

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

August 2025



Assam | India | World

PRABAH



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At **Aspire ACS Coaching Institute**, we understand that staying updated with current affairs is crucial for success in competitive exams. This Monthly Current Affairs Compilation is specially curated by our expert Content Creator and Expert Faculty members to provide students with a concise, reliable, and exam-focused overview of important State, national and international events.

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Assam Current Affairs:

1. Assam to host 'Mega Bagurumba' in November:

Context: Assam will host a grand 'Mega Bagurumba' in November, featuring over 10,000 performers.

- After record Bihu and Jhumoir events, this grand program will highlight the Bodo culture.



- Bagurumba is a cultural dance performed by the indigenous Bodo tribe. It is a traditional dance that has been passed down from one generation to the next.
- With their colourful dokhna, jwmgra (fasra), and aronai, the Bodo women execute the Bagurumba dance. (Minister for Cultural Affairs, GOA Bimal Bora)

2. Assam adds ten new co-districts

Context: The Assam government has announced the creation of 10 new co-districts, taking the total number of such administrative units in the state to 49.

- The newly formed co-districts are: Boko-Chhaygaon and Palashbari in Kamrup district; Borsola and Rangapara in Sonitpur; Mariani and Teok in Jorhat; Makum and Digboi in Tinsukia; Dholai in Cachar; and Dudhnoi in Goalpara.
- For timely access to essential government services and to

streamline citizen-centric services by bringing governance to the grassroots, promoting Gandhi's ideals of decentralizing power, the State Government rolled out 39 co-districts in first phase in October 2024.

- With this initiative, Assam became the first State in the country to have co-districts. Under the new framework, the role of the Additional District Commissioner, who was previously in charge of the sub-districts, was elevated to Co-District Commissioner (CDC).

3. NITI Aayog Flags Assam's E-Mobility Challenges Despite High EV Adoption:

Context: According to a recent NITI Aayog report, Assam's progress in strengthening its e-mobility ecosystem receded during 2024, ranking 27th among 36 states and UTs across EV adoption, charging infrastructure, and technology indicators.

- Poor charging infrastructure, low 'Transport Electrification' Progress and other gaps have weakened consumer confidence, slowing the state's overall e-mobility growth.
- On the brighter side, more than 85% of three-wheelers registered in 2024 in Assam are electric, supported by incentives like tax and fee waivers. Assam also launched **Baayu**, India's first decentralized, fully electric e-bike taxi service.

The report recommends an EV awareness portal, scrapping incentives, low emission zones, nodal charging agencies, EV charging provisions etc for a better outcome.

4. Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina 2.0:

Context: Assam Chief Minister launched the Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina 2.0 scheme on 6th August.

- Nijut Moina Scheme is a flagship initiative of the Assam government, aims to empower girl students by providing financial support to reduce school dropout rates and promote higher education.



- As a part of the scheme, monthly financial assistance for girl students from HS to PG level in government and government aided educational institutions will be given. A student in HS First year will be entitled to Rs. 10 thousand that is Rs. 1 thousand every month for 10 months. A student at graduate level will be entitled to Rs. 12,500 that is Rs. 1250 for every month and PG level student will be entitled to 25,000 that is Rs. 2500 for every month for 10 months in a year. In this financial year, over four lakh girl students will get the benefit of this scheme.

5. Kopili River (National Waterway 57) operationalised:

Context: In a historic step towards the revival of Assam's river-based trade and sustainable logistics, National Waterway-57 (River Kopili) was operationalised today with the first-ever cargo trial run from the Govardhan Bridge in Chandrapur, Kamrup to Hatsingimari in South Samara.

- The 'watershed moment' marks the



resumption of intra-state waterborne freight transport in Assam after more than a decade.

Assam has 15 declared National Waterways (NWs), with the most prominent being NW-2 (Brahmaputra River). With Total four operational National Waterways of Assam — on Brahmaputra (NW 2), Barak (NW 16), Dhansiri (NW31) & Kopili (NW 57) — Assam have 1168 kms of total operational waterways.

6. Assam: A Global Hotspot of Avian Diversity in Need of Conservation:

Context: Assam, with over 876 bird species including 290 migratory varieties, stands as one of the richest avian habitats in the world.

- Despite being 130 times smaller than Europe, the state hosts nearly as many bird species (876 compared to Europe's 930), and the number rises to 982 when sub-species are included.



- The recorded bird population includes: 12 Critically Endangered species, 10 Endangered species, 31 Vulnerable species, 50 Near Threatened species.

An planned conservation strategy to safeguard Assam's unparalleled avian wealth, which makes it a critical region for global biodiversity, is need of the hour.

7. Loka Kalyan Divas and Legacy of Gopinath Bordoloi:

Context: Loka Kalyan Divas is observed on the death anniversary, 5th August of Bharat Ratna Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi to honour his contribution to Assam and the nation.

- Bordoloi, a distinguished freedom fighter and the first Chief Minister of Assam after independence, followed Gandhian non-violence in politics. His tireless service earned him the title 'Lokpriya' (loved by all) from Governor Jayram Das Doulatram. Recognized nationally, he was conferred the Bharat Ratna in 1999 by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

8. Supreme Court Seeks Response on Plea for NRC Re-verification in Assam:

Context: The Supreme Court has issued notice on a petition seeking a full, comprehensive, and time-bound re-verification of Assam's draft and supplementary National Register of Citizens (NRC).

- Filed under the Citizenship Rules of 2003, the plea argued that serious errors in the NRC process pose risks to national security. The petition highlighted six grounds, including the wrongful exclusion of eligible

persons, incorrect marking of 'Originally Inhabitants' (OI), faulty verification results declaring many ineligible, and large-scale financial irregularities.

- In 2022, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged major anomalies in the NRC update process. The project, initially estimated at ₹288.18 crores in 2014, saw costs escalate five-fold by 2022 due to delays and faulty software, raising grave concerns.

(The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a government-prepared list intended to document all legal Indian citizens residing in the state, with the goal of identifying and deporting illegal immigrants, who arrived after March 24, 1971.)

9. Kaziranga bids farewell to Mohanmala

Context: Mohanmala was a legendary, elderly departmental elephant who recently passed away at Kaziranga National Park in August 2025 after serving the park for over five decades.



- Known for her fearlessness, and dependability, she played a crucial role in anti-poaching operations and rescued forest staff and animals during the treacherous flood seasons.
- She is remembered as an "unofficial ambulance" and a symbol of loyalty

and courage, and her passing marks the end of an era for the iconic Kaziranga park.

10. Assam Cancer Care Foundation Launches 'Sahayog' Cancer Survivorship Programme:

Context: On Independence Day, Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF), a joint initiative of the Government of Assam and Tata Trusts, launched its cancer survivorship programme 'Sahayog' across all nine ACCF hospitals.

Objectives:

- To celebrate cancer survivorship by fostering dignity, purpose, and joy in the lives of survivors through community participation and symbolic events.
- To strengthen comprehensive cancer care in Assam by uniting survivors, patients, caregivers, and medical teams under a shared theme of resilience and hope.

11. Permanent Campuses of ACA Cricket and GTC Football Academies Inaugurated:

Context: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday inaugurated the permanent campuses of the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) Cricket Academy and the Guwahati Town Club (GTC) Football Academy at Uttar Fulung, Rangmahal in North Guwahati.



- The milestone initiative aims to provide world-class sporting

infrastructure to groom the state's future athletes.

- The ACA Cricket Academy will house a modern indoor training hall with 10 pitches and will engage national and international coaches for advanced training.

12. Environment Ministry Proposes Eco-Sensitive Zone Around Deepar Beel:

Context: The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued a draft notification to declare an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam's Guwahati.

- The proposed ESZ will extend 25.294 meters to 5 km from the sanctuary boundary, covering 38.84 sq km.



- The move aims to safeguard Assam's only Ramsar site, home to over 150 bird species, elephants, reptiles, and rich aquatic life.

An **Eco-Sensitive Zone** acts as a protective buffer around ecologically fragile areas, regulating activities to balance development with conservation.

13. BVFCL signs B2B agreement with Bhutan's National Seed Centre:

Context: Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), entered into a strategic B2B agreement with the National Seed Centre (NSC), Ministry of

Agriculture and Livestock, Royal Government of Bhutan, for the export of key fertilizers over a period of five years.

- Under this agreement, BVFCL will supply: Neem Coated Urea, Suphala (NPK), Single Super Phosphate (SSP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) & Borax.
- This collaboration is aligned with India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and reflects BVFCL's commitment to supporting regional agricultural sustainability and ensuring timely access to critical inputs for Bhutanese farmers.

(Assam Valley Fertilizer and Chemical Company Ltd (AVFCCL) is a joint venture between Assam govt — which holds a 40% equity stake as the largest shareholder — National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Oil India Limited (OIL), Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL), and BVFCL.)

14. Assam Cabinet Approves Power Procurement and Green Energy Project:

Context: The Assam Cabinet has given post-facto approval for procuring 500 MW of power from the Union Coal Ministry at Rs 5.79 per unit to ensure affordable electricity for citizens.

- Additionally, the Cabinet cleared a 1,500 MW pumped storage project in Karbi Anglong, aligning with the state's clean energy and sustainability goals.

15. Assam's special arms license scheme:

Context: The Assam government has rolled out a Special Scheme for the Grant of Arms Licenses aimed at safeguarding residents in vulnerable and remote areas.

- Designed to empower indigenous communities facing genuine security threats, the scheme promises controlled access to firearms under a strict legal framework.

- Rooted in the Arms Act, 1959, and Arms Rules, 2016, the Applicants must prove indigenous identity, residence in notified areas, and face a genuine security threat. The process involves stricter vetting, including intelligence and police verification.

Eligibility: Indigenous citizens of Assam, aged 21+, residing in vulnerable areas, with no criminal record, medically fit, and holding mandatory arms training certificate under Arms Rules, 2016.

16. Shok Divas:

Context: Shok Divas, a Day of Mourning is observed in Assam, primarily on August 16th, to remember and pay homage to the victims of the Dhemaji bomb blast which occurred during the 2004 Independence Day celebrations.

- The observance aims to promote peace, non-violence, and tolerance, while also condemning terrorism and violence.

- On August 15, 2004, a militant bomb blast at a Dhemaji college ground killed several people, including school children, during an Independence Day event.

17. Major Bhargav Kalita Honoured with Shaurya Chakra for Bravery:

Context: In a moment of immense pride for Assam, Major Bhargav Kalita, serving with the Kumaon Regiment, has been conferred the



prestigious Shaurya Chakra for his extraordinary courage and leadership in counter-terrorism operations in Jammu & Kashmir.

18. MEDAL AWARDEES from Assam On Occasion of Independence Day 2025:

Context: On Independence Day 2025, the Assam Police received national honours, including the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) for Guwahati Police Commissioner Partha Sarathi Mahanta and three officers received the Medal for Gallantry (GM), and 13 officers were awarded the Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM).

Additionally, one from Home guard and Civil Defence and 3 from Fire service received Medal for Meritorious Service

19. Chief Minister's Special Service Medal and the chief Minister's police medal:

Context: The Assam Government has conferred the Chief Minister's Special Service Medal and the chief Minister's police medal.

The Chief Minister's Special Service Medal in a crisis situation presented to **nine personnel** and **thirty-five officers** and staffs were honored the chief Minister's police medal for outstanding service.

20. Dr Gayatri Gogoi Wins Blackbuck Pioneer Researcher Award 2025

Context: Dr Gayatri Gogoi, Associate Professor of Pathology at Assam Medical College and Hospital, has been honoured with the prestigious Blackbuck Pioneer Researcher Award 2025.

- The award recognises Dr Gogoi's exceptional contributions to Indian medical research, placing her among 14 eminent professionals nationwide acknowledged for their pioneering work.

21. Lalit Kala Akademi National Award to Bhaskarjyoti Gogoi:

Context: Bhaskarjyoti Gogoi, a distinguished faculty member of the painting Department of the Govt College of Art & Crafts, Assam, has been conferred the prestigious Lalit Kala Akademi National Award.

22. Rare Malayan Night Heron Sighted in Manas National Park:

Context: Malayan Night Heron, a rare summer visitor was sighted in Manas National Park & Tiger Reserve.



- Known for its secretive nature and striking chestnut plumage, this elusive bird is a special seasonal guest in the region's rich biodiversity.

23. Maritime Skill Hub in Dibrugarh:

Context: The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) will set up a state-of-the-art Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE) in Dibrugarh, Assam,

with an outlay of ₹188 crore to provide advanced maritime training for youth in the Northeast.

- Announced by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal during the ongoing monsoon session of the Lok Sabha, the initiative is part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission and the Centre's long-term Maritime Amrit Kaal 2047 vision.
- The project is targeted for completion within 19 months.

24. 3rd and 4th railway lines between Aluabari Road and New Jalpaiguri:

Context: The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of the 3rd and 4th railway lines between Aluabari Road and New Jalpaiguri. As a part of New Delhi-Guwahati High-density Corridor.

It is a major step forward for the Northeast, is expected to pave the way for further railway expansion into Assam and beyond.

