastic Pollution," aims to raise awareness about the production, use, and disposal of plastics, and promote solutions like refusing, reducing, reusing, and recycling plastic use.
- **Significance:** Plastic pollution worsens pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change. Annually, 11 million tonnes of plastic enter water bodies, while microplastics from landfills and sewage pollute soil.
- The global cost of plastic pollution is estimated at USD 300–600 billion per year. India produces approximately 9.3 million tonnes of plastic waste each year, accounting for nearly 20% of the global total.
- Burning over 5.8 million tonnes yearly releases toxic pollutants.

### 3. WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY 2025 -

- World Food Safety Day 2025 (7th June), themed “Food Safety: Science in Action,” highlights India's shift from an adulteration-focused regime to a science-based food safety system led by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Despite progress, regulatory gaps and outdated practices persist, warranting renewed scrutiny.
- **Note:** World Food Safety Day, observed annually on 7th June since 2019 following a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly, is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness and inspiring action to prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks



#### How has India's Food Safety Framework Evolved?

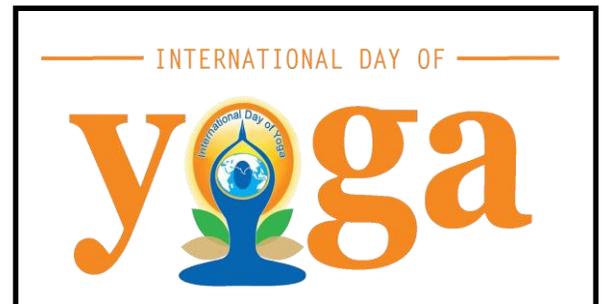
- **Initial Legal Framework (1954–2006):** The Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 treated food safety in binary terms: food was either adulterated or not, without distinguishing between different types of contaminants or considering the levels of exposure.
- It did not account for consumption quantity, dietary patterns, or varying risk profiles of contaminants.
- **Reform with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006:** It established the FSSAI, aligning India's standards with global benchmarks.
- **FSSAI introduced a risk-based framework aligned with international best practices (Codex Alimentarius), incorporating Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides, Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) for food additives, and setting standards for veterinary drug residues and naturally occurring toxins.**
- By 2020, India's food safety regulations were nearly on par with advanced economies.

### 4. 11TH INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY 2025 -

- The 11th International Yoga Day (IYD) is celebrated worldwide on 21st June with the theme 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'.

#### What is International Yoga Day?

- **About:** International Yoga Day, celebrated to raise awareness about yoga's benefits for health, well-being, and peace.
- Its objectives are to promote physical, mental, and spiritual health, spread awareness of yoga as a gift of ancient Indian tradition, and encourage global harmony and peace through its practice.
- **Origin & UN Declaration:** It was proposed by India at the 69th UN General Assembly (2014), leading to declaration of 21st June as International Day of Yoga (IDY).



- The first IDY was celebrated in 2015 with the theme "Yoga for Harmony and Peace".
- **Significance of 21st June:** International Yoga Day on 21st June coincides with the Summer Solstice — the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere — when the sun's rays fall directly on the Tropic of Cancer, bringing maximum daylight and marking a transition to spiritual awakening in yogic traditions.
- **Global Recognition:** UNESCO inscribed Yoga as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes Yoga as a tool for mental and physical well-being, combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and included it in its Global Action Plan (2018–30).
- In 2015, India's Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports classified Yoga as a 'Priority' sports discipline.

**What is Yoga?**

- **About:** Yoga, derived from Sanskrit "Yuj" (to unite), symbolizes mind-body harmony.
- It traces its roots to the Indus Valley Civilization through seals (yogic posture on Pashupati seal) and fossils, is mentioned in the Vedas, and was systematically compiled in Patanjali's Yogasutra (2nd century BC).
- Yoga is one of the six orthodox schools of Indian philosophy (along with Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Sankhya, Mimamsa, Vedanta).

**5. 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II -**

- On 9th May 2025, Russia marked the 80th anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat in World War II, with President Vladimir Putin leading a grand military parade featuring tanks, missiles, and troops through Red Square.
- **Nazi Germany surrendered on 7th May 1945, with the act of military surrender taking effect on 8th May 1945, following the Battle of Berlin (20th April – 2nd May 1945).**
- Russia celebrates Victory Day on 9th May instead of 8th May (like Western nations) due to differences in time zones.
- **World War II (1939–1945) was the most widespread and devastating conflict in history, fought between the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, Japan) and the Allied powers (including the US, France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China).**



**6. CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SIKKIM'S STATEHOOD: A JOURNEY FROM MONARCHY TO DEMOCRACY -**

- **May 16, 2025, marks the 50th anniversary of Sikkim's merger with India and its formal recognition as the 22nd state of the Indian Union through the Constitution (36th Amendment) Act, 1975. This moment is historically significant as it ended centuries of monarchical rule and integrated the strategically located Himalayan kingdom into India's democratic and federal framework.**

**The Constitutional Pathway to Statehood**

- Sikkim's integration into India involved a two-step constitutional process.
- **35th Constitutional Amendment (1974):** Granted Sikkim the status of an associate state, a temporary arrangement.
- **36th Constitutional Amendment (1975):** Officially made Sikkim the 22nd full-fledged state of India, retrospectively from April 26, 1975.



**7. 17TH NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES DAY -**

- **The Prime Minister addressed civil servants on the occasion of the 17th National Civil Services Day (21st April 2025) and honored the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration (PMAEPA).**
- On National Civil Services Day, the historic representation of women in civil services was highlighted, with 74 women officers comprising 41% of the 2023 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) batch.
- **National Civil Services Day:** It is observed on 21st April each year to honor the dedication of civil servants. First celebrated in 2006, it commemorates Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's address to the probationers of Administrative Services Officers at Metcalf House in Delhi, where he referred to the civil servants as the "steel frame of India" on 21st April 1947.



**8. WORLD EARTH DAY 2025: DATE, HISTORY, THEME, AND SIGNIFICANCE -**

- World Earth Day is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about environmental issues and promoting actions to protect our planet. Celebrated annually, it serves as a reminder of the importance of sustainable living and environmental stewardship.
- **Earth Day 2025 will be observed on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. This date has been consistently recognized worldwide since the event's inception.**



**History of Earth Day**

- The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, initiated by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. Motivated by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill and growing public concern over environmental degradation, Nelson envisioned a national teach-in to educate citizens about environmental issues.

**9. NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY 2025: CELEBRATING INDIA'S SCIENTIFIC AND STRATEGIC TRIUMPHS -**

- **The National Technology Day 2025 is in the spotlight as the country marks 27 years since the Pokhran-II nuclear tests, which placed India on the global map as a nuclear power.**
- With the 2025 theme focusing on sustainability through innovation, the day reinforces India's commitment to becoming a global leader in responsible technological progress.

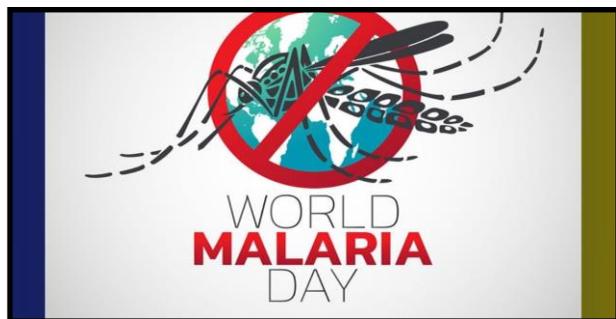


**Background and Historical Significance**

- **Date of Observance:** May 11, annually.
- **Established:** Declared in 1999 by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Historical Event:** Commemorates the Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted on May 11 and 13, 1998, under the leadership of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- **Operation Name:** Operation Shakti.
- **Warhead:** 200 to 300 kg conventional warhead, capable of high explosive or semi-armour-piercing strikes.

**10. WORLD MALARIA DAY 2025 DATE, THEME, SIGNIFICANCE -**

- World Malaria Day is observed annually on April 25 to raise awareness and rally global efforts toward eliminating malaria one of the deadliest yet preventable parasitic diseases.
- **Malaria remains a major global health issue, with 263 million cases and nearly 6 lakh deaths reported in 2023 alone, as per WHO.**
- Despite being both preventable and curable, the disease disproportionately affects tropical and low-income regions. This day aims to highlight progress, challenges, and the urgent need for reinvestment and innovation in the fight against malaria.



**NIMBUS**  
ACADEMY FOR IAS  
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ॥

## SPORTS NEWS

### 1. INDIA FINISHES SECOND AT ASIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 WITH 24 MEDALS -

- India's impressive medal haul at the 26th edition of the Asian Athletics Championships has attracted national attention due to standout individual and team performances, several national records, and successful title defenses in key events.
- The championships also served as a preparatory stage for Indian athletes eyeing qualification for the Paris 2026 Olympics.

#### Overview of India's Participation

- **Total Indian athletes:** Over 60
- **Events contested:** 30 (15 men's, 14 women's, 1 mixed)
- **Championship dates:** May 27–31, 2025
- **Host city:** Gumi, Republic of Korea
- **India's position:** 2nd overall
- **China:** Topped the medal table



### 2. INDIA SHINES AT 2025 ISSF WORLD CUP LIMA WITH 7 MEDALS, FINISHES THIRD OVERALL -

- India's shooting squad wrapped up a strong performance at the 2025 ISSF World Cup held in Lima, Peru, securing a total of seven medals—two gold, four silver, and one bronze—to finish third in the overall medal tally, just behind China and the United States.
- **The competition, hosted from April 13 to 22, featured over 400 shooters from 43 countries. India's 42-member squad was one of the largest at the event. Key performers like Suruchi Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary helped India qualify for the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 to be held in Doha, Qatar, in December.**



#### Highlights of India's Campaign

- **Location:** Lima, Peru
- **Dates:** April 13–22, 2025
- **Participants:** Over 400 shooters from 43 nations
- **India's Squad:** 42-member team, second largest after China
- **India's Medal Tally:** 2 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze – Total 7 medals
- **India's Rank:** 3rd on the medal table
- **Significance:** Gold medalists qualify for 2025 ISSF World Cup Final in Doha (Dec 4–9)

### **3. NEERAJ CHOPRA HONOURED WITH HONORARY LT. COLONEL RANK IN TERRITORIAL ARMY -**

- The Ministry of Defence's Department of Military Affairs issued a notification on May 13, 2025, announcing that Ex-Subedar Major Neeraj Chopra will receive the honorary Lieutenant Colonel rank in the Territorial Army, effective April 16, 2025. This comes as part of the government's effort to honour distinguished civilians and service members for their national contributions.

#### **Who is Neeraj Chopra?**

- Born in Khandra village, Panipat, Haryana.
- Olympic Gold Medalist in Tokyo 2020 (held in 2021).
- Silver Medalist at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- World Champion in 2023 (Budapest World Athletics Championships).
- Formerly held the post of Subedar Major in the Indian Army.

#### **About the Honorary Rank**

- Conferred under Para-31 of the Territorial Army Regulations, 1948.
- Recognizes exceptional individuals contributing to national pride.
- The honorary title allows limited ceremonial participation in military events.

#### **Territorial Army (TA) Overview**

- Established on October 9, 1949.
- Functions as a part-time volunteer force supporting the regular Indian Army.
- Involved in war support, disaster relief, and nation-building.
- Celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2024.



# AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

## 1. SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA BECOMES 634TH ASTRONAUT TO REACH SPACE -

- **Shubhanshu Shukla, a pilot from the Indian Air Force, has become the latest Indian to enter space, joining an elite group of global astronauts. His successful docking at the ISS marks a significant event in India's expanding participation in international human space missions, especially as it anticipates future missions like Gaganyaan.**

### Key Details of the Axiom-4 Mission

- **Mission Name:** Axiom-4 (Ax-4)
- **Launch Date:** June 25, 2025
- **Docking at ISS:** June 26, 2025
- **Duration:** 14 days
- **Launch Vehicle:** SpaceX Crew Dragon
- **Partner Organization:** Axiom Space (U.S.)
- **Destination:** International Space Station (ISS)



## 2. THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTED PADMA VIBHUSHAN, PADMA BHUSHAN AND PADMA SHRI AWARDS FOR THE YEAR 2025 TO 139 DISTINGUISHED PERSONS WHOSE NAMES WERE ANNOUNCED ON THE EVE OF THE 76TH REPUBLIC DAY 2025 -

### What are Padma Awards-

- **About:** Instituted in 1954, the Padma Awards are among India's highest civilian honours, announced annually on Republic Day (26th January).
- Their objective is to honour excellence in various fields involving public service.
- **Categories:** The Awards are given in 3 categories:
- **Padma Vibhushan:** For exceptional and distinguished service
- **Padma Bhushan:** For distinguished service of high order
- **Padma Shri:** For distinguished service.
- **The Padma Vibhushan is the highest among the Padma Awards, followed by the Padma Bhushan and then the Padma Shri.**
- **Presentation and Recognition:** Padma Awards are conferred by the President of India in March/April, with recipients receiving a Sanad, medallion, and a replica for ceremonial use.
- **Disciplines:** The awards are presented across diverse fields such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, and more.
- **Eligibility:** All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards.



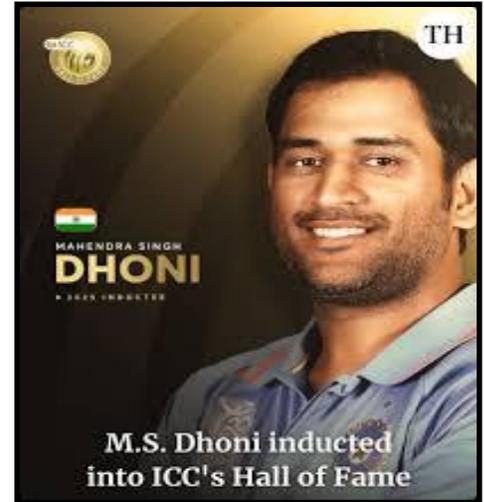
## 3. MS DHONI INDUCTED INTO ICC HALL OF FAME -

- In a moment that further cements his place among cricket's all-time greats, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, former India captain and one of the most iconic cricketers of his generation, was officially inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame during a prestigious event held in London.

- **With this honour, Dhoni becomes the 11th Indian cricketer, and the ninth Indian male player, to be recognised by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for his extraordinary contributions to the game.**

**A Career Built on Calm, Leadership, and Glory**

- Debuting for India in 2004, Dhoni's rise to stardom was swift and impactful. He took over as India's captain in 2007, ushering in a golden era marked by major ICC tournament victories:
- 2007 ICC T20 World Cup (India's first-ever win in the format)
- 2011 ICC ODI World Cup (after 28 years, on home soil)
- 2013 ICC Champions Trophy (India remained unbeaten under his leadership)
- These victories made him the only captain in world cricket to win all three major ICC trophies, a feat still unmatched.



**4. PM MODI CONFERRED WITH CYPRUS' HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOUR — ORDER OF MAKARIOS III -**

- **PM Narendra Modi received Cyprus' top civilian award during his first-ever official visit to the Mediterranean nation. The award, Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, recognizes his efforts in strengthening India-Cyprus relations and promoting global cooperation.**
- Modi's visit marks a historic milestone, as he is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Cyprus.

**About the Award**

- **Name:** Order of Makarios III
- **Country:** Republic of Cyprus
- **Named after:** Archbishop Makarios III, first President of Cyprus.
- **Purpose:** Awarded for meritorious service to the nation and strengthening diplomatic ties.



**5. 58TH JNANPITH AWARD -**

- The President conferred the 58th Jnanpith Award for the year 2023 upon Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and renowned poet-lyricist Gulzar.
- **Jagadguru Rambhadracharya:** He is a revered Sanskrit scholar and Hindu spiritual leader, has held the title of Jagadguru Ramanandacharya since 1982. He is the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot (MP), a prominent religious and literary institution.
- A prolific author of over 240 works, he has penned four Sanskrit epics (Bhargava Raghavam, Sri Ramayanam, Dasavatara Tirtham, and Ramanandacharya Tirtham). He was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan in 2015.
- **Gulzar:** Sampooran Singh Kalra (Gulzar) is a celebrated Urdu poet, lyricist, author, and filmmaker.
- He pioneered the Triveni poetic form and made lasting contributions to Hindi cinema with films like Maachis, Aandhi, and Koshish.



- **He is recipient of the Padma Bhushan (2004), Sahitya Akademi Award (2002), Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2013), an Oscar (2009), a Grammy (2010), and five National Film Awards.**
- **Jnanpith Award:** The Jnanpith Award, established in 1961 and first presented in 1965, is India's oldest and highest literary honour.

#### **6. US VICE PRESIDENT JD VANCE RECEIVES GUARD OF HONOUR DURING FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA -**

- **In a significant diplomatic development, United States Vice President JD Vance began his first official visit to India on April 21, 2025, with a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Palam Airport, New Delhi.**
- Accompanied by Second Lady Usha Vance and their children, he was warmly welcomed by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- The four-day visit aims to deepen strategic cooperation across key areas like trade, defence, and economic partnership.
- **Scheduled high-level meetings, including one with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, underline the growing momentum in India-US bilateral ties.**



#### **7. POSHAN TRACKER APPLICATION WINS PM'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 2024 -**

- The PoshanTracker Application, developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), has been awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024 under the Innovation (Centre) category.
- **This recognition was announced during the 17th Civil Services Day held on April 21, 2025, in New Delhi. The award was received by Secretary Shri Anil Malik on behalf of the Ministry.**
- The PoshanTracker has become an essential tool in advancing nutrition outcomes through tech-driven, data-centric governance under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0.



# **DEFENCE NEWS**

## **1. INDIA'S ARTILLERY MODERNIZATION: DHANUSH VS BOFORS VS ATAGS -**

- For a long time, India faced problems in getting modern artillery due to issues like:
- Delays in buying new weapons
- Corruption cases like the Bofors scandal
- Dependence on foreign countries

**Now, under the “Make in India” and “Atmanirbhar Bharat” initiatives, India is focusing on building weapons at home. Dhanush and ATAGS are two such Indian-made artillery systems.**

- Bofors FH-77B: The Old But Trusted Gun
- Bofors is a Swedish-made artillery gun that India bought in the 1980s.
- It became famous for its performance in the 1999 Kargil War.
- Important points about Bofors:
- It uses 155 mm shells
- It can fire up to 30 kilometers
- It needs 6 to 8 people to operate
- It is partly automatic and works well in mountainous areas



## **2. MINIRATNA STATUS TO 3 DPSUs -**

- The Ministry of Defence has approved the conferment of “Miniratna (Category-I)” status to three key Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs): Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), and India Optel Limited (IOL).
- **Transformation of DPSUs:** MIL, AVNL, and IOL are three of the seven PSUs carved out of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in 2021 as part of the Government of India's defence sector reforms.
- MIL products include ammunition (small to high calibre), mortars, rockets, grenades, and in-house explosives.
- AVNL products include MBT Arjun, T-90 tanks, BMP-II Sarath (amphibious Infantry Combat Vehicle), and Defence mobility solutions (Stallion, LPTA etc.)
- IOL specializes in Opto-electronic systems and vision equipment for tanks, artillery and naval weapons.
- **Miniratna Category-I Status:** The CPSEs which have made profit in the last three years continuously, pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-I status.
- Miniratna companies get more autonomy to invest, raise capital, and make quick decisions. This boosts efficiency, competitiveness, and global reach.



**3. DRDO OFFERS 28 INDIGENOUS WEAPONS FOR EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT BY ARMED FORCES-**

- **DRDO has released a list of 28 indigenous weapon systems for emergency procurement. Comes after successes in Operation Sindoor, where Indian-made systems performed exceptionally. It supports the ongoing military readiness following Pakistan's retaliation and terror activities in Pahalgam. Aligned with the Government of India's self-reliance and indigenisation goals in defence.**



**Objective and Significance**

- To strengthen operational preparedness across all three defence services.
- To streamline procurement under emergency conditions, ensuring rapid deployment and replenishment.
- Reduces dependence on foreign arms while empowering Indian defence manufacturers (both private and PSUs).

**List of Offerings**

- **Total:** 28 weapon systems
- **Army:** 14 systems
- **Navy:** 8 systems
- **Air Force:** 6 systems

**Includes**

- Rockets, missiles, grenades
- Anti-drone systems, air defence systems, and more

**4. INDIAN ARMY PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE KHAAN QUEST 2025 IN MONGOLIA -**

- **The Indian Army joined over a dozen nations in Mongolia for Exercise Khaan Quest 2025, a prominent multinational training drill focused on U.N. peacekeeping operations. The exercise begins on June 14, 2025, and comes at a time when the importance of global peacekeeping missions is growing due to geopolitical instability.**



**Aims and Objectives**

- Enhance peacekeeping capabilities of participating nations in a multinational environment.
- Improve interoperability, coordination, and combat readiness for operations under U.N. mandates.
- Provide hands-on training in real-world conflict simulation scenarios.

**Background of Khaan Quest**

- Started in 2003 as a bilateral drill between the U.S. and Mongolia.
- Became a multinational peacekeeping exercise in 2006.
- Khaan Quest 2025 is the 22nd edition.
- Held annually in Mongolia; the 2024 edition ran from July 27 to August 9.

**5. INDIA-US AIR FORCE SPECIAL FORCES CONCLUDE FIRST JOINT EXERCISE 'TIGER CLAW' -**

- **The first-ever joint special forces exercise between the Indian Air Force and the US Air Force, named Tiger Claw, successfully concluded on June 10, 2025. It marked a new chapter in India-US defence collaboration, specifically focusing on Air Force Special Forces interoperability.**

**Aim of Exercise Tiger Claw**

- Strengthen interoperability between Indian and US Air Force Special Forces.
- Promote exchange of best practices in special operations.
- Enhance combat readiness and joint operational capability in varied terrains.
- About Exercise Tiger Claw
- Participating Forces
- Indian Air Force Special Forces (Garud Commandos)
- US Air Force Special Forces



**6. INDIAN ARMY SUCCESSFULLY TESTS RUDRASTRA VTOL DRONE FOR PRECISION STRIKES -**

- **The Rudrastra VTOL drone has recently cleared successful field trials at the Pokhran firing range, showcasing India's capability to deploy indigenous unmanned aerial systems for strategic battlefield operations.**
- As tensions along the border and threats from cross-border infiltration persist, the deployment of such drones is part of India's effort to strengthen its stand-off strike capabilities using advanced indigenous defence technology.

**Trial Highlights**

- Conducted at the Pokhran firing range.
- Demonstrated precision targeting capabilities with live feed relay and automated return.
- Target range during Army-led VTOL drone trials: up to 50 km.
- Rudrastra UAV by SDAL successfully tested with extended range and payload capabilities.
- Rudrastra VTOL Drone – Capabilities
- **Range:** Total range of 170 km, including loitering time.
- **Endurance:** Up to 1.5 hours of flight time.
- **Warhead:** Equipped with airburst munitions, effective for anti-personnel roles.
- **Strike Mechanism:** High-altitude deployment to maximize destruction over a wide radius.
- **Features:** Can operate autonomously, relay real-time video, and return to base.



**7. THE 8TH EDITION OF EXERCISE SHAKTI, A JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIA AND FRANCE, IS SCHEDULED FROM 18TH JUNE TO 1ST JULY 2025 AT LA CAVALERIE, FRANCE -**

- It is a biennial training engagement between the Indian and French Armies, aimed at enhancing interoperability, operational coordination, and military-to-military connect.
- This edition will focus on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, with training being conducted in semi-urban terrain.
- UN Chapter VII authorizes military/non-military actions (sanctions, blockades, troop deployment) for international peace enforcement.
- **Other joint exercises between France and India:** Exercise Varuna (Navy), Exercise Garuda (Air), and Exercise Desert Knight (India, France, and UAE).



**8. HAL WINS ₹511 CRORE DEAL TO MANUFACTURE AND COMMERCIALIZE SSLV LAUNCHES -**

- HAL emerged as the winning bidder among three shortlisted contenders for the SSLV ToT programme. The deal is worth ₹511 crore and includes technology transfer, handholding, and training by ISRO over two years.
- HAL will manufacture at least two SSLVs with ISRO's support before independently producing them. The agreement reflects India's strategic push to commercialise space technologies through its public and private sector partnerships.



**Background & Objectives**

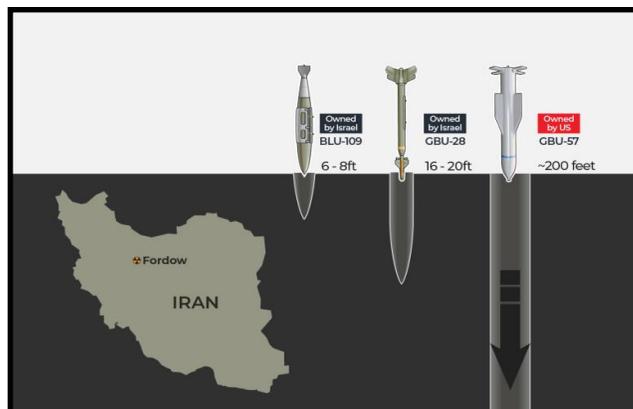
- **The SSLV is a three-stage vehicle designed to launch satellites of up to 500 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).**
- The aim is to enable private sector participation and create a robust commercial launch ecosystem in India.
- ISRO's focus is shifting towards R&D, while production and operation of routine vehicles like SSLV is being handed over to industry.

**9. IRAN'S FORDOW NUCLEAR FACILITY -**

- The ongoing conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran has intensified, particularly concerning Iran's Fordow nuclear facility. This site, located approximately 95 km from Tehran, is crucial due to its advanced uranium enrichment capabilities. The situation escalated following recent Israeli airstrikes, which targeted various Iranian nuclear sites. As tensions rise, the possibility of direct US military intervention looms large.

**Fordow Nuclear Facility Overview**

- The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant began construction in 2007 and became operational in 2009.



It houses about 2,000 centrifuges that enrich uranium to 60%. This level of enrichment is step towards weapons-grade uranium, which requires 90% enrichment. The facility is deeply buried, making it resistant to conventional airstrikes.

