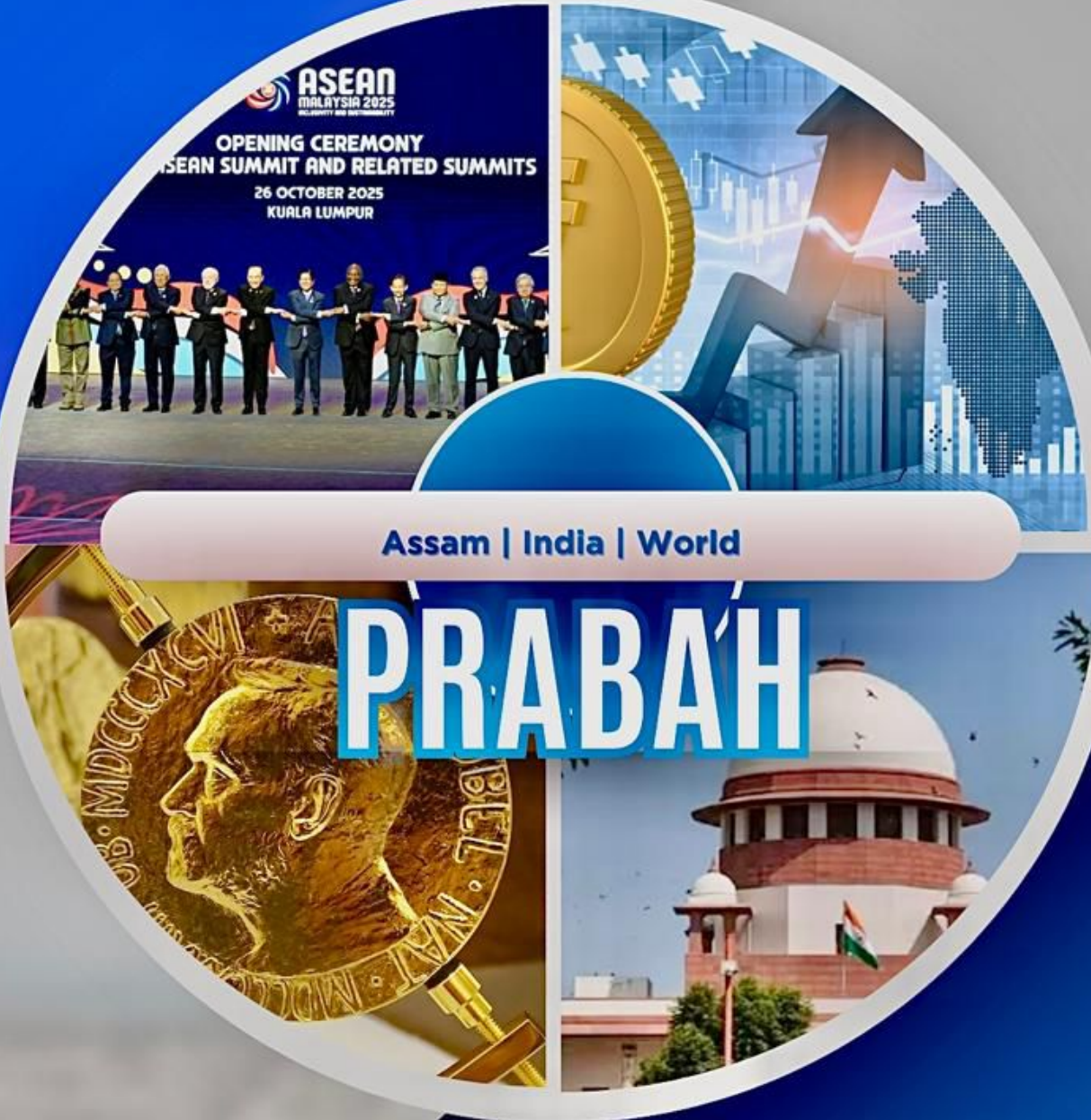


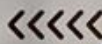
MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

October 2025



Assam | India | World

PRABAH



For APSC & Other Competitive Exams

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.

Our Edition is designed to:

Support preparation for **APSC** and other competitive exams

We aim to simplify your preparation journey by delivering accurate and structured content — all in one place. Let this compilation be your trusted companion for smart and consistent learning.



aspireacs.in | 8822194743



Table Of **CONTENT**

- 01** Assam Specific (1-5)
- 02** History | Art and Culture (6-8)
- 03** Polity (9-14)
- 04** Geography (15-17)
- 05** Indian Economy (18-25)
- 06** International Relation (26-29)
- 07** Science and Technology (30-31)
- 08** Defence/Exercises (32-33)
- 09** Miscellaneous(34-37)

Assam Specific

1.Conservation of Asian Openbill Storks

Context : Forest man of India **Jadav Payeng** calls for protection of nesting trees in Jorhat where hundreds of **Asian Openbill Storks** return each year to breed.

About Asian Openbill Storks :

- It is locally known as **Samukbhonga**.
- It is greyish or white with glossy black wings and tail.
- These are migratory birds that return to the same towering trees between June and July to breed, before departing around December and January.

Need for conservation :

- Although in the Least Concern category of IUCN Red List, Widespread deforestation and habitat destruction pose an existential threat to the Shamukbhonga population.
- They had the ability to thrive in urban environment.
- They does not nest on every tree but selects very specific ones. The increasing number of nests often causes branches to snap under their weight, leading to injuries and the tragic deaths of some birds.

Assam's avian diversity

- Assam is one of the most bio diverse region of India and is one of the “endemic bird areas” in the world.
- It is home to 53.5% of the bird species found in the Indian Sub-Continent, 17 species of birds are endemic to Assam
- 45 species of birds from Assam find mention in the Indian Red Data Book and include white winged wood duck, Blyth's Tragopan, Greater Adjutant, lesser Adjutant etc.
- In the recently concluded first ever grassland bird census in Kaziranga 43 grassland species was recorded.
- They included the critically endangered Bengal florican, the endangered Finn's

weaver, and the swamp grass babbler. Among the remaining 40 species, six were in the vulnerable category — the black-breasted parrotbill, marsh babbler, swamp francolin, Jerdon's babbler, slender-billed babbler, and bristled grassbird.

2.Wolly necked stork

Context – Recently woolly necked stork has been rescued and released at the **Bahari Beel** in Kaziranga NP.



Key Facts –

- It is a dark-brown stork with green-bronze iridescence on the wings and breast.
- It has a distinctive white ruffled neck, a white tail, and a dark salmon-tipped bill.
- Mostly found in the Indian subcontinent
- IUCN Red List – Near Threatened.

3.World Gibbon Day

Context : World Gibbon Day was marked in Assam on October 24 highlighting efforts to protect the Western Hoolock Gibbon.

About Gibbon

- They are only of the 20 ape species found in India, also known western hollock gibbon.
- They are the smallest and fastest among all apes.
- They are found in forested areas of Northeast India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Southern China.
- Habitat : Evergreen rainforest.

- IUCN Red List : Endangered, CITES : Appndx 2, WPA,1972 : Schedule 1

Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary

- It is an evergreen forest area located in the Jorhat district, Assam.
- The Bhogdoi River creates a waterlogged region dominated by semi-hydrophytic plants along the border of the sanctuary.
- It is home to the western hoolock gibbon and Bengal slow loris, NE India's only nocturnal primate.

4. Bom Singpho

Context : The long-pending demand of the "Bom Singpho Memorial Ladoi Ghat Bridge" at Inthem in Margherita is set to be constructed soon.

About Bom Singpho :



- He was a rebel and freedom fighter who fought against the British in 1930
- He led a fierce uprising from the dense bamboo forests of what is now Margherita in Assam's Tinsukia district, bordering Arunachal Pradesh.

Singpho Rebellion :

- After 1930 a series of revolt took place against the British.
- An uprising of the Singphos took place in 1843 against the Britishers in Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh. It was an act of retaliation to reclaim the Singpho lands that were encroached on by the East India Company.
- It was led by Chief Nirang Phidu, which involved an attack on the British garrison and the death of many soldiers.

5. Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan

Context : Cheques has been distributed across Assam to the beneficiaries of this scheme across Assam

- Launched in 2024, is a one of its kind self-employment scheme for women.
- Aim & objective - To create alternative village-based livelihoods by promoting women entrepreneurship in sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, handloom and handicrafts.
- Implementing agency – Assam Rural Livelihood Mission under the Panchayat & Rural Development Department of the Government of Assam.
- Eligibility - Only for women who are active members of registered Self Help Groups in Assam.
- Benefits – A seed capital of Rs 10000 will be provided in its first phase to start a business and subsequently Rs 25000 as loan and Rs 50000 as financial assistance in the later phase

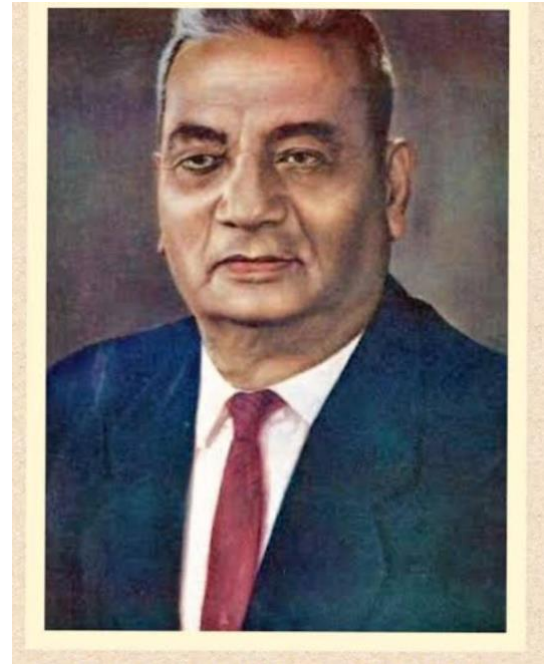
Significance of this scheme – Women in Assam often face numerous challenges like limited job opportunities, low literacy rates, gender based discrimination, domestic responsibilities and lack of financial assistance. Schemes like Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan can be a game changer for the following reasons -

- With 40 lakh women beneficiaries the scheme aims to strengthen Assam's rural economy through Promotion of micro-enterprises encouraging self-reliance among women

- The multi-layered financial support ensures long-term sustainability for women entrepreneurs.
- Assam's rural economy can significantly be driven by women's contribution particularly in sectors like agriculture, handloom, livestock etc.
- Assam's women's workforce participation in Assam now stands at 52.8% in rural areas and 31.5% in urban areas, surpassing the national average.