25. Assam Entrepreneur and Brand in News:

Choi: Choi, a textile brand founded by Serleen Ingtipi, represented Assam at the Northeast India Festival 2025 in Singapore.

Woolah Tea: a bagless, eco-friendly tea brand from Assam recently featured in National platforms.



26. Gamusa-Inspired Jersey Shines in Konami's eFootball:

Context: Assam-born artist **Santanu Hazarika** has designed a special jersey for Konami's eFootball, inspired by the traditional Gamusa.

- The white-and-red design honors Assam's culture and caught the attention of global football star Neymar Jr., who promoted it.
- (eFootball is a free-to-play online association football video game developed and published by Konami.)

27. Bharat gaurav Samman to Khagen Chaudhury:

Context: In a moment of pride for Assam, distinguished social worker and entrepreneur Khagen Choudhury from Udalguri has been conferred the prestigious 'Bharat Gaurav Samman' by the National Crime Intelligence Agency under the aegis of NITI Aayog.

Mr. Khagen Choudhury has demonstrated exceptional dedication towards humanitarian efforts, women and child welfare, and grassroots development initiatives in Assam.

28. Governor of Assam Presents Awards for Excellence:

Context: Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya conferred the Governor of Assam Award for Excellence 2025 to distinguished individuals across various fields during a ceremonial function held at Raj Bhavan, Guwahati.

Awardees Across Categories

- Science, Engineering, Medicine & Environment:
Bapan Das

- Social Work & Public Affairs: **Dr. Amar Upadhyaya**
- Literature & Education: **Dr. Nagen Thakur (posthumous)**
- Art & Culture: **Umananda Dowerah**
- Trade, Industry & Commerce: **Abhinash Hazarika**
- Sports: **Debashish Roy**

Initiative of LBSNAA is designed to promote grassroots innovations by Officer Trainees. Each selected project receives structured mentoring and financial support, in line with the national vision of Sahkar se Samridhi, to strengthen community livelihoods and inclusive development

29. Guwahati Airport Wins International Architectural Award 2025:

Context: Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport has earned global acclaim by winning the International Architectural Award 2025 in the Transport category.

- Presented by The Chicago Athenaeum in collaboration with the European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies, the award recognizes the airport's architectural excellence and urban planning, placing it among seven globally acclaimed airports.

30. IAS officer Tejas Agnihotri's project selected for Seed Funding Initiative:

Context: Tejas Agnihotri, IAS officer of the 2024 batch, Assam cadre, currently posted in Nagaon, has been selected for the prestigious 'Seed Funding Initiative'.

- The project seeks to empower women and cancer survivors by training them to craft breast prosthetics and wigs. It simultaneously provides livelihood opportunities and restores dignity and confidence to survivors who then contribute back to the society.
- The Centre for Cooperatives and Livelihoods (CCL) Seed Funding

31. Assam Govt, Indian Army Discuss Enhanced Cooperation and Youth Welfare

Context: The Assam government and an Indian Army delegation held discussions to strengthen cooperation and youth welfare.



- Key focus areas included increasing ex-servicemen quotas in government jobs, expanding veteran employment avenues, facilitating Agniveers' absorption in various sectors, and introducing basic military grooming in schools.

32. SSB Centre Proposal for Guwahati Under Defence Ministry Consideration

Context: The Defence Ministry has confirmed that Assam's proposal to set up a Services Selection Board (SSB) Centre in Guwahati is under review. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had earlier sought Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's support to inspire youth for armed forces careers.

33. Parakrami Purbottor Naat Mela at Sankaradeva Kalakshetra

Context: The *Parakrami Purbottor Naat Mela* is being held at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra to honor the unsung heroes of India’s freedom struggle from the Northeast.

- The festival uses plays and performances to showcase lesser-known facts of history, blending culture with remembrance.
- By reviving forgotten stories, it highlights the role of art in nation-building and inspires younger generations to connect with their heritage.

34. 2025’ declared as ‘Year of Books’

Context: In a bid to inculcate the book reading habit among the people, a special decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held in Dibrugarh on 23 December 2024 and 2025 was declared as the Year of Book.

- Initiative as part of the campaign are like initiating statewide book fairs, gifting books, building 2,597 libraries with ₹259.70 Cr, and providing modern facilities to foster reading culture among youth

35. Places in News:

Place	News
Dehenukhana Hill, Tezpur, Sonitpur district.	Tezpur residents and local groups protested a massive excavation in Dhenukhana Hills, opposing the government’s planned water supply project due to feared environmental damage and cultural threats.
Rengma Reserve Forest, Golaghat district.	Assam Government carried out an eviction drive inside the Rengma Reserve Forest, Negheribil in UriamGhat area of Golaghat District.
Adiniri Hill, Kamrup (M)	Assam forest department, has issued eviction notices to about 60 families illegally residing in the Adingiri Hills located within the Fatasil reserve forest.

36. First-ever Shaheedi Gurpurab Nagar Kirtan from Dhubri to Punjab marks historic Sikh yatra:

Context: In a momentous and historic first, the Shaheedi Gurpurab Nagar Kirtan of the 9th Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, will commence from the heritage Gurdwara in Dhubri, Assam, to Anandpur Sahib in Punjab. This unprecedented religious procession, beginning on August 21, will honour the Guru’s martyrdom and spiritual legacy.

- Guru Tegh Bahadur accompanied Raja Ram Singh to Assam during a period of conflict with the Ahom ruler. During this journey, he visited Dhubri, where he later established the site that is now known as Gurdwara Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, a revered Sikh pilgrimage destination on the banks of the Brahmaputra River.

37. Dihing Patkai Butterfly and Biodiversity Meet:

Context: With an aim to study about the ecological diversity of Assam, The Wings of Nature Conservation Society will organize the 3rd Dihing Patkai Butterfly and Biodiversity Meet from August 29 to September 1, 2025.



- It will include three days of field trails across Soraipung, Lakhpathar, and Joypur ranges under the Digboi and Dibrugarh Forest Division

38. 700 Goa Police Recruits Graduate from Assam's Lachit Borphukan Academy

Context: In a milestone for interstate police cooperation, 700 recruits from Goa graduated at Assam's Lachit Borphukan Police Academy in Dergaon.

After Manipur, Goa is the second state to train here, showcasing Assam's expanding role in shaping India's future security personnel.

39. Obituary:

Context: Veteran Assamese Playwright Hemanta Dutta Passes Away at 83. 'Assam Sourav' Dutta was a celebrated dramatist, film director, lyricist, and actor whose contributions to Assamese performing arts spanned decades.

40. Worm attack damages paddy fields in Lakhimpur:

Context: Farmers in Assam's Lakhimpur district are facing difficulties as army worms have damaged growing paddy crops over the past few days.

It threatens to cause substantial crop loss, which could adversely affect local Agri Production and farmer's income. This situation highlights the climatic fluctuations and their impact on agriculture.

41. Aspiration Haat:

Context: A recent initiative inaugurated at Dimakuchi, Assam, under NITI Aayog's "Sampoornata Abhiyan" to promote rural empowerment and self-reliance.

- The initiative is aimed at providing a common platform to rural men and women to market their locally made products and improve their livelihoods.
- Sampoornata Abhiyan is a three-month campaign (4th July – 30th September 2024) launched by NITI Aayog to achieve saturation in six key development indicators across 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks, ensuring sustained progress in health, education, nutrition, and basic services.

42. Assam Gets Land in Mumbai for Public Infrastructure:

Context: Mumbai Port Authority leased four bighas to Assam government for 60 years to develop public infrastructure, aiming to support patients, students, and entrepreneurs with vital facilities in Mumbai.

Hisroty, Art & Culture:

1. Sarnath Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage:

Context: India has officially nominated the 'Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath' for the UNESCO World Heritage List under the 2025–26 nomination cycle.

Located near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Sarnath is a major Buddhist pilgrimage site where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dhammachakkappavattana) after enlightenment.



- It is one of the 4 key pilgrimage sites in Buddhism, along with Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, and Kushinagar, associated with the birth, enlightenment, first sermon, and death of Buddha respectively.

2. SC to Review Plea for Central Law on Mahabodhi Temple Management:

Context: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a plea for repealing the Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949 and replacing it with a central law for the proper control, management and administration of Mahabodhi temple in Bihar.

- The petition cites constitutional concerns and calls for a more representative administrative structure and the removal of encroachments to ensure the

temple's exclusive worship for Buddhists.

- The Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, is a historically significant and sacred site where Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.
- Originally built by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BC, the present brick structure dates to the 5th–6th century Gupta period and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

3. The 64th National Exhibition of Art (NEA):

Context: The 64th National Exhibition of Art (NEA), organized by the Lalit Kala Akademi, India's National Academy of Art, was inaugurated on August 5, 2025, in New Delhi.

- The Lalit Kala Akademi is India's National Academy of Art,



established in 1954. It promotes visual arts through exhibitions, workshops, and documentation.

- Lalit Kala Akademi is the National Academy of Art and was the youngest of three major national cultural academies established by the Indian government, with

Sangeet Natak Akademi (1953) and Sahitya Akademi (1954) being the other two.

4. 100 Years of the Kakori Train Action

Context: The Kakori Train Action, which took place in August 1925 near Kakori village close to Lucknow, holds a significant place in India's freedom struggle.



- On 9th August 1925, Indian revolutionaries carried out the Kakori train action on the Number 8 Down train from Shahjahanpur to Lucknow, aiming to seize British government funds to support the freedom struggle.
- After the Jallianwala Bagh massacre (1919) and suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement (1922), young revolutionaries formed the Hindustan Republican Association (1924) to fund activities through the Kakori train robbery.
- It was carried out by revolutionaries like Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Keshav Chakraborty, Mukundi Lal, Banwari Lal, and Chandrashekhar Azad (member of HRA).
- British crackdown followed—17 jailed & Bismil, Ashfaqullah, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri were hanged.

5. Historic Piprahwa Buddha Relics Repatriated to India:

Context: The Ministry of Culture announced the repatriation of sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha.

- Relics include bone fragments, soapstone & crystal caskets, a sandstone coffer, and ornaments.
- Brahmi inscription links them to the Sakya clan; discovered in 1898 by W.C. Peppé near Lumbini.
- Most relics remain in the Indian Museum, Kolkata, classified as 'AA' grade antiquities.

6. Maharaj Prithu:

Context: Assam's longest flyover on GNB Road, Guwahati will be named after Maharaja Prithu "honouring his legacy of courage".

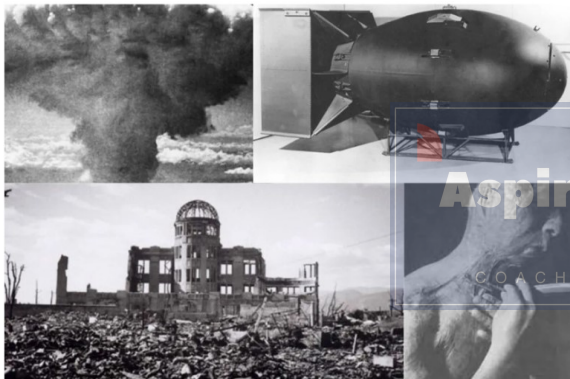
- In the early 13th century, the kingdom of Kamarupa was under the rule of Raja Prithu, who claimed descent from Narakasura. During this time, invaders frequently targeted Kamarupa. Among them was Bakhtiyar Khilji, who toward the end of 1205 CE, led an expedition into Kamarupa with 12,000 horsemen. Raja Prithu Rae, aware of Khilji's approach, prepared his forces. The united forces of Kamarupa struck back fiercely. Many Turkish soldiers were killed, and others captured.
- The Kanai Varasi rock inscription stands as proof of this defeat. Thus, Prithu Rae is celebrated as the king who safeguarded Kamarupa and brought an end to Khilji's destructive campaigns.

(Another flyover at Guwahati Rukminigaon has been named after **Bhagadatta** in honour of the ancient Kamrup king from the Mahabharata period.)

7. 80 years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki:

Context: August reminds of one of history's most tragic events—the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, causing immense devastation and shaping humanity's collective memory.

- Eighty years ago, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were reduced to ash and tens of thousands perished in mere seconds. The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were atomic attacks by the United States on these two Japanese cities on August 6 and August 9, 1945, respectively, during the final stages of World War II.



- These attacks marked the start of a new and dangerous nuclear age. Since then, the world has lived under the shadow of atomic weapons, with the constant threat of nuclear war haunting global peace and security even today.

8. Iron-Age Settlement Unearthed in Haryana's Topra Kalan:

Context: Archaeologists have discovered evidence of human settlements dating back around 1500 BC at Topra Kalan village in Haryana.

- This marks the crucial transition from the Indus Valley Civilization (Bronze Age) to the Iron Age in India.

- Topra Kalan is historically notable as the original site of the Delhi-Topra Ashokan pillar, later shifted by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, and linked to Buddhist activity noted by Hiuen Tsang.

9. UGC to Integrate Indian Knowledge System in Undergraduate Curriculum:

Context: The UGC has released a draft Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF), proposing integration of IKS into undergraduate courses across diverse subjects, aligning with the National Education Policy 2020.