#### 10. INS TAMAL TO BE COMMISSIONED ON JULY 1 -

- The commissioning of INS Tamal is significant as it is the last foreign-built warship to be inducted into the Indian Navy.
- **Built at the Yantar Shipyard in Russia, the ship symbolizes the transition from foreign procurement to domestic production under the Government of India's 'Make in India' push. The ceremony will be presided over by Vice Admiral Sanjay J. Singh, signalling the end of a two-decade-long era of warship imports from Russia.**



#### Key Features and Capabilities of INS Tamal

- **Class:** Krivak/Tushil class frigate
- **Length:** 125 metres
- **Displacement:** 3,900 tons
- **Stealth Design:** Enhanced low radar signature and stability
- **Missile Arsenal:** Equipped with BrahMos long-range cruise missiles
- **Crew Strength:** 250+ personnel
- **Sea Trials:** Successfully completed 3-month-long rigorous tests

#### 11. STRATEGIC DEFENCE TECHNOLOGIES IN INDIA -

- India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the BrahMos Integration and Testing Centre in Lucknow, underscoring the significance of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.
- In a separate development, India's growing defence ties and the effectiveness of the S-400 Triumf system were highlighted as it successfully intercepted missile and Asisguard Songar drone attacks launched by Pakistan, showcasing a swift and decisive kinetic response.



#### What are Key Facts About BrahMos and S400 Triumf?

##### BrahMos

- **Name Origin:** "BrahMos" is derived from Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia) rivers.
- **Developed By:** BrahMos Aerospace a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) (50.5%) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) (49.5%).
- **First Test:** BrahMos was successfully tested in 2001, from Chandipur, Odisha.
- **Type:** BrahMos is a two-stage supersonic cruise missile designed for high precision and speed. It features a solid-propellant booster in the first stage, followed by a liquid-fuelled ramjet in the second stage that sustains a cruise speed of Mach 3 (three times the speed of sound), making it one of the fastest cruise missiles in the world.
- **Range:** BrahMos' range has evolved from 290 km to 350 km, with future versions aiming for up to 800 km and hypersonic speeds (Mach 5+).

- BrahMos is three times faster, 2.5 times longer in range, and has a higher seeker range than subsonic missiles, resulting in greater accuracy and nine times more kinetic energy.

#### **S400 Triumph**

- **About:** The S-400 Triumph, developed by Russia, it is one of the world's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems.
- It is dubbed SA-21 Growler by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), it was inducted into service in 2007.
- It is designed for multi-layered air defence, it can intercept a wide range of aerial threats including aircraft, ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, and stealth targets.
- **Range:** Engages targets up to 400 km away and at altitudes up to 30 km.
- **Speed:** Can intercept targets flying at speeds of up to Mach 14 (~17,000 km/h).
- **Radar Reach:** Detects targets up to 600 km using advanced radar systems.
- **Target Handling:** Tracks up to 300 targets and engages up to 36 simultaneously.
- India's Role with the S-400: In 2018, India signed a USD 5.4 billion deal with Russia for five S-400 air defence squadrons.
- **Three are currently operational, with two more due by 2026. Known as Sudarshan Chakra in India, the S-400 was used by the IAF to counter a Pakistani aerial attack, highlighting its strategic significance.**

#### **12. NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD (NSAB) -**

- The Government has reorganised the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) amid rising tensions with Pakistan, particularly after the Pahalgam terror attack.

#### **As part of the reorganization**

- Alok Joshi, former Chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has been appointed as the new Chairman of the NSAB.
- Seven new members have been inducted into the board.

#### **About the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)**

##### **Constitution and Background**

- **Established:** It was established in December 1998 as an advisory body composed of eminent persons outside the government.
- **Composition:** The board draws experts from diverse fields such as industry, media, and civil society, offering independent perspectives on national security matters.

##### **Primary Function**

- **Long-term Analysis and Perspectives:** The NSAB provides long-term strategic analysis and perspectives on national security issues.
- **Advisory Role to NSC:** It advises the National Security Council (NSC) and recommends solutions and policy options for the issues referred to it by the NSC.

#### **13. DRDO DEVELOPS INDIGENOUS POLYMERIC MEMBRANE FOR DESALINATION -**

- The news is significant as it showcases India's growing capability in indigenous defence and marine technology. The development was achieved in a record time of eight months, and trials have proven the system's safety and performance.
- **This aligns with the government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and strengthens maritime infrastructure.**

#### **Key Highlights**



- **Developer:** DMSRDE, Kanpur (a DRDO lab)
- **Purpose:** High-pressure sea water desalination
- **Beneficiary:** Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- **Membrane Type:** Nanoporous multilayered polymeric membrane
- **Development Time:** Completed in 8 months
- **Trial Status:** Successfully tested onboard ICG's Offshore Patrolling Vessel
- **Next Step:** Awaiting final operational clearance after 500 hours of testing



#### 14. INDIAN AIR FORCE JOINS MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE DESERT FLAG-10 IN UAE -

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed a contingent to the Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates to participate in Exercise Desert Flag-10, a prestigious multinational air combat exercise.**
- This strategic engagement, scheduled to take place from April 21 to May 8, 2025, represents India's continued commitment to enhancing its military cooperation with global partners and strengthening its operational capabilities through international collaboration.
- **The Indian contingent has brought its combat-proven aircraft to the exercise, featuring the versatile MiG-29 fighter jets and Jaguar strike aircraft. These platforms offer complementary capabilities, with the MiG-29 excelling in air superiority roles while the Jaguar provides ground attack expertise.**
- The deployment of these specific aircraft reflects the IAF's strategic approach to maximizing training benefits while showcasing its operational readiness and technical proficiency in different combat scenarios.



#### 15. EXERCISE 'AAKRAMAN' INDIAN AIR FORCE DRILLS WITH RAFALES AND SU-30S -

- **Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted major military drills, named Exercise 'Aakraman,' simulating attacks on both mountain and ground targets. The exercise, which involved India's most advanced fighter jets, including the Rafale and Su-30MKI aircraft, aimed to test and enhance the IAF's capabilities in complex combat scenarios.**
- With rising tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly after the Pahalgam terror attack, this exercise demonstrates the IAF's readiness to defend India's airspace and respond to any potential threats.
- **The drills also emphasize the strategic advantage gained by the Indian Air Force through the induction of cutting-edge technologies like the Rafale jets and the S-400 air defense system.**



**16. DRDO MAKES PROGRESS IN HYPERSONIC TECHNOLOGY -**

- Recently, DRDO successfully conducted a ground test of an Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor for over 1,000 seconds, marking a major step toward developing indigenous hypersonic cruise missiles.



**About Hypersonic Technology**

- Hypersonic vehicles travel at speeds greater than Mach 5, meaning they exceed 6,100 km/h, enabling rapid global reach and tactical superiority.**
- Scramjet Engines:** Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (Scramjet) engines enable sustained hypersonic flight by using atmospheric air, making the system lighter and more efficient than traditional rockets.
- The Active Cooled Combustor technology uses advanced cooling techniques to endure extreme thermal loads during hypersonic flight, ensuring longer operational durations.
- Global Race in Hypersonic Systems:** Nations like China, Russia, and the United States are actively developing hypersonic weapons, highlighting the strategic urgency for India to advance its own capabilities.

**17. WHAT IS FIELD MARSHAL RANK? -**

- The Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army, General Asim Munir has been promoted to the rank of Field Marshal by the Pakistan government recently.
- He will be the second person after Field Marshal Ayub Khan in 1959 to hold this rank.**

**About Field Marshal Rank**

- 5 Star Rank Officer:** A Field Marshal or FM is a five-star officer rank, and is the highest attainable rank, above the general.
- A Field Marshal rank is typically bestowed on generals for ceremonial reasons or during wartime.

Equivalent Ranks	Indian Army	Indian Navy	Indian Air Force
1	*Field Marshal	*Admiral of the Fleet	*Marshal of the Air Force
2	General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
3	Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral	Air Marshal
4	Major General	Rear Admiral	Air Vice Marshal
5	Brigadier	Commodore	Air Commodore
6	Colonel	Captain	Group Captain

**Entitlements:**

- A Field Marshal is entitled to wear his uniform at any event he deems fit
- He is considered to be on 'active list' until his death although he does not hold any office in official capacity beyond his date of retirement
- He wears special badges of rank, He has five stars displayed on his vehicle
- Salute: Salutes with the special Field Marshal's baton is raised to the forehead and not the hand as is the norm in a military salute.

- Indian Field Marshal: India has had two FM's as of now i.e.,
- Sam Manekshaw was the first FM ascending to the rank in January 1973. KM Cariappa was the second Field Marshal and was promoted in January 1986.
- Marshal of the Air Force: Arjan Singh was elevated to the rank in 2002.

### 18. BRAHMOS MISSILE – MANUFACTURER, COST, RANGE AND SPEED -

- The BrahMos Missile is a supersonic cruise missile developed under a joint project between India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Russia's plays a vital role in India's defense.

- **It is launched from different platforms like ships, submarines, aircraft and land-based systems.**

#### Origin and Development of BrahMos Missile

- The BrahMos Missile was made together by India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya. Its name comes from two rivers – India's Brahmaputra and Russia's Moskva. It first joined the Indian Navy in 2005, then the Army in 2007 and later the Air Force in 2019, becoming a key part of India's defense.



#### BrahMos Missile – Key Features and Specifications

- **Type:** Supersonic cruise missile
- **Length:** About 8.2 meters (varies with different variants)
- **Speed:** Mach 2.8 to Mach 3.5
- **Range:** Initially 290 km, with extended variants reaching up to 500 km and future models may extend up to 800 km.
- **Guidance System:** It uses inertial navigation combined with satellite navigation, along with an active radar homing system for terminal guidance.
- **Warhead:** 200 to 300 kg conventional warhead, capable of high explosive or semi-armour-piercing strikes.

### 19. INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TESTS BHARGAVASTRA: INDIGENOUS SYSTEM TO COUNTER DRONE SWARMS -

- **The test firing of Bhargavastra comes at a crucial time when drone swarms are becoming a dominant feature in battlefield strategies worldwide. With recent hostile drone incursions reported near India's borders, especially from Pakistani-operated drones, India's indigenous solution reflects its readiness to tackle evolving aerial threats.**

- The successful trial demonstrates India's technological edge and commitment to strengthening national security.



#### Aim and Objectives

- To develop an indigenous system capable of detecting, targeting, and neutralizing hostile drone swarms.
- To integrate hard-kill and soft-kill methods to ensure versatile defence against drones.
- To provide a mobile, adaptable system deployable across varied terrains, including high-altitude regions.
- To enhance India's network-centric warfare capabilities by enabling near-simultaneous engagements.

## 20. INDIA'S NEW ANTI-TERROR DOCTRINE -

- In a national address, the Prime Minister of India articulated a new strategic and military doctrine against cross-border terrorism, reflecting India's zero tolerance policy towards terrorism.
- It also embedded India's fight within the broader global war on terror, directly referencing international attacks and alliances.
- India launched Operation Sindoor, following the Pahalgam terror attack (April 22, 2025), a decisive retaliatory strike on nine key terror-linked targets in Pakistan.
- **This operation marks the most intense military engagement with Pakistan since the Kargil conflict (1999) and represents the evolution of India's Security Doctrine.**



## 21. INDIA SIGNS \$7.4 BILLION DEAL WITH FRANCE FOR RAFALE FIGHTER JETS -

- **India signed a landmark agreement with France for the purchase of 26 Rafale fighter aircraft worth approximately 630 billion rupees (\$7.4 billion).**
- This deal, which includes both single-seater and twin-seater versions of the fighter jets, aims to bolster India's naval air power and strengthen its defence ties with France.
- **The delivery of these aircraft is expected to be completed by 2030, with the deal providing both military and economic benefits, including the generation of jobs and business opportunities.**



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## 1. INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS POLAR RESEARCH VESSEL -

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), a Government of India undertaking, has signed an MoU with Norway's Kongsberg firm to develop India's first indigenously built Polar Research Vessel (PRV).**

- A PRV is a ship that supports research in the polar regions (around the North and South Poles) and ocean areas, tailored to the needs of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.

- PRV will support India's polar and ocean research missions, strengthening its existing three research stations: Bharati and Maitri in Antarctica, and Himadri in the Arctic.

- Under Sagarmala 2.0, India aims to become a global maritime leader by bridging infrastructure gaps and enhancing shipbuilding, repair, and recycling.



## 2. FIRST FUSION-FISSION HYBRID REACTOR: CHINA UNVEILS XINGHUO -

- China has unveiled plans to construct the world's first fusion-fission hybrid nuclear reactor, named Xinghuo ("spark" in Mandarin).

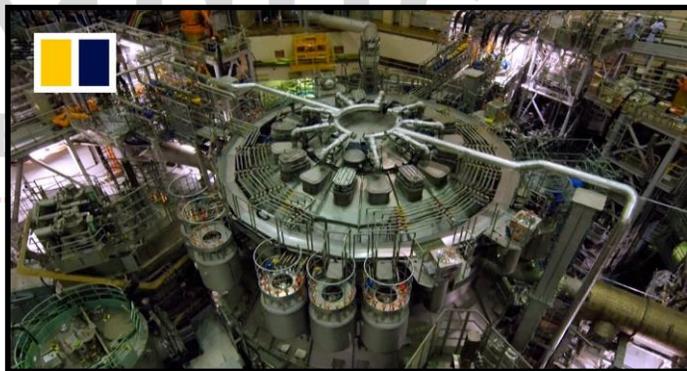
- **The fusion-fission hybrid reactor aims to significantly enhance nuclear energy efficiency and sustainability, marking a major shift in global energy production.**

- China aims for a Q factor greater than 30 (the ratio of energy produced to energy consumed for plasma heating).

- ITER (France) targets a Q factor of 10.

- U.S. projects have reached a Q factor of 1.5.

- The project is expected to surpass current efforts in nuclear energy development, including those in the United States, by 2030.



### About Fusion-Fission Hybrid Reactor

- The Xinghuo fusion-fission hybrid reactor represents a pioneering approach to nuclear energy generation by merging two distinct nuclear processes—fusion and fission:

#### Concept

- The Xinghuo reactor uses the high-intensity neutron flux produced by a fusion reactor to drive a nuclear fission reaction.
- Additionally, the fusion neutrons help breed fissile fuel from fertile materials, ensuring a sustainable supply of fuel for the reactor.

## 3. STARLINK GETS GREEN LIGHT TO LAUNCH SATELLITE INTERNET IN INDIA -

- **Elon Musk's Starlink received the GMPCS licence from India's Department of Telecommunications. This approval enables Starlink to offer satellite broadband services in India, subject to security and**

**technical compliance. The company is set to receive trial spectrum in 15–20 days for demonstration. It marks a key step in India's growing satellite communication (satcom) industry.**



**Key Developments**

- Starlink has been granted the GMPCS licence, the final regulatory step to operate in India.
- The approval follows the company's agreement to India's stringent security protocols.
- Trial spectrum will be allocated shortly to allow demonstration of service compliance.
- Competing Satcom Players
- OneWeb (Airtel-backed) – Received GMPCS licence in August 2021.
- Jio Satellite Communications – Got the licence in March 2022.
- Amazon's Project Kuiper – Still awaiting approvals from DoT.

**4. BHARAT GEN: INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS AI MODEL -**

- Recently, The Union Minister of State for Science & Technology has launched 'Bharat Gen' at the BharatGen Summit.

**About BharatGen**

- It is India's first indigenously developed, government-funded, multilingual and multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) focused on Indian languages and culture.
- **Multilingual:** The platform integrates text, speech, and image modalities, offering seamless AI solutions in 22 Indian languages.
- **Developed By:** BharatGen is developed under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) and implemented through TIH Foundation for IoT (Internet of Things) and IoE (Internet of Everything) at IIT Bombay
- The initiative is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- **Aim:** Bharat Gen aims to revolutionize AI development across India's linguistic and cultural spectrum.
- **Execution:** The BharatGen initiative is being executed through a network of 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) established under NM-ICPS.
- **Pillars:** The Mission's four pillars include technology development, entrepreneurship, human resource development, and international collaboration.



**Significance:**

- This initiative will empower critical sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance, delivering region-specific AI solutions in 22 Indian Languages
- To integrate multilingual feedback systems into platforms like CPGRAMS to enhance citizen engagement and grievance redressal.

**5. AXIOM MISSION 4 RESCHEDULED: INDIAN ASTRONAUT SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA TO FLY ON JUNE 22-**

- Axiom Space and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that the Ax-4 mission has been delayed to June 22 to ensure crew safety and operational readiness following repairs to the Zvezda module of the ISS.

- The mission marks a historic step for India's participation in private spaceflight, with Shubhanshu Shukla serving as pilot on an international crew.

#### **Mission Overview**

- **Mission Name:** Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)
- **New Launch Date:** June 22, 2025
- **Launch Vehicle:** SpaceX Falcon 9
- **Spacecraft:** Dragon capsule
- **Launch Site:** Likely Kennedy Space Center, Florida
- **Destination:** International Space Station (ISS)

#### **Crew Members**

- Peggy Whitson (USA) – Mission Commander (Veteran NASA astronaut)
- Shubhanshu Shukla (India) – Pilot (ISRO-affiliated, debut mission)
- Sławosz Uznański (Poland) – Mission Specialist
- Tibor Kapu (Hungary) – Mission Specialist



### **6. INDIA MOVES TO 'ONE NATION, ONE TIME': IST TO BECOME MANDATORY -**

- **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi announced that the Legal Metrology (IST) Rules, 2025 will soon be notified. This initiative will institutionalise IST as the only official legal time in India. Aims to prevent digital mismatches, cybercrime, and ensure national security by ending dependency on foreign time sources like GPS.**

#### **Aim and Objectives**

- To ensure uniform timekeeping across all sectors using Indian Standard Time (IST).
- To reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities linked to foreign time sources.
- To enable accurate billing, secure transactions, and traceable timestamps in digital infrastructure.
- To enhance national time sovereignty and ensure fairness and transparency.



### **7. INDIA'S FIRST 3NM CHIP DESIGN CENTRES -**

- **The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology launched India's first 3-nanometre (3nm) chip design centres in Noida and Bengaluru, positioning the country among a select few nations at the forefront of chip technology.**
- In another development, the Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a display driver chip manufacturing unit in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- **This is the first semiconductor fabrication unit in UP and the 6th approved under Phase I of the Indian Semiconductor Mission (ISM), with production set to begin by 2027.**
- The launch of a new semiconductor learning kit designed to strengthen practical hardware skills among engineering students was also announced.



- Over 270 academic institutions, which have already received access to advanced Electronic Design Automation (EDA) software tools through the India Semiconductor Mission, will also receive these hands-on kits.

#### **8. RUDRASTRA ADVANCED HYBRID VTOL DRONE -**

- **The Rudrastra drone represents advancement in India's military technology. Developed by Solar Aerospace and Defence Limited, it was recently tested by the Indian Army, marking a very important moment in unmanned aerial warfare. This drone combines vertical take-off and landing capabilities with long-range precision strike capabilities.**



#### **About Rudrastra**

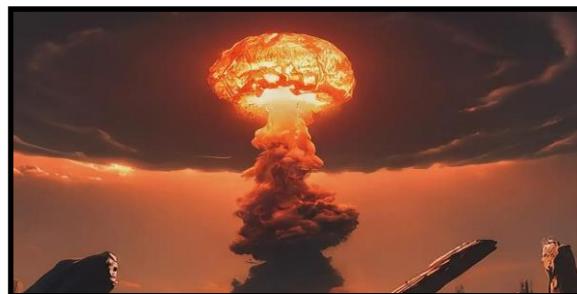
- Rudrastra is a hybrid drone designed for battlefield operations. It can take off like a helicopter and fly long distances like a jet. This versatility makes it difficult to detect. The drone is engineered for anti-personnel roles, targeting enemy soldiers with high accuracy.

#### **9. SARVAM TO BUILD INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS AI MODEL -**

- The Indian government has selected Bengaluru-based start-up Sarvam to develop the country's first homegrown Artificial Intelligence (AI) Large Language Model (LLM) under the IndiaAI Mission.
- **The company is developing three model variants: Sarvam-Large (advanced reasoning), Sarvam-Small (real-time applications), and Sarvam-Edge (compact on-device tasks).**
- Sarvam will receive 4,000 Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) for six months under the IndiaAI Mission to build a 70 billion parameter AI model.
- The AI model is not expected to be open-sourced, but aims for population-scale deployment, designed to reason and be fluent in Indian languages.
- This comes at a time when China's DeepSeek model, known for its low-cost and open-source nature, has significantly disrupted global AI markets, highlighting the urgency for India to establish its own AI infrastructure.
- **IndiaAI Mission:** Approved in 2024 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the IndiaAI Mission seeks to drive responsible and inclusive growth of India's AI ecosystem.
- IndiaAI Mission includes democratizing computer access, enhancing data quality, developing indigenous AI models, nurturing AI talent, fostering industry collaboration, supporting startup funding, and promoting ethical, socially impactful AI.

#### **10. CHINA HAS TESTED A REVOLUTIONARY TYPE OF HYDROGEN BOMB -**

- China has tested a revolutionary type of hydrogen bomb that functions without traditional fissile materials like uranium or plutonium.
- **Instead, it uses advanced fusion techniques such as magnesium hydride-based fusion, raising serious concerns about arms control, international law, and global security.**
- This advancement could potentially redefine how nuclear weapons are perceived and regulated in modern warfare.



**11. ISRO-NASA NISAR MISSION LIKELY TO LAUNCH IN JUNE 2025 -**

- The much-anticipated NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite mission a unique collaborative project between India's ISRO and NASA is now expected to be launched in June 2025.
- **This milestone comes after several delays, particularly during the assembly and testing stages. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan updated Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh on the upcoming space initiatives, including NISAR and other key missions planned for May.**
- NISAR is designed to revolutionize Earth observation by offering highly detailed, repetitive insights into dynamic environmental processes.



**Key Highlights of the NISAR Mission**

- **Mission Name:** NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)
- **Launch Window:** Expected in June 2025
- **Launch Vehicle:** GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle)
- **Mission Type:** Earth Observation using dual-frequency SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar)
- **Agencies Involved:** NASA and ISRO

**12. ISRO'S POLAR SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE (PSLV-C61) MISSION FAILED TO PLACE THE EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE-09 (EOS-09) INTO ITS INTENDED SUN-SYNCHRONOUS POLAR ORBIT DUE TO A GLITCH IN THE ROCKET'S THIRD STAGE-**

- This was ISRO's 101st mission and the 63rd using the PSLV. The EOS-09 satellite carried a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload designed to capture all-weather Earth images.



**What is PSLV-**

- **The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is a highly reliable and cost-effective launch vehicle developed by ISRO.**
- It is used to transport satellites into various orbits, including sun-synchronous, geostationary, and navigation orbits.
- **Function:** It carries satellites (payloads) into space, overcoming Earth's gravity through powerful propulsion systems. Once the desired orbit is reached, satellites are deployed from the vehicle.
- **Structure:** PSLV has 4 stages:
- **PS1:** Solid rocket motor with 6 strap-on boosters.
- **PS2:** Liquid engine (Vikas engine).
- **PS3:** Solid rocket motor for high thrust post-atmospheric phase.
- **PS4:** Two liquid-fuel engines for final orbital insertion.
- **Variants:** PSLV-XL (with extended strap-ons), PSLV-DL, PSLV-QL, etc., are selected based on payload weight and target orbit.
- **Significance:** Known as ISRO's "workhorse" due to its versatility and high success rate.
- Used in major missions like Chandrayaan-1 (2008) and Mars Orbiter Mission (2013).

- Achieved global recognition by launching 104 satellites in a single mission (PSLV-C37, 2017).
- **Earlier Failure:** The PSLV has failed twice in its history. The first failure was in 1993 (PSLV-D1) due to software issues, causing the IRS-1E satellite to crash into the ocean.
- The second was in 2017 (PSLV-C39), when a heat shield separation failure trapped the IRNSS-1H satellite, preventing its deployment into orbit.

### 13. ARYABHATA: INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS SATELLITE -

- April 19, 2025 marked the 50th anniversary of the launch of Aryabhata, India's first indigenously built satellite.
- It laid the foundation of India's space communication, scientific research, and satellite technology ecosystem.
- **As of 2025, ISRO has launched 131 satellites, with 51 currently operational in orbit.**

#### About Aryabhata Satellite

- **Name:** Aryabhata, after the ancient Indian astronomer (Aryabhata I – 476 to 550 CE).
- **Developed by:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **Launch Date:** April 19, 1975.

#### Launch Vehicle & Site:

- Launched using Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket
- From Kapustin Yar, USSR (present-day Russia)



# **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES**

## **1. AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES TURMERIC BOARD HQ IN NIZAMABAD -**

- **The inauguration of the National Turmeric Board's headquarters in Nizamabad is a significant development, especially since it was a long-standing demand of local farmers. The board's launch fulfills a key poll promise made by BJP during the 2019 elections and reflects the Centre's renewed push to promote Indian spices in international markets.**



### **Aims and Objectives**

- To boost turmeric exports to \$1 billion by 2030
- Ensure remunerative prices to turmeric farmers
- Promote branding, packaging, and marketing
- Facilitate research and development for quality improvement

### **Background and Context**

- Nizamabad is a key turmeric-growing region in Telangana.
- Farmers had long demanded a dedicated Turmeric Board to address their issues.
- BJP MP D. Arvind promised the board in 2019 and defeated K. Kavitha, daughter of ex-CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao, largely riding on this issue.
- PM Modi earlier announced the board's creation; now it has been formally launched.

## **2. INDIA SENDS SECOND ASTRONAUT TO SPACE -**

- **India achieves a historic milestone as Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla becomes the second Indian to travel to space, after Rakesh Sharma in 1984, and the first Indian to set foot on the International Space Station (ISS).**
- He is part of the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission, a commercial spaceflight to the ISS.

### **What is the Axiom-4 Mission?**

- **About:** Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) is the fourth private spaceflight to the International Space Station (ISS), operated by Axiom Space, a US-based space infrastructure company. It marks the fourth collaboration between NASA and Axiom Space, following the successful Ax-1, Ax-2, and Ax-3 missions.



### **Crew Composition:**

- **Peggy Whitson (USA):** Mission Commander and former NASA astronaut with 675+ days in space.
- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (India)
- Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski (Poland): ESA reserve astronaut.
- **Tibor Kapu (Hungary):** Payload specialist.

