

## CONTENTS

1. NATIONAL .....	2
2. INTERNATIONAL .....	05
3. SPORTS .....	23
4. SCIENCE AND TECH .....	23
5. ENVIRONMENT .....	24
6. ECONOMY .....	26
7. OBITUARIES .....	26
8. ECONOMY .....	26
9. JOINT EXERCISE .....	27
10. IMPORTANT DAYS .....	28



## IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

## NATIONAL

**Assam–Nagaland Border Violence Sparks Major Crisis**

**In the News:** On **2 October 2025**, severe violence erupted along the **Assam–Nagaland border** in the **B Sector of Golaghat district (Assam)**, when armed assailants attacked villages and set nearly 100 houses ablaze. The attack, allegedly carried out by miscreants from across the border, has triggered a major humanitarian and political crisis between the two states.

**Key Points:**

- **Background of the Dispute:** The Assam–Nagaland border dispute dates back to the colonial era when the boundary between the Naga Hills and Assam plains was poorly defined. Following Nagaland's creation in **1963**, territorial disagreements intensified, with both states claiming overlapping areas known as the **Disputed Area Belt (DAB)**.
- **Details of the October 2025 Attack:** The violence broke out late at night when over 400 armed attackers reportedly entered Tengatol and nearby villages in Assam's Golaghat district. They used firearms, grenades, and arson to destroy homes, forcing hundreds of residents to flee through forests and fields for safety.
- **Casualties and Damage:** Nearly **90–100 houses were torched**, and several vehicles and livestock were destroyed. The attack displaced numerous families, many of whom lost identity papers, household goods, and farmlands in the blaze.
- **Immediate Government Response:** The Assam Police and CRPF's 155th Battalion were deployed to restore order. Assam's Chief Minister held an emergency meeting with the Union Home Ministry, while Nagaland officials denied state involvement but promised cooperation in investigation.
- **Political and Social Repercussions:** The incident has reignited long-standing tensions between communities along the inter-state border. Political leaders across the Northeast have called for the revival of dialogue mechanisms and increased central intervention to prevent further escalation.
- **Humanitarian Impact:** Hundreds of displaced villagers are currently sheltered in relief camps set up by the Golaghat district administration. Immediate needs include food, medical assistance, and rehabilitation for affected families.
- **Historical Efforts to Resolve the Border Issue:** Several committees, including the **Sundaram Commission (1971)**, **Shastri Commission (1985)**, and **Variava Commission (1997)**, attempted to delineate the border, but none achieved a conclusive settlement. A **status quo agreement (1979)** remains in place, with the **CRPF** acting as a neutral force in disputed areas.

**Darjeeling Disaster**

**In the News:** On **3 October 2025**, the Darjeeling hills of West Bengal were struck by a series of devastating **landslides and flash floods** following intense and continuous rainfall. The disaster caused extensive destruction across Mirik, Ghoom, and Darjeeling town, leading to the loss of several lives, displacement of families, and large-scale damage to roads, bridges, and tea estates. The unprecedented rainfall overwhelmed drainage systems and triggered slope collapses across the fragile Himalayan terrain.

**Key Points:**

- **Heavy Rainfall and Trigger:** The region received exceptionally high rainfall within a short period, leading to multiple landslides and floods across the hilly terrain. The Indian Meteorological Department had issued red alerts for extremely heavy rainfall in North Bengal before the disaster occurred.
- **Casualties and Damage:** Over **20 people lost their lives**, several went missing, and hundreds were displaced. More than **90 houses and tea garden settlements** were washed away or buried under debris, while key bridges such as the **Dudhia bridge over the Balason River** collapsed due to flood pressure.
- **Affected Areas:** The worst-hit regions included **Mirik, Darjeeling town, Ghoom, and Lepchajagat**, where roads, power lines, and water supply networks were destroyed. Connectivity to Siliguri and other plains areas was temporarily cut off due to blockages on National Highway-110.
- **Relief and Rescue Operations:** The **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**, **State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)**, and local police carried out large-scale rescue and evacuation operations. Relief camps were set up to provide shelter, food, and medical care to displaced families.
- **Government Response:** The **West Bengal Government** announced compensation for the families of the deceased and deployed engineers to restore road and communication networks. The **Chief Minister personally reviewed** the situation and directed officials to ensure rapid relief and rehabilitation.