- He played a pioneering role in every sphere of public life during the mid 20th century.

His works & contributions –



- He along with one of his friend opened a branch of Imperial Bank of India in Dibrugarh which later on became State Bank of India.
- He is also referred as the pioneer in the insurance business in Assam where he joined Bombay Mutual Company as an agent.
- The Assam tribune was first published on 4 August 1939 in Gauhati by him as a weekly newspaper under the editorship of Lakshminath Phookan.
- Under his initiative Assam Flying Club was established in 1958.
- He was the president of Tea Brokers Association and for his efforts Tea Auction center was established in Guwahati in 1970.
- He brought Bihu from the ground to the stage where first bihu on stage was performed at Latasil Bihu Sanmilani.
- Assam Sports Day is celebrated on 17th October to commemorate his birth anniversary as he immensely contributed to the State in the field of sports, culture, newspaper industry etc.

6. Project ASTHA

Context - Assam Unveils ₹4,287 Cr ASTHA Plan to Revolutionize Tertiary Healthcare.

About the project –

- Under the Assam State Health and Technical Advancement (ASTHA) Plan Assam govt. tends to upgrade tertiary healthcare facilities across the state.
- Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) will be transformed into a world-class healthcare and research hub equipped with cutting-edge infrastructure, advanced medical technology, and enhanced patient-care systems.
- The Plan envisions modernizing major hospitals across Assam, expanding specialized treatment centers, and improving critical care capacity to meet growing healthcare demands.
- This transformative project aims to position Assam as a regional leader in medical excellence and innovation.

7. 125th Birth Anniversary of Radha Govinda Baruah

Context - The 125th birth anniversary of Singhapurush Radha Govinda Baruah, the architect of modern Assam, was observed across the State.

About RG Baruah – The architect of modern Assam

- Born on 17th October 1900 in Sivsagar.

8. CM Flight Scheme

Context - In a landmark initiative aimed at transforming the state's youth into globally competitive professionals, Assam CM has launched the scheme.

All about the scheme

- Chief Minister's Foreign Language Initiative for Global Human Talent (CM-FLIGHT) IS A SCHEME for preparing the youths of Assam to undertake skilled work in other countries e.g Japan etc.
- Objective - To empower Assam youths through high quality language training enabling ethical and structured overseas employment opportunities while positioning Assam as a leading hub for international workforce
- Under the scheme, 180 candidates, will undergo the Japanese language training (JFT Basic/ JLPT N4) in the first batch .
- Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) under the Skill Employment and Entrepreneurship Department (SEED) is the nodal agency.
- Eligibility – A permanent resident of Assam under 18 to 35 years of age.

Similar Scheme – Mission Moon by Meghalaya govt. that sends healthcare professionals to countries like Japan to address staff shortages.

9. Tiwa language

Context – Tiwa language has been recently introduced in primary schools as a medium of instruction.

More in the news -

- This decision is aimed at promoting linguistic and cultural preservation and helping children learn better in their native language.
- It is crucial for maintaining cultural identity, passing down traditions, and safeguarding unique knowledge systems.

- It will be initially introduced in 62 primary schools in Tiwa dominated regions.
- Apart from Tiwa, there are also some other languages like Mishing, Deori, Rabha, Karbi etc that has been introduced in schools as a medium of instruction over the years.

About Tiwa language

- It is Tibeto-Burman language spoken by the Tiwa people in the states of Assam and Meghalaya, India.
- It is also known as Lalung and is part of the Bodo-Garo group of languages.
- The Tiwa people in Assam are mostly found in the central districts of Morigaon, Nagaon, and Kamrup, with smaller populations in Karbi Anglong and upper Assam.

Fact – Assamese followed by Bengali and Bodo are the top three largest spoken language in Assam.

10. Satra Commission

Context - Assam to set up Satra Commission to protect Vaishnavite monasteries. The bill to establish the Satra Commission will be introduced in the upcoming session of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

- The Assam Satra Preservation and Development Commission Bill, 2025, aims to safeguard the state's Vaishnavite heritage, promote sustainable economic growth through heritage tourism, and preserve manuscripts, artefacts, and lands digitally for global access.
- The commission will be chaired by a retired High Court judge and include the Director of Land Requisition, Acquisition and Reforms, two Satra representatives nominated by the state, and a retired civil servant experienced in land administration.
- It will address land disputes, prevent encroachments, and support Satriya arts and cultural initiatives.
- This will fulfill a key recommendation of the Justice Biplab Sarma Committee under Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

More about Satras –

- Satras are institutional centers associated with the Ekasarana tradition of Vaishnavism founded by Srimanta Sankardev in the 15th century.
- These are not just monasteries, but centres of traditional performing arts.

Some famous satras (Majuli)

- Auniati Satra Famous for Paalnam and Bhaona.
- Dakhinpat Satra –Is known to be the exponent of Raas Leela which is now one of the main festivals of Assam.
- Garmur Satra –Is the centre of Sattriya culture including fine arts and performing arts.
- Kamalabari Satra - The finest boats on the island are made here.
- Chamaguri Satra - Famous for mask making tradition.

History, Art & Culture:

1. Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects:

Context: UNESCO launched the **Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects** in 2025 to combat illicit heritage trafficking. Featuring 240 missing artefacts from 46 countries.



- The museum's website is designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect **Francis Kéré**.
- It uses the **baobab tree** as a visual symbol of strength and African heritage.
- The project is financially backed by the *Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* and developed in partnership with **INTERPOL**.
- This AI-powered digital platform provides virtual access to lost objects while physical return logistics remain complex, offering an experience that can be as impactful as physical presence in today's digital age.

Indian Artefacts Featured:

- **Nataraja sculpture** from Chhattisgarh, symbolizing knowledge's victory over ignorance. And **Brahma sculpture** with three faces and four arms, representing creation.

2. Ancient Iron Age Burial Site Unearthed at Tamil Nadu:

Context: Archaeologists from the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology discovered an Iron Age burial site at **Thirumalapuram** in Tenkasi district. The 35-acre site may date back to the early to mid-third millennium BCE.

- **Findings:** Excavations revealed stone slab chambers, urn burials, and diverse pottery types with white-painted designs. Artefacts like gold rings, swords, daggers, and bone tools show advanced craftsmanship.
- **Significance:** The discovery highlights **Thirumalapuram's** role in Tamil Nadu's early Iron Age culture, and enriches knowledge of prehistoric life and settlement patterns in South India.

3. President of India Visits Somnath and Sabarimala:

Context: President of India recently visited two of the nation's most sacred temples — **the Somnath Temple** in Gujarat and the **Sabarimala Temple** in Kerala — during her official tours.

- **Somnath Temple, Gujarat:**
 - Located in Prabhas Patan, Veraval, the Somnath Temple is **one of the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines of Lord Shiva** and a major Hindu pilgrimage site.
 - It holds immense historical and spiritual significance, having been destroyed by **Mahmud of Ghazni** in 1025 and rebuilt multiple times. The President took part in



the Someshwar Mahapuja and performed aarti at the temple.

- **Sabarimala Temple, Kerala:**
 - Situated in the Western Ghats of Pathanamthitta district, the Sabarimala Sree Dharma Sastha Temple is dedicated to Lord Ayyappa.

- It is one of the largest annual pilgrimage centres in the world, attracting nearly 40–50 million devotees each year, especially during the Mandalam-Makaravilakku season.
- The President offered prayers to Lord Ayyappa, following temple customs and wearing a black saree with an Irumudi (sacred bundle) on her head.

4. Ningol Chakouba Festival:

Context: The people of Manipur celebrated **Ningol Chakouba** (also known as Chakouba or Hiyangei Nini Paanba), considered one of the grandest festivals of the state.

- It falls on the second lunar day of the *Hiyangei* month in the Manipuri calendar.
- The festival is a special day for married women in Manipuri society as the central theme of the festival is to reinforce the loving bond between married women and their paternal families

5. Mera Hou Chongba Festival:

Context: The 2025 **Mera Hou Chongba** festival was held at *Kangla Fort in Imphal*. The event brought into light Manipur's cultural diversity and the unity of its indigenous communities.

- Mera Hou Chongba is an ancient festival celebrated annually in Manipur. It honours the bond between the valley and hill communities. Traditionally, it includes rituals, dances, and cultural displays from various tribes.
- The festival is held at Kangla Fort, a historic site that once served as the royal seat. It reflects Manipur's rich heritage and collective identity.

6. Ayodhya Deepotsav 2025: A Spectacular Celebration of Faith and Heritage:

Context: Ayodhya has set a new Guinness World Record by lighting 26.17 lakh earthen lamps

along the *Saryu River* during its annual **Deepotsav** celebrations.