### **Key Objectives of Axiom-4:**

- **Commercial Space Initiatives:** Promotes space tourism and private research in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), supporting Axiom Space's goal of building the first commercial space station and transitioning operations from the ISS to private infrastructure.

- **Scientific Research & Experiments:** Enables microgravity research in materials science, biology, Earth observation, and space agriculture.

**Key studies include:**

- **Human factors:** Impact of screen exposure in microgravity.

**3. INDIA TO CONDUCT POPULATION CENSUS 2027 IN TWO PHASES WITH CASTE ENUMERATION -**

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs recently announced that the Population Census 2027 will include caste enumeration and will be conducted in two phases, reaffirming the government's intent to modernize and update demographic data crucial for governance, planning, and social welfare schemes.**



- The notification of the census will be published in the Official Gazette on June 16, 2025, under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948.
- Background of Census in India
- The Census of India is governed by the Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990.
- The last full population census was conducted in 2011, with over 1.2 billion people enumerated.
- The 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite all preparatory work being completed.

**4. SCHEME TO PROMOTE MANUFACTURING OF ELECTRIC PASSENGER CARS IN INDIA (SPMEPCI) -**

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries has unveiled detailed guidelines for the “Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India” (SPMEPCI).

**About the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India**

- This scheme aims to attract global EV manufacturers, strengthen India's position as a global EV hub, and support the country's net-zero emissions goal by 2070.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- **Launched in:** 2024
- **Implementation:** Project Management Agency (PMA) is responsible for providing secretarial, managerial and implementation support.



**Objectives of the Scheme**

- **Attract Foreign Investment:** Encourage global automakers to set up EV manufacturing units in India.
- **Boost 'Make in India':** Promote domestic production with mandatory local value addition (DVA) requirements.
- **Reduce Carbon Footprint:** Accelerate the shift to electric mobility for a sustainable future.

**5. RARE DONOR REGISTRY INTEGRATED WITH E-RAKT KOSH -**

- **The Union Health Ministry is integrating the Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI) with e-Rakt Kosh to enable real-time access to rare blood types (such as Bombay, Rh-null, P-Null) and improve nationwide coordination among blood banks.**

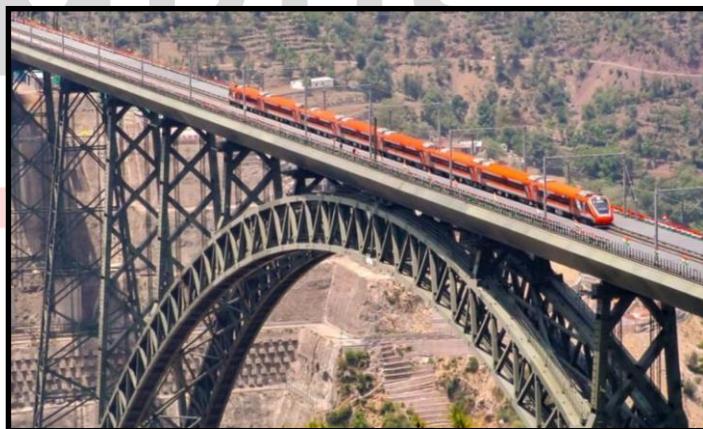
### What is Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI)?

- **About:** The Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI) is a national database of rare blood group donors.
- **It was developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Immunohaematology (ICMR-NIIH) in collaboration with leading medical institutes.**
- **Purpose and Need:** RDRI supports patients who require specially matched transfusions, particularly those suffering from thalassemia, sickle cell disease, and other rare conditions.
- **Scope & Coverage:** The registry includes over 4,000 screened donors, tested for more than 300 rare blood markers.
- It focuses on blood groups that either lack high-frequency antigens or have uncommon antigen combinations.
- **Significance for People with Rare Blood Types:** Rare blood groups are difficult to match. Transfusing incompatible blood may cause alloimmunisation, where the patient develops antibodies against transfused blood, complicating future treatments.



### 6. UDHAMPUR-SRINAGAR-BARAMULLA RAIL LINK FULLY OPERATIONAL AFTER 28 YEARS -

- **On June 6, 2025, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the final phase of the USBRL project — the Sangaldan to Katra section, making the entire rail line fully operational.**
- This marked the completion of a project first approved in 1997, aimed at connecting Kashmir with the rest of India via railway. The last link included iconic engineering marvels like the Chenab Bridge, Anji Bridge, and 12.75 km Pir Panjal tunnel.



#### Project Timeline and Phased Commissioning

- **1997:** USBRL project sanctioned.
- **April 2005:** First segment (Jammu–Udhampur, 55 km) completed.
- **October 2008:** Anantnag–Mazhom section (68 km) inaugurated.
- **February 2009:** Mazhom–Baramulla section (32 km) operational.
- **October 2009:** Anantnag–Quazigund extended.
- **June 2013:** Quazigund–Banihal section opened; included the Pir Panjal Tunnel.
- **July 2014:** Udhampur–Katra line inaugurated.
- **February 2024:** Banihal–Sangaldan section operational.
- **June 6, 2025:** Final phase, Sangaldan–Katra, inaugurated by PM Modi.

#### Engineering Marvels

- **Chenab Bridge:** World's highest railway bridge (359 m above riverbed).
- **Anji Bridge:** India's first cable-stayed rail bridge.
- **Pir Panjal Tunnel:** India's longest rail tunnel at 12.75 km.
- Multiple long tunnels and difficult terrain were tackled using advanced technologies and manpower.

**7. INDIA'S EXTREME POVERTY RATE FALLS TO 5.3% IN 2022-23: WORLD BANK REPORT -**

- **The World Bank's recent report on poverty reduction in India draws global attention as it reveals substantial progress amid economic challenges. The updated poverty line of \$3 per day reflects a more realistic measure of deprivation, making India's success even more significant.**
- With continued economic uncertainties and global risks looming, the report serves as a vital indicator of India's developmental trajectory and the effectiveness of its policies in addressing poverty and inequality.



**Aim and Objectives**

- To highlight India's substantial reduction in extreme poverty over the last decade.
- To understand the factors and policies contributing to this success.
- To analyze the updated poverty thresholds and their implications for policy and planning.

**8. CHENAB RAIL BRIDGE: TEAM BEHIND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE -**

- The Chenab Rail Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir is the world's highest railway arch bridge. It took over 20 years to build due to tough challenges like steep mountains, deep valleys and difficult weather. To make this dream come true, many expert teams from India and abroad worked together. This article explains who built this amazing bridge and how they did it.

**Tough Location and Early Challenges**

- The area where the Chenab Bridge stands is surrounded by the Himalayas. There were no proper roads. So, the project team had to use horses and mules to move people and materials in the early days. Engineers also walked on foot to reach the site.
- **Building the bridge without stopping the Chenab River's flow was one of the biggest challenges. Also, bad weather, landslides and legal problems made the work harder. But the teams never gave up.**

**Time Take for the Construction**

- The government approved the Chenab bridge in 2003. However, because of the region's rough terrain and security concerns, the work took more than 20 years. Still, the team's hard work paid off and the bridge finally opened in 2025.

**Special Features of the Chenab Rail Bridge**

- The Chenab Rail Bridge is not only strong but also smartly designed. It can handle:
- High winds up to 260 km/h
- Earthquakes
- Extreme heat and cold
- Rising water levels

**9. INDIA HALTS RARE EARTH EXPORTS TO JAPAN TO BOOST DOMESTIC CAPACITY -**

- The Indian government has asked IREL to halt rare earth shipments under a bilateral agreement with Japan's Toyotsu Rare Earths India, citing rising domestic demand and the need to develop indigenous processing capacity.

- **This comes amid global disruptions triggered by China's export restrictions on rare earths, which are key inputs for electric vehicles, wind turbines, and electronics. India seeks to establish a self-reliant rare earth supply chain and reduce dependence on imported magnets, especially from China.**



- Background & Agreement Details
- Agreement Year: 2012
- Parties Involved: IREL (India) & Toyotsu Rare Earths India (subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho, Japan)
- Nature: IREL mined rare earths, and Toyotsu processed them for export to Japan.
- Materials Involved: Mostly Neodymium, used in magnets for EV motors.

## 10. CENTRE APPROVES ₹2,006.40 CRORE ASSISTANCE TO HIMACHAL PRADESH FOR 2023 DISASTER RECOVERY -

- **The Union Government has approved a ₹2,006.40 crore recovery plan for Himachal Pradesh. The aid is meant to support reconstruction after severe natural disasters that struck during July–August 2023. Over 550 lives were lost, and extensive damage to infrastructure was recorded.**



### Total Sanctioned Amount

- ₹2,006.40 crore, out of which ₹1,504.80 crore is the Centre's share from the Recovery and Reconstruction funding window of the NDRF.
- Purpose
- To carry out recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation activities in affected areas.
- Rebuilding damaged infrastructure, resettlement of victims, and strengthening disaster resilience.

### Committee Involved

- Headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Includes,
- Union Finance Minister
- Union Agriculture Minister
- Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog

## 11. 5 YEARS OF SVAMITVA SCHEME -

### About SVAMITVA Scheme

- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) is a Central Sector Scheme.
- **Launch:** It was launched nationwide on National Panchayati Raj Day (24th April), 2021 as a reformative step to provide rural households with legal ownership of residential properties.
- Nodal Ministry and Implementing Partners: The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with State Revenue and Panchayati Raj Departments, Survey of India, and National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSII) for technology support.

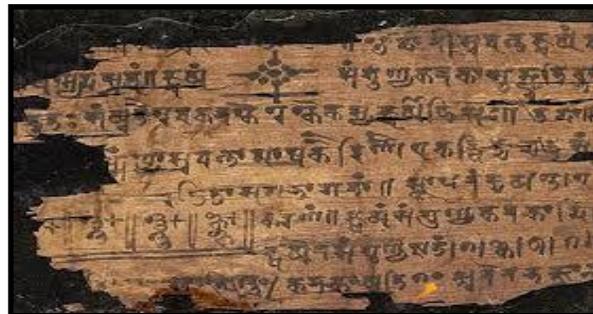


**Objectives**

- Create accurate land records to aid rural planning and reduce disputes.
- Enable rural citizens to monetize their property and access formal credit.
- Support property tax determination for Gram Panchayats or State exchequers.
- **Develop GIS-based maps for multi-sectoral usage and better Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GDP).**

**12. GYAN BHARATAM MISSION: A NEW ERA FOR INDIA'S MANUSCRIPT HERITAGE -**

- **The revival and relaunch of the National Manuscripts Mission has been scheduled for June 9, as announced in the 2025 Union Budget. The increased budgetary allocation and efforts to make the mission autonomous mark a major step forward in safeguarding India's ancient intellectual treasures.**



**Key Objectives**

- Survey, document, digitize, and conserve India's manuscript heritage.
- Expand the reach to over one crore manuscripts across the country.
- Establish a clear access policy to encourage sharing of privately held manuscripts.
- Make the National Manuscripts Mission autonomous to ensure greater efficiency.

**13. INDIA'S BATTLE AGAINST POVERTY: 171 MILLION LIFTED FROM EXTREME POVERTY IN A DECADE-**

- In a remarkable display of progress, India has successfully lifted 171 million people from extreme poverty between 2011-12 and 2022-23.
- **According to the World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief, the proportion of people living on less than \$2.15 a day fell dramatically from 16.2% to just 2.3% during this period.**
- The reduction in poverty across both rural and urban areas reflects the success of government-led initiatives and economic reforms designed to empower the marginalized sections of society.



**14. UDAN SCHEME COMPLETES 8 YEARS OF SUCCESS -**

- India's aviation sector has traditionally been dominated by large cities, with air travel often being a luxury only accessible to the elite. However, with the launch of the UDAN scheme in 2016, this narrative has changed.
- **UDAN, an abbreviation of "Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik," aims to democratize aviation and make air travel affordable for the common man.**
- This initiative aims to connect Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and underserved regions of India with major cities, boosting regional connectivity and economic development.



**15. INDIA'S TRANSITION TO POWER SUFFICIENCY BY 2025 -**

- India has made strides to become a power-sufficient nation by 2025. The Union Minister of Power, Shripad Naik, announced that the country has added 238 gigawatts (GW) in generation capacity since 2014.
- **This achievement has drastically reduced the gap between energy demand and supply. The installed capacity has risen to 470 GW, with a remarkable increase in renewable energy contributions.**
- Since April 2014, India's power generation capacity has expanded by 238 GW. This growth includes a vast network of 2,01,088 circuit kilometres of transmission lines. The total energy produced has reached 15,46,229 million units (MU) in 2024-25. Thermal energy remains the primary source but renewable energy is on the rise.



**16. 10 YEARS OF JAN SURAKSHA SCHEMES (2015–2025) -**

- **The three flagship social security schemes — PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) — are in the news because they have completed 10 years since their launch on 9th May 2015. To mark this milestone, the Government of India highlighted their achievements, with over 82 crore enrollments recorded as of April 23, 2025. This anniversary showcases the schemes' impact in providing financial protection and pension benefits to India's economically vulnerable and unorganised workforce.**



**Background**

- The three Jan Suraksha Schemes — PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) — were launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 9th May 2015, as part of a national initiative to extend affordable insurance and pension benefits to underserved sections of society.
- The schemes were envisioned to protect individuals from life's uncertainties, such as accidents, death, and old age, by providing financial security.
- Over the last decade, these schemes have achieved significant milestones in terms of enrollments, claims settled, and financial inclusion, improving the lives of millions across India.

**17. PM MITRA TEXTILE PARK PROJECT -**

- Madhya Pradesh has received formal approval for the ₹2,100 crore PM MITRA textile park project in Bhainsola village, Dhar district, aiming to revolutionize the state's textile industry.

**More on the Textile Park**

- The PM MITRA Park in Madhya Pradesh will span an area of 2,100 acres and is expected to attract massive investments and generate significant employment opportunities.
- **The project site in Dhar district is strategically near Indore, Pithampur industrial cluster, and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.**
- It will include advanced infrastructure like a 20 MLD Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) plant, a solar-powered energy facility, and plug-and-play units.

**About PM MITRA Scheme**

- **The PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Scheme aims to transform India into a global textile manufacturing and export powerhouse.**
- **Origin:** The scheme is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 5F vision: Farm to Fiber to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.



**NIMBUS**  
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# APPOINTMENTS / PERSON IN NEWS

## 1. RAJIV MEMANI TAKES CHARGE AS CII PRESIDENT FOR FY26 -

- **In a significant leadership transition, Rajiv Memani, Chairman and CEO of EY India, has officially assumed charge as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the financial year 2025–26.**
- The announcement, made by CII on June 1, 2025, marks the beginning of a new term under one of India's most prominent financial and strategic advisors.

### Why in News-

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announced a new leadership lineup for FY2025–26 on June 1, 2025.
- The appointment of Rajiv Memani, a key figure in India's economic and consultancy sectors, signals a strategic move aimed at strengthening industry-government collaboration, driving inclusive economic growth, and enhancing India's global competitiveness amid dynamic economic conditions.



## 2. LT COMMANDER YASHASVI SOLANKEE BECOMES FIRST WOMAN ADC TO PRESIDENT OF INDIA -

- **Yashasvi Solankee became the first woman ADC to the President of India, taking charge on May 9, 2025. Her appointment reflects President Droupadi Murmu's commitment to women's empowerment in the armed forces. The move is a significant step toward gender parity in ceremonial and military positions at the highest levels of government.**

### Background & Selection Process

- ADCs are elite officers selected from the Army (3), Navy (1), and Air Force (1).
- For the first time, women Naval officers were considered for the role.

### Selection criteria included,

- Physical fitness and minimum height of 173 cm.
- Evaluation of intelligence, adaptability, presence, and communication.
- 15-day evaluation at the Presidential Estate and a personal interview with the President.
- Solankee was among three shortlisted women officers, all from the Navy.

### Role of an ADC

- Acts as liaison officer between the President and external visitors or officials.
- Prepares the President's briefing for each engagement.
- Accompanies the President during ceremonial, diplomatic, and official events.
- Assigned a duty room near the President's office and is on call 24x7.
- Coordinates with various military branches and government agencies.



## 3. 52ND CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA -

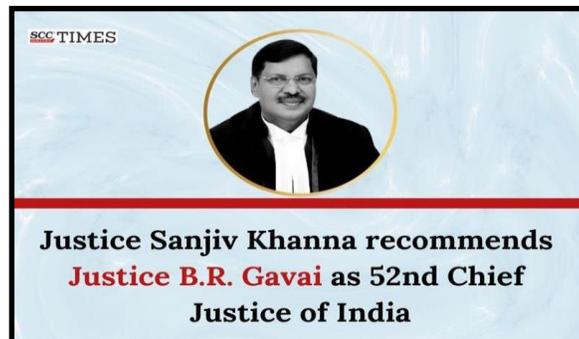
- Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has officially recommended Justice B.R. Gavai as his successor.

### About Justice B.R. Gavai

- He is currently the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, and has been nominated to the Union Law Ministry.

### About Chief Justice of India

- The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the head of the Supreme Court and Indian judiciary, appointed under Article 124 of the Constitution.
- **Appointing Authority:** The President of India appoints the Chief Justice of India.
- **Recommendation Process:** The senior-most Supreme Court judge is usually chosen.
- The outgoing CJI plays a crucial role in recommending a successor.
- **Oath of Office:** The President of India administers the oath to the Chief Justice.
- The oath signifies a commitment to uphold the Constitution, perform duties faithfully, and maintain judicial integrity.



### 4. NEW MILITARY LEADERSHIP TAKES CHARGE: KEY APPOINTMENTS IN INDIAN DEFENCE FORCES-

- **On 01 May 2025, Air Marshal Tejinder Singh assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C), Training Command of the Indian Air Force. On the same day, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took over as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC), and Lt Gen Pratik Sharma assumed command as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command of the Indian Army.**



- Air Marshal Tejinder Singh – AOC-in-C, Training Command, IAF
- Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit – Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC)
- Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar – Relinquished Command, Northern Command
- Lt Gen Pratik Sharma – New GOC-in-C, Northern Command

### 5. AJAY KUMAR APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF UPSC -

- Dr. Ajay Kumar, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- The appointment is made under Article 316(1) of the Constitution of India.

#### Eligibility for UPSC Chairmanship

- **Appointing Authority:** The President of India.
- **Tenure:** Up to six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

#### A person must have:

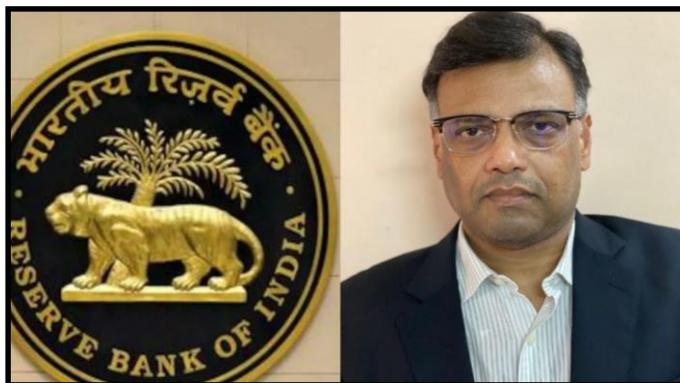
- Served as a member of the UPSC, or
- Held significant experience in public service (as in the case of Dr. Ajay Kumar, a former Defence Secretary).



**6. GOVERNMENT RE-APPOINTS T. RABI SANKAR AS RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR -**

- The Indian government has re-appointed T. Rabi Sankar as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of one year, effective from May 3, 2025.
- This marks his second term extension. As a Deputy Governor, Mr. Sankar holds key responsibilities including overseeing the foreign exchange, currency management, and government accounts departments at the RBI.

- **Appointed initially in May 2021, Mr. Sankar has played a crucial role in the RBI's financial operations and has contributed significantly to India's economic stability. This re-appointment highlights the government's confidence in his leadership and the continuity in the RBI's policies and operations.**



**7. POPE FRANCIS DIES AT 88 -**

- **In a solemn moment for the Roman Catholic Church and the global community, Pope Francis, the first Latin American and Jesuit pope in history, passed away at the age of 88, the Vatican announced.**
- His death follows a prolonged illness, with reports indicating he had recently battled a serious case of double pneumonia. Pope Francis leaves behind a legacy that was marked by reform, compassion, controversy, and an unwavering commitment to social justice.



**Early Life and Historic Election as Pope**

- Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he was the son of Italian immigrants. Known for his humble lifestyle and deep empathy for the poor, Bergoglio's ascension to the papacy on March 13, 2013, was a historic moment.
- At the age of 76, he was elected following the unprecedented resignation of Pope Benedict XVI—a decision that surprised the world and set a modern precedent.

**Francis's election was groundbreaking in many ways-**

- He was the first pope from the Americas
- The first Jesuit pope
- And the first non-European pope in over 1,200 years

**8. JUSTICE DINESH MAHESHWARI APPOINTED CHAIRPERSON OF THE 23RD LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA -**

- **In a significant development in the Indian legal landscape, Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India in April 2025. The announcement marks a crucial step in the government's ongoing efforts to review and recommend reforms in various aspects of Indian law, particularly the long-debated Uniform Civil Code (UCC).**

**Tenure and Composition of the 23rd Law Commission**

- The 23rd Law Commission was formally constituted on September 1, 2024, with its term extending until August 31, 2027. It comprises a total of seven members, including:
- **One Chairperson:** Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari
- Four full-time members: Including Hitesh Jain (a lawyer) and P. Verma (an academician who was also part of the 22nd Law Commission)
- **Two ex-officio members:** From the Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department
- In addition, the government may appoint up to five part-time members, and serving judges, if included, will function as full-time members until their retirement or end of the Commission's term.



#### 9. CANADA PM MARK CARNEY -

- Mark Carney's recent election as Prime Minister of Canada marks a shift in the political landscape. He assumes leadership amid ongoing tensions with the United States under President Donald Trump.
- **Carney, an economist with a history of crisis management, aims to strengthen Canada's position on the global stage.**
- Carney, 60, previously served as the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England. His experience includes navigating the 2008 financial crisis and the Brexit referendum.
- **Uniquely, he is the first Canadian Prime Minister without prior Cabinet experience. His educational background includes prestigious institutions like Harvard and Oxford.**



#### 10. TENURE OF 'SUPERSPY' TAPAN KUMAR DEKA EXTENDED AS INTELLIGENCE BUREAU CHIEF -

- **Tapan Kumar Deka, a veteran Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has been granted a one-year extension as Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), India's premier domestic intelligence agency.**
- The extension, effective until June 2026, was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and comes in recognition of his critical contributions to national security.
- His continued leadership has been sanctioned under a special provision allowing service extensions in the public interest beyond the typical retirement age of 60 years.



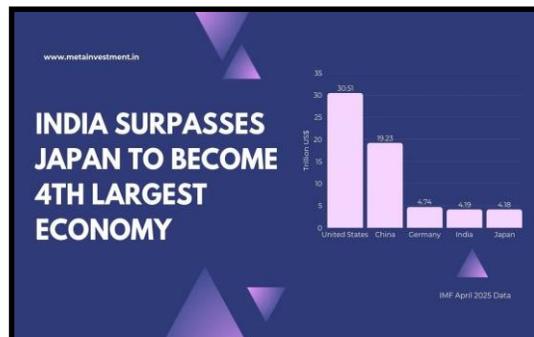
# **ECONOMY & FINANCE**

## **1. INDIA TO OVERTAKE JAPAN AS WORLD'S 4TH LARGEST ECONOMY IN 2025: IMF FORECAST -**

- India is projected to become the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025 by nominal GDP, surpassing Japan, according to IMF estimates.

### **Current Status of Indian Economy**

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2025 is estimated at \$4,187.03 billion, marginally higher than Japan's GDP.**
- By market exchange rate (MER) GDP, India is now the fourth largest economy, behind the United States, China, and Germany.
- The per capita GDP in India was \$2,711 in 2024 in current dollar terms, which placed it at the lower end of the list of "lower middle-income countries".



## **2. RBI UPDATE: ONLY 1.74% OF ₹2,000 NOTES REMAIN IN CIRCULATION -**

- The RBI, on June 3, 2025, announced that only ₹6,181 crore worth of ₹2,000 notes remain in circulation out of the original ₹3.56 lakh crore as of May 19, 2023. The withdrawal process was initiated in May 2023, with facilities available at RBI Issue Offices and India Post to ensure a smooth phase-out.

### **Background & Purpose of ₹2,000 Note**

- Introduced in November 2016 after demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes.
- Aimed to meet urgent currency requirements.
- Most notes (89%) were printed before March 2017, nearing the end of their 4–5-year lifespan.



## **3. INDIA'S FDI INFLOWS SURGE TO \$8.8 BILLION IN APRIL 2025: RBI BULLETIN -**

- The news is significant as it highlights a notable increase in FDI inflows into India in April 2025. Strong performances in greenfield investments, NRI deposits, and foreign portfolio investments (FPI).
- India's emergence as a major investment destination, especially in the digital economy and capital goods sectors. Strengthening of the Indian rupee and external balance, contributing to macroeconomic stability.

### **Key Highlights from RBI Bulletin**

- FDI Inflows
- April 2025: \$8.8 billion
- March 2025: \$5.9 billion
- April 2024: \$7.2 billion

### **Sectors Receiving FDI**

- Manufacturing and Business Services: ~50% of total inflows
- Telecommunication, Capital Goods, and Services also prominent



**4. RBI ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25 -**

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its Annual Report 2024-25, providing a comprehensive overview of the country's monetary policy, financial stability, regulatory initiatives, and key economic developments.**

**What are the Key Takeaways from RBI Annual Report 2024-25 ?**

- **Global Economic Growth:** Global growth slowed to 3.3% in 2024, below the historical average of 3.7% (2000-19). Growth in 2025 expected at 2.8% and 3.0% in 2026 amid geopolitical tensions, trade protectionism, and elevated public debt.
- Global inflation moderated to 5.7% in 2024 from 6.6% in 2023, but services inflation remained sticky in major advanced economies.
- **Indian Economy Resilience:** India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth moderated to 6.5% in 2024-25, yet it remained the fastest-growing major economy globally.
- Agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 4.6% (up from 2.7% in previous year), driven by record foodgrain production and favourable weather.
- Industrial sector growth slowed to 4.3% and the services sector remained strong with a 7.5% growth and accounted for 64.1% of GVA.
- **RBI Balance Sheet:** As of March, 2025, the RBI's balance sheet grew by 8.2% year-on-year. Its income rose by 22.77% (driven by a ~33% surge in forex transaction gains and higher returns from investments), while expenditure increased by 7.76%.
- This led to a record surplus of Rs 2.68 lakh crore, up 27.37% from Rs 2.11 lakh crore in the previous year.