- **Environmental Context:** Darjeeling lies in a **geologically fragile Himalayan zone** prone to frequent landslides. Deforestation, unregulated construction, and poor slope management have aggravated the risk of such disasters over the years.
- **Impact on Tourism and Economy:** The incident severely impacted **tourism and the tea industry**, two pillars of Darjeeling's economy. Tourists were stranded for several days, and many tea estates suffered soil erosion and crop loss.
- **Historical Background:** The region has a long history of similar natural disasters, including major landslides in **1968, 2011, and 2015**, which have repeatedly exposed the vulnerability of hill towns to extreme weather.

### National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Releases Crime in India 2023 Report

**In the News:** The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** released the **"Crime in India 2023"** report, presenting comprehensive data on crimes recorded across India during the year 2023. The annual report, compiled under the Ministry of Home Affairs, provides statistical insights into crime trends, law and order situations, cybercrime, crime against women and children, and offences under special and local laws.

#### Key Points:

- **Overall Crime Rate:** The total number of cognizable crimes registered in India in **2023** stood at **around 59.1 lakh cases**, showing a marginal decline of 3.6% compared to 2022. Of these, 36.3 lakh were crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 22.8 lakh were under Special and Local Laws (SLL).
- **Crimes Against Women:** Crimes against women increased slightly by 4%, with over 4.6 lakh cases registered in 2023. The highest number of such cases were reported from Uttar Pradesh, followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The most reported offences included cruelty by husband or relatives, assault on women with intent to outrage modesty, and rape.
- **Crimes Against Children:** The report recorded over 1.6 lakh cases related to crimes against children, marking an increase of 6% from the previous year. A large proportion of these cases fell under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.
- **Cybercrime Surge:** Cybercrime cases saw a sharp rise of 25%, with over 70,000 cases registered nationwide. Fraud, identity theft, and sexual exploitation were the leading categories of cyber offences, with Telangana, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh reporting the highest numbers.
- **Crimes Against SCs and STs:** Crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) increased by 3.5%, while crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) rose by 6.2% in 2023. Most of these cases were reported from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Economic and Corruption-Related Offences:** Economic offences registered a steady rise, particularly in cases of forgery, cheating, and criminal breach of trust. Over 1.8 lakh such cases were recorded in 2023, showing a continuing upward trend since 2020.
- **Crime Against Senior Citizens:** More than 28,000 cases were registered involving senior citizens, with theft, cheating, and domestic violence among the leading categories. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu reported the highest numbers.
- **State-wise Trends:** Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of total crimes under IPC, followed by Maharashtra and Bihar. However, the crime rate per lakh population was highest in Delhi, reflecting its dense urban population and higher reporting levels.
- **Safest Cities in India:** Kolkata was declared the safest city in India for the fourth consecutive year, with the lowest rate of cognizable offences among all metropolitan cities. Other relatively safer metros included Pune, Hyderabad, and Mumbai, each reporting a lower crime rate compared to the national average.
- **Conviction and Pendency:** The national conviction rate under IPC crimes stood at 57.2%, while court pendency remained high, with over 1.6 crore cases still under investigation or trial.

### E-Waste Surge in India

**In the News:** India has emerged as the **third-largest generator of electronic waste (e-waste)** globally, producing **over 2 million metric tonnes annually**, notably trailing only behind China and the United States. This rise in e-waste generation reflects the country's accelerating digital adoption, increasing consumption of electronics, and shorter device life cycles.