- Ayodhya's Deepotsav is India's *biggest Diwali celebration*, where artistes dressed as Ram, Sita,



and Lakshman take part in a grand aarti on the Saryu River. The city shines with colourful lights and millions of glowing diyas.

7. Sadasya Varenya' honour to Dr Nagen Saikia:

Context: The Sahitya Sabha will confer its highest honour, '*Sadasya Varenya*', on *Dr. Nagen Saikia* for his outstanding contributions to Assamese literature, language, and culture.



- Dr Nagen Saikia : A renowned poet, story writer, novelist, researcher, critique, travelogue writer, biographer, autobiographer.
- He was conferred with the **Sahitya Akademi award in 1997** for his short stories collection *Andharat Nizar Mukh*.
- Books: *Chinta Aru Charcha*, *Background of Modern Assamese Literature*, *Swapna aru Smriti* and *Dhulir Dhemali* (Autobiographies), *Bhagna Upakul* (Novel) etc.

8. Zubeen Garg Memorial Award:

Context: Eminent Assamese artist **Bipul Chetia Phukan** receives the **Zubeen Garg Memorial Award** from *Writers' Forum Assam*.

- The Writers' Forum Assam has established the **Zubeen Garg Memorial Award** to honor individuals for exceptional contributions to art and culture.
- The award, which includes a cash prize of ₹50,000, a citation, a traditional *chelon* (shawl), and a gift hamper.



9. Kenton Miller Award 2025:

Context: **Dr. Sonali Ghosh**, field director of Kaziranga NP becomes the first Indian to win the *IUCN WCPA Kenton Miller Award 2025* for innovation and excellence in the sustainability of the National Park.

Awarded for:

- Integrating **local communities** into park stewardship.
- Developing **eco-friendly tourism models** ensuring livelihood security and wildlife protection.
- Her work positions India as a global leader in biodiversity governance and grassroots ecological innovation.

10. Kotada Bhadli- Harappan Site:

Context: A new study has identified the Harappan site of Kotada Bhadli in Kutch, Gujarat, as the *earliest known caravanserai*, indicating a well-

organised trade infrastructure dating back to 2300–1900 BCE.

- Kotada Bhadli is an ancient Harappan site from the Mature Harappan period (2300–1900 BCE).
- **Caravanserai** — a fortified resting place for traders and their pack animals during long trade journeys.
- It is situated in the **Kutch district of Gujarat**, along important inland trade routes that linked major Harappan cities like **Dholavira, Lothal, and Shikarpur**.
- The site acted as a **rural trade stopover**, providing **shelter, food, and safety** for traders and their caravans. It was meant for **short stays**, not for permanent living.

Polity

1. SC Panel for Transgender Equal Opportunity Policy

Context: The Supreme Court has set up a committee to **frame a National Equal Opportunity Policy for transgender** persons to ensure inclusion and equality.



Issues Faced by Transgender Persons (as highlighted by the Supreme Court):

- **Limited access to benefits:** The 2019 Act requires an ID card to avail of benefits, making the process complex and excluding many individuals.
- **Lack of facilities:** Difficulty in accessing education, shelter homes, and other public services.
- **Administrative delays:** Most states have not yet established Transgender Protection Cells.
- **Social stigma:** Deep-rooted discrimination and low awareness regarding gender inclusivity.
- **Legal hurdles:** The Act's requirement for gender certification by the District Magistrate limits the right to self-identification.

Key Features of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019:

- **Definition:** Recognizes individuals whose gender identity differs from the gender assigned at birth.
- **Identity recognition:** Allows self-perceived gender identity; certificate to be issued by the District Magistrate.
- **Ban on discrimination:** Ensures equal rights in education, employment, healthcare, and housing.
- **Government measures:** Mandates welfare schemes for education, health, and livelihood of transgender persons.
- **National Council:** Constituted to advise the government and monitor welfare initiatives for transgender persons.

Other Important Measures:

- **NALSA Judgment (2014):** Recognized transgender persons as the **"third gender."**
- **National Portal:** Provides an online system to apply for ID cards and certificates without physical verification.
- **SMILE Scheme:** Aims to promote livelihood and rehabilitation support for transgender persons.

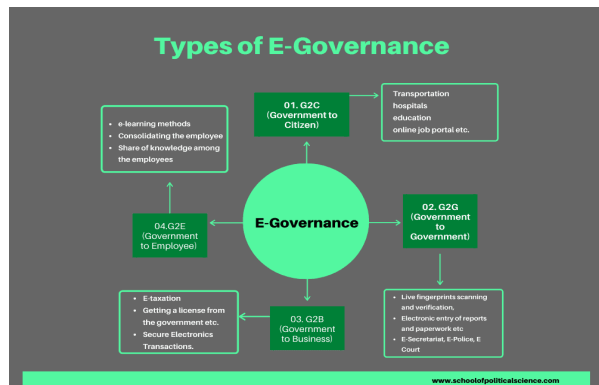
2. We Rise' Initiative:

- **Launched by:** **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** in collaboration with DP World.
- **Objective:** To empower women entrepreneurs and women-led MSMEs by helping them expand their businesses

globally through trade facilitation, mentorship, and strategic partnerships.

3.E-Governance in India

Context: E-Governance uses technology to make governance efficient, transparent, and citizen-centric, reshaping the relationship between the state and its citizens.



Definition: E-Governance refers to the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to enhance public service delivery, streamline government operations, and promote citizen participation in governance.

Challenges of E-Governance:

- Digital Divide:** Unequal access to the internet and digital tools excludes certain sections of society.
- Data Privacy & Surveillance Risks:** Misuse or unauthorized monitoring of sensitive citizen data.
- Exclusion Errors:** Some citizens may be unintentionally left out of digital service delivery.
- Limited Institutional Capacity:** Lack of skilled personnel, infrastructure, and resources within government agencies.

- Over-Platformisation:** Excessive dependence on digital systems can reduce human interaction and accountability.

Transformative Role of E-Governance in India:

- Enhancing Citizen Access:** Digital platforms such as *e-Seva* and *DigiLocker* make government services easily accessible anytime, anywhere. **Example from Assam:** *Swanirbhar Assam Portal* offers citizens online access to various state services.
- Promoting Transparency & Accountability:** Initiatives like *Bhoomi* (digital land records) and *Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)* help reduce corruption and ensure efficient delivery of welfare benefits.
 - Assam Example:** *DBT for PDS* (Public Distribution System) ensures direct transfer of subsidies to beneficiaries.
- Streamlining Administrative Efficiency:** Programs such as the *National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)* and *Common Service Centres (CSCs)* automate processes, improving decision-making and service delivery.
- Financial Inclusion:** Initiatives like *JAM Trinity* (Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile) and *UPI* have expanded access to banking and digital payment systems across the country.
- Rural Empowerment:** Projects such as *Gyandoot* and *PMGDISHA* (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan)

promote digital literacy and connect rural citizens to governance processes.

- a. **Assam Example:** *Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DSA)* enhances digital awareness and skills in rural areas.

6. Enabling Innovation & Interoperability:

Platforms like *India Stack* and the *Government e-Marketplace (GeM)* foster innovation, integration, and seamless service delivery across sectors.

4. SC Ruling on Age Bar

- The Supreme Court ruled that the age limits prescribed under the *Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021* will not apply retrospectively.
- Couples who had initiated the surrogacy process before **January 25, 2022**, are exempt from these age restrictions.



About the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021

Objective: To regulate surrogacy practices in India, prevent exploitation, and permit only ethical and altruistic surrogacy.

Key Provisions:

- Only **altruistic surrogacy** is allowed; **commercial surrogacy** is completely banned and punishable.

Eligibility for Intending Couples:

- Must be **married Indian couples**.
- **Wife:** 23–50 years old.
- **Husband:** 26–55 years old.
- Must not have any surviving biological or adopted children.

Eligibility for Surrogate Mother:

- Must be a **married woman** with at least one biological child of her own.
- Age limit: **25–35 years**.

Rights of the Surrogate Child:

- The surrogate child is deemed the **legal child of the intended couple** and enjoys all rights equal to a natural-born child.

5. District Judge Appointment

Context: The Supreme Court ruled that judicial officers with a total of **7 years' combined experience** as advocates and in service can be **directly appointed as District Judges**.

Qualification for District Judge (Article 233):

- Must be an **advocate or judicial officer**.
- Must have **at least 7 years of experience** as a legal practitioner or combined experience as an advocate and judicial officer.
- It must be **recommended by the High Court** for appointments.

Appointment Authority: District Judges are **appointed by the Governor** of the state **in consultation with the High Court**.

6. UN Human Rights Council

Context: India was elected unopposed to the **UN Human Rights Council** for a **three-year term (2026–28)**.



About UN Human Rights Council

Overview: The UN Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide.

Genesis: It was established in **2006** by the **UN General Assembly**, replacing the former **Commission on Human Rights**.

Membership: The Council consists of **47 member states** elected by the **UN General Assembly** for **three-year terms**, with members eligible for a **maximum of two consecutive terms**.

Functions: It serves as a global platform for human rights discussions, adopts resolutions, reviews the human rights records of member states, and conducts investigations and special procedures on human rights issues.

7. Japan's First Female Prime Minister

Context: Japan has elected **Sanae Takaichi** as its **first female Prime Minister**, marking a

historic step toward greater inclusivity and gender equality.



Similarities between the Indian and Japanese Political Systems

- **Written Constitutions:** India has the **longest constitution**, while Japan's constitution is concise, with about 5,000 words.
- **Parliamentary Democracies:** Both countries follow a **parliamentary system**, with the **Prime Minister as the real executive head**.
- **Bicameral Legislatures:** Japan's **National Diet** has the House of Representatives and House of Councillors; India's **Parliament** has the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- **Fundamental Rights:**
 - **Japan (Chapter III, Articles 10–40):** Guarantees equality, liberty, human dignity, and rights established by law (**procedural safeguards**).
 - **India (Part III, Articles 12–35):** Ensures six fundamental rights with protection through **procedural law**.