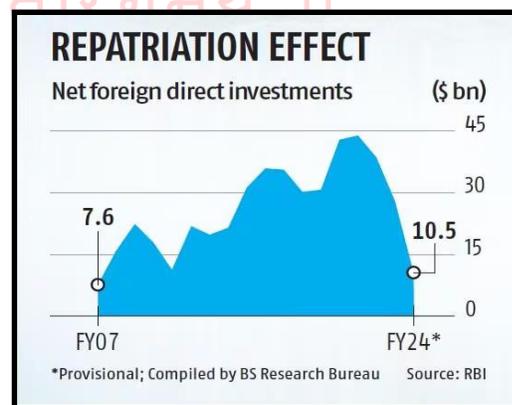


**5. ACCORDING TO THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI), INDIA'S NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) CRASHED FROM USD 10.1 BILLION IN 2023-24, AND JUST USD 0.4 BILLION IN 2024-25 -**

- The sharp decline in net FDI is mainly due to increased repatriation and disinvestment by foreign firms, totaling USD 51.5 billion in 2024-25, coupled with a rise in Outward FDI (OFDI) by Indian companies.

**What is Foreign Direct Investment?**

- **About:** FDI refers to investment made by a person residing outside India through capital instruments in either an unlisted Indian company or in at least 10% of the post-issue paid-up equity capital (on a fully diluted basis) of a listed Indian company.
- It is typically a long-term investment and mainly represents a non-debt capital flow.
- **FDI Routes:** Under the FDI Scheme, non-residents can invest in shares, fully convertible debentures, and preference shares of Indian companies through two routes:
  - **Automatic Route:** An overseas investor is only required to inform the RBI after the investment is made.
  - **E.g., Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, Air-Transport Services, Auto-components, Automobiles, Biotechnology (Greenfield) etc.**
  - **Government Approval Route:** A foreign investor must obtain prior approval from the relevant Ministry or department before proceeding.
- Banking & Public Sector, Broadcasting Content Services, Food Products Retail Trading, Uploading/Streaming of 'News & Current affairs' through digital media etc.



**6. RBI ANNOUNCE 55TH MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING (JUNE 2025) -**

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) convened its 55th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting from June 4 to 6, 2025, under the chairmanship of Governor Shri Sanjay Malhotra.**

- This meeting was of significant importance as it came amid a changing global economic environment and evolving domestic macroeconomic conditions. The key outcomes of the meeting signal a policy recalibration aimed at supporting growth while maintaining price stability.



**Key Updates from RBI's 55th Monetary Policy Meeting (June 2025)**

**1. Policy Rate Cut**

- Repo Rate: Reduced by 50 basis points (bps), from 6.00% to 5.50%.
- Reason: To support growth while CPI inflation is well below target.
- This is the second cut in 2025, totaling 100 bps since February.

**2. Adjusted Policy Corridor**

- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate: Cut to 5.25% (25 bps below repo rate).
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate and Bank Rate: Lowered to 5.75% (25 bps above repo rate).

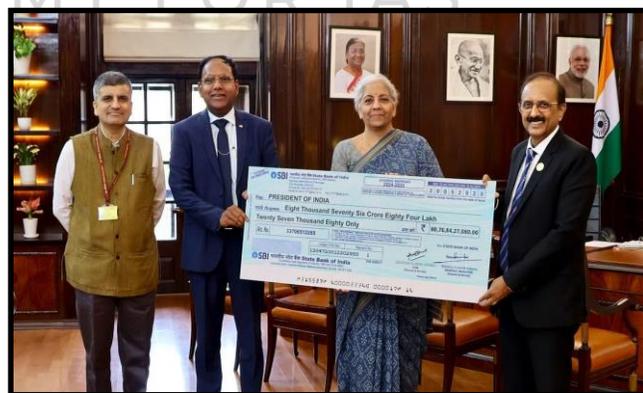
**3. Shift in Policy Stance**

- From "Accommodative" to "Neutral".
- RBI indicates it will now take a data-dependent approach, reducing scope for further aggressive rate cuts.

**7. SBI PAYS ₹8,076.84 CRORE DIVIDEND TO GOVERNMENT FOR FY25 -**

- **In a major boost to the government's non-tax revenue, the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest public sector lender, has paid a dividend of ₹8,076.84 crore for the financial year 2024-25.**

- The dividend cheque was formally handed over to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by SBI Chairman C.S. Setty on Monday, underscoring the bank's robust financial performance and its key role in supporting the government's fiscal resources.



**Dividend Payout: A Generous Contribution to the Exchequer**

- The ₹8,076.84 crore dividend represents SBI's share of profits distributed to its majority shareholder—the Government of India. This payment is significantly higher than the ₹6,959.29 crore paid last year for FY24.
- The increase in dividend reflects the bank's improved earnings and its commitment to shareholder value creation. SBI declared a dividend of ₹15.90 per share for FY25, compared to ₹13.70 per share in the previous fiscal year.

**8. GIG ECONOMY IN INDIA TO REACH 62 MILLION WORKERS BY 2047: GOVT STUDY -**

- Gig workforce in India to grow to 62 mn by 2047, according to study by the labour ministry.
- The study by the labour ministry-affiliated VV Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) used estimates from a 2022 NITI Aayog report on gig workers.

### About Gig Economy

- **A gig economy is a labor market that relies on independent contractors and freelancers rather than full-time permanent employees.**
- In recent years, the global job market has witnessed a transformative shift with the rise of 'gigification' or adoption of the gig model – reshaping how we work. They include the following:
  - freelancers who get paid per task;
  - independent contractors who perform work and get paid on a contract-to-contract basis;
  - project-based workers who get paid by the project;
  - temporary hires who are employed for a fixed amount of time; and
  - part-time workers who work less than full-time hours.
- **Gig worker:** Individual who engages in short-term, flexible, or task-based work, typically as an independent contractor or freelancer, rather than as a full-time employee with a traditional employer-employee relationship.



### 9. INDIA'S RETAIL INFLATION TRENDS IN 2025 -

- **India's retail inflation rate fell below 3 per cent for the first time in over six years. This decline is primarily attributed to falling food prices, despite an increase in some vegetable costs.**
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) data indicated a multi-year low of 3.16 per cent in April 2025, with forecasts suggesting a further drop to 2.7 per cent in May.



#### Current Inflation Context

- **Retail inflation in India has shown changes recently. The CPI has been on a downward trend, marking its seventh consecutive month of decline. Economists predict that the CPI will remain below 3 per cent for the first time since April 2019.**
- The decrease in inflation is largely driven by a reduction in the prices of cereals and pulses, despite rising costs for some vegetables like potatoes and tomatoes.

### 10. CRISIS IN INDIA'S MICROFINANCE SECTOR -

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao has said that the Microfinance sector suffers from a vicious cycle of over-indebtedness, high interest rates and harsh recovery practices.

#### About Microfinance

- As per the Task Force on Supportive Policy and Regulatory Framework for Microfinance set up by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 1998:
- Microfinance refers to the "provision of thrift, credit and other financial services and



products of very small amounts to the poor in rural, semi-urban and urban areas for enabling them to raise their income levels and improve living standards”.

**Regulatory Framework:**

- MFIs are governed by the RBI’s Non Banking Financing Company–microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs)-Directions, 2022.
- The Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) was started as a self regulatory body for the sector and all the NBFC-MFI are eligible for membership.
- In 2014, MFIN was formally recognized as a self regulatory body by the RBI.

**11. GDP BASE YEAR REVISED TO 2022-23 -**

- **The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that the government is revising the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The revised data will be released on 27th February 2026.**

- The base year for Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will also be revised to 2022-23 while the base year for Consumer Price Index will be revised to 2023-24.
- Note: In June 2024, MoSPI set up a 26-member Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) to decide the base year for GDP data, under the chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar. It also focused on aligning GDP with other key macro indicators such as the WPI, CPI, and IIP.



**What is the GDP Base Year?**

- **About GDP Base Year:** GDP is the key metric for measuring a country’s annual economic growth or its overall economic size, and the “base year” serves as the reference point for these calculations.
- Currently, 2011-12 is the base year, meaning the GDP of 2011-12 is used as the benchmark to compute the growth of subsequent years.
- **Need:** The base year revision ensures the inclusion of new industries, removal of outdated ones, adoption of better data sources and methods, and more accurate measurement of real economic growth after adjusting for inflation.
- **Features:** The base year should be a normal year i.e., it must not experience any abnormal incidents such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, pandemic, etc. Also, it should not be too distant in the past.
- The base year should ideally be updated every 5 to 10 years to ensure national accounts reflect the most recent data.
- **Frequency of GDP Base Year Revision:** The upcoming 2026 revision will be the eighth base year update, following seven earlier revisions, starting from 1948-49 to 1960-61 in August 1967 and most recently from 2004-05 to 2011-12 on 30th January 2015.
- The first national income estimates for India were compiled by the National Income Committee (chaired by P.C. Mahalanobis) in 1949.
- **2017-18 Base Year Update Deferred:** The plan to revise the base year to 2017-18 was dropped due to:
  - Data quality concerns in Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) (showed 45-year high unemployment).
  - Rejection of Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) 2017-18 data (indicated rising poverty).
  - Impact of demonetisation (2016) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) introduction (2017) and Covid-19 made the subsequent years abnormal for economic assessment.

## 12. INDIA'S LARGEST GATI SHAKTI CARGO TERMINAL -

- **The Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar facility was inaugurated by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. This terminal is India's largest automobile cargo terminal. It enhances logistics for automobile transportation.**
- The terminal connects to Patli railway station via a dedicated 10 km rail link. This link is part of the larger 121.7 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor. The project involved substantial investment, with ₹800 crore allocated for its construction.



### Investment and Infrastructure Development

- The Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation funded ₹684 crore. Maruti Suzuki contributed the remaining amount. The terminal can handle 4.5 lakh automobiles per year. This capacity is among the highest in the country. The development is part of a broader initiative to improve railway infrastructure in India.

## 13. FASTAG ANNUAL PASS SCHEME -

- The FASTag Annual Pass scheme was introduced in June 2025 by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. This initiative aims to enhance convenience for non-commercial private vehicle owners travelling on national highways. The scheme is designed to address long-standing issues at toll plazas, providing a streamlined and cost-effective solution for frequent travellers.

### What is FASTag?

- FASTag is an electronic toll collection system managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Launched in 2014, it became mandatory in 2021 for all toll plazas across India. The system uses a sticker affixed to the vehicle's windscreen, allowing automatic toll payments.



### Details of the Annual Pass

- **The FASTag Annual Pass is priced at Rs 3,000 and is valid for one year or up to 200 trips, whichever occurs first. The pass allows free passage at National Highway (NH) and National Expressway (NE) toll plazas. Users can save approximately Rs 7,000 compared to regular toll payments, as the average cost per crossing is reduced to Rs 15.**

## 14. GOLD BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST RESERVE ASSET AFTER U.S. DOLLAR -

- **The European Central Bank's June 2025 report has highlighted a paradigm shift in global reserve compositions. Gold, once a traditional store of value, has now overtaken the euro in terms of share in central bank reserves. Its ascent has been driven by price surges and elevated geopolitical risks, but analysts now indicate that the buying frenzy might plateau, reflecting a maturing phase in reserve diversification.**



**Key Highlights**

- Gold’s Reserve Share: Rose from around 16.5% in 2023 to 19% in 2024, overtaking the euro, which dropped to 16%.
- Top Reserve Asset: The U.S. dollar still dominates at 47% of global reserves.
- Central Bank Demand: Central banks now account for over 20% of global gold demand, doubling from a decade ago.
- Geopolitical Drivers: The Russia-Ukraine war, inflation, and U.S. economic sanctions prompted increased gold accumulation.

**15. INDIA REMAINS 4TH LARGEST ECONOMY IN WORLD, US AT NO. 1 -**

Rank	Country	GDP (USD)
1	United States	\$30.34 trillion
2	China	\$19.53 trillion
3	Germany	\$4.92 trillion
4	India	\$4.39 trillion
5	Japan	\$4.27 trillion
6	United Kingdom	\$3.73 trillion
7	France	\$3.28 trillion
8	Italy	\$2.46 trillion
9	Canada	\$2.33 trillion
10	Brazil	\$2.31 trillion

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**16. HOW DID INDIA’S ECONOMY RESPOND TO PAST CONFLICTS WITH PAKISTAN? -**

**1. Economic Impact of Past India-Pakistan**

**Conflicts 1. The 1999 Kargil War**

- **Trigger:** Pakistani intrusion into Indian territory (Jammu & Kashmir).

**Market Reaction**

- BSE Sensex dropped 5% in May 1999 due to fear of escalation and post-nuclear test sanctions.
- Pakistan’s KSE-100 fell 7% amid political instability.

**GDP Impact**

- India’s fiscal deficit rose to 5.1% of GDP.
- Pakistan’s GDP slowed to 4.2%.

**Recovery**



- Sensex rebounded 20% by year-end, driven by IT boom.
- Pakistan's recovery was slower due to coup & sanctions.
- **Lesson:** Short-term volatility, long-term recovery, with India bouncing back faster.

## 2. The 2001 Parliament Attack

- **Trigger:** Attack on Indian Parliament by terror outfits.
- **Military Response:** 1 million troops deployed along the border.

### Market Reaction

- Sensex fell 7% in December 2001.
- FIIs withdrew \$200 million.

### GDP Impact

- **India:** Growth dipped to 4.8% (2001–02).
- **Pakistan:** Growth fell to 3.1%.

### Bilateral Disruption

- Trade halted (~\$250 million).
- Pakistan lost \$50 million in overflight revenue.
- Lesson: Economic shocks are amplified by global recessionary trends; diplomacy helped recovery.

## 3. The 2008 Mumbai Attacks

- **Trigger:** 26/11 terror attack by Lashkar-e-Taiba; 166 killed.

### Market Reaction

- Sensex dropped 4% to ~8,700 points.
- FIIs pulled out \$13 billion in 2008.

### Sectoral Impact

- Hospitality, real estate, tourism hit hardest.
- Tourism revenue fell 15%, costing \$2 billion.

### GDP Impact

- **India:** 6.7% growth in 2008–09.
- **Pakistan:** Growth slowed to 1.7% amid IMF bailout.

### Recovery

- Sensex rebounded 80% in 2009 with stimulus.
- KSE-100 up 35%, but recovery slower.
- Lesson: Terror shocks are sharp but short-lived; India's domestic demand aids resilience.

## 4. The 2019 Pulwama–Balakot Crisis

- Trigger: Pulwama attack (40 CRPF personnel killed); Balakot airstrike followed.

### Market Reaction

- Sensex dipped 2%, tourism/aviation down 5%.

### GDP Impact

- **India:** Growth slowed to 6.1% in 2019–20.
- **Pakistan:** Down to 0.5%, impacted by FATF scrutiny.

### Trade

- Bilateral trade, already low, shrank further.

### Recovery

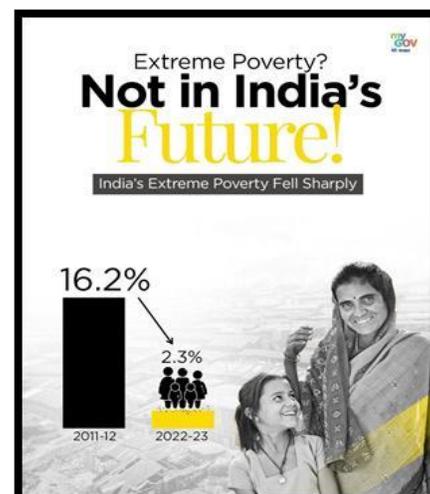
- **India:** Sensex up 10% by year-end.
- **Pakistan:** KSE-100 up 15%, but underlying fragility persisted.
- **Lesson:** India's market depth cushions shocks, Pakistan's structural weaknesses magnify them.

**17. WORLD BANK'S POVERTY & EQUITY BRIEF REPORT -**

- **The World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief report praised India for lifting 171 million people out of extreme poverty from 2011-12 to 2022-23, lowering the extreme poverty rate from 16.2% to 2.3%.**

**What are Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs)?**

- **About:** The PEBs, published biannually during the Spring and Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- **Key Development Indicators:** Cover various aspects of poverty, using both national poverty lines and international benchmarks (USD 2.15 for extreme poverty, USD 3.65 for lower-middle-income, and USD 6.85 for upper-middle-income).
- **Methodology for India:** The World Bank's poverty estimates for India are based on the 2011-12 Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) and the 2022-23 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey.

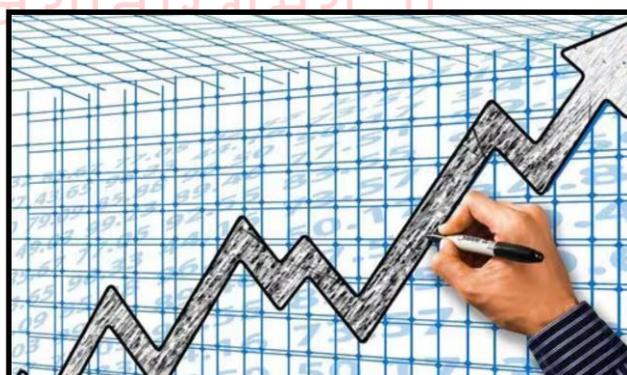


**What are the Key Highlights of the Poverty and Equity Briefs Report by the World Bank?**

- **Rural and Urban Poverty Reduction:** Extreme poverty in India fell significantly, from 18.4% to 2.8% in rural areas and from 10.7% to 1.1% in urban areas between 2011-12 and 2022-23.
- **Statewise Contribution:** In 2011-12, the five most populous states- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh accounted for 65% of India's extreme poor. By 2022-23, these states contributed to two-thirds of the overall decline in extreme poverty.
- **Decline in Multidimensional Poverty:** The report highlighted a decline in non-monetary poverty, with India's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) dropping from 53.8% in 2005-06 to 16.4% in 2019-21.

**18. INDIA'S ECONOMY TO GROW BY 6.5% IN 2025 AS PER UNCTAD FORECAST -**

- **India is set to maintain its position as the fastest-growing major economy in 2025 with an impressive 6.5% GDP growth, according to the latest "Trade and Development Foresights 2025" report released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).**
- While global economic momentum shows signs of slowing, India stands out for its resilience, fueled by increased public spending and proactive monetary policies.



**Key Highlights**

- India's Economic Performance
- India is projected to grow at 6.5% in 2025, sustaining its title as the fastest-growing major economy globally.
- The report attributes this growth to robust government expenditure, including infrastructure projects and social sector investments.
- A supportive monetary policy stance by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also played a key role in stimulating demand and economic activity.

**19. INDIA'S EXPORTS HIT RECORD \$824.9 BILLION IN FY 2024-25: RBI DATA -**

- India's total exports for FY 2024-25 have reached a record high, as per RBI data released on May 2, 2025, making it a landmark year for the Indian economy.

- **This development is crucial as India aims to position itself as a global trade powerhouse, especially through non-oil merchandise and services sectors in alignment with policy initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Foreign Trade Policy 2023.**

#### **Export Performance in FY 2024-25**

- **Total Exports:** \$824.9 billion (up 6.01% from \$778.1 billion in FY 2023-24)
- **Services Exports:** \$387.5 billion (up 13.6% from \$341.1 billion)
- **Merchandise Exports (excluding petroleum):** \$374.1 billion (up 6.0% from \$352.9 billion)



#### **March 2025 Snapshot**

- **Services Exports in March 2025:** \$35.6 billion
- **Growth over March 2024:** 18.6%
- **March 2024 Services Exports:** \$30.0 billion

## **20. GIG ECONOMY -**

- **The gig workers' meeting on "Current Developments, Challenges, and the Way Forward," organized by the Gig Workers Association, highlighted critical issues within India's gig economy and recommended the establishment of minimum wages, social security, and legal protections for gig and platform workers.**
- It also called for the establishment of tripartite welfare boards at both state and national levels, including representatives of workers, employers, and the government.



#### **What is the Gig Economy-**

- The new Labour Codes of 2019 defines a gig worker as "A person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationship".
- It is a labor market of short-term, flexible jobs often enabled by digital platforms.
- **Workers, as freelancers or independent contractors, are paid per task rather than through full-time contracts. Common activities include freelance services, food delivery, and digital work.**
- Status of India's Gig Economy: A NITI Aayog report estimates 7.7 million gig workers in India in 2020-21, projected to reach 23.5 million by 2029-30, mostly in medium-skilled jobs.

## **21. IMF WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: HIGH ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY SURPASSING COVID-ERA LEVELS-**

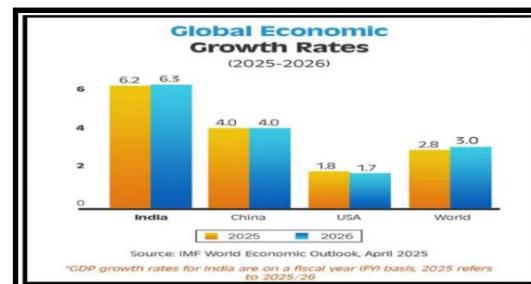
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently published its World Economic Outlook (WEO).

#### **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

- The IMF is a global organization that promotes economic stability and cooperation among its 190 member countries
- It was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s
- Key Reports: Global Financial Stability Report and World Economic Outlook

**About World Economic Outlook (WEO)**

- The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is the flagship report of the International Monetary Fund that analyzes global economic developments, prospects, and policy challenges.
- It offers economic forecasts and serves as a key tool for global economic surveillance and policy coordination.
- **It is usually published twice a year in the months of April and October, with updates in between.**



**22. GOVERNMENT CLARIFIES NO GST ON UPI TRANSACTIONS ABOVE ₹2,000 -**

- In response to circulating media reports, the Finance Ministry of India has categorically denied any plans to impose Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions over ₹2,000.
- **The Ministry termed such claims as false, baseless, and misleading. Reinforcing the government’s commitment to promoting digital payments, the clarification emphasizes that no MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) is charged on person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions, and thus no GST applies to such transactions either.**



**23. INDIA’S EXPORTS TO THE US HIT A RECORD USD 86.51 BILLION, BOOSTED BY FRONT-LOADING SHIPMENTS AMID TARIFF FEARS, WHILE IMPORTS FROM CHINA SURGED TO USD 113.45 BILLION, SIGNALING GROWING RELIANCE ON CHINA AND SHIFTING GLOBAL TRADE DYNAMICS -**

**What are the Key Factors Driving India’s Trade Performance-**

- **Front-Loading Strategy:** The sharp increase in exports can largely be attributed to exporters rushing to dispatch shipments ahead of the anticipated reciprocal tariff hikes that came into effect in April.
- **Demand and Market Penetration:** India's export share in key markets such as the US and the UK rose by 13.73% and 14.31%, respectively, indicating stronger demand and improved market penetration.
- **Sectoral Rise in Export:** A major contributor to this growth was the electronics sector, which saw a 32% rise in exports driven primarily by booming smartphone shipments taking the total to USD 38 billion.
- Coffee exports surged by 40% to reach \$1.8 billion. This sharp rise was supported by global supply disruptions caused by drought and high temperatures in Brazil, one of the world’s top coffee producers.
- **Services Exports:** It grew by 12.45%, reaching USD 383.51 billion during FY25. With services imports standing at USD 195.95 billion, India maintained a healthy surplus in its services trade.



**24. GOLD'S RISING SHARE IN INDIA'S FOREX RESERVE -**

- **As per the World Gold Council (WGC), India's gold share in foreign exchange reserves has nearly doubled from 6.7% in 2019 to 12% by February 2025.**
- India's forex reserves rose to USD 677.84 billion in April 2025, led by an increase of USD 892 million in FCA and a USD 638 million rise in gold reserves, while SDRs fell by USD 6 million.

**Foreign Exchange Reserves (Forex Reserves):**

- About: Forex are reserve assets held by a central bank in foreign currencies. It may include foreign currencies, bonds, treasury bills and other government securities, typically denominated in US dollars.
- They are an important component of the Balance of Payment (BoP)
- **The RBI is the custodian of India's foreign exchange reserves, deriving its authority from the provisions of the RBI Act, 1934.**

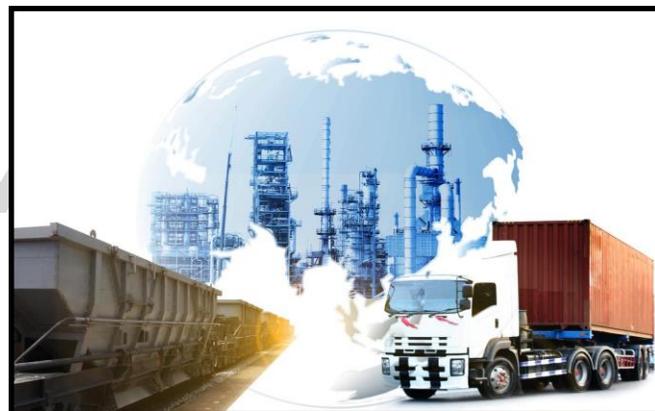


**25. DECARBONISING INDIA'S LOGISTICS SECTOR -**

- **India's logistics sector, vital for economic growth and Vision India@2047, is among the most carbon-intensive. With a net-zero target by 2070, greening logistics is key to sustainable and inclusive development.**

**What is the Current Emissions Profile of India's Logistics Sector-**

- India's logistics sector contributes about 13.5% of the country's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Road transport dominates, managing nearly 90% of passenger and 70% of freight movement, and accounts for over 88% of sectoral emissions, trucks alone contribute around 38% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (IEA, 2023).