#### Key Points:

- **Volume & Global Ranking:** India now produces approximately **2 million metric tonnes (MT)** of e-waste annually, positioning it as the third biggest e-waste generator in the world. (India is often cited as "approximately 2 MT" or "about 2 million tonnes" in reports).

- **Recent Growth Trend:** In 2023–24, India's e-waste generation was about **1.75 million MT**, marking a **73% increase over five years** from 2019–20 (which was about 1.01 million MT). The upward trajectory suggests that the figure may cross 2 MT in near future given continued electronics consumption and upgrades.
- **Informal Sector Dominance:** Over **95% of India's e-waste** is managed by the **informal sector**, employing rudimentary and often hazardous methods of dismantling, burning, or acid leaching, which pose serious environmental and health risks.
- **Recycling & Formal Processing Gap:** Formal recyclers handle only a **minor fraction** of total e-waste. Large volumes remain uncollected or improperly disposed, which leads to loss of recoverable materials and ecological damage.
- **Valuable Recoverables & Economic Potential:** Discarded electronics contain precious and critical materials (like gold, silver, copper, rare-earth elements). Proper urban mining and recycling can unlock significant economic gains and reduce dependence on raw-material imports.
- **Environmental & Health Risks:** Improper processing releases **toxic substances** (lead, mercury, cadmium, brominated flame retardants) into soil, air, and waterways, causing respiratory, neurological, and developmental damage, especially for informal workers and nearby communities.
- **Policy & Regulatory Framework:** India's **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022** aim to strengthen **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**, formalize recycling, and improve compliance. But enforcement and integration of the informal sector remain key challenges.

### Rajasthan's First Namo Biodiversity Park Inaugurated in Alwar

**In the News:** Rajasthan's first Namo Biodiversity Park was inaugurated in Alwar on October 2025, marking a major step toward ecological restoration and green development in the state. The park aims to conserve native species, enhance biodiversity awareness, and promote sustainable eco-tourism in the Aravalli region.

#### Key Points:

- **Inauguration:** The Namo Biodiversity Park in Alwar was inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma in the presence of Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.
- **Objective:** The park seeks to preserve the unique flora and fauna of the Aravalli hills, focusing on native and endangered species conservation.
- **Location and Area:** Spread over 85 acres in the Aravalli foothills near Tijara, the park has been developed under the "Green Rajasthan Mission."
- **Significance:** The park is designed to combat desertification, restore degraded land, and strengthen ecological balance in one of India's oldest mountain ranges.
- **Public and Educational Role:** It includes herbal gardens, butterfly zones, medicinal plant trails, and an interpretation center to educate visitors about biodiversity and conservation practices.
- **Integration with National Initiatives:** The park aligns with national environmental programs such as the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign and the "Aravalli Green Wall Project," amplifying Rajasthan's contribution to India's green goals.

### ICGS Akshar Commissioned

**In the News:** The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Akshar was commissioned at Chennai, marking a significant addition to India's maritime security capabilities. The vessel enhances the Indian Coast Guard's operational reach in coastal surveillance, search and rescue, and anti-smuggling missions, aligning with the government's vision of strengthening the nation's blue economy and coastal safety framework.

#### Key Points:

- **Commissioning Event:** ICGS Akshar was commissioned by Director General Rakesh Pal, Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, at Chennai in the presence of senior defence and shipbuilding officials.
- **Builder and Design:** The vessel has been indigenously built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, under the 'Make in India' initiative, showcasing India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- **Vessel Class and Capabilities:** Akshar is the latest in the series of Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels (AOPVs) equipped with state-of-the-art navigation, communication, and surveillance systems, capable of sustaining extended missions in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- **Operational Role:** The ship will conduct surveillance, anti-smuggling, anti-poaching, and pollution response operations, while also supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief along India's eastern seaboard.