- **Other Similarities:** Independent judiciary, **universal adult franchise**, constitutional supremacy, rule of law, and rights protected through established legal procedures.

8.Appointment of the Next Chief Justice of India

Context: The Union Government has asked the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** to **recommend his successor**, following the convention of appointing the next senior-most judge as the new CJI.

Appointment of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and Judges

Legal Basis:

- The **Memorandum of Procedure (MoP)** gives the rules for appointing the **CJI** and other **Supreme Court judges**.
- They are appointed by the **President** under **Article 124(2)** of the Constitution.

Appointment of the CJI:

- **Seniority:** The **senior-most judge** of the Supreme Court is usually appointed as the next CJI.
- **Process:** The **Union Government** asks the current CJI to name his successor about a month before retirement.
- **Recommendation:** The CJI sends the name of the senior-most eligible judge to the **Law Ministry**.
- **Appointment:** After the **Prime Minister's approval**, the **President** issues the **appointment order**.

Appointment of Other Supreme Court Judges:

- The **President** appoints other judges on the advice of the **Collegium**, which includes the **CJI and four senior-most Supreme Court judges**.

Appointment of High Court Judges:

- The **President** appoints High Court judges under **Article 217**, based on the recommendation of the **Collegium** (CJI and two senior-most SC judges).

Collegium System:

- The **Collegium System** was developed through the **Three Judges Cases (1981, 1993, and 1998)** to protect the **independence of the judiciary** in appointments.

9.UNDP Report on Forest Rights Act

Context: UNDP released the report “*Securing Rights, Enabling Futures*” on **20 years of Forest Rights Act implementation** in **Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Odisha**.



About Forest Rights Act, 2006
The *Forest Rights Act (FRA)* was passed in **2006** to give legal rights to **forest-dwelling communities**.

Main aim:
To correct **past injustices** and ensure **livelihood and food security** for people living in forests.

Key Provisions and Types of Rights:

1. **Title Rights:** Ownership of forest land (up to 4 hectares) cultivated as of **December 13, 2005**.
2. **Use Rights:** Right to collect, use, and sell **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** and access grazing, fishing, and water resources.
3. **Relief and Development Rights:** Right to **rehabilitation and basic facilities** in case of eviction or displacement.
4. **Forest Management Rights:** Right of communities to **protect and manage forest resources**.

Eligibility:

- **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs):** Must be a Scheduled Tribe member living in or near forests before **December 13, 2005**, dependent on forests for livelihood.
- **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs):** Must have lived in forests for at least **75 years** before **December 13, 2005**, and depend on forests for livelihood.

Implementation Challenges:

- Slow progress and high claim rejection rates.
- Bureaucratic resistance and conflict with other laws (e.g., **Wildlife Protection Act**).
- Concerns over weakening **Gram Sabha powers** after the **2023 Forest Conservation Act amendment**.

Significance:

- Empowers **marginalized forest communities**.
- Promotes **sustainable and inclusive forest management**.
- Upholds **social justice** and serves as a **global model for community-based conservation**.

GEOGRAPHY

1.GORICHEN PEAK

Context: Indian army's spear corps completed the mountaineering expedition to Mt. Gorichen, in Arunachal Pradesh



About Mt. Gorichen:

- It is the highest peak in Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh
- It is prayed by the Monpa community
- Locally known as “Sa-Nga Phu” in the Monpa language, meaning “Kingdom of Deity.”
- Located close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

2.KALAHI RIVER

Context: The traditional boat race returned in full splendour this year on the waters of the Kalahi River

Kalahi river:

- The Kalahi River flows in the Kamrup District
- It flows along/near the area of Chhaygaon

3.DORA BEEL

Context: the Assam government has proposed setting up an industrial park over parts of Dora Beel, a vital wetland of Assam. This had led to public protest over environment concern



About Dora Beel

- Location: Near Bijoy Nagar, in Kamrup district, Assam.
- supports diverse flora, fauna, and human livelihoods.

Other Wetlands of Assam Under Threat

1. Deepor Beel (Kamrup)
2. Silsako Beel (Guwahati)
3. Urapad Beel (Goalpara)
4. Samaguri Beel (Nagaon)
5. Satajan Beel (Tinsukia)

4.THINGTAM PHENOMENON IN MIZORAM

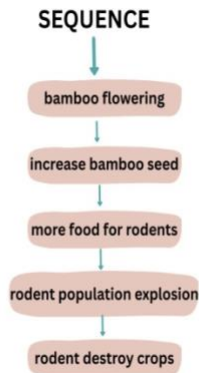
Context: Triggered by Thingtam, rats destroy crops in 150 villages of Mizoram state

what is Thingtam?

Thingtam is the natural process of flowering of the bamboo species of *Bambusa Tulda*. It generally occurs roughly once every 48 years in Mizoram and other states of Northeast India. This gives rise to Rodents population which then destroys crop field

Mautam: While Thingtam is linked to *Bambusa tulda*, Mautam is associated with the flowering of *Melocanna baccifera* bamboo, which occurs roughly every 50 years

Both events share similar ecological patterns but involve different bamboo species.



About the Hydro-electric project:

- It is a 1,856-MW run-of-the-river hydroelectric plant proposed on the Chenab River in the Ramban District of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It will be the largest hydroelectric project in the Union Territory

Impact on Agriculture and Food Security

1. Over 1,700 hectares of paddy destroyed; multiple vegetable and cash crops affected.
2. Around 4,000 rural households face total loss of annual income.
3. Mizoram depends heavily on subsistence agriculture; crop destruction could lead to grain shortages.
4. Rat infestations raise potential for zoonotic diseases and contamination of food stocks.

INDUS WATER TREATY:

In 1960, the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) was signed by former PM Jawaharlal Nehru and then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan.

It states how water from the six rivers would be shared between India and Pakistan

It gives three western river(Indus, Chenab an Jhelum) to Pakistan and three eastern river (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) to India

This means 80% water went to Pakistan and 20% to India

Control Strategies

1. : The Agriculture Department is distributing poison bait and traps.
2. Deployed to track migration and breeding patterns of rats.
3. People should be encouraged to get crop insurance
4. Promoting crops less susceptible to rodent attacks.

ABOUT BAMBOO: It is a type of grass not tree. It grows very fast. It is mainly found in warm temperature are. It can live up to 100 years , often flowering once in the entire life

5.SALWAKOTE PROJECT

Context: After Pahalgam attack, and suspension of Indus water treaty the Sawalkote Hydropower Project on the Chenab River is being fast-tracked for clearance.

6.IUCN KENTON MILLER AWARD 2025

Context: Dr. Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, became the first Indian to win the IUCN Kenton Miller Award

- **What it is?** A prestigious international award that honours individuals demonstrating innovation and excellence in the sustainability of protected areas management.

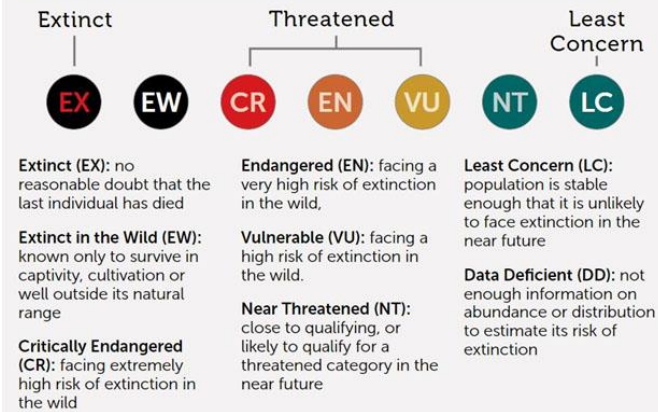
- Provided by: IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).
- Launched in: 1999

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature is a union of government and civic society to create a sustainable world

It was created in 1948

It launches IUCN Red list which is the indicator of the health of world's biodiversity.

THE RED LIST CATEGORIES



7.GUWAHATI URBAN PLAN 2024

Context: Draft Guwahati Master Plan 2045 has been formulated to check the problems the city is facing

Problems:

1. Verndors without a place to stand
2. Slum and invisible settlements
3. Housing shortage
4. Lack of basic amenities like schools and hospitals
5. Climate crisis and frequent floods

8.Gokul Jalashay and Udaipur Jheel

Context: Two Bihar wetlands—Gokul Jalashay (Buxar) and Udaipur Jheel (West Champaran)—are newly designated Ramsar Sites, raising Bihar's total to five and India's tally to 93

About Gokul Jalashay:

- Location: buxar district
- Southern edge of ganga river
- It is an oxbow lake

About Udaipur Jheel

- Location: west Champaran district
- Oxbow lake by gandaki river

Ramsar sites:

- The Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.
- 2 February is observed annually as World Wetlands day.
- Highest wetland is in Tamil Nadu
- Northeast has 4 wetland- Assam- deeporbil, Manipur- loktak lake, Mizoram- pala wetland and Tripura- rudrasagar

Indian Economy

1. SWAMIH Fund

Context: RBI exempted the government-backed SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Fund from its tightened AIF investment rules.

About SWAMIH (2019):

- It is a **Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF)**.
- **AIF** means a privately pooled investment vehicle established in India that collects funds from sophisticated investors, Indian or foreign, for investment purposes.
- **Regulated by:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**).
- **Examples:** Venture Capital Funds, Angel Funds.
- **Objective:** To provide **priority debt financing** for completing stalled housing projects.
- **Fund Manager:** SBICAP Ventures Limited.