**What are the Major Challenges in the Decarbonising Logistics Sector-**

- **Heavy Reliance on Road Transport:** In India, roads dominate logistics due to inadequate rail and multimodal linkages. Roads carry 64.5% of freight and serve 90% of passenger traffic in India.
- This high dependence on diesel-fueled trucks makes rapid decarbonization technologically and economically challenging.
- **Fragmented and Unorganized Sector:** India's logistics sector is largely unorganized, with over 85% of trucks owned by individuals or small operators, which hinders coordinated adoption of green technologies, emission tracking, and data sharing, making large-scale decarbonization efforts difficult.
- **High Transition Costs & Limited Infrastructure:** Transitioning to EVs or hydrogen vehicles requires significant upfront investment, with EVs costing 20-50% more than comparable Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles.
- Small fleet operators face limited access to green finance, and low-carbon fuels are more expensive than diesel, especially in emerging economies.
- **Limited Adoption of Public Transport:** The underdeveloped public transport infrastructure and infrequent services in many areas limit the potential for using public transport for freight, leading to continued reliance on carbon-intensive private vehicles leading to emissions and inefficiency in logistics operations.

## 26. INDIA IMPOSES 12% TARIFF ON STEEL IMPORTS -

- In a decisive step to protect its domestic steel industry, the Government of India has announced the imposition of a 12% provisional safeguard duty on select categories of steel imports.
- **The decision, which came into effect on April 21, 2025, is aimed at countering a surge in low-cost steel imports, especially from China, South Korea, and Japan. The move is being seen as a response to growing concerns within the industry about unfair competition and market distortion.**



## 27. ONE STATE-ONE RRB -

- **The 4th phase of Regional Rural Bank (RRB) consolidation under the 'One State-One RRB' (OS-OR) plan has been rolled out in 10 states and one Union Territory, further shrinking the number of RRBs in India.**
- This move aims to boost operational viability and efficiency, but concerns persist around staffing, technology integration, and regional risks.

### What is the One State-One RRB Policy-

- **About:** OS-OR Policy is a reform initiative by the Department of Financial Services aimed at consolidating multiple RRBs within a state into a single unified entity.
- The consolidation of RRBs began in 2005, following the recommendations of the Dr. Vyas Committee (2001), which was constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Phases of Consolidation:** Implemented under Section 23A(1) of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, which allows mergers in the public interest.
- **Phase 1 (FY 2006 – FY 2010):** RRBs sponsored by the same bank within a state were amalgamated. RRBs were reduced from 196 to 82.
- **Phase 2 (FY 2013– FY 2015):** RRBs across different sponsor banks within a state were amalgamated. RRBs were reduced from 82 to 56.
- **Phase 3 (FY 2019– FY 2021):** The 3rd phase focused on the OS-OR principle, reducing RRBs in larger states and consolidating them in smaller ones.



## 28. INDIA'S INFLATION EASES IN APRIL 2025 AMID DECLINING FOOD PRICES -

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) data for April 2025, released on May 13, 2025, shows a marked decrease in inflation rates across rural, urban, and combined segments.
- **The year-on-year CPI inflation stood at 3.16%, and food inflation plummeted to 1.78% — the lowest since October 2021 — signaling a crucial improvement in India's price stability.**

### Key Highlights

- Headline Inflation (CPI)
- **April 2025:** 3.16% (provisional)
- **March 2025:** 3.34%
- Lowest YoY inflation since July 2019

# ENVIRONMENT

## 1. CLOUDBURST AND FLASH FLOODS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH -

- Heavy monsoon rains due to multiple cloudbursts triggered the flash floods in Himachal Pradesh, causing widespread damage to properties and loss of life.
- The Indira Priyadarshini Hydroelectric Project has been impacted.

### About Cloudburst

- A cloudburst is defined as “Rainfall of 10 cm or more in one hour over a roughly 10 km x 10 km area.”
- **Mechanism:** Common in hilly areas due to a process called orographic lift:
  - Warm air rises along mountain slopes.
  - It expands due to low pressure at altitude and cools.
  - Cooling causes condensation and release of moisture.
  - If warm moist air keeps rising, it may delay rainfall until a large volume suddenly condenses and falls as torrential rain.
- **Occurrence in India:** In India, cloudbursts are frequently observed during the monsoon season, particularly over regions like the Himalayas, the Western Ghats, and the northeastern hill states.
- Linkage with Flash floods: Cloudbursts often result in flash floods and have become increasingly common from May-September when the southwest monsoon season prevails in much of the country.



### Impacts:

- Sudden, localized heavy rain.
- Often leads to flash floods and landslides due to drainage overload and rapid water accumulation.
- **Prediction:** Difficult to detect due to the small area and short time frame.

## 2. REGULATION UNDER ARTICLE 240 AND LADAKH'S DEMAND FOR 6TH SCHEDULE -

- **To address the long-standing demands for job reservations, language recognition, and political representation of Ladakh's people, the Centre has issued few regulations for Ladakh under Article 240, rather than granting the Sixth Schedule status as was widely requested.**
- Article 240 empowers the President to make regulations for the peace and good governance of certain Union Territories, with these rules having the same force as Acts of Parliament and the power to amend or repeal existing laws.

### What are the Demands of the People of Ladakh and the Regulations Notified by the Government?

- Key Demands: After the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, Ladakh was designated as a Union Territory without a legislature.



- In response, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have been advocating for Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to safeguard their land, jobs, and cultural identity.

**Key Demands Included:**

- Inclusion under the Sixth Schedule for constitutional protection.
- Land ownership restrictions to prevent outsider influx.
- Legislative Assembly for representative governance.
- As an alternative, the Union government proposed extending Article 371-like protections to the region.

**3. TAMIL NADU DECLARES DHANUSHKODI AS GREATER FLAMINGO SANCTUARY -**

- **Tamil Nadu notified Dhanushkodi as a Greater Flamingo Sanctuary on June 5, 2025. The decision was announced during the World Environment Day celebration via video conference by CM M.K. Stalin.**

- A Government Order (G.O.) issued on June 4, 2025, formalized the designation. The sanctuary supports over 10,700 wetland birds and lies on the Central Asian Flyway, making it a globally important bird habitat.

**Objectives and Significance**

- Protect and conserve migratory wetland birds, especially Greater Flamingos.
- Strengthen India's commitment to international conventions like the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
- Promote responsible ecotourism, local livelihoods, and biodiversity awareness.

**Sanctuary Details**

- **Location:** Dhanushkodi, Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu
- **Area:** 524.7 hectares across revenue and forest lands
- **Part of:** Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve

**Ecosystems**

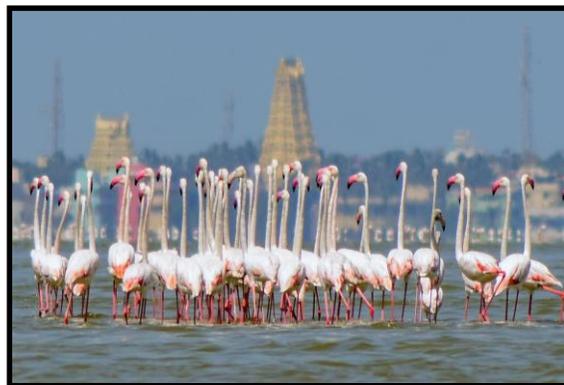
- Mangroves (Avicennia, Rhizophora)
- Sand dunes
- Mudflats
- Marshes

**4. WIND ENERGY IN INDIA: 100 GW TARGET BY 2030, CHALLENGES IN CYBERSECURITY, INNOVATION & LOCALISATION -**

- India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil-based electric installed capacity by 2030, including 100 GW from wind energy.
- While scaling is essential, the bigger challenges lie in cybersecurity, localisation, and innovation in the wind sector.

**About Wind Energy**

- Wind energy is a form of renewable energy that is generated by converting the kinetic energy of moving air (wind) into electrical energy using devices called wind turbines.



- As the wind turns the blades of the turbine, it spins a generator to produce electricity.

#### **Types of Wind Energy:**

- **Onshore Wind Energy:** Turbines installed on land
- **Offshore Wind Energy:** Turbines installed in sea or ocean waters, usually more efficient due to stronger, steadier winds

#### **Current Status of Wind Energy in India**

- **Installed Wind power capacity:** 50.04 GW (as per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, 2025 April Data)
- **Share in India's Energy Mix:** Wind power accounts for around 10% of India's total installed utility power generation capacity.
- **India's Rank (Global):** 4th largest in installed wind capacity, behind China, the United States, and Germany.
- **State-wise Wind Capacity Additions:** India added 3.4 GW of new wind capacity in 2024, with Gujarat (1,250 MW), Karnataka (1,135 MW), and Tamil Nadu (980 MW) leading the way.
- These states accounted for 98% of the new wind capacity additions.
- **COP-26 (Glasgow, 2021)- Panchamrit Commitment:** India committed to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil-based electric capacity by 2030
- Over 100 GW of this is targeted from wind energy (onshore + offshore).

#### **5. INDIA'S FIRST UNDERWATER MUSEUM TO BE BUILT AROUND INS GULDAR IN MAHARASHTRA -**

- On June 11, 2025, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis virtually attended the launch of India's first underwater museum project, marking a significant step in promoting sustainable tourism and marine ecosystem restoration.
- **The decommissioned INS Guldar, which served the Indian Navy until January 2024, has been handed over to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) to transform it into a submerged attraction.**



#### **Aims and Objectives**

- Convert INS Guldar into an underwater museum to promote marine tourism.
- Create an artificial coral reef to support marine biodiversity.
- Offer new tourism opportunities including scuba diving and future submarine tours.
- Preserve naval heritage by repurposing a historic vessel.

#### **About INS Guldar**

- INS Guldar was a 1,120-ton Landing Ship Tank (LST) in the Indian Navy.
- It was decommissioned in January 2024 after years of service.
- The ship has undergone environmental cleaning to make it suitable for submersion without harming marine ecosystems.

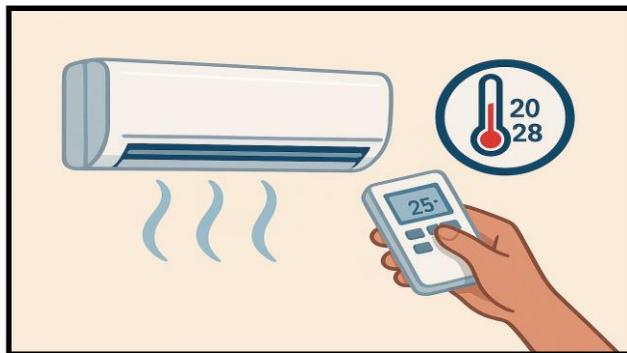
#### **6. WHY REGULATE AC TEMPERATURE? GOV PLANS 20°C-28°C LIMIT -**

- The Union Ministry of Power has proposed a move to restrict the temperature range of new air conditioners (ACs) between 20°C and 28°C.

#### **Why Regulate AC Temperature?**

- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation:** Every 1°C increase in AC temperature setting reduces energy use by ~6%.

- If India adopts a 24°C default setting, it could save 20 billion units of electricity annually (BEE data).
- With AC demand projected to create a 200 GW load by 2030, controlling temperature is crucial for grid stability and energy security.
- **Public Health and Thermal Safety:** Settings below 18°C can increase blood pressure, trigger asthma, and worsen respiratory infections.
- Vulnerable groups — infants, the elderly, and those with chronic diseases — face higher risks in excessively cold environments.
- Studies link low indoor temperatures with mental health issues, including anxiety and depression.
- **Climate and Environmental Responsibility:** The rise in AC usage is fueling energy demand and emissions.
- Promoting a standardized temperature range supports India’s climate goals under the Paris Agreement.
- Efficient cooling reduces the carbon footprint, helping India balance development with environmental sustainability.



#### 7. KARNATAKA LEADS INDIA IN WIND POWER CAPACITY GROWTH -

- **Karnataka has emerged as a frontrunner in wind energy production in India. In the financial year 2024-25, the state added an impressive 1,331.48 MW of wind power capacity. This achievement was recognised during the Global Wind Day 2025 celebrations in Bengaluru.**

#### Karnataka’s Renewable Energy Milestones

- Karnataka’s total installed wind power capacity now stands at 7,351 MW. This positions the state as a leader in India’s renewable energy sector. The recent addition of over 1,300 MW in a single year puts stress on Karnataka’s momentum in harnessing wind energy.
- The state aims to support India’s national target of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030.



#### 8. GFW 2024 REPORT ON INDIAN FORESTS -

- The Global Forest Watch (GFW), an open-source forest monitoring platform developed by the US-based research organisation World Resources Institute (WRI), has recently released data highlighting India’s deforestation and forest degradation trends from 2001 to 2024.

#### Key Findings of the WRI Report on India’s Forests:

- Extent of Forest & Tree Cover Changes (2001–2024):
- Between 2001 and 2024, India lost 2.31 million hectares of tree cover, a 7.1% decline since 2000, causing 1.29 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- In 2024 alone, India lost 150,000 hectares of natural forest, resulting in approximately 68 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Primary forest loss increased from 17,700 hectares in 2023 to 18,200 hectares in 2024.



- Between 2002 and 2024, 348,000 hectares (5.4%) of humid primary forests (mature tropical forests not recently cleared) were lost, accounting for 15% of total tree cover loss.
- Tree cover loss due to fires amounted to 36,200 hectares from 2001 to 2024, peaking at 2,770 hectares in 2008.
- **Despite losses, India gained 1.78 million hectares of tree cover between 2000 and 2020, contributing 1.4% to global net gains (Top 3 Gainers: Russia, Canada, US).**

**9. INDIA HAS SET AN AMBITIOUS TARGET OF INSTALLING 500 GW OF NON-FOSSIL FUEL CAPACITY BY 2030, WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) SOURCES LIKE SOLAR AND WIND-**

**What is Renewable Energy-**

- Renewable energy is energy derived from natural, constantly replenished sources like sunlight, wind, water (hydropower), and biomass.
- Unlike fossil fuels, it is sustainable, helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promotes a cleaner environment.

**India's Renewable Energy Goals**

- **2030 Goal:** Achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity.
- Short-Term Milestone: Generate 50% of total energy capacity from renewable sources by 2030.
- **Current Progress:** Reached 217.62 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity as of January 2025.
- **Net-Zero Commitment:** Attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- However, a closer analysis reveals that these targets may not be enough to meet the country's rapidly growing electricity demand while ensuring grid stability and reducing reliance on coal.



**10. CHEETAH CORRIDOR PROJECT -**

- A Cheetah Corridor is being set up as part of India's wildlife conservation efforts. The initiative is designed to facilitate the movement of cheetahs across regions, thereby expanding their natural habitat.

**Project Details**

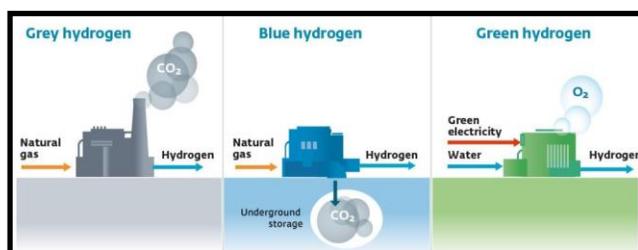
- The Cheetah Corridor will cover 17,000 square kilometres.
- It will stretch across 27 districts in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **This planned corridor includes 13 districts in Rajasthan, 2 in Uttar Pradesh, and 12 in Madhya Pradesh, aiming to create a continuous path for cheetahs to move freely.**
- It will interlink several protected areas, including Shahabad Conservation Reserve, Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Mukundra Wildlife Sanctuary, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhav National Park and Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.



**11. NATURAL HYDROGEN -**

- Natural hydrogen, a potentially clean, abundant, and low-cost energy source, is gaining global attention as a game-changer in the transition to green energy.

**What are Key Facts About Natural Hydrogen-**



- **About:** Natural hydrogen, also called geologic hydrogen or white hydrogen, refers to hydrogen gas (H<sub>2</sub>) that is naturally produced and stored in the Earth's crust.
- **Unlike manufactured hydrogen (from fossil fuels or renewables), natural hydrogen is produced geologically—raising hopes for a sustainable energy revolution.**
- **Formation:** Natural hydrogen exists freely underground, and formed through natural geological processes like-
- **Serpentinisation:** Reaction of water with iron-rich rocks.
- **Radiolysis:** Splitting of water by radioactive rocks.
- **Organic Decomposition:** From deep burial of organic matter.

**12. WHERE AND WHEN SHIRUI LILY FESTIVAL IS CELEBRATED? -**

- **The 5th State-Level Shirui Lily Festival 2025 is drawing national and international attention as it returns after a two-year hiatus, aiming to promote responsible tourism and raise global awareness about the conservation of the endangered Shirui Lily. This year's edition is particularly special, as it commemorates 75 years since the flower's discovery and brings a renewed focus on ecological preservation, cultural pride, and community participation.**



- Held annually in May, the Shirui Lily Festival is more than a floral celebration; it is a platform that bridges the region's ecological significance with its cultural richness.
- The centerpiece of this festival is the Shirui Lily, a delicate pinkish-white bell-shaped flower that blooms exclusively in the Shirui Hills, located at 8,500 feet above sea level in the Ukhrul district.
- Named after Jean Macklin, the wife of British botanist Frank Kingdon Ward, the flower was first discovered in 1946 and awarded global acclaim at the 1950 London Flower Show.

**13. THE MELTING OF ARCTIC ICE IS OPENING UP THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE (NSR), PROVIDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REGION ALONG WITH THE THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT -**

- Climate Impact and Changing Arctic Sea
- **Breaching of Climate Thresholds:** In 2024, global temperatures temporarily exceeded the 1.5°C limit above pre-industrial levels, a possible long-term breach of the Paris Agreement goals.
- **Accelerated Ice Loss:** Arctic sea ice is shrinking at a rate of 12.2% per decade (September data) compared to 1981–2010 averages as per NASA, signaling an urgent environmental transformation.
- **Climate Feedback on India:** Arctic ice melt has cascading effects on India's climate patterns, particularly the monsoon, with implications for agriculture and food security.
- **Opening of NSR:** It is seen as a critical shortcut for shipping between Europe and Asia, potentially reshaping global trade flows.
- It will allow faster cargo movement and reduce freight costs, posing strategic and economic advantages.



**India's Potential in the Arctic Region**

- **Global Trade Realignments:** Rising geopolitical tensions, especially with the U.S.-China friction is prompting nations to diversify trade routes.
- The Arctic has emerged as a strategic alternative.

**14. SIMILIPAL OFFICIALLY ACCORDED AS NATIONAL PARK'S STATUS -**

- Similipal, a unique and ecologically rich region in Odisha, has officially been accorded national park status by the Odisha government. After decades of anticipation, this significant move places Similipal as the 107th national park in India and the second in Odisha, after Bhitarkanika.
- **The formal notification was issued on April 24, 2025, marking an important milestone in the state's conservation efforts and a major step towards the vision of a developed Odisha.**
- **Similipal National Park now spans 845.70 sq km, divided into 11 ranges across Similipal south and Similipal north divisions.**
- The area comprises parts of Pithabata north, Pithabata south, Nawana, Jenabil, Upper Barahkamuda, Bhanjabasa, Barehipani, Chahala, Nawana North, and Talabandha ranges.



**15. MONSOON & FOOD INFLATION IN INDIA -**

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in its first forecast for 2025 has forecasted an above-normal monsoon for 2025 which will support agricultural output and aid the government's efforts to contain food inflation, which is highly sensitive to rainfall variability.

**What is IMD's Forecast on Monsoons for 2025-**

- **Rainfall Prediction:**
- IMD has forecast an "above normal" southwest monsoon in 2025, with rainfall likely at 105% of the Long Period Average (87 cm), ±5% margin.
- IMD classifies monsoon rainfall as: Deficient (<90% of LPA), Below Normal (90–95%), Normal (96–104%), Above Normal (105–110%), and Excess (>110%).
- This is backed by neutral El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions and below-normal snow cover over Eurasia, which supports stronger monsoons.
- **IMD's forecast accuracy has improved, with average deviation reducing to 2.27% (2021–25) from 7.5% (2017–20).**



**16. AMARAVATI: WORLD'S FIRST FULLY RENEWABLE-POWERED CITY IN THE MAKING -**

- In a landmark step towards sustainable urban development, Amravati, the planned capital of Andhra Pradesh, is on track to become the world's first city powered entirely by renewable energy.
- **Envisioned by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, this ambitious project aligns with India's commitment to clean energy and climate-conscious urbanization. Located between Vijayawada and**

**Guntur, Amaravati is being designed as a modern, eco-friendly “people’s capital”, setting a global benchmark in sustainable city planning.**

- **The foundation of this monumental initiative is expected to be laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, symbolizing national support for green development. The new capital city will cover 217 square kilometres along the banks of the Krishna River, forming part of the larger Andhra Pradesh Capital Region, which spans 8,352 sq km.**
- With a project cost estimated at ₹65,000 crore, Amaravati is being developed as an eco-conscious urban center focused on clean energy, efficient infrastructure, and smart planning.



### 17. CLOUDBURST, LANDSLIDE, AND FLASH FLOOD -

- **Torrential rain in Ramban tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir has caused casualties, significant infrastructure damage, and forced emergency relocations. Officials have cited cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods as the main triggers of the widespread destruction.**

#### What is a Cloudburst-

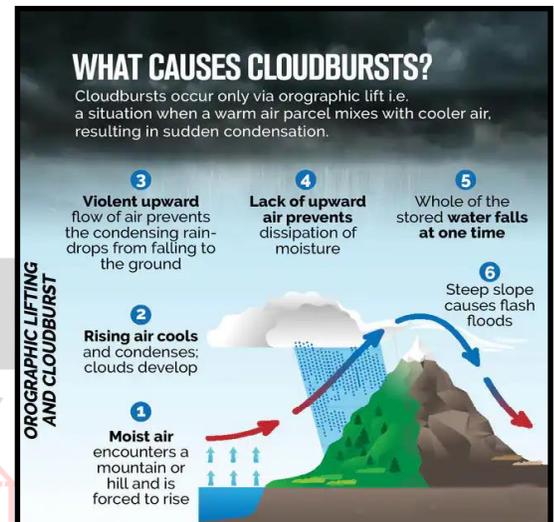
- **Definition:** A cloudburst is a sudden, intense rainstorm that results in more than 10 cm of rain in less than an hour over a small area (approximately 10 km<sup>2</sup>).
- It can also be accompanied by hail and thunder. Cloudbursts are common in mountainous areas, especially in the Himalayas.
- Due to their localised nature, cloudbursts are hard to predict or detect but can unleash sudden, devastating rainfall, leading to flash floods and landslides.

#### What is a Landslide-

- **Definition:** A landslide is the downward movement of rock, soil, or debris on a slope due to gravity.
- It is a form of mass wasting, where earth materials move down a slope under the influence of gravity.

#### What is a Flash Flood-

- **Definition:** Flash floods are sudden increases in water levels during or immediately after intense rainfall. They are highly localized and short-lived events, typically occurring within 6 hours of rainfall.
- **Causes:** Flash floods are primarily caused by intense rainfall that overwhelms the soil’s absorption capacity and drainage systems.



### 18. OPERATION OLIVIA: A MARINE CONSERVATION SUCCESS BY THE INDIAN COAST GUARD -

- **The Indian Coast Guard announced on May 19, 2025, that its initiative Operation Olivia had recorded the protection of 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles during the nesting season at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha. This marks a record achievement in marine conservation under the initiative.**

#### Aim and Objective

- **Primary Goal:** To ensure safe nesting of Olive Ridley turtles by minimizing threats such as illegal fishing and habitat destruction.

- Promote community participation, NGO collaboration, and the use of sustainable fishing tools like Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).
- Background and Implementation
- Launched in the early 1980s, Operation Olivia is conducted annually from November to May.
- Focuses on nesting beaches in Gahirmatha, Rushikulya river mouth, and other coastal Odisha regions—key breeding grounds for the Olive Ridley turtle.



#### 19. GREEN HYDROGEN CERTIFICATION SCHEME OF INDIA (GHCI) -

- Recently, India took step in its clean energy transition with the launch of the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI). **The scheme will create a clear system to certify green hydrogen production, making the process more transparent, easy to track, and trusted by the market.**

##### Importance of Green Hydrogen

- Green hydrogen is produced using renewable energy sources. It is seen as a clean alternative to fossil fuels. The use of green hydrogen can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It also supports energy security by reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels.



#### 20. THE SUPREME COURT (SC) OF INDIA HAS DIRECTED THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NEERI) TO ASSESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF NEARBY GLASS INDUSTRIAL UNITS ON THE TAJ MAHAL -

- The directive comes amid growing concerns over industrial pollution in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), a sensitive area surrounding the world heritage site.

##### What are the Key Facts About Taj Mahal-

- **Historical Background:** Taj Mahal was commissioned by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, and Ustad-Ahmad Lahori is credited as the chief architect.
- Construction started in 1632 AD and completed in 1648 AD; ancillary structures were completed by 1653 AD. It was built by artisans from across the Mughal Empire, Central Asia, and Iran.
- **Location & Layout:** Taj Mahal is situated on the right bank of Yamuna in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. It is enclosed within a 17-hectare Mughal garden which follows the Timurid-Persian Charbagh layout with four subdivided quarters.
- **Materials Used:** Constructed with brick-in-lime mortar, red sandstone, and white marble (quarried from Makrana (Rajasthan) for the main structure).
- Extensive inlay work was done using gemstones like jade, crystal, turquoise, lapis lazuli, etc.