- **Crew and Facilities:** The 105-metre-long vessel accommodates a crew of 15 officers and 100 sailors and is fitted with integral boats and a helicopter deck to enhance response capability.
- **Strategic Importance:** The commissioning strengthens India's maritime domain awareness and contributes to coastal security in the Bay of Bengal, supporting initiatives such as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- **Environmental Commitment:** In line with green shipbuilding standards, *Akshar* features energy-efficient systems and pollution control mechanisms, reflecting the Coast Guard's focus on sustainable maritime.

### **BRO Builds World's Highest Road at 19,400 ft**

**In the News:** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) achieved a historic milestone by constructing the world's highest motorable road at an altitude of 19,400 feet in eastern Ladakh. The road, built under Project Himank, connects the Chisumle-Demchok sector and surpasses the previous record held by the Umling La Pass road, reinforcing India's infrastructure dominance in high-altitude border regions.

#### **Key Points:**

- **Project Achievement:** The 55-km-long stretch, developed by the Border Roads Organisation, now holds the Guinness World Record for being the highest motorable road globally, surpassing the earlier record of 19,024 feet.
- **Strategic Importance:** The road enhances all-weather connectivity to forward military posts near the Line of Actual Control (LAC), strengthening India's defence preparedness and border logistics in the sensitive Ladakh region.
- **Engineering Feat:** Constructing at such altitude posed extreme challenges due to sub-zero temperatures, low oxygen, and rugged terrain, yet the BRO completed the project using specialized machinery and eco-friendly construction practices.
- **National Significance:** The road will improve mobility for the armed forces and local residents, while also opening new avenues for eco-tourism and scientific expeditions in high-altitude areas.
- **Environmental Focus:** BRO incorporated sustainable techniques to minimize ecological impact, ensuring slope stabilization and reduced carbon footprint through cold mix technologies.
- **Broader Vision:** The project aligns with India's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' missions by showcasing indigenous capability in extreme engineering and enhancing strategic mobility across the northern frontiers.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Nobel Prize 2025 in Medicine Awarded to Brunkow, Ramsdell & Sakaguchi**

**In the News:** The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded jointly to Christopher Brunkow, Stephen Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi for their groundbreaking discoveries related to regulatory T cells (Tregs) and immune tolerance. Their pioneering research unveiled how the immune system prevents self-attack, paving the way for revolutionary therapies in autoimmune diseases, organ transplantation, and cancer immunology.

#### **Key Points:**

- **Award Announcement:** The Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm announced the 2025 Medicine Prize to Brunkow, Ramsdell, and Sakaguchi for elucidating the genetic and cellular mechanisms that maintain immune balance through regulatory T cells.
- **Scientific Contribution:** The trio's work uncovered the crucial role of the FOXP3 gene in the development and function of Tregs, explaining how immune tolerance is maintained and how its disruption leads to autoimmune disorders such as type 1 diabetes and multiple sclerosis.
- **Clinical Impact:** Their discoveries have led to transformative therapeutic approaches, including Treg-based cell therapies and immune-modulating drugs designed to restore self-tolerance and control inflammation.
- **Research Milestone:** Sakaguchi first identified regulatory T cells in the 1990s, while Brunkow and Ramsdell later confirmed the genetic basis through FOXP3 mutations in both humans and animal models, linking gene defects to severe autoimmune syndromes.
- **Global Relevance:** Their findings have reshaped immunology by bridging basic science and medical application, influencing treatments for autoimmune diseases, allergies, organ rejection, and cancer immunotherapy.
- **Nobel Context:** The 2025 award continues the Nobel tradition of recognizing discoveries with deep clinical and societal impact, highlighting the intersection of molecular genetics and immune regulation.

### 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: India's Participation

**In the News:** India actively participated in the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) held in Wellington, New Zealand, from September 30 to October 6, 2025. The conference, convened by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), focused on the theme "Parliamentary Leadership for a Sustainable, Peaceful, and Prosperous Commonwealth." India's participation reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening democratic institutions, fostering multilateral dialogue, and advancing inclusive development across the Commonwealth.