2. Microfinance Sector in India

Context: Sa-Dhan released its **Quarterly Microfinance Report**, which forms a part of the **Annual Bharat Microfinance Report**, providing key insights into the performance and trends of India's microfinance sector.

Microfinance Sector in India (Simplified):

- **Definition:** Microfinance provides banking and financial services to low-income individuals or groups who are usually excluded from regular banking.

Significance:

- **Financial Inclusion:** Helps bring poor and marginalized people into the formal financial system.
- **Rural Reach:** About **71%** of clients are from rural areas, showing that micro lending institutions (MLIs) effectively reach underserved regions.
- **Women Empowerment:** Around **88%** of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) linked to banks are women-led, improving women's social and economic status.

Challenges:

- **Poor Loan Quality:** Rising **Portfolio at Risk (PAR)** shows higher chances of loan defaults.
- **High Defaults in some states:** Foreexample, Bihar has the highest outstanding loans and default rates.

Government Initiatives to Strengthen Microfinance

- **SHG-Bank Linkage Programme:** Connects Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with banks to increase loan access and encourage income-generating activities instead of informal money lending.
- **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY):** Provides **collateral-free microcredit** to small businesses and entrepreneurs through **Shishu, Kishor, and Tarun** loan categories.
- **Refinance Support by NABARD:** NABARD offers **long-term refinance assistance** to Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) to expand lending in rural areas.

Examples from Assam:

- **Kanaklata Mahila Sabalikaran Yojana:** Supports women SHGs with financial aid and training for self-employment.
- **Asom MUDRA Scheme:** Extends MUDRA loans through state-level banks to promote small and micro enterprises.
- **Jeevika Project (NRLM-Assam):** Promotes rural livelihoods and SHG-based microfinance activities across Assam's villages.

3.Launch of Two New Agriculture Schemes

Context: The Prime Minister launched the **PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** and **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses** to promote self-reliance and growth in the agriculture sector.

PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

- **Duration:** 6 years (2025–26 to 2030–31)
- **Coverage:** 100 districts (at least 1 from each state)
- **Outlay:** ₹24,000 crore
- **Focus:** Improve agriculture and allied sectors in underperforming districts
- **Objectives:**
 - Increase farm production and productivity
 - Promote crop diversification and sustainable practices
 - Improve irrigation facilities
 - Ensure access to credit for farmers
- **Model:** Inspired by **NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme**

Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

- **Duration:** 6 years (2025–26 to 2030–31)
- **Outlay:** ₹11,440 crore
- **Aim:** Achieve **self-sufficiency in pulses**
- **Focus Crops:** Tur (Arhar), Urad (Black gram), Masoor (Red lentil)
- **Targets:**

- Area: Expand to **310 lakh hectares**
- Production: Increase to **350 lakh tonnes**
- Productivity: Raise yield to **1130 kg/ha**

- **Approach:** Cluster-based strategy tailored to local needs
- **Procurement:** **NAFED** and **NCCF** to purchase **100%** of farmers' produce.

4.2025 Nobel Prize in Economics

Context: The **2025 Nobel Prize in Economics** was awarded to **Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt** for their pioneering work in explaining **innovation-driven economic growth**.

2025 Economics Nobel Prize

- **Joel Mokyr (USA):** Received half the prize for identifying the conditions needed for sustained growth through **technological progress**.
- **Philippe Aghion (France) and Peter Howitt (Canada):** Shared the other half for developing the **theory of sustained growth through creative destruction**.
- **Key Observation:** The last two centuries have witnessed **continuous global economic growth** for the first time in history.

5.PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP)

Context: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched new initiatives marking **four years of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** to boost infrastructure and logistics efficiency.

Key Initiatives

- **PM GatiShakti Public:**
 - Opens the **PM GatiShakti NMP platform** to the **private sector**.

- Developed by **BISAG-N**, powered by the **National Geospatial Data Registry (NGDR)**.
- Provides wider access to **geospatial data** and **advanced analytics** for planning.
- **PM GatiShakti – Offshore:**
 - A **digital platform** for integrated planning and management of **offshore projects**.
 - Supports **Blue Economy** development.
 - Enables **data-driven decisions** for projects like wind farms, marine resources, and coastal infrastructure.
- **District Master Plan (DMP) for 112 Aspirational Districts:**
 - Promotes **data-driven local development** and **regional growth**.
 - Focuses on sectors like **health, education, logistics, industry, and environment**.
- **LEAPS 2025 (Logistics Excellence, Advancement and Performance Shield):**
 - A recognition program to **reward innovation and leadership** in the **logistics sector**.

PMGS NMP Dashboard: A unified multi-sector monitoring system designed to track progress and generate actionable insights.

About PM GatiShakti (2021):

- **Full Name:** PM GatiShakti – National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity
- **Launched:** October 2021
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Objective:

To create a **coordinated and data-driven system** for faster and more efficient

infrastructure planning and implementation across ministries.

Seven Engines of the National Master Plan (NMP):

Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport, and Logistics Infrastructure.

6.NITI Aayog Report on India’s Blue Economy

Context: NITI Aayog released the report “**India’s Blue Economy: Strategy for Deep-Sea and Offshore Fisheries**”, outlining measures to sustainably develop and harness the potential of India’s marine resources.

Importance:

The strategy is vital as India aims to achieve a **US\$100 billion Blue Economy by 2030**, recognizing it as a key driver of future growth.

Key Findings:

- **Current Status:** India’s fisheries potential is about **7.16 million tonnes**, but much of it is still **unutilized**.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Only **90 fishing harbours** can handle large deep-sea vessels.
- **Technology Challenges:** Limited capability to harvest deep-sea resources efficiently.
- **Regulatory Gaps:** Lack of specific laws for fishing in the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**, leading to **illegal and unregulated fishing**.

Key Government Initiatives:

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):**
 - Duration: **2020–21 to 2024–25**
 - Investment: **₹20,050 crore**
 - Support: Up to **60% financial assistance** to traditional

fishermen for deep-sea and offshore fishing vessels.

- **Other Initiatives:**
 - **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)**
 - **National Fisheries Policy 2020**

7. Vishwas Scheme

Context: The ‘Vishwas Scheme’ was launched during the **238th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees’ Provident Fund (EPF)** to address pending cases and enhance transparency in provident fund management.

About Vishwas Scheme

- **Objective:** To reduce litigation by **rationalizing penal damages** on delayed Provident Fund payments.
- **Background:** Many disputes arise due to **high penalties** for late PF remittances.
- **Provident Fund (PF):** A **retirement savings scheme** where both the employee and employer contribute a fixed percentage of the employee’s salary every month.
- **Duration:** The scheme will run for **6 months**, extendable by another **6 months**.

8. RBI Unveils Key Financial Innovation Initiatives

About the Initiatives

- **Unified Lending Interface (ULI):**
 - A **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for credit delivery.
 - Collects and shares data from multiple sources to help lenders make **better credit assessments**.

- Aims to **improve access and efficiency** in lending.

- **CBDC Retail Sandbox:**
 - A testing platform for **firms** to develop and trial innovations using **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**.
 - **CBDC** is a **digital version of fiat currency** issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Tokenisation of Certificates of Deposit (CDs):**
 - Converts CDs into **digital tokens** on a blockchain for **faster settlement, better liquidity, and transparency**.
 - A **Certificate of Deposit (CD)** is a **money market instrument** issued by banks or financial institutions for short-term deposits.
 - **Maturity:** Up to **one year** (minimum **7 days**).

9.2025 Global Hunger Index (GHI)

Context: The **2025 Global Hunger Index** report titled “*20 Years of Tracking Progress: Time to Recommit to Zero Hunger*” was released, assessing global hunger and food security.

- Published by **Concern Worldwide (Ireland)**, **Welthungerhilfe (Germany)**, and the **Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV)**.

Key Findings

- Global hunger has **barely improved since 2016**, making the **2030 Zero Hunger** goal difficult to achieve.
- **India ranks 102nd out of 123 countries** with a **GHI score of 25.8**, placing it in the “**serious**” hunger category.

- **Main causes of hunger:**
 - **Conflict** (major driver)
 - **Climate change** and environmental shocks damaging food systems
 - **Economic issues** like inflation and weak currencies
 - **Reduced aid** and **income inequality**.
- **CBDC:** A digital version of a country's official currency issued by its central bank. It simplifies digital payments and money transfers.
- **Stablecoin:** A type of cryptocurrency whose value is tied to another asset, usually a stable one like the US Dollar, to avoid price fluctuations.

CBDC in India

About Global Hunger Index

- The **GHI** measures and tracks **hunger levels** globally, regionally, and nationally.
- It is published annually by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
- **Indicators:**
 - **Undernourishment:** Lack of sufficient calorie intake
 - **Child Stunting:** Low height for age (under 5 years)
 - **Child Wasting:** Low weight for height (under 5 years)
 - **Child Mortality:** Deaths of children under 5 years

10. World Economic Outlook

Context: IMF's World Economic Outlook projects India's GDP growth at **6.6% (2025-26)** and **6.2% (2026-27)**, with global growth slowing to **3.2% in 2025**.

About World Economic Outlook (WEO):

- Published by the **IMF** (International Monetary Fund).
- Provides **analysis and forecasts** of the global economy.
- Released **twice a year**, with interim updates.

11. Central Bank Digital Currencies

About CBDC and Stablecoin

- **Digital Rupee** is India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) issued by the **RBI** in digital form.
- It works like physical cash — backed by the RBI, easy to use, and ensures final payment.
- Stored in a **digital wallet**, it can be used to send, receive, or make payments.
- RBI is running pilot projects for two types:
 - **Retail CBDC:** For the public via digital wallets or apps.
 - **Wholesale CBDC:** For banks and financial institutions for interbank transactions.

12. Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar

Context: The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** launched the **Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar (SITAA)** to promote innovation and collaboration in Aadhaar-based technology solutions.

About SITAA:

- **Aim:** To strengthen India's digital identity system and tackle security threats like deepfakes, spoofing, and fake identity attacks.

- **Implemented by:** UIDAI under the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **Focus Areas:** Biometric authentication, AI/ML solutions, data privacy, and advanced security features.
- **Pilot Phase:** Will begin with challenges such as face liveness detection, attack detection, and contactless fingerprint authentication.

13.2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

Context: The 2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report was released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

Key Highlights:

- Out of 6.3 billion people in 109 countries, **1.1 billion (18.3%)** live in acute multidimensional poverty.
- **43.6%** face severe poverty, deprived in half or more MPI indicators.
- **83.2%** of the poor live in **Sub-Saharan Africa (565 million)** and **South Asia (390 million)**.
- In **India**, poverty dropped to **16.4% (2019–21)** from **55.1% (2005–06)**, lifting **414 million people** out of poverty.

14. Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER)

Context: The Indian rupee has weakened to a record low, with the **Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER)** showing continued undervaluation.

About REER

- **Meaning:** REER (Real Effective Exchange Rate) shows how the value of a country's currency compares to those of its major trading partners, after adjusting for inflation.
- **Calculation:** It is derived by adjusting the **Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER)** with inflation differences between countries.
- **Trade Impact:**
 - A **higher REER** → currency overvalued → exports costlier, imports cheaper.
 - A **lower REER** → currency undervalued → boosts exports, reduces imports.

15. India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

Context:

The India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) came into force on **1st October 2025**, marking a major step in strengthening India's trade and investment relations with the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** countries.

Key Highlights:

- **Historic FTA:** This is India's **first Free Trade Agreement** that includes a **binding investment commitment** — **\$100 billion** in investments and creation of **1 million direct jobs** over the next **15 years**.
- **EFTA Members:** Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.
 - **Switzerland** is India's largest trading partner among them, followed by **Norway**.

16. Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)

Context :The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has established a **six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)** to enhance regulation, supervision, and governance of the **digital payments ecosystem**.

About the PRB:

- **Function:** Regulates and supervises payment systems under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- **Replaces:** The **Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS)**.

Composition (as per Section 3 of the Act):

- **RBI Governor** – Ex officio **Chairperson**
- **RBI Deputy Governor (Payment & Settlement Systems)** – Ex officio **Member**
- **One RBI Officer** – Nominated by the **RBI Central Board**
- **Three Government-nominated experts** – From fields such as **payment systems, IT, cybersecurity, or law**

17. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme

Context: The **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme** has been **extended till March 2026** to support exporters and boost India's export competitiveness.

About RoDTEP Scheme

- **Launched:** January 2021 by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- **Purpose:** To refund all **unreimbursed taxes and duties** paid at the central, state, and local levels.

- **Goal:** To **reduce hidden export costs** and make Indian goods **more competitive** globally.
- **Coverage:** Includes taxes paid during **manufacturing and distribution** of exported products.

18. Golden Jubilee of Regional Rural Banks

Context: The year **2025** marks the **Golden Jubilee of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**, celebrating **50 years** of their contribution to promoting **financial inclusion and rural development** across India.

About Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- **Established:** In **1975** (by Ordinance) and later through the **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976**.
- **Purpose:** To provide **institutional credit** for **agriculture and rural development**, acting as an alternative to cooperative banks.
- **Shareholding:**
 - **Government of India** – 50%
 - **State Government** – 15%
 - **Sponsoring Bank** – 35%
- **Main Clients:** Small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans, and other priority sectors in **rural and semi-urban areas**.
- **Regulation:** Controlled by the **RBI** under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and supervised by **NABARD**.
- **Priority Sector Lending:** Must lend **75%** of total credit to **priority sectors** such as agriculture and rural enterprises.

19. Internationalisation of the Indian Rupee (INR),

Context: The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced new measures to promote the **internationalisation of the Indian Rupee (INR)**, aiming to expand its use in **global trade and investment** transactions.

Key Measures

- **Rupee Loans to Non-Residents:** Indian banks and their foreign branches can now **lend in Indian Rupees** to residents and banks in **Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka**.
- **Transparent Rupee Reference Rates: Financial Benchmarks India Ltd (FBIL)** will create **clear and transparent reference rates** for the rupee against major global currencies.
- **Wider Use of Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs):** Balances in SRVAs can now be used to **invest in corporate bonds and commercial papers**, expanding their use in trade and investment.

Benefits of Internationalisation of the Rupee

- **Lower Need for Foreign Exchange Reserves**
- **Less Exchange Rate Risk** – Protects against U.S. dollar fluctuations and global liquidity shocks
- **Greater Economic Independence**
- **Stronger Trade Influence** – Helps position the rupee as a **stable regional currency** and boosts India's global trade role.

Special Rupee Vostro Account

A **Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA)** is an account that a **foreign bank holds with an Indian bank** to enable **trade settlements in Indian Rupees (INR)** directly, **without converting** the payment into foreign currencies.

20. Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

Context: The **Supreme Court** will examine the **constitutional validity of the Securities Transaction Tax (STT)**.

About Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

- A **direct tax** on buying or selling securities through recognized stock exchanges in India.
- **Introduced:** Under the **Finance Act, 2004**.
- **Purpose:** To **reduce tax evasion** in the securities market.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. PAKISTAN SAUDI ARABIA RELATION

Context: Pakistan And Saudi Arabia signed Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement.

- It states that “any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both”.

Impact :

1. Change in power dynamics and era of alliances
2. Pakistan may see the pact as strategic deterrence against India in future military confrontation
3. India’s Look West Policy may be hampered

India-Saudi Arabia Relations

1. Saudi Arabia is third largest crude oil supplier to India
2. India is the second largest trade partner of Saudi Arabia, whereas Saudi Arabia is the fifth largest trading partner of India.

2. NEPAL PROTEST BY GENZ

Context: Nepal faced an youth-led uprising against corruption, resulting in PM Oli’s resignation and Army intervention.

The ban on more than 20 social media platforms became the immediate spark for mass unrest. Moreover, the anger over corruption, poor governance and economy made the youth frustrated.

Situation of Nepal:

- Over 20% of Nepal's people live in poverty
- Unemployment among those aged 15-24 was over 22% in 2022-23
- The Richest 10% earn three times income of the poorest 40%

Recently, Mrs. Sushila Karki was appointed as the first female Prime Minister of Nepal

Implication for India:

1. Security Concerns: Instability may impact India–Nepal open border security, creating risks of infiltration, smuggling, or refugee flows
2. Strategic Angle: Political vacuum could allow China to step up influence in Nepal
3. Economic Impact: Border trade and supply chains may be disrupted, affecting businesses and citizens on both sides

Practise Question: The Recent Political Turmoil In Nepal Led By Genz Has Negative Implication On India. Comment On It. (150 Words)

3. H-1B VISAS

Context: The U.S. President raise the fee for H-1B visas to a staggering \$1,00,000 annually.



What is H-1B Visa?

- The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant work visa issued by the United States. It allows American companies to hire skilled foreign professionals in jobs that require specialized knowledge, such as information technology, engineering, finance, medicine, and scientific research.
- The visa is initially valid for three years and can be extended further, up to a maximum of six years.
- An individual worker cannot apply for the H-1B visa independently. The process is employer-driven, meaning that a U.S.

employer must sponsor and file the petition on behalf of the foreign professional.

- Because the demand for H-1B visas is far greater than the available quota, the U.S. government conducts an annual lottery system to randomly select applicants who are allowed to proceed with the visa process
- H-1B visa holders can bring their immediate family members to the U.S
- Indian professionals form the largest group of H-1B visa holders worldwide

Practise Question: Discuss the significance of the H-1B visa programme in shaping India–USA relations. How do recent changes in U.S. immigration policy impact India’s skilled workforce and bilateral economic cooperation?

4. UNITED NATION LOST RELEVANCE

Context: The repeated failures of the United Nations in preventing conflicts such as Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan highlights its ineffective role in 21st century

About United Nation:

The UN is a global intergovernmental organisation established by the signing of the UN Charter in 1945.

The aim was to-

1. maintain international peace and security
2. develop friendly relations among states
3. promote international cooperation

Reasons for Declining power of United Nation-

- The veto power of the five permanent members (P5) USA, UK, France, Russia, and China has crippled decision-making.
- The UN’s financial dependence on a handful of countries, especially the United States (contributing around 22% of its regular budget), makes it vulnerable to political pressures.

- The UN has been criticised for being slow, bureaucratic, and ineffective in enforcement.

-The growth of regional and global groupings such as G20, BRICS, SCO and ASEAN shows that states increasingly rely on other mechanisms for conflict resolution and cooperation.

What reforms are needed?

- Expand Security Council membership to ensure equitable regional representation.

- Restrict or suspend veto power

- Diversify and stabilise UN financing to reduce donor dependence and enhance budget predictability.

- Promote multilateralism by building synergy with regional platforms like G20, BRICS

Practise Question: Is UN becoming irrelevant in 21st century? What reforms are necessary to prevent the demise of UN. (250 words)

5. SCARBOROUGH SHOAL

Context: China has approved the creation of a national reserve at Scarborough shoal- a disputed region in south china sea by china and Philippines



About Scarborough shoal:

Located about 200 km west of Luzon, Philippines, it lies well within the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under UNCLOS.