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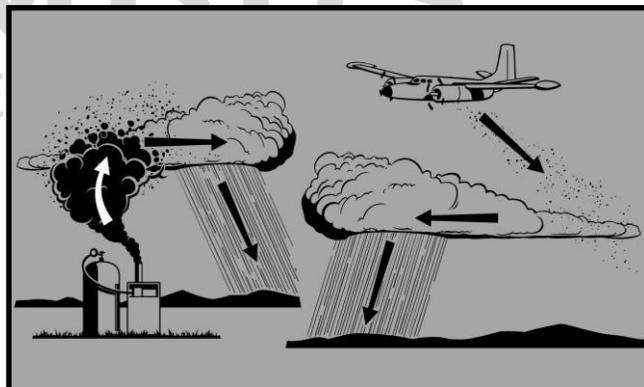
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**22. THE DELHI CABINET HAS APPROVED A PROJECT TO CONDUCT CLOUD SEEDING TRIALS AIMED AT ADDRESSING AIR POLLUTION AND WATER SCARCITY -**

- **Cloud Seeding:** It is a weather modification technique that enhances precipitation by dispersing chemicals like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or dry ice into clouds, serving as nuclei for water droplet formation, leading to rainfall.
- It can help combat air pollution, especially during periods of high Air Quality Index (AQI) readings.
- Cloud seeding may increase water availability and result in economic, environmental, and human health benefits.
- **Types of Cloud Seeding:** Static cloud seeding, which involves introducing ice nuclei into cold clouds to form ice crystals or snowflakes.
- Dynamic cloud seeding, which stimulates rainfall by enhancing vertical air currents and promoting rain cloud growth.
- Hygroscopic cloud seeding, which uses fine particles of salts to increase cloud droplet size.
- **Glaciogenic cloud seeding, which induces ice formation in supercooled clouds to trigger precipitation. It is used for enhancing snowfall, increasing mountain snowpack, inducing rain in drought-hit areas, and reducing air pollution.**



# REPORTS & INDICES

## 1. 10TH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2025 -

- **According to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025, India ranks 99th in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, marking its first time in the top 100 out of 167 countries with a score of 67.**
- The score measures progress on a scale of 0 to 100 where 100 indicates a country has achieved all 17 goals and 0 means no progress has been made.
- This shows a significant improvement from its previous rankings (e.g., 109th in 2024, 112th in 2023) in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index.



### What are Key Findings of the 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025 ?

- **Global SDG Progress Status:** Projections show that only 17% of SDG targets are on track to be met by 2030, highlighting a significant slowdown in global progress.
- This stagnation is driven by conflicts, structural vulnerabilities, and limited fiscal space, which continue to hinder effective SDG implementation.
- **Top Performers:** Nordic countries lead the SDGs rankings, with Finland (1st), Sweden (2nd), and Denmark (3rd); notably, 19 out of the top 20 countries are European.
- East and South Asia have shown the fastest regional progress since 2015—India ranks ahead of Bangladesh (114th) and Pakistan (140th) but trails Bhutan (74th), Nepal (85th), Sri Lanka (93rd), and Maldives (53rd).

## 2. CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX 2025: WHERE DOES INDIA STAND ? -

- Climate change is no longer a future concern, it's a present global emergency. The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025 underscores this reality with sobering clarity.
- **Designed to monitor the climate protection performance of 64 countries and the EU, responsible for over 90% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the CCPI aims to shine a spotlight on both progress and failure in international climate mitigation efforts.**
- Despite decades of negotiations, emissions continue to rise, global temperatures edge dangerously close to tipping points, and only a fraction of countries are taking adequate action.



### 3. GLOBAL TOBACCO EPIDEMIC REPORT -

- India has emerged as a leader in tobacco control, as brought into light by the World Health Organisation's Global Tobacco Epidemic report. The report identifies India's graphic health warnings on tobacco products as among the most effective globally. This reflects commitment to public health and the fight against tobacco-related illnesses.

#### Overview of Tobacco Control Measures

- The WHO's MPOWER framework outlines six essential measures to combat tobacco use. These include monitoring tobacco use, protecting people from tobacco smoke, offering help to quit, warning about the dangers of tobacco, enforcing bans on advertising, and raising taxes on tobacco products. India has made notable progress in several of these areas.**



### 4. NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) -

- Iran's Parliament is drafting a bill to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty due to escalating tensions with Israel and IAEA scrutiny over its nuclear program.

#### About Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

- The NPT is an international treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting peaceful nuclear energy, and encouraging disarmament.
- It was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970.
- As of 2025, 191 countries are signatories.
- Four states—India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Sudan—have never signed the treaty.
- The U.N. nuclear watchdog, IAEA, polices the global nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.



#### Objectives of the NPT

- Non-Proliferation:** Prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.
- Disarmament:** Work toward nuclear disarmament.
- Peaceful Use:** Promote nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under safeguards.

#### Structure of the NPT

- Nuclear Weapon States (NWS):** The treaty defines nuclear-weapon states as those that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 1967; These are the United States (1945), Russia (1949), the United Kingdom (1952), France (1960), and China (1964) but must work toward disarmament.
- Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS):** Countries that agree not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons.
- They can use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under IAEA safeguards.
- NNWS must conclude a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) with the IAEA, which ensures that their nuclear programs are used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

### 5. INDIA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 3 -

- India has made strides in health under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3). This goal focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages. Recent reports**

**indicate that India is on track to achieve several health targets. Key indicators show improvements in maternal and child health, immunisation rates, and disease control.**



### **Human Development Index Growth**

- India's Human Development Index (HDI) has risen by over 53 per cent since 1990. This increase surpasses both global and South Asian averages. Economic growth and welfare initiatives like the National Rural Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat have driven this progress. As of 2023, life expectancy in India reached 72 years, the highest recorded since the HDI's inception.

### **NITI Aayog's SDG 3 Score**

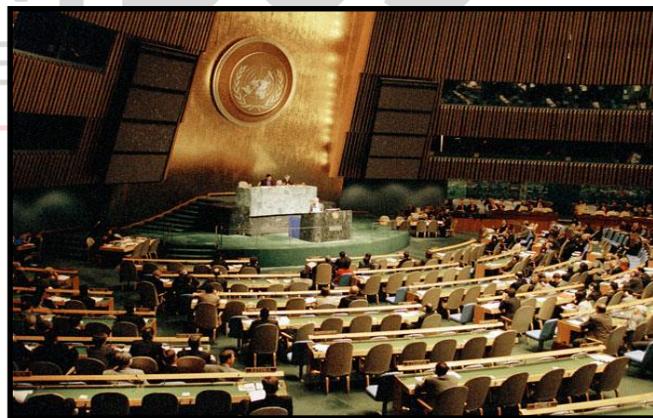
- According to the NITI Aayog SDG Index, India's score rose from 52 in 2018 to 77 in 2023. Several states have emerged as "front-runners" in health outcomes. Maternal mortality has decreased to 97 per 100,000 live births. States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already met the 2030 target of 70.

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**7. GERMANY BECOMES THE WORLD'S TOP CREDITOR, OVERTAKING JAPAN AFTER 34 YEARS -**

- **In a major shift on the global financial stage, Germany has overtaken Japan as the world's top creditor country in 2024, ending Japan's 34-year reign. This change, driven by current account surpluses, exchange rate dynamics, and structural economic trends, reflects broader transformations in global trade and investment patterns.**

**Why in News ?**

- Germany became the world's largest net creditor, surpassing Japan for the first time since 1990. Despite Japan reaching record-high net external assets, Germany outpaced it in growth and valuation. Currency fluctuations and trade surpluses played a critical role in this reversal.



**What Are Net External Assets?**

- Net External Assets = What a country owns abroad – What foreigners own in that country.
- Components include foreign investments, bonds, equities, and property holdings.

**Reasons for Japan's Slip to Second Place**

- Germany's Surging Current Account Surplus,
- Reached €240 billion in 2024 (~\$250 billion).
- Imports declined more than exports, widening the trade surplus.

**8. INDIA MAKES HISTORIC ENTRY INTO TOP 100 IN GLOBAL SDG RANKINGS -**

- **India has entered the top 100 SDG rankings for the first time, achieving a score of 67 out of 100. The 2025 SDG Index comes at a critical juncture ahead of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville. It reflects India's progress in basic infrastructure, health, education, and digital access, despite global SDG slowdowns.**

**Background on the SDG Index**

- Introduced in 2015, the SDGs consist of 17 goals aimed at ending poverty, protecting the environment, and ensuring prosperity by 2030.
- The SDG Index ranks countries based on their progress toward these goals.



**India's 2025 Rank**

- India Rank: 99th (up significantly from previous years)
- Score: 67.0

**This marks a significant leap in India's global sustainability reputation.**

- Neighbouring Country Rankings
- China 49th
- Bhutan 74th
- Nepal 85th
- Sri Lanka 93rd
- Bangladesh 114th

**9. GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2025: A DEEP DIVE INTO GLOBAL STABILITY AND RISING TENSIONS -**

- The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025, now in its 19th edition, remains the world's leading measure of national and regional peacefulness. Developed by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the index offers invaluable insight into the peacefulness of 163 countries, covering 99.7% of the global population.
- In a world experiencing an uptick in geopolitical instability, the GPI serves as a crucial indicator of current global trends in conflict, safety, and militarisation.



**What is the Global Peace Index?**

- The Global Peace Index is an annual quantitative analysis that evaluates peace based on 23 indicators across three main domains:
- Societal Safety and Security
- Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict
- Degree of Militarisation
- **Published by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)—a non-partisan, independent think tank based in Sydney—the GPI has become a widely respected benchmark for governments, researchers, and institutions working towards sustainable peace and security reforms.**

**10. INDIA SLIPS TO 131ST IN WEF GENDER GAP INDEX 2025 -**

- The 19th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report was released on June 12, 2025 by the WEF. India dropped two spots to 131st out of 148 nations. The report shows mixed results for India, with some improvement in economic participation but a decline in political empowerment, especially in Parliament and ministerial representation.

**Global Snapshot**

- Global gender gap closed to 68.8%, the strongest progress since COVID-19.
- Full global gender parity is still 123 years away at the current pace.
- Top 5 countries: Iceland (1st), Finland, Norway, UK, and New Zealand.
- India's Gender Parity Performance
- Overall Rank: 131st (Decreased 2 ranks from 129 in 2024).
- Parity Score: 64.1%, among the lowest in South Asia.



**11. WORLD BANK'S GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS REPORT -**

- Recently, The World Bank released its biennial Global Economic Prospects report.

**About the Global Economic Prospects report**

- It provides insights into global economic trends, forecasts, and risks and provides growth projections for different countries and regions

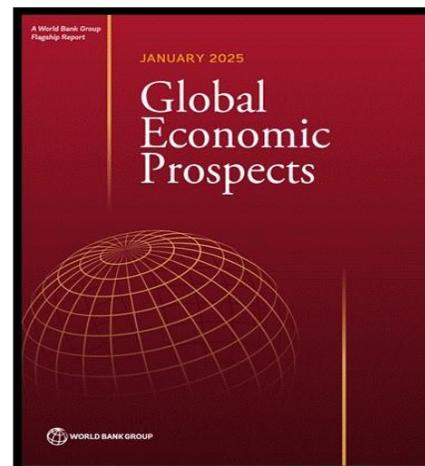
**Key findings of the report**

- India's Growth Projections

- Fastest Growing Large Economy: India is expected to remain the fastest-growing large economy in the world.
- **FY2025/26:** Growth is projected at 6.3%, though this forecast was slightly reduced (by 0.4 percentage points) from earlier predictions due to:
- The FY2026-27 projection was cut by 20 basis points to 6.5%, while FY2027-28 growth is expected to reach 6.7%.
- Strong services sector performance is expected to boost exports and sustain economic activity.

### India's Domestic Policy and Debt

- **RBI's Role:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut its key interest rate by 50 basis points (total 100 bps in 2025) to 5.50%.
- This was done to encourage domestic spending and investment, as inflation is low (projected 3.7% for FY26).
- **Growth Forecast Discrepancies:** While the RBI expects 6.5% growth for FY26, many economists outside the government predict closer to 6%. The Indian government forecasts 6.3-6.8%.
- **Previous Year's Growth:** India's GDP growth slowed to 6.5% in FY25 (from 9.2% in the previous year) due to slower industrial production, despite strong services and agriculture.
- **Fiscal Consolidation:** The World Bank expects India to continue reducing its government debt.
- Growing tax revenues and lower spending are expected to help reduce the public debt-to-GDP ratio.
- The Indian government aims to reduce this ratio to 50% (49-51%) by FY31 from an estimated 56.1% in FY26.



### 12. INDIA RANKS 13TH GLOBALLY IN INVESTMENT CURIOSITY -

- **BrokerChooser released a global ranking of countries based on investment-related online searches. India ranked 13th globally, recording 2,629 monthly searches per million people. The report shows that India's stock market interest is over four times higher than South Africa's. Global leaders in this domain include Australia, Singapore, and Kenya.**

#### Key Highlights of the Report

- The report analyzed search volume data across five categories: stocks, crypto, forex, general investing, and ETFs.
- **India's top search category:** Stocks (1,138 monthly searches per million)
- Followed by Forex (625), Crypto (501), General investing (259), and ETFs (106)
- India's stock investment interest surpasses Malaysia by over 50%.
- Despite strong volumes, India is still in the middle tier of global rankings.



#### Top 5 Countries by Investment-Related Searches

- Rank/Country/Total Searches (per million)
- Australia/29,359
- Singapore/22,527
- Kenya/17,288
- New Zealand/16,061
- Canada/14,566

**13. GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2025: INDIA RISES TO RANK 115 AMID GROWING GLOBAL UNREST -**

- The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025, released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), measures the relative peacefulness of 163 countries based on 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators.
- The 2025 report notes a continued decline in global peace, with the average peacefulness deteriorating by 0.36% – the highest decline since World War II.
- **Key Highlights India Performs better in Region: India ranks 115th, improving its position over previous years and placing ahead of Pakistan (146), Bangladesh (124), and Afghanistan (163).**
- This reflects improvements in domestic conflict, terrorism-related incidents, and growing regional stability in India.

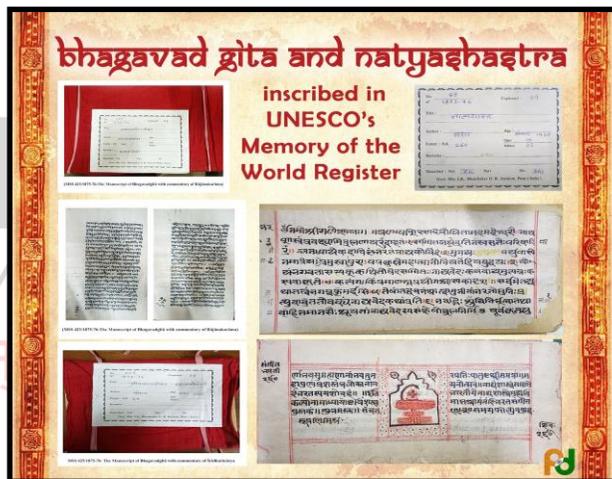
Rank	Country	Region
1	Iceland	Europe
2	Ireland	Europe
3	New Zealand	Oceania
4	Austria	Europe
5	Switzerland	Europe
6	Singapore	Asia
7	Portugal	Europe
8	Denmark	Europe
9	Slovenia	Europe
10	Finland	Europe

**14. GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF BHAGAVAD GITA AND NATYASHASTRA -**

- Recently Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra have been inscribed in UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register.

**About UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register**

- The UNESCO Memory of the World Register Programme is a global initiative that seeks to preserve and provide access to the world’s documentary heritage.
- **Origin:** It was launched by UNESCO in 1992 in response to increasing threats to documentary heritage, including war, neglect, and natural disasters.
- It was created to support efforts in preserving historically significant documents and manuscripts across the globe.
- **Objectives:** To ensure universal access to the heritages without cultural or political barriers.
- To raise public awareness about the importance and relevance of documentary materials in shaping civilisations, identities, and histories.
- **Significance:** It emphasizes that documentary heritage is a shared legacy of humanity and must be protected and made accessible for current and future generations.
- It celebrates documents of outstanding universal value, including texts, manuscripts, oral traditions, audio-visual materials, and more.



**15. INDIA’S TOTAL FERTILITY RATE TRENDS -**

- The Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report of 2021 has revealed that India’s Total Fertility Rate (TFR) remains stable at 2.0, which is below the replacement level of 2.1. However, regional variations are stark. Bihar reports the highest TFR at 3.0, while West Bengal and Delhi have the lowest at 1.4. This report marks ongoing demographic trends and challenges across different states.

**About Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**

- **Total Fertility Rate is a demographic measure. It estimates the average number of children a woman will have during her reproductive years, typically aged 15 to 49.**

- The TFR is derived from age-specific fertility rates, which assess the number of children born to women in specific age groups. The SRS survey is the largest demographic study in India, involving about 84 lakh individuals across various states and Union Territories.

## **16. TOP MILITARY SPENDERS OF 2024-25: INDIA'S POSITION IN THE GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE RACE -**

### **Detailed Breakdown of Global Military Expenditure in 2024**

#### **1. United States**

- As the world's largest military spender, the U.S. accounted for 37% of global military expenditure in 2024, with a spending of \$997 billion. This reflects its ongoing military dominance and strategic investments in defense technologies.

#### **2. China**

- The second-largest spender, China, allocated \$314 billion, making up 12% of global defense expenditure. China's rising military budget is indicative of its expanding geopolitical ambitions, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

#### **3. Russia**

- Despite economic challenges, Russia's military spending reached \$149 billion, contributing 5.5% to global military expenditure. The country's defense budget has grown in response to ongoing conflicts, most notably the war in Ukraine.

#### **4. Germany**

- Germany saw a 28% increase in its defense budget, rising to \$88.5 billion, placing it as the fourth-largest spender globally. Its increased military expenditure is attributed to the heightened security concerns in Europe, following Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

#### **5. India**

- India spent \$86.1 billion, placing it as the fifth-largest military spender. India's defense budget has grown by 1.6% year-on-year, reflecting its need for modernization and preparedness in an increasingly complex security environment. India's military spending is now nine times larger than that of Pakistan, underscoring the defense disparity between the two nations.



## **17. INDIA'S TOTAL FERTILITY RATE REMAINS AT 2.0: SRS 2021 REPORT -**

- **The SRS 2021 report, released on May 7, 2025, provides updated demographic estimates at the national and state levels, a crucial resource in the absence of the 2021 Census, which has been delayed.**
- The report gains added relevance amid the announcement in the 2024 interim budget regarding a high-power committee to address population growth and demographic shifts in India.

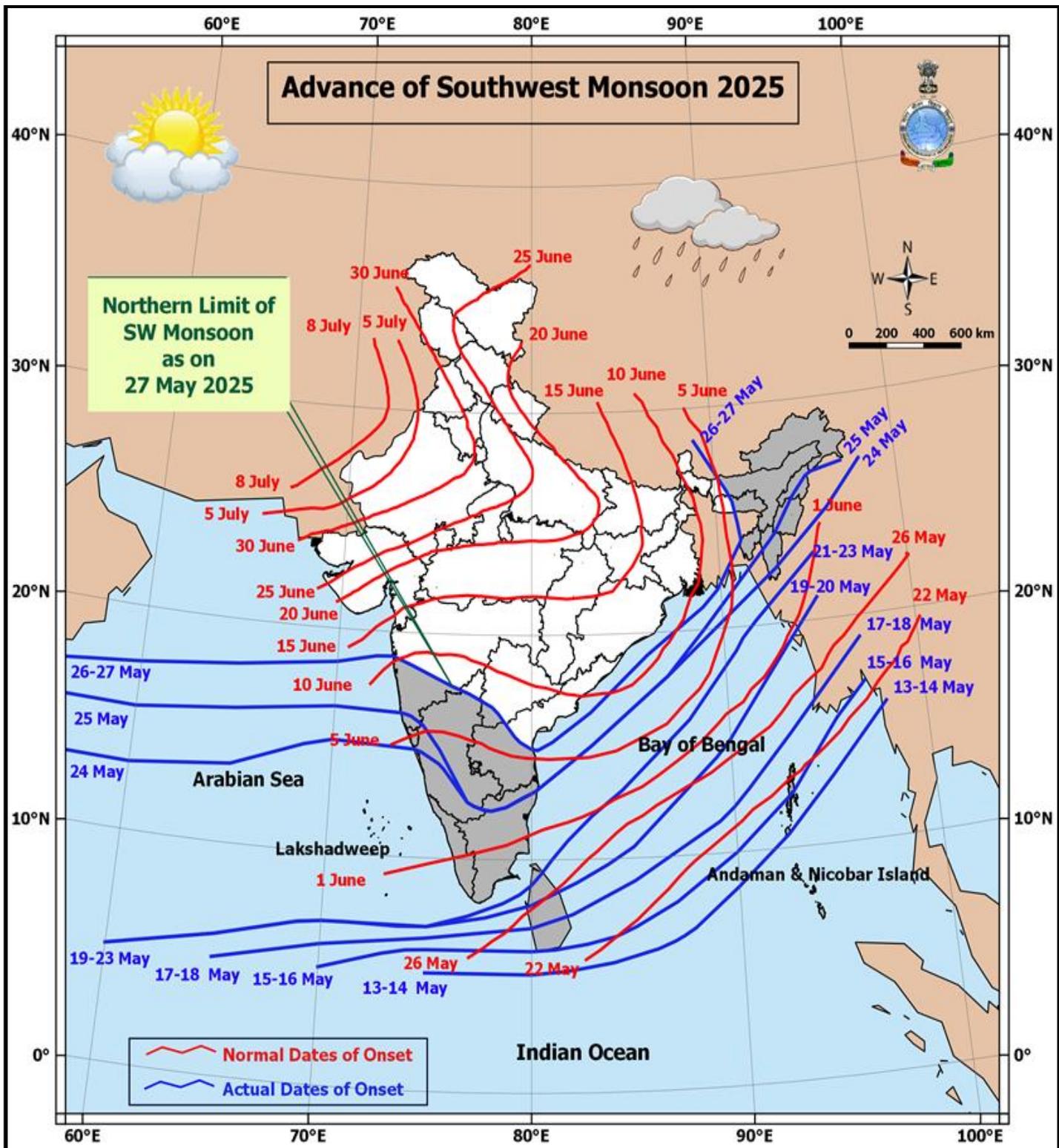
### **Key Highlights of the SRS 2021 Report Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**

- **National average:** 2.0, same as 2020.
- **Bihar:** Highest TFR at 3.0.
- **Delhi & West Bengal:** Lowest TFR at 1.4.

# IMPORTANT MAPS







# ASEAN





## IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <p>1. <b>SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme is an initiative of which ministry ?</b><br/> a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment<br/> b) Ministry of Women and Child Development<br/> c) Ministry of Rural Development<br/> d) Ministry of Home Affairs</p> <p>2. <b>Which of the following statements is correct with reference to the QS World University Rankings 2026?</b><br/> a) India has a total of 8 IITs ranked in the rankings this year.<br/> b) The number of Indian universities in the 2026 rankings has almost doubled as compared to 2015.<br/> c) India ranks third in terms of the number of universities in the QS 2026 rankings.<br/> d) IIT Delhi has secured 123rd rank globally in 2026, the highest in India.</p> <p>3. <b>Which of the following statements is correct about the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?</b><br/> a) IMF provides loans only to developing countries in the form of grants.<br/> b) The main objective of IMF is to maintain stability in international trade and deal with the problems of Balance of Payments.<br/> c) IMF only fixes the currency exchange rates of member countries.<br/> d) The headquarters of IMF is located in Geneva, Switzerland.</p> <p>4. <b>Which of the following statements about India-</b></p> | <p><b>Canada trade relations is/are correct ?</b><br/> 1. Canada is India's largest trading partner.<br/> 2. In 2023, India exported more to Canada than it imported.<br/> 3. Services trade between the two countries exceeded goods trade in 2023.<br/> a) 1 and 2 only<br/> b) 2 and 3 only<br/> c) 1 and 3 only<br/> d) 3 only</p> <p>5. <b>Why is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) considered a strategic alternative to China's BRI ?</b><br/> a) It focuses primarily on energy exports rather than infrastructure.<br/> b) It promotes digital currency trade routes.<br/> c) It connects India to Europe via secure and politically aligned regions.<br/> d) It bypasses maritime shipping routes and focuses only on rail.</p> <p>6. <b>Which ministry launched the "Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub" to support gender-sensitive planning across India?</b><br/> a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment<br/> b) Ministry of Women and Child Development<br/> c) Ministry of Law and Justice<br/> d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs</p> <p>7. <b>As per the new directive aligned with NEP 2020, which language will be the default third language in Marathi and English medium schools in Maharashtra from Classes 1 to 5 ?</b><br/> a) Sanskrit</p> | <p>b) Hindi<br/> c) Urdu<br/> d) Tamil</p> <p>8. <b>What is India's rank in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2025, released by the World Economic Forum ?</b><br/> a) 63rd<br/> b) 67th<br/> c) 71st<br/> d) 58th</p> <p>9. <b>Which of the following statements about India-Canada trade relations is/are correct ?</b><br/> 1. Canada is India's largest trading partner.<br/> 2. In 2023, India exported more to Canada than it imported.<br/> 3. Services trade between the two countries exceeded goods trade in 2023.<br/> a) 1 and 2 only<br/> b) 2 and 3 only<br/> c) 1 and 3 only<br/> d) 3 only</p> <p>10. <b>Which of the above countries announced the world's largest marine protected area at UNOC 2025?</b><br/> a) France<br/> b) French Polynesia<br/> c) New Zealand<br/> d) Spain</p> <p>11. <b>On which date is World Refugee Day observed every year ?</b><br/> a) June 18<br/> b) June 19<br/> c) June 21<br/> d) June 20</p> <p>12. <b>What is the currency of Ukraine?</b><br/> a) Hryvnia</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- b) Euro  
c) Ruble  
d) Zloty
- 13. What was IndiGo's ranking in the World's Best Low-Cost Airlines 2025, as per Skytrax ?**  
a) 1st  
b) 2nd  
c) 4th  
d) 3rd
- 14. Which of the following statements is true regarding INS Arnala ?**  
1. It is India's first indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft.  
2. It was commissioned at the Kochi Naval Base.  
3. It is the first in a series of eight such vessels.  
4. It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.  
Select the correct answer :  
a) 1 and 3 only  
b) 2 and 4 only  
c) 1, 3 and 4 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3 only
- 15. Why is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) considered a strategic alternative to China's BRI ?**  
a) It focuses primarily on energy exports rather than infrastructure.  
b) It promotes digital currency trade routes.  
c) It connects India to Europe via secure and politically aligned regions.  
d) It bypasses maritime shipping routes and focuses only on rail.
- 16. The NISAR mission is a joint Earth-observing satellite mission between which two space agencies?**  
a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)  
b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and European Space Agency (ESA)  
c) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and China National Space Administration (CNSA)  
d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Space Agency (ESA)
- 17. Extended Trajectory-Long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile (ET-LDHCM) is developed by which organization ?**  
a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)  
b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)  
c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)  
d) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
- 18. Kali Tiger Reserve is located in which state ?**  
a) Andhra Pradesh  
b) Karnataka  
c) Odisha  
d) Tamil Nadu
- 19. Which of the following statements is/are true ?**  
1. DNA is found only in blood cells.  
2. All humans except identical twins have unique DNA.  
3. Y-Chromosome analysis is useful for identifying both male and female relatives.  
Select the correct answer using the code:  
a) 1 and 3 only  
b) Only 2  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- 20. Consider the following statements about the Lokpal:**  
1. The Lokpal can supervise investigations by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED).  
2. It has powers similar to a civil court during preliminary inquiries.  
3. It can investigate complaints against the Prime Minister in all matters without restriction.  
Which of the above statements is/are correct ?  
a) Only 2  
b) Only 1 and 2  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- 21. What is the name of the operation launched by Iran in retaliation against Israel's Operation Rising Lion ?**  
a) Operation Desert Storm  
b) Operation Silent Thunder  
c) Operation True Promise 3  
d) Operation Iron Dome
- 22. Which state government has launched the Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan for water conservation in 2025 ?**  
a) Madhya Pradesh  
b) Gujarat  
c) Rajasthan  
d) Haryana
- 23. Consider the following statements about the Iron Dome system:**  
1. It is operational in Israel since 2011.  
2. It can intercept hypersonic glide vehicles.  
3. It uses Tamir interceptors and radar systems.  
4. It is scalable for global deployment.  
How many of the above statements are correct ?  
a) Only 1

- b) Only 2  
c) Only 3  
d) All four

**24. Consider the following statements regarding 'Operation Spider's Web'.**

Statement-I: In 'Operation Spider's Web', Ukraine targeted Russian airbases located across multiple time zones deep within Russian territory.