#### Key Points:

- **Conference Overview:** The 68th CPC brought together delegates from over 180 parliaments and legislatures to deliberate on global challenges such as climate change, gender equality, digital governance, and peacebuilding through legislative cooperation.
- **Indian Delegation:** The Indian delegation was led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and included Members of Parliament from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, along with senior parliamentary officials.
- **Key Address:** Speaker Om Birla emphasized the importance of democratic accountability, citizen-centric governance, and technology-driven transparency, highlighting India's Digital Public Infrastructure and parliamentary reforms.
- **Major Discussions:** India contributed to sessions on strengthening women's representation in legislatures, achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and promoting inter-parliamentary diplomacy to resolve global conflicts peacefully.
- **Bilateral Engagements:** On the sidelines, the Indian delegation met with parliamentary leaders from the UK, Australia, Singapore, and Canada to explore collaboration in legislative research, digital lawmaking, and youth participation.
- **Broader Vision:** India's engagement underscored its leadership in the Global South, advocating democratic inclusivity, climate action, and equitable growth, aligning with its vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world as one family.

### Poland Joins NATO Fuel Pipeline Network After 25 Years

**In the News:** Poland officially joined NATO's Central Europe Pipeline System (CEPS), marking its integration into the alliance's strategic fuel distribution network after 25 years of preparation and coordination. The move enhances NATO's operational resilience and energy security across Eastern Europe amid heightened geopolitical tensions and efforts to strengthen logistical cooperation among member states.

#### Key Points:

- **Historic Integration:** Poland's accession to the NATO pipeline network came after extensive infrastructure upgrades and compliance with alliance standards, making it the first major expansion of CEPS in over two decades.
- **Pipeline Network Overview:** The CEPS spans more than 5,300 kilometers across Europe, supplying jet fuel, diesel, and other petroleum products to NATO airbases, military facilities, and partner nations during peacetime and operations.
- **Strategic Importance:** By joining the network, Poland enhances NATO's eastern logistical corridor, ensuring faster, safer, and uninterrupted fuel delivery to troops and air operations along the alliance's eastern flank bordering Ukraine and Belarus.
- **Energy Security Dimension:** The integration reduces reliance on external fuel suppliers and supports collective defense objectives, particularly amid evolving security challenges posed by Russia's continued military assertiveness in the region.
- **National Preparedness:** Poland's state-owned company PERN S.A. will manage domestic integration of the network, overseeing maintenance, storage, and coordination with NATO's Allied Command for logistics.
- **Geopolitical Context:** The development aligns with NATO's broader efforts to fortify supply chains, diversify energy routes, and ensure operational self-sufficiency under the NATO 2030 strategic framework.

### India Calls for UN Reforms at 80th UNGA Session

**In the News:** At the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in September 2025, India renewed its call for comprehensive reforms of the UN system, particularly the Security Council, to reflect contemporary global realities. India emphasized that outdated structures no longer represent the geopolitical balance of the 21st century and reiterated its demand for a permanent seat in an expanded and reformed Security Council as part of the G4 grouping along with Japan, Germany, and Brazil.

#### Key Points:

- **India's Address:** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, representing India at the UNGA, underscored the need for democratization of global governance institutions, arguing that the current UN framework reflects a post-1945 world order that fails to address present-day challenges such as climate change, terrorism, pandemics, and digital inequality.
- **Call for Security Council Reform:** India urged the early implementation of Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council reforms, advocating for greater representation of developing nations from Asia, Africa, and Latin America in both permanent and non-permanent categories.
- **Principles Emphasized:** Dr. Jaishankar highlighted the principles of multilateralism, equity, and inclusivity as the foundation for a reformed UN, noting that true legitimacy can only come from equal participation and shared responsibility.
- **Global South Leadership:** India reaffirmed its role as a voice of the Global South, calling for reforms that ensure fair representation of emerging economies and developing countries in decision-making bodies.
- **Alignment with India's Global Vision:** The speech reflected India's broader diplomatic agenda of promoting "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (One Earth, One Family, One Future), aligning with the themes of India's G20 Presidency and advocacy for a multipolar world.
- **Support and Partnerships:** India's stance received support from several G4 and African nations who echoed the need for reform, citing the inequities of the current veto-based system that hinders timely action on pressing global crises.