Known for its rich fish stocks and potential hydro carbon reserves

It is named Huangyan Island by China, while the Philippines calls it the Panatag Shoal, or Bajo de Masinloc.

Who does it belong to?

The Philippines and China both lay claim to the Scarborough Shoal, but sovereignty has never been legally established.

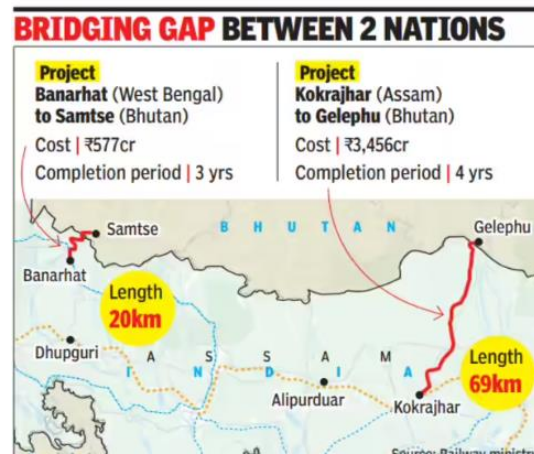
China seized the shoal in 2012 after a standoff with the Philippines and has held it since then. Although, The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in 2016 ruled in favour of the Philippines on various South China Sea issues, but establishing sovereignty over Scarborough Shoal was not within its scope, leaving ownership unresolved.

The ruling affirmed that the China blockade violated international law as it is a traditional fishing ground for multiple countries, including the Philippines, China, and Vietnam.

Practise question: The South China Sea has emerged as a focal point of geopolitical contestation in the Indo-Pacific region." Discuss the strategic significance of the South China Sea and analyse India's interests and challenges in the context of evolving regional dynamics. (250 words)

6.INDIA- BHUTAN RAIL LINK

Context: India has announced the establishment of the first-ever railway links between India and Bhutan, marking a historic milestone in bilateral connectivity.



The two proposed rail projects —

- Kokrajhar–Gelephu (Assam–Bhutan)
- Banarhat–Samtse (West Bengal–Bhutan)

INDIA–BHUTAN RELATIONS

- Treaty of Friendship (1949, revised 2007): Established the foundation of bilateral relations.

- Economic and Developmental Cooperation: India remains Bhutan's largest trading partner, accounting for nearly 80% of Bhutan's total trade.

India has pledged ₹10,000 crore for Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan (2024–2029) — double the assistance provided in the previous plan — underscoring the growing depth of the partnership.

- Hydropower Cooperation: A major pillar of India–Bhutan relations. Joint projects include Chukha, Tala, Mangdechhu, Kurichhu, and Punatsangchhu-II, which collectively supply clean hydropower to India while generating revenue for Bhutan.

- Recent Infrastructure Initiatives: The Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Darranga (Assam), inaugurated in November 2024, facilitates trade and the movement

- These projects align with India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies.

STRATEGIC AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

- **Boost to Connectivity:** The railway lines will enhance Bhutan's access to Indian ports and industrial corridors, improving trade logistics.
- **Economic Growth:** Better transport will lower freight costs, encourage cross-border commerce, and stimulate tourism.
- **Geostrategic Relevance:** Strengthening India–Bhutan transport links also reinforces regional stability and acts as a counterbalance to China's growing presence.
- **Integration with BIMSTEC:** The projects contribute to sub-regional connectivity under the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

7.INDIA- AFGHANISTAN RELATION

Context: The Transition from a technical mission to a full-fledged embassy demonstrates India's intent to deepen diplomatic relations with Afghanistan.



Significance:

1. Afghanistan's location is beneficial to engage with middle east, central asia and south asia
2. A close Afghanistan will help in keeping a check on Pakistan
3. With Afghanistan's mineral wealth valued between \$1-3 trillion, India sees economic opportunities in mining and trade.
4. Bollywood's popularity in Afghanistan and Indian scholarships for Afghan students highlight ongoing cultural diplomacy.
5. India-Afghanistan ties also counterbalance China's growing Central Asian influence.

Challenges:

1. The Taliban's historic links with terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed raise fears of Afghanistan serving as a safe haven for anti-India militants.
2. Lack of women's rights, minority protections, and suppression of dissent OF Taliban regime undermine India's values-based engagement
3. China's expanding role in Afghanistan, including dialogue with the Taliban and infrastructure investments, presents a strategic challenge for India.
4. : Afghanistan's position as the world's largest opium producer, forming the core of the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan), fuels regional instability.

Practice question: why are India–Afghanistan relations strategically important? What are the major challenges in engaging with Taliban led Afghanistan?

Science and Technology

1.Vyomitra

Context: Vyommitra: **India's Humanoid Robot for Gaganyaan Mission**

What Is Vyommitra Robot?

- The name comes from “Vyoma” (space) + “Mitra” (friend).
- Vyommitra is described as a half-humanoid robot: it has an upper body (torso, arms, head) but no legs in its initial version.
- It's being developed by ISRO, particularly through the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Kerala.

Role in the Gaganyaan Mission

Vyommitra's primary function is to accompany the first uncrewed test flight (Gaganyaan-1), scheduled for December 2025, and validate critical systems in microgravity.

It will **help monitor life support, avionics, environmental control, structural responses, and more.**

2.Zoho Mail

Context : Amit Shah Switches to **Zoho Mail**, Backs Swadeshi Tech.



Why Zoho Mail?

•Zoho Mail is part of Zoho Corporation, an **Indian tech company headquartered in Chennai**, known for its privacy-focused, ad-free suite of productivity tools.

•The adoption of Zoho by such a senior cabinet minister signals -

~A strong government endorsement of indigenous platforms

~A gradual phase-out of foreign software like Google Workspace and Microsoft Office

~A move toward digital sovereignty, especially for sensitive government communication

3. AI Data centre in Andhra Pradesh

Context : **Google to Invest \$15 Billion in AI Data Centre in Andhra Pradesh**

- **Total Investment:** \$15 billion (spread over 5 years).
- **Location:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Type of Project:** AI Data Centre Campus.
- Initial Capacity:** 1 gigawatt (expandable to multiple gigawatts).
- **Employment Generation:** Around 188,000 jobs (direct and indirect).
- **Timeline:** Investment rollout from 2025–2030

Significance of the Project

•This is Google's largest AI hub investment outside the U.S., reflecting India's pivotal role in global AI development.

•The project will enhance India's data infrastructure, enabling the integration of advanced AI and cloud computing services.

•It aligns with India's vision of becoming a global digital innovation leader under initiatives like Digital India and AI Mission Bharat.

•As a southern port city, Visakhapatnam offers logistical advantages for data transmission and international connectivity.

4. Mission Drishti

Context : GalaxEye to Launch World's First Multi-Sensor EO Satellite in 2026

Indian space-tech startup GalaxEye announced it will launch Mission Drishti, the world's first multi-sensor Earth Observation (EO) satellite, in the first quarter of 2026.

Startup Name: GalaxEye

Mission Name: Mission Drishti

Satellite Type: Multi-sensor Earth Observation (EO) satellite

Technologies Used: Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) + Optical payload

Resolution: 1.5 meters

Launch Timeline: Q1 of 2026

5.Chandrayaan-2 Detects Solar Impact on Moon's Exosphere

Context : *ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 observes solar eruptions affecting the Moon's exosphere, deepening insights into lunar space weather and future moon missions.*

Chandrayaan-2 lunar orbiter has made the first-ever direct observation of how solar activity, specifically Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), impacts the Moon's exosphere.

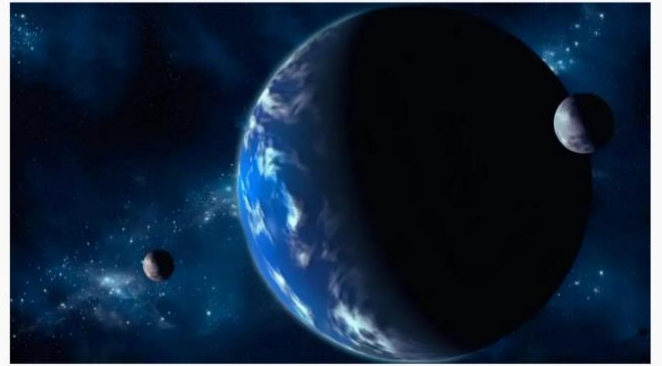
Coronal Mass Ejections?

• **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)** are massive bursts of plasma and magnetic field released from the Sun's corona, comprising mainly Hydrogen and Helium ions.

• When these ejections reach planetary bodies, they can have significant effects—on Earth, they interfere with satellites and power grids.

• On the Moon, which lacks both an atmosphere and a global magnetic field, the effects are even more direct and profound.

6.Earth's Temporary Second Moon



Context : NASA Confirms Discovery of 2025 **PN7**, Earth's Temporary Second Moon

• NASA has confirmed that asteroid 2025 PN7 is now Earth's new quasi-moon — a tiny space companion travelling around the Sun along a path similar to our planet's.

• The asteroid 2025 PN7 is not directly orbiting Earth like our natural moon. Instead, it travels around the Sun on a path that nearly matches Earth's.

Quasi-Moon?

• A quasi-moon (or quasi-satellite) is a small celestial body that:

• **Orbits the Sun, not Earth.**

• Follows a path very similar to Earth's orbit.

• Appears to “follow” or “shadow” Earth through space.

• Is not gravitationally bound to our planet, unlike the real Moon.

Defense|Exercise|Operations:

1. Exercise Trishul:

Context: India has launched its annual Trishul 2025 military exercise along the western border with Pakistan, where the Army, Navy, and Air Force are jointly conducting large-scale coordinated operations.

- Trishul is a “routine” annual drill which integrates land, air, and maritime operations with both offensive and defensive combat simulations.