Statement-II: The operation was timed to act as a prelude to peace talks, aiming to showcase Ukraine's deep-strike capability and strengthen its bargaining position.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I  
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I  
c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect  
d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**25. Which of the following are the stated objectives of the 'BharatGen' AI initiative ?**

- To create a democratic AI ecosystem accessible to all social groups.
- To prioritize the development of AI for military and defence applications.
- To foster AI-based entrepreneurship and innovation in India.
- To align with the "India's Techade" vision for technology-driven growth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 3 only

- b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 1, 3 and 4 only  
d) 1, 2 and 4 only

**26. SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme is an initiative of which ministry ?**

- a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
b) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
c) Ministry of Rural Development  
d) Ministry of Home Affairs

**27. Which two countries have the largest number of nuclear weapons, as per the SIPRI Yearbook 2025 ?**

- a) France and United Kingdom  
b) Russia and United States  
c) China and India  
d) Israel and North Korea

**28. The NISAR mission is a joint Earth-observing satellite mission between which two space agencies ?**

- a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)  
b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and European Space Agency (ESA)  
c) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and China National Space Administration (CNSA)  
d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Space Agency (ESA)

**29. Which of the following statements about India's nuclear forces are correct ?**

1. India has overtaken Pakistan in the number of nuclear warheads.

2. India has started deploying nuclear warheads on canisterised missiles.

3. India operates a nuclear triad.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None

**30. Consider the following statements about the Lokpal:**

1. The Lokpal can supervise investigations by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED).

2. It has powers similar to a civil court during preliminary inquiries.

3. It can investigate complaints against the Prime Minister in all matters without restriction.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only 2  
b) Only 1 and 2  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3

**31. Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is a government agency established under which ministry ?**

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs  
b) Ministry of Civil Aviation  
c) Ministry of Defence  
d) Ministry of Science and Technology

**32. Totapuri mangoes are primarily cultivated in which states ?**

- a) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu  
b) Assam, Sikkim and Nagaland  
c) Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh  
d) Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab

- 33. Which two countries are the co-hosts of the fourth UN Ocean Conference in 2028 ?**  
a) China and Colombia  
b) South Korea and Chile  
c) New Zealand and Peru  
d) India and Brazil
- 34. With reference to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), consider the following statements:**  
1. It was signed by Iran and six major powers including Germany and Russia.  
2. It required Iran to stop all uranium enrichment.  
3. It allowed Iran to reclaim frozen financial assets.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- 35. Consider the following statements regarding PMDevINE:**  
1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme focused only on infrastructure.  
2. It was launched in the 2022-23 Budget.  
3. It promotes youth and women's livelihoods in the Northeast.  
Which of the above statements is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) Only 1 and 3  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- 36. Who is the current President of Sri Lanka as of 2025 ?**  
a) Anura Kumara Dissanayake  
b) Mahinda Rajapaksa  
c) Ranil Wickremesinghe  
d) Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- 37. What is India's rank in the 2025 Global Gender Gap Report ?**  
a) 129th  
b) 130th  
c) 131st  
d) 135th
- 38. What is the name of the Singaporean container vessel that caught fire off the Kerala coast on June 9, 2025 ?**  
a) MV Wan Hai 503  
b) MV Ocean Pearl  
c) MV Wan Hai 501  
d) MV Sunrise Glory
- 39. With reference to the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission, consider the following statements:**  
1. It is part of NASA's regular astronaut rotation programme.  
2. The spacecraft used is launched by SpaceX.  
3. Shubhanshu Shukla is part of the crew.  
4. The mission includes experiments related to diabetes and crop growth in space.  
How many of the above statements are correct ?  
a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) Only 3  
d) All four
- 40. Which of the following are key features of PM-SYM (Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana) ?**  
1. It targets workers in the unorganized sector  
2. Government contributes 100% of the monthly premium  
3. It provides pension after the age of 60  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) All of the above
- 41. Banas River, that was recently seen in news, is located in which state ?**  
a) Gujarat  
b) Rajasthan  
c) Madhya Pradesh  
d) Haryana
- 42. Which organization has developed the Rudrastra, a Hybrid Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle ?**  
a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)  
b) Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)  
c) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)  
d) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- 43. Fuego Volcano, that was recently seen in news, is located in which country ?**  
a) Guatemala  
b) Indonesia  
c) Japan  
d) Philippines
- 44. Which one of the following best describes the role of the iDEX initiative ?**  
a) A procurement portal for defence PSUs  
b) A startup-based innovation platform for defence R&D  
c) A testing mechanism for imported arms  
d) A scheme for skill development in armed forces
- 45. Which of the statements given below is/are correct ?**  
1. The Global Gender Gap Index was first published in 2006.  
2. The Index covers 200 countries.  
3. A score of 1 indicates complete gender inequality.  
a) Only 1

- b) 1 and 2 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- 46. Shahed drones are developed by which country ?**  
a) Iran  
b) Israel  
c) Ukraine  
d) India
- 47. Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple is located in which state?**  
a) Karnataka  
b) Maharashtra  
c) Kerala  
d) Odisha
- 48. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) was launched by which ministry ?**  
a) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
c) Ministry of Rural Development  
d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 49. Which government body is primarily responsible for conducting the Census in India ?**  
a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation  
b) National Sample Survey Office  
c) Ministry of Home Affairs  
d) Ministry of Planning
- 50. Which of the following statements about the Ayush Nivesh Saarthi Portal are correct?**  
1. It promotes 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Ayush sector.  
2. It only targets Indian investors and excludes international outreach.  
3. It provides real-time dashboards for project tracking and approval assistance.  
4. It offers multilingual support for global investors.  
How many of the above statements are correct?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) Only three  
d) All four
- 51. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) was launched by which ministry ?**  
a) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
c) Ministry of Rural Development  
d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 52. The main body (fuselage) of future Rafale fighter jets will be produced in Hyderabad for the first time, outside France. Which French aircraft maker is partnering with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) to produce the Rafale fuselage in India ?**  
a) Airbus  
b) Dassault Aviation  
c) Safran  
d) Thales Group
- 53. Who is the Chief Election Commissioner leading the Election Commission of India (ECI) during the introduction of the digitized system for post-election data ?**  
a) Sunil Arora  
b) Sushil Chandra  
c) Gyanesh Kumar  
d) Om Prakash Rawat
- 54. Consider the following statements about the Chenab Bridge project:**  
1. Its height above riverbed exceeds that of both the Qutub Minar and the Eiffel Tower.  
2. The bridge can withstand earthquakes and wind speeds exceeding 200 km/h.  
3. It is designed to support both passenger and freight trains operating at speeds up to 100 km/h.  
4. It is a cable-stayed bridge developed with the assistance of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).  
How many of the above statements are correct ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) Only three  
d) All four
- 55. The term 'nominal GDP' refers to:**  
a) GDP adjusted for inflation  
b) GDP measured at current market prices without adjusting for inflation  
c) GDP growth rate excluding government expenditure  
d) GDP growth rate after subsidies and taxes
- 56. Menar and Khichan wetlands, that were recently seen in news, are located in which state ?**  
a) Karnataka  
b) Rajasthan  
c) Maharashtra  
d) Odisha
- 57. Lee Jae-myung has been elected as the president of which country in June 2025 ?**  
a) South Korea  
b) Japan  
c) Singapore  
d) Vietnam
- 58. Raigad Fort, that was recently seen in news, is located in which state ?**

- a) Telangana
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Karnataka
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**59. Consider the following statements regarding the Amrit Bharat Railway Stations scheme:**

1. The scheme is mainly focused on the aesthetic beautification of railway stations without any emphasis on functional passenger amenities.

2. One of the objectives of the scheme is to integrate railway stations into multimodal urban mobility hubs.

3. The development under this scheme follows a short-term plan for quick upgrades rather than a long-term vision.

How many of the above statements is/are incorrect ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**60. Consider the following two statements:**

Statement-I: The recent agreement between the UK and Mauritius signifies a complete and unconditional relinquishing of British strategic interests in the Chagos Islands.

Statement-II: The UK-Mauritius Chagos sovereignty deal includes a long-term lease of Diego Garcia to the UK and US for continued military use.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and

Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I  
c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect  
d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**61. On June 5, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked World Environment Day by launching the second phase of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' tree plantation campaign at Mahavir Jayanti Park, New Delhi. What is the symbolic theme behind the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign ?**

- a) Honour teachers
- b) Honour mothers
- c) Honour the environment
- d) Honour farmers

**62. What is the exact height of the Chenab Railway Bridge above the Chenab River, making it taller than the Eiffel Tower ?**

- a) 300 meters
- b) 320 meters
- c) 340 meters
- d) 359 meters

**63. What is the new policy repo rate as per the June 6, 2025 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision?**

- a) 6.00%
- b) 5.75%
- c) 5.50%
- d) 5.25%

**64. Regarding the Rajya Sabha in the Indian parliamentary system, consider the following statements:**

- 1. A member elected in a bye-election serves a full term of six years from the date of their election.
- 2. The Constitution of India mandates that a candidate for the Rajya Sabha must be a

resident of the state from which they are contesting.

3. All 250 members of the Rajya Sabha are elected through a system of proportional representation.

4. A member can be disqualified under the Tenth Schedule if they vote contrary to the direction given by their political party.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**65. Consider the following statements regarding Madhubani Art:**

1. It is a tribal art form originating from the forest regions of Madhya Pradesh.

2. The art form exclusively uses a monochrome palette, relying on charcoal and cow dung for its black outlines.

3. Its themes are strictly secular, focusing on village life and natural elements like the sun and moon.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**66. Which state government has established the Greater Flamingo Sanctuary ?**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

**67. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a credit-linked subsidy scheme managed by which ministry ?**

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Urban Development

**68. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Waste Picker Enumeration App under which scheme ?**

- a) NAMASTE Scheme
- b) Swachh Bharat Mission
- c) AMRUT Scheme
- d) Green India Mission

**69. Consider the following statements regarding the core functions of NITI Aayog:**

1. NITI Aayog is primarily responsible for the allocation of financial resources to State Governments, similar to the erstwhile Planning Commission.
2. It serves as a policy think tank for the Government of India, offering strategic and technical advice.
3. One of its key roles is to foster cooperative federalism by involving States in the policy-making process.
4. NITI Aayog has the authority to approve the annual budgets of Central Ministries.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**70. Consider the following statements regarding the consequences and conditions of FATF listing:**

1. Being placed on the FATF 'Grey List' automatically triggers full-fledged financial sanctions and a complete cutoff from international financial markets.

2. A nation can be included in the FATF 'Black List' solely for having minor strategic deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) framework, even if it is committed to corrective actions.

3. Countries on the FATF 'Grey List' may experience reduced foreign direct investment and a loss of developmental aid from international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**71. Which state government has launched Majhi Vasundhara Campaign 6.0 to strengthen environmental conservation efforts ?**

- a) Telangana
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Karnataka
- d) Jharkhand

**72. Tomahawk is a subsonic cruise missile developed by which country ?**

- a) United States
- b) Russia
- c) Ukraine
- d) India

**73. Where is the Indian Navy set to commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate "Tamal" ?**

- a) India
- b) Russia
- c) Vietnam
- d) Malaysia

**74. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Green Hydrogen ?**

1. Fossil fuels are used in the process of producing green hydrogen.

2. It is produced by electrolysis, in which the electrical energy used comes entirely from renewable sources.

3. It can also be a medium of energy storage and can be converted back into energy as required.

Choose the correct option:

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) Only 3
- d) 1, 2, and 3

**75. With reference to India's performance in the World Investment Report 2025, how many of the following statements are correct ?**

1. India's FDI inflows increased in 2024 compared to 2023.
2. India rose in global FDI rankings despite a dip in actual inflows.
3. India ranked among the top five in international project finance deals.
4. India was the highest recipient of greenfield project announcements.

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Only 3
- d) All four

**76. Which ministry launched the Krishi Nivesh Portal ?**

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- b) Ministry of Rural Development
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Jal Shakti

**77. Bayraktar TB2 is an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) developed by which country ?**

- a) Israel
- b) Ukraine

- c) India  
d) Turkey
- 78. Dibang River, that was recently seen in news, flows through which states ?**  
a) Mizoram and Tripura  
b) Arunachal Pradesh and Assam  
c) Assam and Nagaland  
d) Manipur and Nagaland
- 79. Consider the following statements and choose from the options below:**  
Statement 1: India's manufacturing sector continues to underperform despite overall GDP growth.  
Statement 2: The decline in manufacturing is largely due to high import tariffs and weak rural demand.  
a) Both statements are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation  
b) Both statements are correct but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation  
c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is incorrect  
d) Statement 1 is incorrect but Statement 2 is correct
- 80. How many of the following statements regarding 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana' are correct ?**  
1. PMJDY accounts are eligible for schemes like PMJJBY, PMSBY, and Atal Pension Yojana.  
2. Overdraft facility of ₹10,000 is available under PMJDY to all account holders without age restrictions.  
3. PMJDY accounts opened after August 2018 offer accidental insurance cover up to ₹2 lakh.  
4. Small Accounts (Chota Khata) under PMJDY can be opened even without valid identity documents.  
a) One only  
b) Only two  
c) Only three  
d) All four
- 81. The Price Support Scheme (PSS) is part of which umbrella scheme?**  
a) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)  
b) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)  
c) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)  
d) Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)
- 82. What is the rank of India in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2025 ?**  
a) 77th  
b) 88th  
c) 95th  
d) 99th
- 83. The Ambubachi festival is celebrated in which state annually ?**  
a) Assam  
b) West Bengal  
c) Arunachal Pradesh  
d) Sikkim
- 84. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sustainable Development Report 2025 (SDG Index):**  
1. India has ranked among the top 100 countries in the SDG Index for the first time.  
2. India's overall score in the report released by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) is 74.4.  
3. Globally, only 17% of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are likely to be achieved by 2030.  
Which of the above statements are correct?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) All of the above
- 85. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025 ?**  
a) India's ranking in GPI 2025 is 126th, which shows a decline compared to 2023.  
b) Global peace level has declined by 1.36 percent in the year 2025.  
c) According to the report, South Asia has recorded the highest peace improvement among all regions.  
d) India's ranking in GPI 2025 is 115th and peace level has improved by 0.58%.
- 86. What is the objective of ISRO's SpaDeX-2 mission ?**  
a) To test a reusable launch vehicle landing  
b) To dock two satellites in an elliptical orbit  
c) To launch India's first crewed mission  
d) To demonstrate lunar sample return
- 87. Which of the following statements is correct about INS Tamal, the Indian Navy's new stealth frigate to be commissioned in July 2025 ?**  
a) It will be commissioned at the Mazagon Dock in Mumbai.  
b) It is the sixth Krivak-class frigate inducted from Russia.  
c) INS Tamal is the first ship of the Tushil class.  
d) It is equipped with indigenous BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.

- 88. Who has become the first woman officer from the Indian Navy to be appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India ?**  
a) Yashasvi Solanki  
b) Tanya Shergill  
c) Shivangi Singh  
d) Shubhangi Swaroop
- 89. Which of the above statements is/are correct ?**  
1. Census data is used for delimitation of constituencies.  
2. Ministries like Health and Rural Development use Census data for planning services.  
3. The Census plays significant role in the reservation of seats for SCs and STs.  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) Only 1 and 3  
d) All of the above
- 90. Which of the following statements is correct about the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ?**  
a) IMF provides loans only to developing countries in the form of grants.  
b) The main objective of IMF is to maintain stability in international trade and deal with the problems of Balance of Payments.  
c) IMF only fixes the currency exchange rates of member countries.  
d) The headquarters of IMF is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 91. Recently, Valmik Thapar, noted wildlife and tiger conservationist passed away. Which tiger reserve was especially associated with Valmik Thapar's work ?**  
a) Sundarbans  
b) Jim Corbett  
c) Ranthambore  
d) Kaziranga
- 92. What is the name of the cloud infrastructure RBI plans to launch in 2025–26 to promote data localisation and reduce dependence on foreign cloud providers ?**  
a) Bharat Cloud  
b) Indian Financial Services (IFS) Cloud  
c) FinTech Cloud  
d) Reserve Bank Cloud
- 93. Recently, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions reached an all-time high of 18.68 billion in volume and ₹25.14 trillion in value in May 2025. By what percentage did the volume of UPI transactions increase from April 2025 to May 2025 ?**  
a) 2%  
b) 3%  
c) 4%  
d) 5%
- 94. Which of the following statements about the SPMEPCI scheme is/are correct ?**  
1. The scheme allows 100% customs duty exemption for electric four-wheelers below a certain value.  
2. Manufacturers must meet a minimum 25% Domestic Value Addition (DVA) within 3 years to retain benefits.  
3. The scheme permits both greenfield and brownfield investments, subject to specific conditions.  
Select the correct answer using the code below :  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) All four
- 95. The term 'nominal GDP' refers to:**  
a) GDP adjusted for inflation  
b) GDP measured at current market prices without adjusting for inflation  
c) GDP growth rate excluding government expenditure  
d) GDP growth rate after subsidies and taxes
- 96. The Kheer Bhawani festival is celebrated in which state/UT ?**  
a) Jammu and Kashmir  
b) Uttarakhand  
c) Andaman and Nicobar  
d) Himachal Pradesh
- 97. Which authority issued the 2025 guidelines to regulate illegal online sales of radio equipment like walkie-talkies?**  
a) TRAI  
b) Ministry of Electronics and IT  
c) Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)  
d) Department of Telecommunications (DoT)
- 98. Consider the following statements regarding Kashmir's first-ever cherry cargo train:**  
1. The cherry cargo train transports cherries from Srinagar to Mumbai.  
2. A 24-tonne refrigerated parcel van has been used for the shipment.  
3. The initiative aims to offer a cost-effective alternative to air transport for small cherry farmers.  
4. The train journey takes over 30 hours to reach Mumbai.  
5. The service has been launched during the peak cherry harvest season of July–August.  
Which of the statements given above are correct ?  
a) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only  
b) 2, 3, and 4 only

- c) 1, 3, and 5 only  
d) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
- 99. What fiscal deficit target did the Government of India meet for FY 2024-25 ?**  
a) 5.2% of GDP  
b) 6.0% of GDP  
c) 4.4% of GDP  
d) 4.8% of GDP
- 100. Who assumed charge as the Director General of Defence Estates on May 31, 2025 ?**  
a) Shailendra Nath Gupta  
b) Dinesh Singh Rana  
c) Rajiv Memani  
d) Jasvir Singh Mann
- 101. The Passport Seva Portal was established by which ministry?**  
a) Ministry of Home Affairs  
b) Ministry of External Affairs  
c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology  
d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- 102. Which expressway in India is the first to be equipped with an AI-powered Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) ?**  
a) Purvanchal Expressway  
b) Yamuna Expressway  
c) Mumbai-Pune Expressway  
d) Dwarka Expressway
- 103. Tawi River, that was recently seen in news, is a major tributary of which river ?**  
a) Ganga  
b) Yamuna  
c) Chenab  
d) Godavari
- 104. Which of the following statements are correct with reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?**  
1. It was established in Shanghai in 2001.  
2. Its main objective is to promote economic cooperation only.  
3. India and Iran are its founding members.  
Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
a) Only 1  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) Only 1 and 2  
d) All of the above
- 105. Consider the following statements regarding Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4).**  
Statement-I: The Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) is significant for India as it marks the nation's first entry into the International Space Station (ISS).  
Statement-II: The mission supports India's long-term goals of launching its own crewed mission, Gaganyaan, and establishing an Indian space station by 2035.  
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?  
a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I  
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I  
c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect  
d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
- 106. Which ministry has launched the Honorary Rank Promotion Scheme for retiring personnel of CAPFs and Assam Rifles ?**  
a) Ministry of Defence  
b) Ministry of Home Affairs  
c) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs  
d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- 107. World No Tobacco Day is observed every year on which day ?**  
a) May 28  
b) May 29  
c) May 30  
d) May 31
- 108. Which ministry has launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2025, India's largest rural sanitation survey ?**  
a) Ministry of Rural Development  
b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj  
c) Ministry of Agriculture  
d) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- 109. What is meant by "asymmetric threats" in the context of national security ?**  
a) Threats that require UN Security Council approval to counter  
b) Low-cost, high-impact threats like terrorism, cyberattacks, and proxy wars  
c) Threats that involve direct conventional war between nuclear states  
d) Natural disasters and pandemics affecting national morale
- 110. Which of the following best explains the term "dark patterns" in digital commerce?**  
a) User interface designs intended to increase page engagement time  
b) Automated cyberattacks targeting e-commerce payment gateways  
c) Interface tricks that mislead users into unintended actions such as purchases or subscriptions

d) Visual cues designed to make web content more accessible to persons with disabilities

**111. Who is the legendary coach currently mentoring Neeraj Chopra ?**

- a) Uwe Hohn
- b) Klaus Bartonietz
- c) Jan Železný
- d) Tero Pitkämäki

**112. Which of the following statements is true about Google's newly launched AI Mode in India ?**

- a) It replaces traditional search with voice-only results powered by Google Assistant.
- b) AI Mode is limited to Google Maps and only supports location-based queries.
- c) It allows users to ask complex and exploratory questions using a custom version of Gemini 2.5.
- d) AI Mode can only be accessed through Google Translate for multilingual support.

**113. As per the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, launched "The Emergency Diaries", a book documenting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's underground activism as a young RSS Pracharak. What was the duration of the Emergency in India covered in the book ?**

- a) January 1974 – March 1975
- b) June 1975 – March 1977
- c) August 1976 – July 1978
- d) January 1977 – January 1978

**114. How many of the above statements are correct ?**

- 1. NATO's new spending target will be 5% of GDP by 2035.
- 2. Russia's military spending as a share of GDP was 7.1% in 2024.

3. China spent 3.6% of its GDP on defence in 2024.

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) All three
- d) None

**115. With reference to Bharat Forecast System (BFS), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It uses 6 km x 6 km grids for more detailed weather forecasts.
  - 2. Its forecast accuracy is expected to improve by 64%.
  - 3. It was developed by the World Meteorological Organization.
- Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) Only 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2, and 3

**116. What is the name of the operation launched by the CBI to combat cybercrime involving mule bank accounts?**

- a) Operation Cyber Shield
- b) Operation Chakra-5
- c) Operation Digital Strike
- d) Operation Safe Net

**117. Recently in the news, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced a stop clock regulation for the 2025–27 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle to enhance the pace of play. Under the stop clock rule, how much time does a fielding team have to start a new over after the previous one ends ?**

- a) 60 seconds
- b) 45 seconds
- c) 30 seconds
- d) 90 seconds

**118. Why did India refuse to endorse the joint communique**

**at the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Qingdao in 2025 ?**

- a) It criticized India's space program
- b) It excluded references to India's military strength
- c) It omitted mention of the Pahalgam terror attack
- d) It included support for China's Indo-Pacific policy

**119. Consider the following statements.**

Statement-I: India's rank in the total number of Ramsar sites is first in Asia but third globally.

Statement-II: The United Kingdom and Mexico have designated a significantly larger number of wetlands as Ramsar sites compared to India.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**120. Socotra Island, recently in the news, is strategically located near which major maritime chokepoint ?**

- a) Strait of Hormuz
- b) Suez Canal
- c) Strait of Malacca
- d) Gulf of Aden / Bab el-Mandeb Strait

**121. Balikatan is a bilateral military exercise between which two countries ?**

- a) Philippines and the United States

- b) France and Russia
- c) China and India
- d) Australia and India

**122. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) is established under which ministry ?**

- a) Ministry of Law and Justice
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Science and Technology

**123. PM MITRA Scheme was implemented by which ministry?**

- a) Ministry of Textiles
- b) Ministry of Agriculture
- c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- d) Ministry of Urban Development

**124. Consider the following statements about Hypersonic Weapons and Technologies:**

1. Hypersonic missiles can travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5.
  2. Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs) require scramjet engines for propulsion.
  3. Scramjet-powered missiles maintain constant atmospheric flight without leaving the atmosphere.
  4. Hypersonic missiles are easier to track than ballistic missiles.
- How many of the above are correct ?