### President of India Presents "My Bharat – NSS" Awards for 2022-23

**In the News:** The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, presented the "My Bharat – NSS Awards" for the year 2022-23 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The awards recognized the exceptional contributions of National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers, programme officers, and universities in community service and nation-building.

#### Key Points:

- **Award Presentation:** President Droupadi Murmu conferred the "My Bharat – NSS Awards" to 51 awardees across three categories — NSS Volunteers, Programme Officers, and NSS Units/Universities — for their outstanding social service and leadership.
- **Objective:** The awards celebrate exemplary efforts in promoting values of selfless service, social harmony, environmental conservation, and national integration among youth.
- **Institutional Support:** The awards are instituted by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** under the **Department of Youth Affairs**, aligning with the government's "My Bharat" digital youth engagement platform.
- **My Bharat Integration:** The ceremony underscored the synergy between the **National Service Scheme (NSS)** and the **My Bharat portal**, aimed at digitally connecting youth with volunteering, skill development, and nation-building initiatives.
- **President's Address:** The President praised the spirit of volunteerism among India's youth, urging them to contribute actively towards **Viksit Bharat @2047** through environmental, health, and community welfare initiatives.
- **Background:** The **National Service Scheme (NSS)**, launched in **1969**, operates under the motto "*Not Me, But You*," fostering a sense of social responsibility and civic duty among students across schools and colleges.

### Arunachal Launches First Commercial Coal Mine at Namchik

**In the News:** Arunachal Pradesh inaugurated its first commercial coal mining project at Namchik in Changlang district, marking a major milestone in the state's energy and industrial development. The launch signifies the beginning of regulated coal production in the state after decades of delay.

#### Key Points:

- **Project Launch:** The Namchik coal mine was officially launched by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, highlighting the state's entry into commercial coal production under a transparent and sustainable framework.
- **Location:** The mine is located in the Namchik-Namphuk coalfield of Changlang district, known for high-quality coal reserves suitable for power generation and industrial use.
- **Operational Management:** The mining operations will be carried out by the Arunachal Pradesh Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (APMDTCL) in collaboration with private partners, ensuring adherence to environmental and safety standards.
- **Economic Impact:** The project is expected to generate significant revenue for the state, create local employment opportunities, and promote regional industrial growth, particularly in the energy and cement sectors.
- **Environmental Safeguards:** The government emphasized strict compliance with environmental clearances, sustainable extraction practices, and rehabilitation measures for affected communities.

### Cabinet Approves Nationwide Celebration of 150th Anniversary of Vande Mataram

**In the News:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the nationwide celebration of the **150th anniversary of “Vande Mataram”**, marking 150 years since the composition of the iconic national song by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in 1875. The year-long celebrations aim to honor India’s cultural heritage, national pride, and spirit of freedom.