- The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a vast reservoir of ancient wisdom, philosophies, sciences, and cultural practices developed in India over thousands of years.
- Inclusion of IKS promotes decolonization of education, reconnects students with India's intellectual traditions, and enriches modern pedagogy with holistic approaches.
- It strengthens cultural identity, encourages interdisciplinary learning, and bridges traditional wisdom with contemporary knowledge, fostering innovation and national pride.

10. Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals (SYSM)

Context: On the eve of the 79th Independence Day (2025), President Droupadi Murmu awarded seven Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals (SYSM) for the first time since the Kargil War, honouring top military leaders of Operation Sindoor.



- The **Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal Awardees - 2025 (Operation Sindoor)** include distinguished leaders from all three services. From the Indian Air Force, the honour has been awarded to Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra, and Air Marshal A.K. Bharti. From the Indian Army, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and Lt Gen Pratik Sharma have been recognised. Representing the Indian Navy, Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh (Retd.) has also been honoured for his exceptional service.
- The **Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal** is India's highest award for exceptional military service in war or conflict, given to officers showing outstanding leadership and strategic skill during operations.
- This prestigious medal was created on June 26, 1980, as part of a series of awards to recognize distinguished

service in the armed forces. It is open to all ranks of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Territorial Army, Auxiliary/Reserve Forces, and Nursing Services, and may also be awarded posthumously.

- The Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal is presented by the **President of India**, who is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces.

11. Important days:

Partition Horrors Day:

Context: Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is observed on August 14th every year to honor the memories of millions of people who suffered during the partition of India in 1947.



The observance commemorates the displacement, loss, and pain caused by the division of the subcontinent into two separate nations—India and Pakistan.

International Youth Day:

Context: The International Youth Day is celebrated on August 12 each year to recognize efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. The theme of International Youth Day (IYD) 2025, Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond, highlights the unique role of youth in translating global ambitions into community-driven realities.

World Lion Day:

Context: World Lion Day is observed annually on August 10th to raise awareness about the need for lion conservation and to encourage support for efforts to protect their habitats and populations.

- Lions are listed as a "Vulnerable" species on the IUCN Red List due to declining populations.

National Handloom Day:

Context: The National Handloom Day is observed annually on 7th August to honour the handloom weavers in the country.



In 2015, the Government of India decided to designate the 7th August every year, as the National Handloom Day as a mark of

- The Swadeshi Movement which was launched on 7th August, 1905 had encouraged indigenous industries and in particular handloom weavers.

12. Festivals- Tribes-Communitis

Gavri Festival	a 40-day ritual celebrated by the Bhil community in the Mewar region of Rajasthan. (after Raksha Bandhan in August). The festival honours
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	their deity, Gorkhiya Mata (an aspect of Parvati).
Muthuvan tribe	The Muthuvan tribe inhabits the hill forests along the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border. Recently, the community held a rare convention as part of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9 at Suryanelli, Munnar to preserve their language and culture.
Gugga Naumi	a folk festival of northern India, honours Gugga Pir, protector from snakebites. Celebrated in Bhadrapad month, mainly in Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab.
Grimitiyas	Grimitiyas were Indian indentured labourers sent from British India to colonies like Fiji, Mauritius, and the Caribbean. PM Modi announced initiatives for a Grimitiya database, heritage preservation, and regular World Grimitiya Conferences.
Tadui Tako Festival	The Tadui Tako Festival, celebrating the rare Himalayan Crocodile Newt of Zaimeng Lake, was held in Kangpokpi district, highlighting conservation efforts for this endangered amphibian through community participation and awareness.
Solung festival	The Solung festival is a popular agro-religious celebration by the Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, held annually at the beginning of September after the sowing of seeds. For the First time the tribe celebrates zero-waste, plastic-free Solung Festival this year.

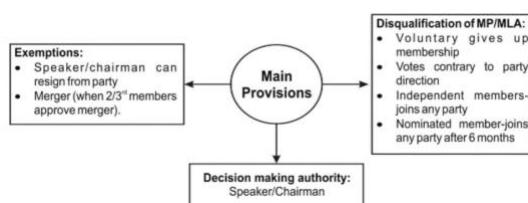
Narali Purnima	Narali Purnima, celebrated on Shravan full moon in Maharashtra and Goa, marks monsoon's end. Fishermen offer coconuts to Varuna, seeking blessings for safe fishing, with joyous rituals of singing, dancing, and feasting.
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POLITY

1. Supreme Court direction on Anti defection law

Context: In *Padi Kaushik Reddy v. State of Telangana (2025)*, the Supreme Court pointed out delays by the Speaker in acting on disqualification of 10 Telangana MLAs. It suggested that Parliament should rethink giving the Speaker the power to decide such cases under the Tenth Schedule.



About Disqualification of Legislators

- **Defection:** Refers to switching political allegiance, particularly when a member of a political party leaves the party and joins another party or becomes independent.
- **Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law):** Added by the Constitution (52nd Amendment) Act, 1985, to stop political defections and protect democracy.
- **Role of Speaker/Chairman:** Entrusted with deciding disqualification cases quickly and without fear, avoiding long court delays.

Grounds for Disqualification:

- Voluntarily leaving party membership.
- Disobeying party whip during voting.
- An independent legislator joining a political party.

- A nominated member joining a political party after six months of becoming a legislator.

Relevant Judgments

- **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992):** The Supreme Court upheld the Speaker's wide powers in deciding disqualification of MLAs. It ruled that the Speaker's decision is subject to judicial review, but courts cannot interfere before the Speaker/Chairman makes a decision.
- **Keisham Meghachandra Singh Case (2020):** The Court directed that disqualification petitions should be decided within three months. It also suggested replacing the Speaker with an independent tribunal for faster and fairer decisions.

2. Additional Judges

Context:

Ramesh Kumari sworn in as **Additional Judge** of Punjab and Haryana High Court.

About Additional Judges

- Appointed under **Article 224** of the Constitution for a period **not exceeding two years**.
- The President of India appoints Additional Judges in High Courts under the Constitution.
- They **hold office until the age of 62**.
- **Reason for appointment:** To handle **temporary increase in work or arrears in the High Court**.

3. Nomination of Panel of Chairpersons

Context: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla nominates Premachandran as empanelled member to preside over House proceedings.

About Nomination of Panel of Chairpersons

- **Section 9** of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha states:
 - At the start of a session or as needed, the Speaker can **nominate up to 10 MPs as a panel of Chairpersons.**
 - Any of them may **preside over the House** in the **absence of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.**
 - They can do so **only when requested** by the Speaker or, in the Speaker's absence, by the Deputy Speaker.
 - The nominated Chairpersons **remain in office until a new panel is appointed.**
 - If a member of the panel is also **absent**, any other person determined by the House acts as Speaker.
 - They **cannot preside** when both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker positions are **vacant**; in that case, the **President appoints a member** as Speaker for the purpose.

4. President's Rule

Context: Parliament has approved a six-month extension of President's Rule in Manipur, following its initial imposition in February 2025.

Grounds of Imposition of President's Rule

- **Article 355:** The Centre has a duty to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance, and to ensure that the State government functions according to the Constitution.
- In fulfilling this duty, the Centre can **take over a State government under Article 356** if the Constitutional Machinery in the State fails.
- **President's Rule can be proclaimed under two grounds:**
 - **Article 356**
 - **Article 365**

Article 356 of Indian Constitution

- The President can **proclaim President's Rule** if satisfied that the State government **cannot function according to the Constitution.**
- Action can be taken **on the Governor's report or even without it.**

Article 365 of Indian Constitution

- If a State **fails to comply with or implement directions from the Centre**, the President may declare that the State government **cannot function according to the Constitution.**

Parliamentary Approval of President's Rule

- A proclamation issued by the President **must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within 2 months by a simple majority from the date of its issue.**

- If the **Lok Sabha is dissolved** during this period, the proclamation **survives until 30 days** from the first sitting of the new Lok Sabha, provided the **Rajya Sabha approves** it in the meantime.

Duration of President's Rule

- If approved, it **continues for six months**.
- Can be **extended up to three years** with Parliament's approval every six months.
- **44th Amendment Act, 1978:** President's Rule can be **extended beyond one year** by six months at a time only if:
 - **National Emergency** is in operation in India or in part/all of the State.
 - **Election Commission certifies** that elections to the State Legislative Assembly **cannot be held due to difficulties**.

5. Registered Unrecognized Political Parties (RUPP)

Context: Election Commission of India delists 334 registered unrecognized political parties for failing to follow norms.

About RUPPs

- These are **political parties registered with the ECI** but **not recognized** as State or National parties.

Legal Provisions & Guidelines

- **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA, 1951):** Provides criteria for registration of political parties with ECI.

- **ECI cannot de-register** a political party under RPA, as held in *Indian National Congress vs Institute of Social Welfare (2002)*.
- But, as per **ECI Guidelines**, parties that **do not contest elections for 6 consecutive years** can be removed from the register.

6. Supreme Court Directions on Stray Dogs in NCR Delhi

Context: Supreme Court intervenes to address the stray dog menace and issues directions for its control.

Problem of Stray Dogs

- India has about **1.5 crore stray dogs** (2019 Livestock Census).
- Dogs are the **main source of Rabies** (a vaccine-preventable viral disease). India accounts for **36% of global rabies deaths**.

Legal and Judicial Provisions

- **Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023** (under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960): Aim to control stray dogs through **sterilisation and vaccination**.
- **Court Judgements:**
 - *Jallikattu Case (2014)* – SC held that **Article 21 (Right to Life)** extends to **animals**.
 - *People for Elimination of Stray Trouble v. Animal Welfare Board of India* – SC **suspended killing of street dogs**, even troublemakers.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Article 243W:** Municipalities must control stray dog population.
- **Article 51A(g):** Citizens have a **fundamental duty** to show **compassion to animals**.

- **Grounds for cancellation** include fraud, disaffection towards the Constitution, threats to sovereignty, security, friendly relations, or public interest.

7. Govt Tightens OCI Rules

Context: Union Government tightens OCI card rules for individuals with serious charges or convictions, under Section 7D of the Citizenship Act, 1955.



Key Highlights of the News

- **OCI registration can be revoked if:**
 - The individual is **sentenced to at least 2 years** in prison, or
 - A **charge sheet is filed** for an offense carrying **7 or more years** of imprisonment.

About OCI Cards

- Introduced in **2005** via an amendment to the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- In **2015**, **PIO card scheme merged** with OCI; all PIO cardholders became OCI cardholders.
- **Not dual citizenship**; does **not confer political rights**.

Benefits for OCI Cardholders

- **Multiple-entry, multipurpose, life-long visa** to India.
- **No need to register** with FRRO/FRO for any stay length.
- **Parity with NRIs** in economic, financial, and educational fields, **except** for acquiring agricultural or plantation properties.

8. SHRESTH Initiative

- The **Union Health Ministry** launched the **State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH)** to **benchmark and strengthen state drug regulatory systems**.

About SHRESTH

- Proposed by **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**.
- **Aim:** Improve performance of state drug regulatory authorities and ensure **drug safety and quality** across India.
- **Five Key Themes for Index:**
 - Human Resources
 - Infrastructure
 - Licensing Activities
 - Surveillance Activities
 - Responsiveness

9. Section 152 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

Context: Supreme Court questioned whether the “potential for abuse” of Section 152 of BNS, 2023—which replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860—by a state can render the law unconstitutional.

About Section 152

- Covers acts **endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.**
- Anyone who **purposely or knowingly** excites or attempts to excite **secession, armed rebellion, or subversive activities** through words, signs, or visible representation can be **imprisoned for life or 7 years, with a fine.**
- **Excludes:** Comments criticizing the Government’s actions to seek lawful changes.

10. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO)



Context: Karnataka High Court refuses to quash FIR against a woman for sexually assaulting a minor boy, stating the POCSO Act is gender neutral.

About POCSO Act

- **Objective:** Protect children from **sexual assault, harassment, and pornography.**

- **Gender neutral:** Defines a **child** as anyone **below 18 years.**
- **Procedural safeguards:**
 - **Special courts** with **in-camera proceedings**
 - **Mandatory reporting** of offences
 - **Simple language** in reports if made by a child
 - **Penalty:** Up to **death penalty** for aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

11. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

Context: Opposition considers moving a motion to remove the Chief Election Commissioner.

Role:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is responsible for conducting **free and fair elections.** Provisions for the **appointment, tenure, and removal** of the CEC are laid down in **Article 324** of the Constitution and the **CEC & Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023.**

Appointment:

- The **President** appoints the CEC and Election Commissioners on the recommendation of a **three-member committee:**
 - Prime Minister
 - Leader of Opposition (LoP)
 - One Union Cabinet Minister
- **Tenure:** 6 years or until the age of 65 (whichever is earlier).
- **Benefits:** Same as a **Supreme Court judge.**

Process of Removal

- **Article 324(5):** CEC can be removed only in the **same manner and on the same grounds** as a **Supreme Court Judge**.
- Process:
 - Motion alleging **misbehaviour or incapacity** is introduced in either House.
 - A **committee enquires** into the charges.
 - Motion must be passed by a **two-thirds majority** of members present and voting in **both Houses of Parliament**.
 - Once passed, the **President orders the removal** of the CEC.