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) All four
- d) Only one

**125. Consider the following statements regarding Supercomputers in India:**

1. PARAM Siddhi AI is developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

2. AIRAWAT is an AI-specific supercomputer developed under India's National AI Mission.
3. Pratyush and Mihir are primarily used for weather and climate forecasting.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**126. High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is developed by which country ?**

- a) United States
- b) France
- c) Israel
- d) Russia

**127. Which glacier in Nepal is believed to be the first glacier to be declared "dead" due to significant shrinkage and retreat ?**

- a) Khumbu Glacier
- b) Yala Glacier
- c) Imja Glacier
- d) Ngozumpa Glacier

**128. Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project Dam is built on which river ?**

- a) Chenab
- b) Sutluj
- c) Narmada
- d) Godavari

**129. With reference to India's automobile sector, consider the following statements:**

1. The automobile sector contributes over 10% to India's GDP.
2. India is the world's largest manufacturer of buses.
3. India's electric vehicle market is expected to surpass ₹80,000 crore by 2025.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**130. The term "Double Contribution Convention" in the context of the India-UK FTA refers to:**

- a) Double taxation of export-related profits in both countries
- b) Exemption from simultaneous social security contributions in host and home countries
- c) Requirement for joint investment from public and private sectors
- d) Tax rebates for businesses operating in both nations

**131. Songar drones are armed Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) developed by which country ?**

- a) Israel
- b) Turkey
- c) Russia
- d) India

**132. What is India's global rank in vehicle manufacturing as per Ministry of Road Transport and Highways ?**

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fifth

**133. The Jenu Kuruba tribe is primarily found in which state?**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Kerala
- d) Odisha

**134. What is the IUCN status of "Snow Leopard" that was recently seen in news ?**

- a) Endangered
- b) Critically Endangered
- c) Vulnerable

- d) Least Concern
- 135. What is the rank of India in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2025 ?**
- a) 128th  
b) 130th  
c) 135th  
d) 139th
- 136. What is the name of the digital platform being developed by the Election Commission of India to streamline electoral services?**
- a) eElector  
b) OneVote  
c) ECINET  
d) None of the Above
- 137. Which of the following statements about National Education Policy 2020 is not correct ?**
- a) It mandates implementation of the three-language formula nationwide  
b) It promotes instruction in the mother tongue till at least Grade 5  
c) It proposes a 5+3+3+4 pedagogical structure  
d) It sets a target of 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education
- 138. With reference to precision-strike capabilities of India's aerial platforms, consider the following statements:**
1. SCALP missiles use multiple redundant navigation systems for target acquisition.
  2. HAMMER munitions can be launched in terrain-hugging profiles and remain unaffected by jamming.
  3. METEOR missile's propulsion system enables it to maintain constant speed throughout its flight.
- How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
- 139. With reference to modern air defence systems, consider the following statements:**
1. Akash and Barak are examples of short-range man-portable air defence systems.
  2. S-400 Triumf is designed to intercept high-altitude threats such as ballistic missiles.
  3. Electronic warfare systems can neutralise threats without physical interception.
- How many of the above statements are correct ?
- a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
- 140. The term "Double Contribution Convention" in the context of the India-UK FTA refers to:**
- a) Double taxation of export-related profits in both countries  
b) Exemption from simultaneous social security contributions in host and home countries  
c) Requirement for joint investment from public and private sectors  
d) Tax rebates for businesses operating in both nations
- 141. The Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was introduced by amending which act ?**
- a) Foreigners Act, 1946  
b) Citizenship Act, 1955  
c) Emigration Act, 1983  
d) None of the Above
- 142. What is the name of the initiative launched by government to promote**

**gender equity in India's maritime sector?**

- a) Nari Shakti  
b) Sagar Mein Samman  
c) Sagar Shakti  
d) None of the Above

**143. Which state government has launched India's first Vistadome jungle safari train?**

- a) Maharashtra  
b) Karnataka  
c) Uttar Pradesh  
d) Madhya Pradesh

**144. With reference to the e-Zero FIR system, consider the following statements:**

1. It allows FIRs to be registered without regard to the location of the incident.
2. Only financial frauds below ₹10 lakh are eligible under the system.
3. It was initially recommended by the Justice Verma Committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 3 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3

**145. Consider the following statements about India's crude oil imports:**

1. Turkey is one of India's top three suppliers of crude oil.
2. Azerbaijan contributes less than 1% to India's total crude oil imports.
3. India is among the top buyers of crude oil from Azerbaijan.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3

**146. PM MITRA Scheme was implemented by which ministry?**

- Ministry of Textiles
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Urban Development

**147. Which organization conducted the ground test of the Scramjet Engine in India?**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- Indian Army Research Centre (IARC)

**148. Which state is the host of Bharat Summit 2025 ?**

- Telangana
- Gujarat
- Tamil Nadu
- Kerala

**149. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** The TRIPS Agreement mandates member countries to always prioritize patent protection over public health needs.

**Statement-II:** The Doha Declaration clarified that countries have the right to override patents to protect public health during emergencies.

Which one of the following is correct ?

- Both Statement-I and II are correct and II explains I
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

d) Both Statement-I and II are incorrect

**150. Consider the following facts regarding the Attari Integrated Check Post (ICP):**

- It was formally inaugurated in 2005, alongside the start of truck trade.
- The ICP is connected directly to National Highway 1.
- India imported gypsum through this route.
- Bilateral trade through Attari accounted for \$37 billion annually.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- Only two
- Only three
- All four
- Only one

**151. INS Chennai, that was recently seen in news, is part of which class of Indian Navy ships ?**

- Talwar-class
- Kolkata-class
- Shivalik-class
- Rajput-class

**152. Which country has introduced the world's highest bridge, called the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge ?**

- Japan
- South Korea
- China
- Thailand

**153. Which Indian state has officially approved DPS Flamingo Lake as a conservation reserve ?**

- Maharashtra
- Madhya Pradesh
- Odisha
- Karnataka

**154. Match the Finance Commission Reports with their Key Focus Areas**

Finance Commission	Focus Area
A. 13 <sup>th</sup> Finance Commission	1. Greater devolution of Union taxes to states
B. 14 <sup>th</sup> Finance Commission	2. Revenue deficit grants and performance-based incentives
C. 15 <sup>th</sup> Finance Commission	3. GST compensation and Disaster Relief Fund

Select the correct code:

- A-3, B-1, C-2
- A-2, B-3, C-1
- A-3, B-2, C-1
- A-2, B-1, C-3

**155. Which of the following are potential consequences of a GPS spoofing attack?**

- Aircraft may be redirected to incorrect coordinates during autopilot navigation.
- Banks may face real-time transaction failure due to time drift in GPS.
- Naval vessels may misidentify their location, violating territorial waters.
- Cyber attackers may gain root access to GPS satellites through spoofing.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

**156. What is the total value of the Rafale fighter jet deal between India and France ?**

- ₹450 billion
- ₹630 billion
- ₹500 billion
- ₹700 billion

**157. Recently, India's shooting squad delivered an impressive performance at the 2025 ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru. What position did India finish in the overall medal tally at the 2025 ISSF World Cup ?**

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

**158. Former Indian Space Research Organisation chairman K Kasturirangan passed away at 84. Which major satellites did Dr K Kasturirangan oversee the launch of during his tenure as ISRO Chairman ?**

- a) Mars Orbiter and Chandrayaan-1
- b) INSAT-2 series and IRS-1A/1B satellites
- c) GSAT-7 and NavIC
- d) GSLV Mark III and Cartosat series

**159. Which of the following statements is correct about the Rafale Marine (Rafale M) aircraft?**

- a) It is a twin-engine, 5th-generation stealth fighter
- b) It is designed specifically for land-based operations only
- c) It is a carrier-capable 4.5-generation fighter jet
- d) It has no commonality with the Indian Air Force variant

**160. Which of the following statements about Similipal National Park are correct ?**

1. It hosts the world's only wild population of melanistic tigers.
2. It is India's first tiger reserve to be declared a national park.
3. Similipal is also a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
4. It is the second national park in Odisha after Bhitarkanika.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) All four
- d) Only one

**161. Multi Agency Centre (MAC) operates under which organization ?**

- a) Intelligence Bureau (IB)
- b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- c) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- d) Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)

**162. Rajon ki Baoli, that was recently mentioned in news, is a 16th-century stepwell located in which city ?**

- a) Delhi
- b) Indore
- c) Patna
- d) Varanasi

**163. Recently, the Indian Army conducted the Teesta Prahar exercise in which state ?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Odisha
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Sikkim

**164. With reference to the Artemis Accords, consider the following statements:**

1. They are legally binding agreements under the United Nations framework.
2. They encourage sharing of scientific data among signatories.
3. They promote sustainable use of space resources in line with international law.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three

d) None

**165. Which of the following deserts lies primarily in Saudi Arabia and is one of the largest continuous sand deserts in the world ?**

- a) Thar Desert
- b) Negev Desert
- c) Rub' al Khali
- d) Dasht-e Kavir

**166. NISAR is a joint Earth observation satellite mission developed by which two space agencies ?**

- a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- b) European Space Agency (ESA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- c) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- d) European Space Agency (ESA) and China National Space Administration (CNSA)

**167. What is the name of the initiative recently launched by BRICS nations to combat land degradation and soil fertility loss ?**

- a) BRICS Land Restoration Partnership
- b) BRICS Green Deal
- c) BRICS Sustainable Farming Alliance
- d) BRICS Soil Health Mission

**168. Which Indian state has officially approved DPS Flamingo Lake as a conservation reserve ?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Odisha
- d) Karnataka

**169. Consider the following statements regarding the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):**

1. IBCA is a legally recognized intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in India.
  2. India has committed ₹150 crore towards IBCA's operations till 2028–29.
  3. IBCA focuses exclusively on conservation of Old World big cats such as tiger, lion, and snow leopard.
  4. The Alliance aims to promote transboundary conservation and international collaboration.
- How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) All four
- d) Only one

**170. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** India recorded a record-high total export value in FY 2024–25, driven largely by a surge in goods exports.

**Statement II:** Electronics and coffee exports were among the fastest-growing segments, contributing to this export performance.

Which of the following is correct?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct
- d) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect

**171. Which state emerged as the overall champion in Khelo India Youth Games 2025 ?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Haryana
- d) Karnataka

**172. What is a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) ?**

- a) A method of investing a lump sum amount in stocks
- b) A way to invest a fixed amount periodically in Mutual Funds
- c) A scheme to invest only in government bonds
- d) A one-time investment in real estate

**173. Which two companies are involved in the joint venture for the new semiconductor unit ?**

- a) TCS and Samsung
- b) HCL and Foxconn
- c) Wipro and Intel
- d) Infosys and AMD

**174. Which of the following statements correctly describes Article 143 of the Constitution of India ?**

- a) It empowers the Parliament to impeach the President on legal grounds.
- b) It allows the Supreme Court to review laws passed by Parliament.
- c) It empowers the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on questions of law.
- d) It allows Governors to consult the President on matters of state legislation.

**175. With reference to the Bhakra-Nangal Water Dispute, consider the following statements:**

1. The Bhakra-Nangal Project is located on the Yamuna River.
2. The water distribution among states is managed by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

3. The depletion of water resources in Punjab and Haryana is largely due to the unregulated pumping of groundwater for water-intensive crops.

4. The Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 limits India's use of eastern rivers such as the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**176. Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project, that was recently seen in news, is located in which country ?**

- a) Bhutan
- b) Nepal
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Myanmar

**177. Which space organization has developed first ever space-based quantum sensor for gravity measurements ?**

- a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- b) China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- c) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**178. As per the RBI's 2025 circular, from what age can minors independently open and operate bank accounts ?**

- a) 8 years
- b) 10 years
- c) 12 years
- d) 14 years

**179. Statement 1:** India and China have a formal treaty for transboundary water sharing

like the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.

**Statement 2:** India is concerned about China's plans to build a dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo river.

- a) Both statements are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1  
b) Both statements are correct but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1  
c) Statement 1 is incorrect but Statement 2 is correct  
d) Both statements are incorrect

**180. Consider the following statements regarding anemia and its relation to air pollution:**

**Statement 1:** Exposure to PM 2.5 increases hepcidin production in the liver, thereby inhibiting iron absorption.

**Statement 2:** Hepcidin suppression improves red blood cell production in the bone marrow.

Which one of the following is correct ?

- a) Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect  
b) Statement 1 is incorrect, and Statement 2 is correct  
c) Both Statement 1 and 2 are correct, and Statement 2 is the explanation of Statement 1  
d) Both Statement 1 and 2 are incorrect

**181. Kinshasa city, which was seen in news due to flood, is the capital of which country ?**

- a) Nigeria  
b) Sudan  
c) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)  
d) Cameroon

**182. SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) is a technology**

**demonstration mission developed by which organization?**

- a) CNSA (China National Space Administration)  
b) JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency)  
c) ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)  
d) NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

**183. Which country is the host of Exercise Desert Flag-10 ?**

- a) Japan  
b) United States  
c) India  
d) United Arab Emirates (UAE)

**184. Consider the following statements regarding the NISAR mission:**

1. It uses both L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radars to detect Earth surface changes.
2. The satellite is being launched on a GSLV rocket by ISRO.
3. It is capable of detecting ground movements as small as one metre.
4. It is a joint Earth observation initiative between ISRO and NASA.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only two  
b) Only three  
c) All four  
d) Only one

**185. Consider the following statements:**

**1. Statement I:** India recorded a record-high total export value in FY 2024-25, driven largely by a surge in goods exports.

**2. Statement II:** Electronics and coffee exports were among the fastest-growing segments, contributing to this export performance.

Which of the following is correct?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II explains Statement-I  
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I  
c) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct  
d) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect

**186. What is "K2-18b" that was recently seen in news ?**

- a) Asteroid  
b) Exoplanet  
c) Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV)  
d) Newly discovered invasive weed

**187. Which two classical Indian texts were recently inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in April 2025 ?**

- a) Vedas and Ramayana  
b) Arthashastra and Manusmriti  
c) Mahabharata and Upanishads  
d) Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra

**188. Who is the current Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) ?**

- a) Christine Lagarde  
b) Kristalina Georgieva  
c) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala  
d) Gita Gopinath

**189. Consider the following statements about types of processing units:**

1. CPUs are general-purpose processors designed for sequential execution of tasks.
2. GPUs are application-specific processors limited to graphical rendering.
3. TPUs are optimized for neural network operations, making them ideal for AI model training.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**190. Consider the following statements about Olive Ridley turtles:**

1. They are known for mass nesting behavior called "arribada."
2. Their sex determination is influenced by environmental factors like temperature and moisture.
3. They exclusively nest on India's east coast during the breeding season.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**191. Which state is the host of Bharat Summit 2025 ?**

- a) Telangana
- b) Gujarat
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

**192. Which protected area of Odisha has been declared the 107th National Park of India ?**

- a) Nandankanan
- b) Satkosia
- c) Simlipal
- d) Gahirmatha

**193. What is the name of the military exercise conducted by the Indian Air Force following the Pahalgam terror attack ?**

- a) Exercise Vayu Shakti
- b) Exercise Aakraman
- c) Exercise Shourya
- d) Exercise Thunder Strike

**194. Consider the following developments regarding**

**India's Fintech ecosystem:**

1. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has expanded to international markets and integrated with credit cards.
2. The Digital Lending Market in India is expected to reach over USD 500 billion by 2030.
3. Embedded Finance has no significant role in India's Fintech growth.
4. Blockchain is primarily used only for cryptocurrency in India.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**195. Which of the following best explains the strategic impact of India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty in April 2025 ?**

- a) It allows Pakistan to claim water rights under the International Court of Justice
- b) It completely revokes the Treaty's legal validity
- c) It enables India to reconfigure its river usage without legal exit
- d) It initiates a UN-mandated water-sharing framework in South Asia

**196. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) comes under the administrative control of which ministry ?**

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) Ministry of Textiles
- d) Ministry of Agriculture

**197. What was the unemployment rate in India in April 2025, as**

**per the first monthly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) ?**

- a) 5.1%
- b) 4.5%
- c) 6.3%
- d) 7.3%

**198. Which DRDO laboratory developed the indigenous nanoporous multilayered polymeric membrane for seawater desalination ?**

- a) Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL)
- b) Defence Materials Stores and Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE)
- c) Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL)
- d) Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)

**199. Consider the following statements with reference to Bhargavastra:**

1. It is India's first micro missile-based counter-drone system.
2. It is designed to use soft-kill technologies like jamming and spoofing to neutralize drone threats.
3. It is capable of launching micro missiles in salvo mode against swarm drones.
4. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**200. Consider the following initiatives in the context of India's strategy to combat Naxalism:**

1. Eklavya Model Residential Schools
2. Forest Rights Act, 2006
3. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)
4. PM KUSUM Scheme

Which of the above are directly aimed at addressing the causes or consequences of Left-Wing Extremism?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**201. Madku Dweep, that was recently seen in news, is located in which state ?**

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Chhattisgarh

**202. Which organization has developed a high-pressure nanoporous multilayered polymeric membrane for seawater desalination ?**

- a) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- c) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- d) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)

**203. Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) portal was introduced by which institution ?**

- a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) State Bank of India (SBI)
- d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**204. With reference to the Bhakra-Nangal Water Dispute, consider the following statements:**

1. The Bhakra-Nangal Project is located on the Yamuna River.
2. The water distribution among states is managed by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

3. The depletion of water resources in Punjab and Haryana is largely due to the unregulated pumping of groundwater for water-intensive crops.

4. The Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 limits India's use of eastern rivers such as the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**205. Consider the following statements regarding the PM SHRI Scheme:**

1. It aims to establish entirely new central schools with exclusive funding from the Union government.

2. It seeks to upgrade existing schools into model institutions aligned with the National Education Policy, 2020.

3. The scheme is implemented only in districts identified as educationally backward by NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**206. Which is the nodal ministry for the National Medical Register (NMR), a centralized digital database ?**

- a) Ministry of Education
- b) Ministry of Science and Technology
- c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d) Ministry of Social Justice

**207. Which ministry has launched the Green Hydrogen**

**Certification Scheme of India (GHCI) ?**

- a) Ministry of Power
- b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**208. Ayushman Bharat Diwas is observed annually on which day?**

- a) April 29
- b) April 30
- c) May 1
- d) May 2

**209. Long-term exposure to PM10 pollution is primarily associated with which of the following health issues ?**

1. Exacerbation of asthma and bronchitis.
2. Increased risk of cardiovascular diseases.
3. Impaired lung growth in children.
4. Development of skin allergies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

**210. Consider the following statements regarding the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.**

1. Inclusion in the Eighth Schedule ensures use of the language in the UPSC Civil Services Exam.
2. Sanskrit is one of the 22 languages listed in the Schedule.
3. Inclusion in the Schedule mandates its use in primary education across India.
4. English was added to the Eighth Schedule after liberalization in 1991.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**211. Which traditional Indian musical instrument was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?**

- a) Pakhawaj
- b) Tabla
- c) Veena
- d) Banaras Shehnai

**212. Which organization releases the Global Financial Stability Report ?**

- a) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- b) World Bank
- c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**213. The Yimkhiung tribe is primarily found in which state?**

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim
- c) Nagaland
- d) Tripura

**214. Consider the following statements regarding India Justice Report (IJR) 2025 :**

1. No State or Union Territory has met its quota for women's representation in the police.
  2. Tamil Nadu has the most overcrowded prisons in India.
  3. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of undertrials in proportion to total inmates.
- How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three

d) None

**215. Why is the Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system considered a transformative technology in defense ?**

- a) It replaces tanks and artillery in ground combat operations
- b) It allows silent, precise, and low-cost neutralization of airborne threats
- c) It enables satellite-based control over missile launchers
- d) It eliminates the need for any conventional air defense systems

**216. Which Indian city has issued India's first Certified Green Municipal Bond ?**

- a) Pune
- b) Indore
- c) Ghaziabad
- d) Bengaluru

**217. Which two organizations jointly developed the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MR-SAM)?**

- a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)
- c) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems
- d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

**218. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) is established under which ministry ?**

- a) Ministry of Law and Justice
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- c) Ministry of Finance

d) Ministry of Science and Technology

**219. Consider the following statements about Aryabhata satellite:**

1. It was designed for interplanetary exploration.
2. It had onboard propulsion systems for orbital adjustments.
3. It was built to study the sun, space radiation, and upper atmosphere.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**220. Consider the following statements regarding ISRO's CROP framework.**

1. It assists in pest outbreak predictions using space-based data.
2. It improves food security by enabling early yield forecasting.
3. It supports agricultural decision-making by fusing multi-sensor data.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**221. What percentage safeguard duty has the Indian government imposed on certain steel imports ?**

- a) 8%
- b) 10%
- c) 12%
- d) 15%

**222. India and the United States are in the final stages of negotiations for a Bilateral Trade Agreement. Which of the following leaders recently**

**expressed satisfaction over the progress of the agreement?**

- a) Joe Biden and Narendra Modi
- b) Kamala Harris and Amit Shah
- c) JD Vance and Narendra Modi
- d) Janet Yellen and Nirmala Sitharaman

**223. Which launch vehicle carried the satellites SDX-01 and SDX-02 into space for the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) ?**

- a) GSLV Mk III
- b) PSLV-C60
- c) GSLV
- d) PSLV-C45

**224. Which of the following milestones was NOT associated with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) ?**

- a) First exchange to launch a global depository receipt (GDR) in India
- b) First Indian exchange to join the UN's Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Initiative
- c) Launch of Sensex as India's first stock market index
- d) First exchange in India to introduce electronic trading through BOLT

**225. Which of the following best characterizes the significance of Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025 in India's evolving maritime strategy ?**

- a) Strengthening bilateral maritime trade routes with ASEAN nations
- b) Strengthening bilateral maritime trade routes with ASEAN nations
- c) Enhancing amphibious interoperability with a Quad member for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations

d) Creating a trilateral naval command with the USA and Australia in the Indian Ocean

**226. PL-15 also called Thunderbolt-15, is a long-range beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile developed by which country ?**

- a) Russia
- b) India
- c) China
- d) France

**227. Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project Dam is built on which river ?**

- a) Chenab
- b) Sutluj
- c) Narmada
- d) Godavari

**228. The Global Methane Tracker 2025 is released by which organization ?**

- a) International Energy Agency (IEA)
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- d) World Bank

**229. Consider the following statements regarding the classification of Lord Buddha's relics.**

Statement-I: The classification of Lord Buddha's relics into Saririka, Paribhogika, and Uddesika types encompasses all forms of revered items associated with his life and teachings.

Statement-II: Saririka relics, being direct physical remains, are considered the most sacred and are exclusively housed in stupas constructed by Emperor Ashoka.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II is NOT the correct explanation of Statement I.

c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

**230. Consider the following statements regarding Vizhinjam International Seaport**

**Statement-I:** The Vizhinjam International Seaport is strategically positioned to become a major transshipment hub, potentially reducing India's dependence on foreign ports like Colombo and Singapore.

**Statement-II:** The port boasts a significant natural depth, thus allowing it to handle next-generation ultra-large container vessels (ULCVs).

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I

c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**231. Trends in World Military Expenditure report is published by which organization ?**

a) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

b) World Bank

- c) International Monetary Fund  
d) United Nations

**232. Which Indian ministry organized the seminar on 'Hard to Reach Population - SMILE (Beggary)' ?**

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs  
b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
c) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)  
d) Ministry of Women and Child Development

**233. Who was recently awarded the 'Companion of the Order of Fiji', the highest civilian honor in Fiji?**

- a) Kailash Satyarthi  
b) Madhusudan Sai

- c) Dr. Devi Shetty  
d) Mukesh Ambani

**234. Which of the following are features of Article 142 of the Indian Constitution ?**

1. It empowers the Supreme Court to do "complete justice" in any case before it.
  2. It allows the Supreme Court to override statutory laws in the interest of justice.
  3. It applies to both civil and criminal matters.
  4. It grants High Courts the same power in their jurisdiction.
- How many of the above are correct?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) Only three

- d) All four

**235. Consider the following statements regarding India's defence spending as per SIPRI 2024 report:**

1. India is the fifth-largest military spender globally.
  2. India spends more on capital procurement than on defence pensions and salaries.
  3. India's defence budget constitutes 2.5% of its GDP.
  4. India is the second-largest arms importer in the world.
- How many of the above are correct ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) Only three  
d) All four

**ANSWER KEY**

1-a	2-d	3-b	4-d	5-c	6-b	7-b	8-c	9-d	10-b	11-d	12-a	13-d	14-c	15-c
16-a	17-b	18-b	19-b	20-a	21-c	22-a	23-b	24-b	25-c	26-a	27-b	28-a	29-c	30-c
31-b	32-a	33-b	34-b	35-b	36-a	37-c	38-a	39-c	40-b	41-b	42-b	43-a	44-b	45-a
46-a	47-c	48-d	49-c	50-c	51-d	52-b	53-c	54-c	55-b	56-b	57-a	58-b	59-b	60-d
61-b	62-d	63-c	64-a	65-d	66-c	67-b	68-a	69-b	70-a	71-b	72-a	73-b	74-a	75-c
76-a	77-d	78-b	79-c	80-c	81-d	82-d	83-a	84-b	85-d	86-b	87-d	88-a	89-d	90-b
91-c	92-b	93-c	94-b	95-b	96-a	97-c	98-b	99-d	100-d	101-b	102-d	103-c	104-a	105-a
106-b	107-d	108-d	109-b	110-c	111-c	112-c	113-b	114-b	115-a	116-b	117-a	118-c	119-a	120-d
121-a	122-b	123-a	124-a	125-b	126-a	127-b	128-a	129-a	130-b	131-b	132-c	133-b	134-c	135-b
136-c	137-a	138-c	139-b	140-b	141-b	142-b	143-c	144-a	145-b	146-a	147-b	148-a	149-c	150-b
151-b	152-c	153-a	154-a	155-c	156-b	157-c	158-b	159-c	160-b	161-a	162-a	163-a	164-b	165-c
166-a	167-a	168-a	169-b	170-c	171-a	172-b	173-b	174-c	175-b	176-b	177-d	178-b	179-c	180-a
181-c	182-c	183-d	184-b	185-c	186-b	187-d	188-c	189-b	190-b	191-a	192-c	193-b	194-b	195-c
196-c	197-a	198-b	199-a	200-a	201-d	202-b	203-a	204-b	205-b	206-c	207-c	208-b	209-c	210-b
211-d	212-c	213-c	214-b	215-b	216-c	217-b	218-b	219-a	220-c	221-c	222-c	223-b	224-a	225-c
226-c	227-a	228-a	229-c	230-a	231-a	232-c	233-b	234-c	235-b					