2. Exercise Ocean Sky 2025:

Context: Exercise Ocean Sky 2025, a high-intensity multinational air combat drill hosted by the Spanish Air Force, is being held at Gando Air Base, Spain, from October 20 to 31, 2025.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has made history by



becoming the first non-NATO nation to participate in Exercise Ocean Sky 2025.

The exercise underscores India’s growing global military footprint and reinforces its role as an emerging aerospace power.

3. Exercise Samudra Shakti, 2025:

Context: The Indian Navy is hosting the fifth edition of the Indo-Indonesian Joint Bilateral Maritime Exercise, Samudra Shakti 2025, at Visakhapatnam.

- This exercise strengthens naval cooperation between **India and Indonesia**. It reflects their

shared commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

4. Exercise Konkan:

Context: *Indian Navy and Royal Navy bilateral Exercise KONKAN-25 commenced on 05 Oct 2025, off the western coast of India.*

- First held in 2004, Exercise Konkan is an annual bilateral maritime exercise.

- The 2025 edition is the first-ever exercise to feature both nations’ Carrier Strike Groups (the UK’s HMS Prince of Wales and India’s INS Vikrant).

Other Imp. Exercises	
JAIMEX	India & Japan
IN-RoKN	India & S Korea
AUSTRAHIND	India & Australia
Drone Eastern A. Pradesh	Indian Army’s Spear corps

5. First Indigenous Anti-Submarine Vessel “Mahe”:

Context: Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, delivered ‘**Mahe**’—the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC)—to the Indian Navy On October 23, 2025.

- It is the first of eight indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC) which will enhance naval strength through indigenous design, innovation, and technology under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.

6. Indian Army Begins Major Transformation Drive:

Context: The Indian Army has initiated a major transformation to merge its traditional strengths with modern warfare capabilities. As part of this effort, the Army is creating new combat formations such as **Rudra Brigades, Bhairav Battalions, Shaktibaan, and Divyastra** units.

- These new formations will enhance both offensive and defensive operations — with *Rudra Brigades* functioning as all-arms units, *Bhairav Battalions* specializing in cross-border commando operations, *Shaktibaan* units focusing on advanced artillery technology, and *Divyastra* units integrating drones and loitering munitions.

- This structural and technological revamp is part of the Army's long-term modernization programme titled the "**Decade of Transformation (2023-2032)**", launched to mark India's 79th Independence anniversary.

7. India Marks 93rd Indian Air Force Day:

Context: India marked the 93rd **Indian Air Force (IAF) Day on October 8, 2025**, with a large ceremonial parade at the Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad.



- The celebrations honored the IAF's 1932 founding and included tributes to its personnel, highlighting the theme of "*Operation Sindoor*" and showcasing the country's aerial capabilities.

Miscellaneous

1. Nobel Prize 2025

What are Nobel Prizes?

•The Nobel Prizes are world-famous awards given every year to people or organizations who make outstanding contributions for the benefit of humanity. **They were first awarded in 1901 as per the will of Alfred Nobel**, the inventor of dynamite.

•**These prizes are given in six fields — Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace, and Economic Sciences** — and are considered the most prestigious honors in their respective areas.



•Each winner, called a laureate, receives:

A gold medal,

A diploma, and

A cash award (in 2023, the prize money was around 11 million Swedish kronor, equal to over 1 million US dollars).

Sweden: Award ceremonies for Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences are held in Stockholm.

Norway: The Nobel Peace Prize ceremony takes place in Oslo.

Nobel Prize in Medicine 2025

•The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to **Mary E. Brunkow, Fred**

Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi for their groundbreaking research on peripheral immune tolerance —

a vital process that prevents the immune system from mistakenly attacking the body's own tissues. Their discoveries have revolutionized our understanding of immune regulation and paved the way for new treatments for autoimmune disorders, cancer, and organ transplant rejection.

Nobel Prize in Physics 2025

•The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to **John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret, and John M. Martinis for their pioneering discovery that quantum effects can occur not only in tiny particles but also in larger physical systems.**

•Their groundbreaking research on **quantum tunnelling** and energy levels in electric circuits has built a vital link between the microscopic quantum world and the macroscopic real world. This achievement has significantly contributed to the development of quantum computers, secure communication systems, and advanced sensing technologies.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025

•The 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was given to **Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar M. Yaghi for their remarkable discovery of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs).**

•These special materials have tiny spaces that can trap gases, store harmful chemicals, speed up reactions, and even collect water from dry air, offering great benefits for science and the environment.

Nobel Prize in Literature 2025

•The Nobel Prize in Literature 2025 has been awarded to **Hungarian author László Krasznahorkai** for his visionary and powerful works that highlight the enduring strength of art amid chaos and despair.

•Known for his unique writing style, Krasznahorkai blends absurdism, deep reflection, and poetic storytelling, carrying forward the Central European literary tradition while also drawing inspiration from Eastern philosophy.

Nobel Peace Prize 2025

•The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to **Maria Corina Machado**, a brave leader who stands for democracy in Venezuela.

•The Norwegian Nobel Committee honored her for her **constant fight for free elections, human rights, and a peaceful shift to democracy**. Her courage and peaceful approach have inspired millions of Venezuelans who continue to struggle against oppression and seek freedom.

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2025

•In 2025, the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded for uncovering how innovation drives long-term economic growth. One half went to **Joel Mokyr** for explaining the conditions needed for growth through technology. The other half was shared by **Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt**, for their work on the idea of creative destruction — how new ideas replace old ones and fuel sustained economic change.

2. Qatar becomes 8th country to adopt UPI

Context : National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with Qatar National



Bank (QNB) to implement the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** in Qatar.

•**UPIs Global Expansion:** As part of India's efforts to globalize UPI, Qatar becomes the eighth country to adopt it, following **Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and the UAE**.

3. Ashwin becomes first Indian Capped men cricketer to play BBL .

Context:Former Indian all-rounder **Ravichandran Ashwin** has shattered a long-standing barrier by signing with Sydney Thunder, becoming the first male Indian player to join Australia's Big Bash League (BBL).



4. New CJI

Context : Justice Surya Kant to Become 53rd Chief Justice of India



Justice Surya Kant Oath-Taking: Expected immediately after Gavai's retirement

Oath Taking : The Chief Justice of India (CJI) administers the **oath to the President of India**

Tenure Duration: Approximately 14 months (till February 2027)

Retirement Age for SC Judges: **65 years**

5. Armenia becomes newest member of IUCN

Context: Armenia has officially joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) during the **IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025** in Abu Dhabi, marking its entry into the global coalition for biodiversity protection.

6. Khelo India University Games 2025

Context : Rajasthan will host the **5th edition of Khelo India University Games 2024** in November 2025.



•The Ministry, in collaboration with the Indian Olympic Association and state governments, organises **four major national level events under Khelo India:**

- Khelo India Youth Games (for players under 19 years of age)
- Khelo India University Games (for players under 25 years of age)
- Khelo India Winter Games
- Khelo India Para Games

7. Maitri II

Context: The **Ministry of Finance** has given **in-principle approval** for setting up **Maitri II, India's new research station in east Antarctica.**

Maitri II is India's upcoming and fourth

Significance:

- **Antarctica** contains **75% of Earth's freshwater**, and studying its **ice sheets** is crucial for **forecasting sea-level rise**.
- Critical for understanding **untapped mineral deposits, marine biodiversity, and ecological baselines**.

research station in Antarctica, scheduled to be completed by **January 2029**.

India's Other Research Stations in Antarctica

Dakshin Gangotri (1983): **Dakshin Gangotri**, established under the **Indian Antarctic Program** in 1983, was India's first **scientific research base in Antarctica**, but it was **submerged in ice and decommissioned in 1990**.

Maitri (1989): **Maitri** is India's **second permanent research station in Antarctica**, established in **1989**.

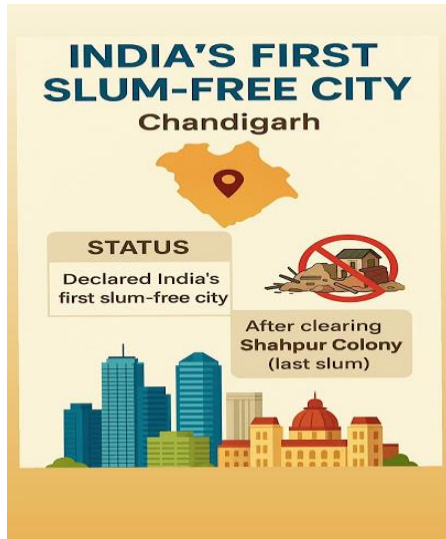


It is located in the **rocky mountainous Schirmacher Oasis**, and India also created a **freshwater lake** nearby, called **Lake Priyadarshini**.

Bharti (2012): Located about 3,000 km east of Maitri, the 'Bharati' research station lies between Thala Fjord and Quilty Bay.

8. India's first slum free city

Context : Chandigarh becomes India's first slum-free city after administration demolished last remaining colony.



9. Bajrang Setu

Context : Bajrang Setu: India's First Glass Suspension Bridge at Rishikesh



This bridge will serve as a replacement for the iconic Laxman Jhula, which was closed for safety reasons in 2019.

10. World's tallest bridge

Context : The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge in Guizhou province, China, is now the world's

tallest bridge, standing 625 m above the Beipan River.



11. Asia Cup 2025

Context: India beat Pakistan by 5 wickets in the Asia Cup 2025 final at Dubai to clinch their ninth title.



Player Of The Match: Tilak Varma

Player Of The Series: Abhishek Sharma



www.aspireacs.in



+91 8822194743

₹ 114/