12. Reservation in Private Educational Institutions

Context: Parliamentary Committee backs reservation in private educational institutions.

Constitutional Mandate for Reservation in Private Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)

- **Article 15(5):** Allows the State to provide **reservation in admissions for SCs, STs, and Socially & Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) in all educational institutions, including private ones, except minority institutions.**
- **Article 15(5):** Added by the **93rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2005.**

13. Cultural and Educational Rights of Minorities

Context: The **Uttarakhand State Assembly** passed the *Uttarakhand Minority Education Bill, 2025*, which abolishes the **Madrasa Board** and

creates a new **Uttarakhand Minority Education Authority** in its place.

Constitutional Provisions

Article 29(1): Any group of citizens with its own language, script, or culture has the right to preserve it.

Article 29(2): No person can be denied admission in State-run or State-aided educational institutions only on the grounds of religion, race, caste, or language.

Article 30(1): Religious or linguistic minorities have the right to establish and manage educational institutions of their choice.

Article 30(2): The State cannot discriminate while giving financial aid to educational institutions just because they are run by minorities.

14. Registrar General of India (RGI)

Context: RGI has asked States to ensure universal registration of births and deaths.

About RGI:

- Appointed under the *Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969*.
- Works under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Main Responsibilities:

1. **Census:** Conducts Housing & Population Census (Census Act, 1948).
2. **Civil Registration System (CRS):** Manages compulsory registration of births & deaths (RBD Act, 1969).

3. **Other Functions: Sample** Registration System (SRS), National Population Register (NPR), Mother Tongue Survey.

16. Fundamental Right to Safe and Motorable Roads

Context: In *UPP Tollways v. MP Road Development Corp.*, the Supreme Court held that the **right to safe and motorable roads is part of the Fundamental Right to Life under Article 21.**

Judgement

- The right to safe, motorable roads is a **Fundamental Right.**
- It comes under **Article 21 (Right to Life)** and **Article 19(1)(g) (Freedom of Movement).**

Court Observations:

- Road development is a **public duty.**
- The **State** is responsible for maintaining roads under its control, not private contractors.



Geography|Environment

1.Asian Giant Tortoise

Context : Recently, Asian giant tortoise has been reintroduced INTO THE Zelilang community reserve in Nagaland.



- It is the largest tortoise of mainland Asia.
- Only species of tortoise that make nest above ground instead of in a whole

Conservation Status

- IUCN : Critically Endangered.
- Wildlife Protection Act1972 – Sch 1.

Tortoise vs Turtle

- Tortoises are land-dwelling reptiles whereas turtles are adapted for an aquatic or semi-aquatic life.
- Tortoises are primarily herbivores, whereas turtles are generally omnivores.

Key Turtle Species in Assam:

Assam Roofed Turtle : This turtle is endemic to Assam and is found in the Brahmaputra-Meghna drainage. It is critically endangered. The Jia Bharali river in Nameri National Park is one of its known habitats.

Black Softshell Turtle : Almost extinct, a small population was discovered in the Brahmaputra Basin. The Nagshankar Temple pond in Assam is one of the places where they are found, and it has become a center for conservation efforts.

2.Greater One Horned Rhino

Context – IUCN – TRAFFIC has recently lauded



India's effort in reducing cases of poaching of one horned rhino in India.

TRAFFIC : An NGO that works on biodiversity conservation is jointly run by WWF & IUCN.

All about greater one horned rhino :

- Single horn, thick armor like skin.
- Over 90% of India's greater one-horned rhino population resides in Kaziranga.
- It is largest among five rhino species.
- Protection status –
 - IUCN Red list – Vulnerable
 - CITES – Appendix 1
 - WPA, 1972 – Schedule 1

3.India Reaches 50% Non-fossil Fuel Power Capacity

Context - In a landmark achievement for clean energy, India has reached 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of its 2030 target under the Paris Agreement.

- India's total installed capacity is 485 GW, out of which 243 GW is from non fossil fuel.
 - Renewables: 184.62 GW (38.08%)
 - Large hydro: 49.38 GW (10.19%)
 - Nuclear: 8.78 GW (1.81%)

Related Efforts & Initiatives

- PM-KUSUM: Promoted solar-powered irrigation and feeder-level solarisation;
- PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana: Targeted rooftop solar for 10 million households;
- Solar Parks & Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy: Enabled large-scale deployment of renewables;
- Bioenergy Expansion: Boosted rural employment and circular economy goals.

Next targets

- 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030;
- 45% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP;
- Net-zero emissions by 2070

4.OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2025- 2034

Context - Recently, OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2025– 2034 reveals that 27% of global cereal production will be diverted to biofuel and industrial uses by 2034 — up from 23% in 2023.

Key Findings from the Report

- Only 40% of cereals will be consumed directly by humans by 2034;
- 33% will be used for animal feed
- 27% will go to biofuels and industrial applications.

5.Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki

Context : A recent volcanic eruption at Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki in Indonesia released an ash



cloud soaring up to an astounding 11 kilometers into the sky.

- It is located on Flores Island in East Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia.
- It lies along the tectonically active Pacific Ring of Fire, a zone known for frequent volcanic and seismic activity.

6.Mount Cilo

Context - Turkey’s glaciers, particularly on Mount Cilo and Mount Ararat, are rapidly melting due to the accelerating impacts of climate change.

- It is located in the Yüksekova district of Hakkâri Province, in the southeasternmost part of Turkey, near the borders with Iraq and Iran.
- It is the second-highest mountain in Turkey
- Mount Cilo is part of the East Taurus Mountains (Doğu Toroslar) and lies within the Hakkâri Mountains range.

Aspire

7.Kalai II Hydropower project

Context - The Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (APSPCB) conducted an environmental public hearing for the proposed 1200 MW Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project in Anjaw district, being developed by THDC India Limited.

- It is a 1,200 MW hydro power
- Type: It is a run-of-river with pondage project.
- River: It is planned at the Lohit river basin in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Project developer: Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC), a subsidiary of the Indian power generation company NTPC

8.UNDP Equator Initiative Award

Context : A self-help group (SHG) from a small village in Kundgol taluk of Dharwad district has bagged the ‘Equator Initiative Award’ given by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

About UNDP Equator Initiative Award

- The Equator Prize is organized by the Equator Initiative within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Purpose: It is presented annually to honour nature-based solutions led by indigenous people and local communities that promote sustainable development and ecological resilience.
- The Award is also referred to as the Nobel Prize for Biodiversity Conservation.
- The Award is announced on International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9th August)

Cyclone Asna

- Cyclone Asna has formed over the Kutch coast in Gujarat and adjoining areas of Pakistan.

9. Gastrodia lohitisensis

Context - Indian botanists have discovered a new leafless orchid species, *Gastrodia lohitisensis*, in Arunachal Pradesh's Lohit district.

- This orchid thrives in bamboo thickets around Tezu, relying on nutrients from fungi in decomposing leaf litter instead of sunlight.
- It is classified as "Endangered" due to threats from local land use.

10. Raimona National Park

Context - Three poachers were arrested by Assam Forest Department and SSB from Raimona National Park in Kokrajhar.

- Raimona National Park is located along the Indo-Bhutan border in Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (Kokrajhar).
- It was declared a national park on June 5, 2021 (6th NP of Assam)

- It shares forest areas with Bhutan's Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park.
- The Sonkosh River borders the park to the west, and the Saralbhanga River runs along the eastern side.

11. Santa Ana winds

Context : Experts link Santa Ana winds and climate change to wildfires in Malibu, California

• Named after Santa Ana Canyon, these winds are dry and warm, blowing from the deserts of the Great Basin.

• They occur when high pressure forms over the Great Basin and low pressure develops along California's coast.

12. Tagging of Ganges river dolphin

Context : The first Ganges River Dolphin was tagged today in Assam, marking a historic step in wildlife conservation.



• initiative is led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change with execution by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Assam Forest Department, and Aaranyak.

• Lightweight tags compatible with Argos satellite systems minimize interference with dolphin movement.

• The project is funded by the National CAMPA Authority under Project Dolphin. Ganges River Dolphin found in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.

- It is listed as Endangered by IUCN, Appendix I under CITES, and Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Kulsī river is the habitat of endangered South Asian river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) in Assam.
- This endangered dolphin known as Xihu in Assamese language.



Economy

1.NITI Ayog Report : EV in India

Context: Recently , NITI Aayog launched the report “Unlocking a \$200 Billion Opportunity: Electric Vehicles (EV) in India” to accelerate the nation’s electric mobility transition.



Key Highlights of the Report

Target for EV: India aims for 30% EV sales by 2030, up from 2.08 million units sold in 2024.

1. This can unlock a \$200 billion economy through fuel savings and reduced import dependence, Job generation and Cutting Emission.
2. Global Comparison: India’s EV adoption is increasing but lags behind leading markets like the U.S., EU, and China in scale and speed.
3. Segment-Wise Progress: Strong growth in electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers, moderate progress in electric buses, slow uptake of electric cars, and negligible presence of long-haul electric trucks.
4. Current Penetration: EVs formed 7.6% of total vehicle sales in 2024, reflecting gradual growth but still far from the desired pace
India has taken nearly 10 years to reach this penetration.
5. Barriers: Slow initial adoption and infrastructure gaps, and proposes strategic unlocks to boost penetration.
6. Future Requirement: To meet the 30% EV sales target by 2030, India must increase

adoption by over 22% within the next five years.

2.India Semiconductor Mission

Context- Union Cabinet approved Four Semiconductor Projects under India Semiconductor Mission

INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION



Launched: 2021, under Ministry of Electronics & IT. Objective: Develop a world-class semiconductor and display ecosystem; position India as a global chip manufacturing/design hub. Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Schemes: Focus on semiconductor fabs, display fabs, compound semiconductors, ATMP/OSAT, and Design Linked Incentives.

Mission focus of ISM

- 1.Set up Chip Manufacturing Plants (fabs).
 - 2.Create packaging and testing units.
 - 3.Supporting startups in chip design.
 - 4.Training young engineers.
 - 5.Bring Global companies to Invest in India
- Significance of the Mission
- 6.Tap India's rising semiconductor market
 - 7.De risk global supply chains by reducing dependencies

Current Status of Semiconductor Industry in India

- 1.India is the world's second-largest consumer of semiconductors (after China).
- 2.Production:** Currently zero fabrication capacity; only design & packaging units exist.
- 3.Import Dependence:** Entire chip requirement (electronics,telecom, auto,

defence) is imported, mainly from Taiwan, South Korea, China, and US.

4. Policy Push: India Semiconductor Mission (2021) with \$10 bn incentive package, part of Digital India + Atmanirbhar Bharat.

3.2025 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)



Context: The 'State of Food and Nutrition in the World' (SOFI) 2025 report has been released by the United Nations

More on News: Despite a 30% decline in undernourishment since 2006, the 2025 SOFI report shows India had the highest rate of wasting among children under five in the world in 2024, with other key indicators also raising concern.

- Hunger affected up to 720 million people worldwide in 2024 — around 8.2 per cent of the global population.

About State of Food and Nutrition in the World Report

- Prepared by Five UN Agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), UNICEF (UN Children's Fund), WFP (World Food Programme), and WHO (World Health Organization).

Mandate: Tracks global progress on SDG targets 2.1 (ending hunger) and 2.2 (eliminating all forms of malnutrition).

Focus Areas: Hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, agricultural productivity, and related demographic and macroeconomic variables.

Key Global Findings

- **Chronic Hunger:** An estimated 720 million people experienced chronic hunger in 2024, accounting for 8.2% of the global population.
- **Moderate or Severe Food Insecurity:** About 2.3 billion people faced moderate or severe food insecurity globally.
- **Post-2015 Rise:** Hunger in 2024 remained higher than pre-pandemic levels and 96 million more people were chronically hungry compared to 2015, when the 2030 Agenda was launched.
- **Food Insecurity Rise:** 335 million more people are food-insecure compared to 2019; 683 million more compared to 2015.

4. Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDGs



Context: NITI Aayog Vice Chairman presented India's Third Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Ministerial Segment of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on SDGs convened by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Key Highlights of India's Progress on SDGs

Poverty Alleviation: Around 248 million individuals estimated to have escaped Multidimensional Poverty (MPI).

Health and Nutrition: POSHAN Abhiyaan and Ayushman Bharat expanded access to quality nutrition and healthcare.

Clean Energy Transition: Programs such as the National Green Hydrogen Mission, PM-KUSUM, and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana are advancing clean energy goals.

Innovation and Startups: India is now the third-largest start-up ecosystem globally.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI): India has emerged as a global leader in DPI, built on the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile), ensuring inclusive and efficient service delivery.

Index-Based Monitoring: Tools like the SDG India Index, North-Eastern Region District SDG Index, and the National Multidimensional Poverty Index are strengthening data-driven governance and local implementation.

Localisation and Last-Mile Delivery: The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) are ensuring last-mile saturation of government services, supporting inclusive development.

5. India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI)



Context: Recently, NITI Aayog launched the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) to benchmark States/UTs' progress in electric mobility transition.

About India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI)

A first-of-its-kind tool to comprehensively evaluate and score States and Union Territories on their electric vehicles (EV) transition progress.

Developed by: NITI Aayog

Aim: To promote transparency, foster healthy competition, and enable knowledge sharing among states.

Delhi, Maharashtra and Chandigarh have topped NITI Aayog's inaugural IEMI 2024, emerging as frontrunners in the country's transition to EV.

Key Features of IEMI

1. Tracks 16 indicators across the three themes, providing a score out of 100 for each state/UT.

2. Three Themes

Transport Electrification Progress: Measures EV demand-side adoption through EV registrations and growth in vehicle segments.

Charging Infrastructure Readiness: Assesses availability and expansion of public and private charging stations.

EV Research and Innovation Status: Evaluates supply-side efforts in R&D, manufacturing capacity, and policy incentives to strengthen the EV ecosystem.

6. India's First Green Hydrogen Plant India



India has commissioned its first indigenous megawatt-scale green hydrogen production plant at Deendayal Port, Kandla, Gujarat, marking a major milestone in green port infrastructure.

Capacity: The Plant has an annual production capacity of 140 metric tonnes of green hydrogen and is part of a larger 10 MW project.

About Green Hydrogen Production:

Refers: A facility that produces hydrogen gas using renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, through a process called electrolysis.

In this process, water (H₂O) is split into hydrogen (H₂) and oxygen (O₂) using electricity generated from clean, non-fossil fuel sources.

This method produces zero carbon emissions, making green hydrogen a clean and sustainable fuel for industries, transportation, and energy storage.

7.AU Small Finance Bank Secures Universal Bank Licence



Context: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) a Universal Bank License in 2025.

This is the **first such license** in a decade, allowing a Small Finance Bank to upgrade into a full-fledged Commercial Bank.

About Universal Bank License:

Definition: A banking license issued by the RBI that permits an entity to operate as a full-service commercial bank, offering the complete range of banking products and services to all customer segments.

Eligibility: Typically granted to entities meeting capital adequacy, governance, and financial health norms set by RBI.

Powers Granted:

Can accept all types of deposits (savings, current, fixed, recurring).

Can offer loans to all segments (retail, corporate, MSME, agriculture).

Can participate in foreign exchange, derivatives, and investment banking activities, subject to RBI guidelines.

8.Brown Revolution 2.0



Context: Brown Revolution 2.0 proposes a nationwide cooperative model, inspired by Amul, to convert Agro waste into compost, vermicompost, and biochar, boosting soil health, farm productivity, and rural livelihoods.

What is Brown Revolution 2.0 ?

Definition: A proposed nationwide initiative to restore soil health by converting agricultural waste into compost, vermicompost, and biochar.

Approach: Decentralised, cooperative recycling of agro-waste into organic soil amendments.

Goals: Revive degraded soils, promote sustainable agriculture, and improve rural livelihoods.

Unlike Brown Revolution 1.0, the second version focuses on soil organic carbon (SOC) restoration and climate resilience.

9.US–India Tariff Dispute



Context : India–U.S. trade ties are growing but remain troubled by disputes. On August 1, 2025, the U.S. imposed steep tariffs on Indian goods after talks failed, marking a new phase of economic friction in the partnership.

Recent Developments

1 On August 1, 2025, the U.S. administration imposed a 25% reciprocal tariff on Indian goods after trade talks broke down, citing India’s reluctance to liberalize agriculture and dairy.

2.By late August, tariffs were further raised to 50%, with an additional 25% penalty imposed in response to India’s discounted oil imports from Russia.

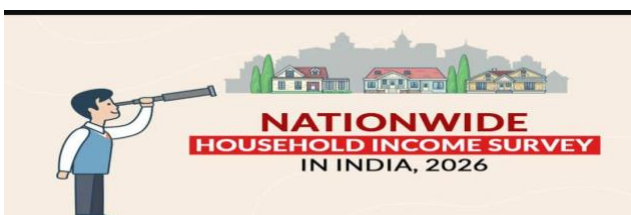
3.Around \$48 billion worth of Indian exports are impacted – textiles, agriculture, and manufacturing being the hardest hit.

Pharmaceuticals and electronics received temporary exemptions.

4.India rejected U.S. pressure, with External Affairs Minister Jaishankar declaring that India has non-negotiable “red lines”, particularly on strategic autonomy in energy policy.

5.The dispute spilled into diplomacy, with reports of delays in U.S. defense deals and a subtle shift in India’s outreach towards China and regional partners.

10.India's First Household Income Survey in 2026



Context: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will conduct India's first comprehensive Household Income Survey in 2026, through the National Sample Survey (NSS).

■ The NSS is conducted by the Field Operations Division of the National Statistical Office (NSO), earlier known as the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

All India Household Income Survey

■ About: Household Income Survey is a large-scale statistical exercise aimed at collecting reliable data on income earned by households from various sources such as wages, salaries, business, agriculture, property, and remittances.

■ It aims to address the historic income-consumption mismatch by adopting global best practices from the USA's Current Population Survey, Canadian Income Survey, and Australia's Survey of Income and Housing. For the first time in India, it will assess the impact of technology on wages, with a special focus on informal sector earnings and technology-driven income generation.

Objective: The Survey aims to capture accurate data on income levels, distribution patterns, and structural disparities to aid economic policymaking and welfare planning. Background: Since 1950, India has not conducted a nationwide income survey due to operational challenges and data inconsistencies, particularly the mismatch between reported income and consumption-savings data.

11.Next-Generation GST Reforms



Context: The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Nation on the 79th Independence Day from the Red Fort, Delhi.

He announced next-generation GST reforms as a “Diwali gift” to reduce tax burdens and stimulate economic activity.

Key Features of GST Reforms

Revised Tax Slabs:

Current Slabs: 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%, plus compensation cess on luxury/sin goods.

Proposed Slabs:

Retain 5% (merit) and 18% (standard) slabs. Introduce a concessional rate (<1%) for precious metals (e.g., gold at 3%, semi-precious stones at 0.25%).

High “sin rate” of 40% for 5-7 items (e.g., tobacco, gutka).

Rate Reductions:

99% of items in 12% slab (e.g., daily-use items like toothpaste, soap, shampoo) to move to 5%.

90% of items in 28% slab (e.g., air conditioners, white goods) to shift to 18%.

Benefits of GST Reforms 2025

Lower Prices for Essential and Aspirational Goods:

The proposed two-slab structure reduces the cost of daily-use and aspirational goods, enhancing affordability.

Small FMCG sachets (₹10 or less) and household appliances like refrigerators will become cheaper, increasing purchasing power for the common man, women, students, and middle class.

Boost in Consumption: Lower tax rates are expected to spur consumer spending, driving demand and economic activity, aligning with the Laffer Curve principle where reduced rates lead to higher consumption and revenue.

Uniform Taxation: Similar items (e.g., all namkeen) will be taxed at the same rate, reducing confusion and ensuring transparent pricing, which builds consumer trust.

Simplified Compliance: The shift to two slabs (5% and 18%) minimizes classification disputes, reducing compliance costs for MSMEs and startups.

Technology-driven measures like pre-filled GST returns and seamless registration processes simplify compliance, enabling small businesses to focus on growth.

Correction of Inverted Duty Structure:

Aligning input and output tax rates (e.g., in textiles) reduces input tax credit (ITC) accumulation, freeing up working capital for labor-intensive and export-oriented sectors like textiles and diamonds.

12.NPCI to Push Out Pull Transactions



Context : The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), has announced that “pull” or “collect” transactions on UPI will be phased out by October 2025. This move comes amid rising instances of online payment frauds where scammers exploited the “request money” feature to deceive users into authorizing unintended transfers.

About the Move

What are Pull Transactions?

In a pull transaction, the receiver of funds initiates the request (for example, when someone sends you a “Request Money” notification on UPI). The payer only has to approve it.

NPCI’s Decision:

NPCI has directed banks and UPI apps to discontinue P2P collect requests and move fully towards the “push” model (where the payer directly initiates payment via QR code, UPI ID, or mobile number).

Reason:

- 1.High vulnerability to fraud and phishing scams.
- 2.RBI data shows fraud cases in digital transactions have sharply increased in the past two years.
- 3.Pull transactions accounted for just ~3% of P2P UPI payments, so discontinuing them will not impact the bulk of transactions.



Impact:

Consumers: Safer payments, as fraud-prone requests are eliminated.

Merchants: Will have to use QR codes, UPI IDs, or payment links instead of “collect requests.”

Banks & Apps: Must redesign their systems to comply by October 2025.

Significance:

This marks a security-over-convenience shift in India’s digital payment ecosystem, strengthening trust in UPI, which has become the backbone of India’s fintech revolution

Govt. Schemes & Policies

1. MERITE Scheme



CABINET DECISION

CABINET APPROVES BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR MERITE SCHEME

OUTLAY OF RS 4,200 CRORE

Aim
To improve the quality, equity and governance in technical education covering all States/UTs by implementing interventions aligned with the National Educational Policy-2020.

Major outcomes expected

- Enhancement of students' learning and employability skills.
- Strengthened research and innovation environment.
- Development of guidelines for multidisciplinary programs among technical courses.

MERITE: Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education
Source: Govt

Context: The Union Cabinet has approved the Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) scheme to strengthen technical institutes across India.

About MERITE Scheme:

Â Central Sector Scheme: Funds will be transferred from the Central Government to institutions via a Central Nodal Agency.

Objectives

Primary Aim: To “improve the quality, equity, and governance” in selected technical institutes through interventions aligned with National Education Policy 2020.

Scheme expected to empower and provide employability to over 7.5 lakh students.

Implementation

Target Institutions: Government engineering institutions and polytechnics across all States and UTs.

Funding and Duration: Total budget of ₹4,200 crore over five years (2025-26 to 2029-30).

Half the funding will come as a World Bank loan.

Supporting Bodies: Institutions like IITs, IIMs, and regulatory bodies such as All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and

National Board of Accreditation (NBA) will play significant roles in implementation.

2. Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)



CABINET APPROVES EMPLOYMENT LINKED INCENTIVE (ELI) SCHEME

Outlay: Rs 99,446 Crore

- Aims to incentivize the creation of more than **3.5 Crore jobs in 2 years.**
- Benefits of the Scheme would be applicable to jobs created between 1st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027.
- The first-time employees will get one month's wage (**up to Rs 15,000/-**)

For more details, scan the QR code

Context: Launched on 1st August 2025 to address job creation amid global slowdown and export shocks due to U.S. tariffs.

Objective:

1. To generate 3.5 crore jobs in 2 years.
2. Encourage employers to hire and retain workers.
3. Provide income support to employees.

Key Features:

1. Incentives to both employees (earning \leq ₹1 lakh/month) and employers.
2. Employees get direct cash incentives (up to ₹15,000).
3. Employers get up to ₹3,000/month per new hire for two years.
4. Implemented via EPFO, ensuring transparency.

Significance:

1. Boosts formal sector employment.
2. Supports MSMEs struggling under tariff wars.
3. Reduces joblessness among youth.

3. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana



Context: Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the targeted LPG subsidy under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for FY 2025–26 with a financial outlay of ₹12,000 crore.

About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) launched in May 2016.

Objective: Provide free LPG connections to women from below-poverty-line (BPL) households to promote clean cooking fuel and reducing indoor air pollution.

Eligibility: Adult woman from a poor household with no LPG connection, belonging to:

Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011-identified poor households.

SC/ST households, PMAY beneficiaries, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, Forest dwellers, Most Backward Classes (MBC), Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes, River island residents.

If not in above lists, can apply by submitting 14-point self-declaration proving poor household status.

4.SASCI Scheme



Ministry of Tourism
Government of India

Context: Recently, the Government of India launched the SASCI scheme for developing selected tourist destinations.

About SASCI Scheme:

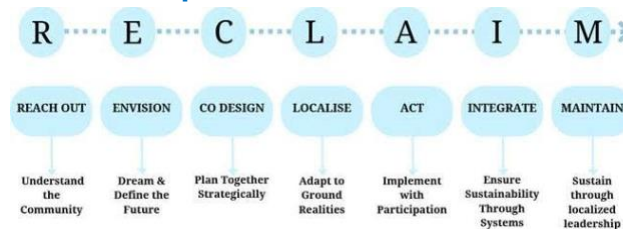
The Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) for Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale was launched in July 2025.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Tourism

Key Features of SASCI Scheme

- 1. End-to-End Tourist Experience:** SASCI focuses on strengthening the entire tourist value chain such as infrastructure, branding, sustainability, service delivery, and operations.
- 2. Sustainability and Expertise:** The scheme emphasizes design quality, sustainable operations, and local stakeholder involvement for long-term impact
- 3. Funding and Timeline:** The Centre will fund projects till March 31, 2026, while state governments will execute and manage the projects. The projects are to be developed and completed within maximum 2 year's period.

5.RECLAIM - A Community Engagement and Development Framework



Context: The Ministry of Coal will launch RECLAIM, a national framework for community engagement and development during mine closure and post-closure phases.

About RECLAIM:

RECLAIM (Rejuvenation, Engagement, Community Livelihoods, and Mine-closure) is a comprehensive community development framework designed to:

1. Address the complex challenges of mine closures and their impacts on local communities and landscapes.
2. Ensure a just and inclusive transition for people affected by the end of mining operations.
3. Provide a practical, step-by-step guide to formalise community participation in both the mine closure and post-closure phases.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Coal

Collaborating Institutions: Coal Controller Organisation (under the Ministry of Coal) and the Heartfulness Institute

6. Key Highlights of PM's Independence Day Speech



Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision: PM Modi outlined a roadmap for a \$10 trillion economy by 2047, emphasizing self-reliance, innovation, and citizen empowerment across defense, semiconductors, clean energy, and agriculture.

Mission Sudarshan Chakra: A decade-long initiative to develop an indigenous defense shield by 2035, inspired by Shri Krishna's Sudarshan Chakra, to protect strategic and civilian sites.

GST Reforms: Next-generation reforms by Diwali 2025 to reduce taxes on essentials, simplify slabs, and support MSMEs, startups, and consumers for economic growth.

PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana: ₹1 lakh crore scheme to create 3 crore jobs, offering ₹15,000 monthly incentives to first-time employees, boosting youth employment.

Semiconductor Production: "Made-in-India" chips to be launched by end-2025, with six operational plants, reducing import dependence.

Clean Energy Milestone: Achieved 50% non-fossil fuel electricity by 2025, with plans for tenfold nuclear energy expansion by 2047 and investments in solar, hydrogen, and hydro energy.

National Deepwater Exploration Mission: To harness offshore energy resources, reducing fuel import dependency.

Demography Mission: High-powered mission to address demographic imbalances due to infiltration in border areas, ensuring security and citizens' rights.

Women and Youth Empowerment: 3 crore women to become 'Lakshpati Didis' via self-help groups; youth urged to innovate in AI, jet engines, and space tech.

6. APAAR ID



APAAR ID is a unique academic identifier by the Indian government to track a student's educational journey from school to higher education.

Context : Recently, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has now made it mandatory for students to submit their APAAR IDs while registering for the board exams.

4. To help in educational policymaking and analysis

About APAAR ID

1. APAAR stands for Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry. It was envisioned under the New Education Policy, 2020.

2. It is an identification number which is linked to enrollment, and a student's journey from pre-primary to higher education can be tracked through it.

3. APAAR assigns a unique and permanent 12-digit ID to every student, offering a comprehensive record of their academic achievements, including degrees, scholarships, awards, and other credits.

4. It is linked to Aadhaar and stored in DigiLocker for easy access.

The APAAR ID embodies the vision of "One Nation, One Student ID", ensuring a unified and accessible academic experience for students across India.



5. It serves as a lifelong academic passport, consolidating all achievements and credentials of a student in one place.

APAAR is generated through Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+).

Objectives of APAAR

1. To accumulate and store students' academic achievements in a central database
2. To facilitate seamless transfer between institutions
3. To provide standardized digital records for mark sheets and institutional affiliations.

International Relation

1. Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI):

Context: At Ramsar COP15, the **IBRRI Strategic Plan 2025–2030** was officially launched.



Purpose: Supports the **Ramsar Convention's Strategic Plan**.

Secretariat: IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

Supported by IUCN's **BRIDGE project**.

Member Countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam.

Strategic Plan 2025–2030: Aim to **halt and reverse wetland loss** in member states.

BRIDGE Project:

Promotes **sustainable management of shared water resources, biodiversity conservation, water security, and peaceful cross-border cooperation**.

2. India–Philippines Strategic Partnership

Context: During President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s state visit to India in August 2025, both

countries signed a **Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership** to boost cooperation in **defence, maritime security, and space technology**.



Key Highlights of the Visit

- Agreements signed on **Mutual Legal Assistance, Transfer of Sentenced Persons, and cooperation in Science, Space, and Tourism**.
- India to support a **pilot project for the Philippines' Sovereign Data Cloud**.
- Philippines invited to join the **Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)**.

India–Philippines Relations

- **Defence:** Philippines = **first foreign buyer of BrahMos**; First Track-1 Maritime Dialogue held in Manila (2024).
- **Economy:** Bilateral trade = **\$3.5 billion (2023–24)**; ASEAN–India FTA in place, talks on **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** ongoing.
- **Capacity Building:** Philippines benefits from **ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation)** training programmes.
- **People-to-People: Cultural Exchange Programme (2019–23); Indian diaspora 70,000+** in the Philippines.

Significance of the Relationship

- **Act East Policy:** Strengthens India's role in ASEAN and Indo-Pacific.
- **Maritime Security:** Helps balance China's influence in the South China Sea.
- **Defence Exports:** Expands market for Indian weapons and naval systems.
- **Space & Technology:** Builds partnership in space, digital systems, and climate action.
- **People-to-People Ties:** Indian diaspora and students promote goodwill and cultural links.

3. Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty

Context: Russia has withdrawn from the INF Treaty, citing Western missile deployments as a threat to its security.



About INF Treaty:

- Signed between the United States and the Soviet Union in **1987**.
- Required destruction of all ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of **500–5,500 km**.
- First major agreement to:
 - Reduce nuclear arsenals.
 - Remove an entire class of weapons.

- Allow on-site inspections for verification.

- The treaty weakened after the **US withdrew in 2019**.

Key Nuclear Arms Control Agreements:

- **NPT (Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty, 1970):** Prevents spread of nuclear weapons and related technology.
- **SORT (Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty, 2002):** US–Russia deals to limit strategic nuclear warheads.
- **New START (2010):** US–Russia agreement to reduce and limit strategic arms.
- **TPNW (Treaty on Prohibition of nuclear weapons, 2017):** UN treaty banning any activity related to nuclear weapons.

4. International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Context: The International Seabed Authority (ISA) held its 30th Assembly session, marking 30 years since its creation under UNCLOS and the 1994 Part XI Implementing Agreement.

Key Decisions:

- Work started on **Common Heritage Fund** for sustainability, capacity-building, and fair benefit-sharing.
- **Economic Planning Commission** set up to study impacts of seabed mining and suggest safeguards.
- **November 1** declared as *International Deep Seabed Day*.

About ISA:

- Regulates mineral resources in seabed areas beyond national control (54% of world's oceans).
- Only global body dedicated to deep-sea areas beyond borders.
- Ensures deep-sea economic activities (like mining) are responsible and regulated.
- **HQ:** Kingston, Jamaica.
- **Members:** 170 (169 countries + EU), i.e., all UNCLOS parties.



Key Provisions:

- **End of Hostilities:** Both countries agreed to stop fighting and establish diplomatic ties.
- **TRIPP Route:** A new transit corridor will connect Azerbaijan to its exclave Nakhchivan through Armenia, with the US having exclusive development rights.
- **US Cooperation:** Armenia and Azerbaijan signed separate agreements with the US on energy, technology, and economic cooperation.

5. UN World Food Programme (WFP)

Context: India, with support from the UN World Food Programme (WFP), launched a new initiative to strengthen rice fortification and supply chain management in Nepal.

About WFP

- World's largest humanitarian body providing food assistance, saving lives, and aiding recovery from conflicts, disasters, and climate change.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy.
- **Established:** 1961 by UN General Assembly & FAO.
- **Funding:** Based on voluntary contributions from governments, corporates, and private donors.
- **Award:** Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

Conflict Background:

- Dispute centers on **Nagorno-Karabakh**, a region in Azerbaijan with an ethnic Armenian majority.
- **1980s:** Region broke away with Armenia's support.
- **1991:** After Soviet collapse, both became independent, but conflict continued.
- **2023:** Azerbaijan regained full control, forcing ~100,000 Armenians to flee.

6. Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Agreement

Context: The US brokered a peace deal to end decades of conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

India's Interest

- India supports the peace deal, calling it an "important achievement" for dialogue and diplomacy.

- **Armenia:** Only country in the region with which India has a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty (1995).
- **Azerbaijan:** Lies on the International North-South Transport Corridor, connecting India with Russia through Central Asia.

7. India imposes Port Restriction on Imports from Bangladesh

Context: India has imposed land and seaport restrictions on jute imports from Bangladesh under the Foreign Trade Act and Policy 2023.

Recent Trade Restrictions

- India restricted certain readymade garments and jute imports from Bangladesh via land ports (only allowed through Nhava Sheva Port, Maharashtra).
- Ban on exports of fruits, processed food, etc., through land ports in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura.
- In March 2025, India revoked the 2020 transshipment facility that allowed Bangladeshi goods to third countries via Indian Land Customs Stations.

Other Irritants in India-Bangladesh Relations

- **China's Influence:** Growing China–Pakistan–Bangladesh nexus (first trilateral meeting in Kunming).
- **Political Instability:** No elected govt. in Bangladesh since PM's resignation in 2024.
- **Radicalization & Minority Issues:** Rising extremism and minority persecution affecting regional security.

- **Internal Security:** Illegal migration from Bangladesh and Myanmar (Rohingyas) causing conflicts in Northeast India.
- **River Water Disputes:** Lack of mechanism for water sharing (e.g., Teesta).

8. India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)

Context: India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) was held to strengthen the Strategic Partnership.



More in the News:

- Ministers reviewed progress in six key areas: Advanced Manufacturing, Connectivity, Digitalization, Healthcare, Skills Development, and Sustainability.
- They also identified new initiatives and acknowledged the vital role of the private sector.

India–Singapore Relations

- **Diplomatic Ties:** India recognised Singapore in 1965; CECA signed in 2005; Strategic Partnership in 2015; Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2024.
- **2025:** Marks 60 years of diplomatic ties.

- **Trade & Investment:** Singapore is India's largest ASEAN trade partner and 6th globally (2023–24, 3.2% share).
- **Digital & Fintech:** UPI–PayNow link, RuPay accepted in Singapore.
- **Multilateral Engagement:** Both in ISA, Global Biofuel Alliance, etc.
- **Defence:** Joint exercises like Agni Warrior (Army) and SIMBEX (Navy).
- **People-to-People:** 9% of Singapore's population is Indian diaspora; Tamil is an official language.

Significance for India

- **ASEAN Bridge:** Supports Act East policy and Indo-Pacific goals.
- **Crisis Partnership:** Mutual aid during COVID-19 (oxygen, vaccines).
- **Countering China:** Access to Changi Naval Base boosts India's regional presence.

9.SLINEX-25

- Indian Naval Ships INS Rana (Guided Missile Destroyer) and INS Jyoti (Fleet Tanker) will join the 12th Sri Lanka–India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-25) in Colombo.

About SLINEX

- A bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka, started in 2005.
- Aim: To boost interoperability, maritime cooperation, and share best practices.
- Significance: Supports India's *Neighbourhood First Policy* and *MAHASAGAR* vision for regional security and growth.

10. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

Context: India rejected the Permanent Court of Arbitration's (PCA) award on interpretation of the Indus Waters Treaty.

About PCA

- A treaty-based intergovernmental body for arbitration and dispute resolution between states.
- Established in 1899 at the First Hague Peace Conference.
- Has 125 member states, including India.
- Headquarters: Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands.

11. Global Outlook Council on Water Investments (GOCWI)

Context: The President of South Africa launched the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments (GOCWI) as a G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative.

About GOCWI

- Part of the **Global Water Partnership (GWP)** Transformation Agenda on Water Investments.
- GWP: An intergovernmental network for equitable, sustainable, and efficient water management.
- Goal: **Mobilize \$15 billion for water security by 2030.**
- Role: A high-level platform to sustain political and financial support for global water investments.

12. Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

Context: Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is providing essential healthcare in Iraq.

About MSF

- International, independent medical humanitarian organisation founded in **1971 in France** after the Biafra crisis.
- Provides **emergency medical aid** quickly, effectively, and impartially.
- Awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1999** for its humanitarian work worldwide.

13.Chinese Foreign Minister’s Visit to India

Context: The Chinese Foreign Minister visited India for the first time since the LAC escalation and co-chaired the 24th Special Representatives’ Dialogue with India’s NSA.



Key Outcomes:

Co-chaired the **24th Special Representatives’ Dialogue** with India’s NSA.

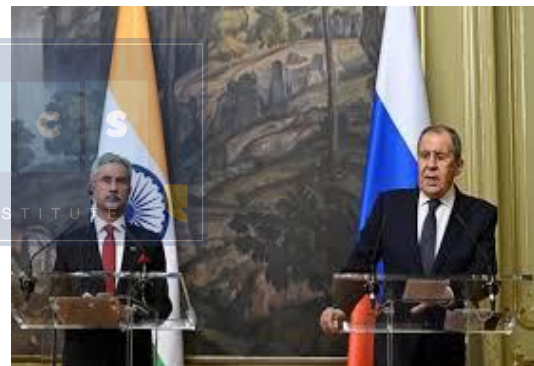
Border Management: Agreed to seek a fair settlement as per the **2005 Agreement**, form expert groups, and use diplomatic/military channels for de-escalation.

Dialogue Mechanisms: To restart suspended bilateral dialogues, including **People-to-People exchanges in 2026**.

- **75 Years of Ties:** Joint commemorative events in 2025.
- **Connectivity:** Direct flights to resume soon.
- **Pilgrimage: Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** to expand from 2026.
- **Trans-border Rivers:** Continue cooperation and share hydrological data.
- **Border Trade:** Reopen routes via **Lipulekh, Shipki La, and Nathu La Passes**.

14.India-Russia Relations

Context: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar’s recent visit to Russia is significant amid efforts to renew India-Russia ties.



More about the news

The Minister also co-chaired the 26th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC), a mechanism set up in May 1992 to regularly track progress in trade and economic cooperation.

Key Highlights of the Visit

Economic: Discussions focused on finalizing the **Programme of Economic Cooperation till 2030** and the early conclusion of the **India-Eurasian Economic Union FTA**, a key step

towards the revised bilateral trade target of **USD 100 billion by 2030**.

Regional Issues: Developments in **Ukraine, West Asia, and Afghanistan** were discussed. EAM emphasized **dialogue and diplomacy** as essential for resolving differences.

Logistics and Connectivity: Talks included improving transport links like the **International North-South Transport Corridor, Chennai–Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor, and Northern Sea IRoute**.

Global and Multilateral Cooperation: Both sides reaffirmed commitment to **reform global governance**, deepen collaboration in **G20, BRICS, SCO**, and highlighted the need to **expand and revitalize the UN Security Council**.

India-Russia Relations

Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership: The relationship covers extensive cooperation across multiple domains.

Institutional Mechanisms: The **Annual Summit** between the Prime Minister and Russian President is the highest dialogue mechanism, with **2+2 Dialogue** between Foreign and Defence Ministers.

Trade and Economic Relations: Bilateral trade reached **\$65.70 billion in FY 2023-24**, surpassing the previous **\$30 billion target for 2025**.

Defence and Security Cooperation: Key projects include the **S-400, BrahMos missiles**, and joint exercises like **INDRA**.

UNSC Reform: Russia supports India's bid for a permanent seat at the **UN Security Council**.

Science, Technology, and Space

Collaboration: Includes projects like **Kudankulam Nuclear Plant and Gaganyaan Mission**.

15. Indo-Dutch Strategic Water Partnership

Context: The Union Government informed the Rajya Sabha about the Strategic Partnership on Water (SWP) between India and the Netherlands.

Signed: 2022, between India's **Ministry of Jal Shakti** and Netherlands' **Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management**.

Objective: Strengthen cooperation in **water management**, focusing on **water safety, availability, and quality**.

Centre of Excellence (CoE): Set up with **IIT Delhi** and the Netherlands government to support research and innovation.

Key Areas: Urban water and river management, **AI and geospatial technologies**, water quality, and river economy.

16. Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

Context: India has been elected **Chairman of the Executive Board of AIBD** at the 23rd General Conference in Thailand.

About AIBD:

Founded: 1977 under **UNESCO**.



Type: Regional inter-governmental organization.

Provides **military leverage** over Bhutan and secures northeastern connectivity.

Secretariat: Kuala Lumpur.

Mandate: Promote a **vibrant and cohesive electronic media** environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

Members: 92 organizations from 45 countries.

India's Role: India is a **founding member**, represented by **Prasar Bharati** under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

17. Doklam

Context: After Nathu La, Sikkim will open **Doklam and Cho La** for battlefield tourism, eight years after the India-China standoff.



About Doklam (Donglang):

Altitude: 13,780 ft above sea level.

Location: Strategic tri-junction where **China, Bhutan, and India** meet in the Himalayas.

2017 Standoff: India intervened to stop Chinese road construction in Bhutanese territory, based on the **2007 India–Bhutan Treaty**.

•**Significance for India:**

Protects the **Siliguri Corridor** (“**Chicken’s Neck**”) linking Northeast India to the mainland.

Science and Technology

1. Tracers Mission

Context : NASA launches TRACERS Mission to Study Earth's Magnetic Defense Against Space Storms.



NASA has launched the **TRACERS mission (Tandem Reconnection and Cusp Electrodynamic Reconnaissance Satellites)** to better understand how Earth's magnetic field protects the planet from solar storms and space weather. The mission is aimed at studying magnetic reconnection—a process where the Sun's magnetic field interacts with Earth's magnetic shield, causing energy bursts that can impact satellites, power grids, and communications.

Objectives : The primary aim of TRACERS is to observe and measure magnetic reconnection and energy transfer in the polar cusp region. These insights will help scientists understand how solar particles and energy enter Earth's upper atmosphere, impacting crucial systems on Earth and in space.

It will fly in low Earth orbit through the polar cusps, funnel-shaped holes in the magnetic field, to study magnetic reconnection and its effects in Earth's atmosphere.

This twin satellite system is set to study the constant stream of solar wind and charged particles flowing from the Sun, which interacts with Earth's magnetic shield, also known as the magnetosphere.

The data gathered from TRACERS will help scientists improve space weather forecasting and better protect critical technology here on Earth .

2. NISAR Mission Launched

Context : The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, an Earth observation mission, was launched by ISRO from Sriharikota.



• NISAR, jointly developed by ISRO and NASA, is the **first satellite mission to use dual-frequency radar** (L-band and S-band) from a single platform, with advanced **microwave imaging capabilities** including polarimetric and interferometric data.

• **Dual-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR):**

~**L-band SAR** (by NASA): Penetrates forest canopy, ice, and soil, useful for biomass and deformation studies.

~**S-band SAR** (by ISRO): Better for monitoring crops, wetlands, and other surface-level features.

• **Vehicle: Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II) (specifically the GSLV-F16 variant)**, India's largest rocket, is an expendable three-stage launch vehicle.

• NISAR mission marks the **first time ISRO is using a GSLV** to place a satellite in **sun-synchronous polar orbit**.

Mission Life: 5 Years.

3.ISRO launches HOPE Mission.

Context : Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has inaugurated the Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration (HOPE) space analog mission at Tso Kar Valley (Ladakh) to simulate and study challenges linked to **long-duration space missions**.



About: It is part of ISRO's **Indian Human Spaceflight Programme**, aimed at **simulating space-like conditions** to test technologies and human health protocols for future **interplanetary missions**, particularly those involving the **Moon and Mars**.

Objective: To study critical **physiological, psychological,** and **operational challenges** and improve **mission planning** and **preparedness** for **human space exploration** in human spaceflight.

It focuses on **epigenetic, genomic analysis, health monitoring protocols,** and **microbial sample techniques**.

Significance: The mission plays a **crucial role in preparing for future crewed missions to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) including Gaganyaan, and an Indian lunar landing by 2040.**

TsoKar Wetland Complex in Ladakh is a **Ramsar site**, a conservation status conferred by **International Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**.

4.NASA to launch nuclear reactor on moon by 2030.

Context : The **US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa)** is expected to **fast-track plans to build a nuclear reactor on the moon by 2030.**



- The reactor is said to be part of the country's **broader ambitions** to set up a permanent base for humans to live on the lunar surface.

- It is a **100-kilowatt reactor**, smaller than on-shore wind turbines that typically generate 2-3 megawatts.

- NASA's accelerated push to build a nuclear reactor on the moon comes after **similar announcements from China and Russia**.

Why Nuclear over Solar?

The Moon has little atmosphere and experiences **14-day** stretches of darkness, this makes **solar energy unreliable** in some of the most critical regions.

A small lunar reactor could operate continuously for a decade or more, powering habitats, rovers, 3D printers and life-support systems.

Developing this capability is essential for missions to Mars, where solar power is even more constrained.

5. National Space Day (23 August)

Context : National Space Day, observed on 23rd August.

About : The National Space Day commemorates the successful soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission's Vikram Lander and the deployment of the Pragyan Rover on the Moon on **23rd August 2023**.

With the launch of Chandrayaan-3, **India became the fourth nation to successfully land on the Moon and the first to reach its southern polar region.**

India celebrated its **first National Space Day** on 23rd August 2024.

~**Theme 2025: Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities**



•Events:

The **National Meet 2025**, themed "**Leveraging Space Technology for Viksit Bharat 2047**," gathered leaders to explore space tech's role in advancing national priorities across various sectors.

Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) organised a workshop with the theme

"Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities."

Significance: It highlights India's space exploration capabilities and aims to inspire future generations to pursue careers in **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)**, contributing to India's ongoing space endeavours.

6. VENERA - D Venus Mission

Context : **Russia to Launch Venera-D Mission to Venus by 2036 with Lander, Orbiter, and Balloon Probe**

The Venera-D ("D" stands for "Dolgozhivushaya," meaning "long-lived") mission is designed to provide comprehensive scientific data on Venus's atmosphere, surface, and climate systems.

Mission Components

Lander: To study surface composition, temperature, pressure, and possibly conduct soil analysis on Venus's extremely harsh terrain.



Orbital Spacecraft: Will capture high-resolution images, perform atmospheric studies, and relay data from other mission elements.

Balloon Probe: To float in the upper atmosphere of Venus, measuring temperature, wind, and chemical composition over an extended period.

7. Dwarf Virus

Context : A resurfacing outbreak of the Southern Rice Black-streaked Dwarf Virus (**SRBSDV**), also known as the **Fiji virus**, is impacting paddy crops in Indian states like Punjab and Haryana as of August 2025

Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV)

Origin:

- Named after **Southern China** where it was first reported in 2001, was found to be the factor causing the disease.
- The incidence of stunting was more pronounced in early sown paddy crops, irrespective of the variety.

Impact: In severely infected rice fields, the infected plants showed withering.

The height of the stunted plants showed reduction from 1/2 to 1/3rd than the normal plants.

These plants had shallow roots and could be easily uprooted.

These plants were observed in almost all the cultivated varieties in the farmer's fields.



Defence/Operations/Exercises

1.Exercise SLINEX

Context: Indian Naval Ships INS Rana (Guided Missile Destroyer) and INS Jyoti (Fleet Tanker) arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka to participate in the 12th edition of the Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-25) held from 14 to 18 August 2025.



Overview:

- **Full Form:** Sri Lanka–India Naval Exercise (SLINEX)
- **Edition:** 12th
- **First Held:** 2005
- **Frequency:** Biennial
- **Hosted by:** Sri Lanka (2025), previously India (2024)
- **Previous Edition:** SLINEX-24 (Visakhapatnam, India – 17–20 Dec 2024)

OBJECTIVE:

- Enhance **interoperability** and **operational coordination**
- Promote **maritime cooperation**
- Share **best practices** and **professional experiences**
- Strengthen **regional maritime security**

PARTICIPATING NAVAL ASSETS:

Indian Navy

- **INS Rana** – Guided Missile Destroyer
- **INS Jyoti** – Fleet Tanker

- **Indian Navy Special Forces**

Sri Lankan Navy

- **SLNS Gajabahu** – Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel
- **SLNS Vijayabahu** – Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel
- **Sri Lankan Navy Special Forces**

2.First ever bilateral naval exercise between India and Phillipines

Context: India and the Philippines conducted their first-ever bilateral joint naval drill in the South China Sea, marking a significant step in maritime cooperation amid rising tensions in the region.

Purpose: To enhance maritime cooperation and interoperability between the two navies, and to assert freedom of navigation in contested waters.

Location: Conducted **within the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** in the South China Sea over two days.

Indian Naval Assets:

INS Delhi (guided missile destroyer)

INS Shakti (fleet tanker)

INS Kiltan (anti-submarine warfare corvette)

Significance:

A symbolic counter to China's assertive nine-dash line claim.

Reinforces India's **Act East Policy** and regional partnerships under the **"Necklace of Diamonds" strategy**.

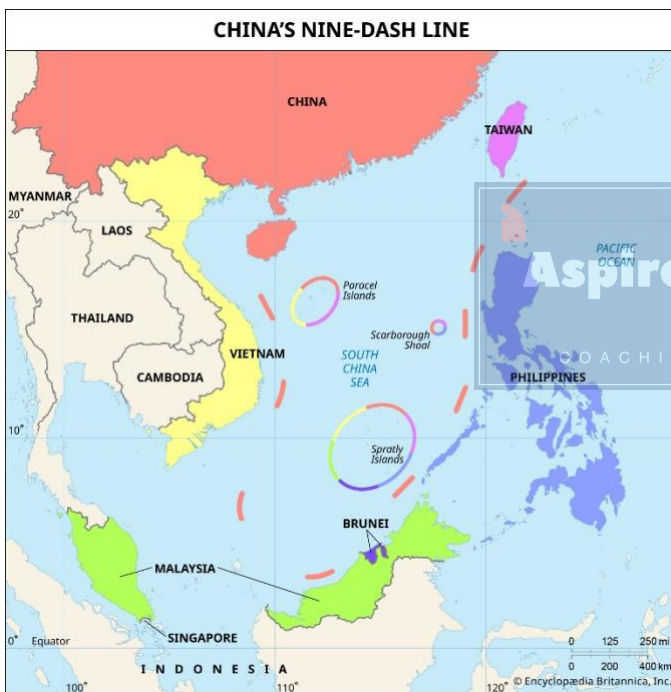
Boosts defence diplomacy and freedom of navigation operations (FONOPs).

About South China Sea: A marginal sea of the western Pacific Ocean, the South China Sea is one of the world's busiest and most contested maritime regions.

Located in: South of mainland China; stretches from the Taiwan Strait in the northeast to the Strait of Malacca in the southwest.

Neighbouring Nations: China, Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia.

Subject of overlapping EEZ claims, especially due to China's controversial "**Nine-Dash Line**"



3.Exercise Divya Shakti

Context: The Indian Army successfully conducted Exercise Divya Drishti in East Sikkim to test artificial intelligence (AI)-based battlefield awareness, real-time surveillance, and next-generation warfare technologies under high-altitude operational conditions.



About Exercise Divya Drishti:

A high-altitude technology demonstration by the Indian Army, aimed at validating AI-integrated surveillance, real-time decision-making, and sensor-to-shooter systems under realistic battlefield conditions.

Launched by: Indian Army's Trishakti Corps.

Objectives:

Test battlefield digitization tools under extreme Himalayan terrain.

Integrate AI sensors with communication systems for seamless data flow.

Validate UAV-drone-ground synergy in combat scenarios.

Boosts Tactical Readiness: Prepares the Army for hybrid warfare across terrains — especially in Himalayan conflict zones.

4. Shiv Shakti Operation

Context: The Indian Army eliminated two terrorists attempting infiltration across the Line of Control in Poonch district under Operation ShivShakti, just days after neutralising three Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives in Operation Mahadev.



About Operation ShivShakti:

It is a **counter-infiltration mission** launched by the Indian Army to foil attempts by terrorists to cross the LoC into Jammu & Kashmir territory.

Launched by: Conducted by the **Indian Army's White Knight Corps** in synergy with **Jammu & Kashmir Police (JKP)**, based on precise multi-agency intelligence inputs.

Area of Operation: Executed in the **Degwar sector of Poonch**, particularly near **Maldivalan**, a sensitive zone along the LoC known for infiltration attempts.

Objective: To **prevent cross-border terrorism** by intercepting and neutralising infiltrators before they could reach civilian areas or cause harm to infrastructure.

5. Drone Prahar in Arunachal Pradesh

Context : Recently, the Indian Army successfully conducted a high-tech exercise

– '**Drone Prahar**' – in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Drone Prahar Exercise~

Drone Prahar is a military exercise.

It showcased the use of drone technology for active battlefield surveillance, intelligence gathering, and precision targeting.

The exercise simulated real combat scenarios to assess the role of drone platforms.



Main Objectives

To enhance situational awareness and command reach of tactical commanders.

To promote layered surveillance and faster decision-making through the use of drones in the battlefield.

To integrate technology-enabled warfare capabilities into the Indian Army's strategic operations.

6. Agni 5 Missile

Context : India successfully test-fired Agni-5, a nuclear-capable **Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)** to validate operational and technical parameters and maintain credible minimum deterrence.

About: It is an advanced **surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSBM)** developed under India's **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**.

It is one of the five missiles developed under **IGMDP**, alongside **Prithvi, Trishul, Nag, and Akash**.

•**Range:** Around **5,000 km**.



•**Significance:** With its **Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle (MIRV)** capable **IRBM** technology, Agni-5 places India among a select group of nations including the **USA, Russia, China, and France**.

•**Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missiles (SSBMs)** : **SSBMs** are missiles **designed to be launched from the ground (or ships/submarines) to strike targets on land or at sea**.

SSBMs can be equipped with **conventional or nuclear warheads**.

Classification (Based on Range):
Short-Range Missiles (SRM): Less than 1000 km
Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles (MRBM): 1,000–3,000 km
Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBM): 3,000–5,500 km
Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM): Above 5,500 km

7. DRDO successfully test fires Ballistic missile 'Pralay' in Odisha

Context : Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)

conducted two consecutive successful flight-tests of **Pralay** missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha



Pralay is an indigenously-developed solid propellant quasi-ballistic missile employing state-of-the-art guidance and navigation to ensure high precision. The missile is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads against various targets.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has complimented DRDO, the Armed Forces and the Industry for the successful flight-tests. The missile equipped with modern technologies will give further technological boost to the Armed Forces against threats, he said.

Miscellaneous

1.71st National Film Awards

Context : The **71st National Film Awards** were officially announced, honoring cinematic excellence from across India **for the year 2023**.

•The 2023 edition of the awards covered **31 feature films, 24 non-feature films, 27 books on cinema, and 16 film critics** as part of the expanded scope under the **National Film Awards regulations**.

Shah Rukh Khan won his **first National Award** in a career spanning over 30 years.



Top Winners :

Category	Winner(s)
Best Feature Film	<i>12th Fail</i>
Best Direction	<i>Sudipto Sen – The Kerala Story</i>
Best Actor	<i>Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)</i>
Best Actress	<i>Rani Mukerji – Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway</i>
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	<i>Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani</i>
Best Debut Film of a Director	<i>Aatmapamphlet</i>
Best Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values	<i>Sam Bahadur</i>

Acting Awards :

Category	Winner(s)
Best Actor	<i>Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)</i>
Best Actress	<i>Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway)</i>
Best Supporting Actor	<i>Vijayaraghavan (Pookkaalam), Muthupettai Bhaskar (Parking)</i>
Best Supporting Actress	<i>Urvashi (Ullozhukku), Janki Bodiwala (Vash)</i>
Best Child Artist	<i>Sukriti Bandireddi (Gandhi Thatha Chettu), Kabir Khandare (Gypsy), Treesha Toshar, Shrinivas Pokale, Bhargav (Naal 2)</i>

Assam shines with five honours at 71st National Film Awards :



1)Rangatapu 1982 : At the centre of Assam’s cinematic haul was **Rangatapu 1982**, awarded Best Assamese Feature Film. Produced by BRC Cine Production and directed by Adityam Saikia.

2) A voice from the Tai Phake community The Tai Phake language film ‘**Pai Tang...Step of Hope**’ also received a Rajat Kamal for the Best Film in the language.

3) critic’s Swarna Kamal moment Veteran film critic **Utpal Datta** brought home the prestigious **Swarna Kamal Award for Best Film Critic**, his work praised for its insightful dissections of Indian cinema. Along with the golden lotus, the award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

4)Lentina Ao’s legacy immortalised In the non-feature category, ‘Lentina Ao – A Light on

the Eastern Horizon’, directed by Sanjib Parasar and co-directed by Nilakshi Medi, won Best Biographical Film.

5) Performer-turned-filmmaker bags debut honours Assamese performer and dancer Shilpika Bordoloi took home the Swarna Kamal for Best Debut Director (Non-Feature) for her experimental film ‘Mau: The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw’ – a Mizo-language meditation on the spiritual bond between bamboo and humans.

2. 1000 RS Coin to Honour Rajendra Chola

Context : PM Modi Releases Commemorative Coin Honouring Rajendra Chola I



The **Prime Minister** visited **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** in **Ariyalur district, Tamil Nadu**, during the **Aadi Thiruvathirai festival**, and the **Brihadisvara Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**.

He highlighted the **Chola Empire’s democratic traditions**, and released a **commemorative coin** marking **1000 years of Rajendra Chola I’s Gangetic expedition**.

The **Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival** commemorated 1,000 years of Rajendra Chola I’s legendary maritime expedition to Southeast Asia and also marked the rich **Tamil Shaiva Bhakti tradition**.

About: Rajendra Chola I (1014 to 1044 AD), son of Rajaraja Chola I, was one of the greatest rulers of the **Chola Empire**.

He was the **first Indian king to lead overseas military expeditions**, extending Chola influence across **South and Southeast Asia**.

Titles and Legacy: He assumed titles like **Gangaikonda Cholan** (after defeating the Palas in Bengal) and **Kadaram Kondan** (after naval victories in the Srivijaya Empire), **Pandita Cholan**, and **Mudikondan**.

Founded a new capital, **Gangaikondacholapuram**, to commemorate his northern conquests.

3. PM Inaugurated Kartavya Bhawan

Context: PM Modi Inaugurates Kartavya Bhawan: First Step Towards Central Vista’s Common Central Secretariat.



Currently, many government ministries function from buildings such as Shastri Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan, Udyog Bhawan, and Nirman Bhawan—structures that were built between the 1950s and 1970s. These buildings are now considered structurally outdated and inefficient, making the need for modernization urgent.

4.79th Independence Day 2025

National Theme of Indian Independence Day 2025

•The **National Theme for India’s 79th Independence Day in 2025** was “**Naya Bharat**,” embodying the government’s vision of building a Developed India (**Viksit Bharat**) by 2047.

- The spirit of “**Naya Bharat**” aims to inspire every citizen to contribute to a bold, ambitious, and united India, fostering pride, unity, and a sense of responsibility.

- On **Independence Day 2025 in India**, a prominent feature was the inclusion of special guests who symbolized the spirit of the nation’s development and social commitment.

- the distinguished invitees were 50 sanitation workers from Delhi, honored for their outstanding contributions to the Swachh Bharat mission.

5.Samudra Manthan Mission

Context : India’s Deep-Sea Mission (Samudra Manthan)



Launch of Mission: India to begin the National Deep Water Exploration Mission.

Objective: Explore oil and gas reserves beneath the ocean.

Announcement: Declared by the Prime Minister on Independence Day as “Samudra Manthan”.

Energy Security: Will operate in mission mode to strengthen energy self-reliance.

Scientific Advancement: To boost ocean research, literacy, and underwater engineering.

6.Cambodia adopts Assam’s Hargilla Army Conservation Model.

Context: The Hargila Army has been adapted for community-led conservation in Cambodia’s Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve

- A unique community-led conservation model from Assam, India—the **Hargila Army**, led by conservationist **Purnima Devi Barman**—is now inspiring global



wetland conservation efforts.

The model has been adapted for a transformative initiative in **Cambodia’s Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve**, particularly in the **Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary**, a designated **Ramsar site** known for its rich birdlife

- Hargila Army**~

A **women-led grassroots conservation movement** initiated in Assam to protect the endangered **Greater Adjutant Stork (Leptoptilos dubius)**, locally known as *Hargila*.

Founded by **Purnima Devi Barman**, a **wildlife biologist at Aaranyak** and **UNEP Champion of the Earth**.

- Key Features of the Assam Model:**

Women empowerment through conservation leadership.

Community engagement—conservation integrated with **cultural traditions, education, and livelihood support**.

Activities like **folk songs, textile art, community events, and awareness campaigns** used to destigmatize the bird and make it a source of pride.

7. Cincinnati Open Title

Carlos Alcaraz Wins First Cincinnati Open Title 2025 After Sinner Retires in Final



8. Durand Cup

Context: NorthEast United Retain Durand Cup 2025 with 6-1 Win.

• **Dominant 6-1 victory over debutants Diamond Harbour FC in the 134th edition of the tournament.**

• The final, played at the **Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata**, saw the Highlanders lift the trophy for the second year in a row, becoming the first team in 25 years to successfully defend the title.



• **Historic Defence:** NorthEast United became the first team since 2000 to defend the Durand Cup title.

About the Durand Cup

The Durand Cup, started in 1888, is Asia's oldest football tournament.

It serves as a pre-season competition for Indian clubs while retaining immense historical prestige.

9. Khelo India Water Sports Games

Context: M.P secures top at Khelo India Sports Games.



The Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025, held from August 21–23 at the iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar, has emerged as a defining moment for India's water sports ecosystem.

- **Venue:** Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
- **Sports:** Rowing, kayaking, canoeing, water skiing, shikara race, and dragon boat race
- **Participants:** Athletes from 28 States and Union Territories
- **Age Group:** Open age category

10. Malta to Host 2027 Commonwealth Youth Games



Malta 2027
commonwealth
youth games

Host country: Malta

Location: An island country in Southern Europe

Position: In the Mediterranean Sea, between Sicily (Italy) and North Africa

Features: Hosting the CYG for the first time

Venue: Will be held on the islands of Malta and Gozo.

11. Kaziranga Ranks Third Globally in Tiger Density

Context: Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in Assam, famous for its one-horned rhinoceros, has now made headlines for another reason – it has the third-highest tiger density in the world.

The report says that 148 tigers were recorded across the 1,307.49 sq. km reserve in 2024. This is a big jump compared to previous years.

Kaziranga now has 18.65 tigers per 100 sq. km, making it the highest after:



Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka: 19.83 tigers per 100 sq. km, **Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand:** 19.56 tigers per 100 sq. km

12. World Tiger Conservation Day.

It is observed on **July 29** each year.



Theme of International Tiger Day 2025: “**Securing the future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the heart**”

India now supports the **world’s largest tiger population.**

While holding only **18%** of the world’s tiger habitat, and facing the highest human density among tiger-range countries, India accounts for **75%** of the world’s wild tigers.

More than **3,600** tigers now roam the country’s forests, double the number recorded just over a decade ago.

13. Maharashtra to Celebrate MS Swaminathan's Birth Anniversary as Sustainable Agriculture Day.



Legacy of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan

- Dr. Swaminathan, widely known as the Father of India's Green Revolution, played a decisive role in ending food scarcity in India.
- His research and innovations in high-yield wheat and rice varieties transformed India into a self-sufficient nation in food grain production.
- Beyond food security, he strongly advocated for sustainable farming practices and climate-resilient agriculture to protect both farmers and the environment.





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