#### Key Points:

- **Cabinet Approval:** The Union Cabinet approved a comprehensive plan to commemorate the 150th anniversary of *Vande Mataram* through cultural, educational, and public engagement programmes across the country.
- **Historical Context:** *Vande Mataram* was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in **1875** and later included in his celebrated novel *Anandamath (1882)*. It became a rallying cry for India’s freedom movement, symbolizing unity and patriotism.
- **Nationwide Celebrations:** The anniversary will be celebrated through art exhibitions, music festivals, essay competitions, theatre performances, and public recitations highlighting the song’s historical and cultural significance.
- **Institutional Involvement:** The **Ministry of Culture** will be the nodal agency coordinating activities in collaboration with the **Ministry of Education, Prasar Bharati**, and state governments to ensure broad participation.
- **Special Events:** A national-level inaugural event will be held in **Kolkata**, the birthplace of the song, featuring performances by renowned artists, scholars, and youth groups.
- **Educational Outreach:** The government will introduce special modules in schools and universities to educate students about the origin, meaning, and legacy of *Vande Mataram* as part of India’s freedom struggle.
- **Cultural Integration:** The celebrations will align with the “**Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal**” vision, reinforcing India’s journey toward **Viksit Bharat @2047** by connecting cultural pride with national progress.
- **Commemorative Initiatives:** The Cabinet also approved the release of a **commemorative postal stamp and coin** and a **documentary film** tracing the evolution of *Vande Mataram* as India’s symbol of unity and devotion.

### India’s First Cooperative-Run CBG & Potash Project Launched at Kopergaon

**In the News:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated **India’s first cooperative-run Compressed Biogas (CBG) and Potash Project** at **Kopergaon**, Maharashtra. The initiative marks a significant milestone in integrating renewable energy generation with cooperative sector participation and sustainable rural development.

#### Key Points:

- **Project Launch:** The CBG and Potash project at Kopergaon was launched under the leadership of Union Minister Amit Shah, emphasizing the cooperative sector’s role in advancing India’s green energy and fertilizer self-reliance goals.
- **Implementing Agency:** The project is developed by the **Kopergaon Cooperative Sugar Factory**, making it the first cooperative-owned initiative to combine **compressed biogas production with potash generation**.
- **Technology & Output:** The facility will process sugarcane press-mud and agricultural residues to produce **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** and **bio-potash**, contributing to circular economy principles and reducing dependency on imported fertilizers.
- **Sustainability Focus:** The project aligns with the government’s **Waste-to-Wealth** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** missions, promoting renewable energy adoption and zero-waste industrial practices in the rural sector.
- **Economic Benefits:** It is expected to generate additional revenue streams for farmers, create rural employment, and enhance profitability for cooperative sugar mills through value-added by-products.
- **Government Support:** The initiative is supported under the **GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan)** scheme and the **National Bioenergy Programme**, promoting decentralized biogas production.

### INS Androth Commissioned into Indian Navy

**In the News:** The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Androth**, the second ship of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) series, at **Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam**. The induction strengthens India’s coastal defense and anti-submarine warfare capabilities under the “Aatmanirbhar Bharat” initiative.

#### Key Points:

- **Commissioning Ceremony:** **INS Androth** was commissioned in the presence of **Admiral R. Hari Kumar**, Chief of the Naval Staff, symbolizing the Navy’s growing focus on indigenous shipbuilding and maritime security.



- **Ship Class & Builder:** It is the **second vessel** in the **Mahe-class ASW Shallow Water Craft**, designed by the **Directorate of Naval Design (DND)** and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**, Kolkata, under the “Make in India” program.
- **Capabilities:** The ship is equipped with **state-of-the-art sonar systems, advanced weaponry, and surveillance sensors** to detect and neutralize underwater threats in coastal and island territories.
- **Operational Role:** Designed for **anti-submarine operations in shallow waters**, the vessel will also perform roles such as **mine laying, coastal patrol, and search-and-rescue missions**, ensuring multi-dimensional maritime security.
- **Technical Specifications:** The 77.6-meter-long vessel displaces approximately **900 tonnes** and can achieve speeds up to **25 knots**, powered by water-jet propulsion for high maneuverability. **Indigenization Drive:** Over **80% of the equipment** on board is sourced from Indian industries, reflecting India’s technological maturity in naval manufacturing.
- **Strategic Importance:** The commissioning of INS Androth boosts India’s **coastal surveillance grid**, particularly in the **Eastern Seaboard**, enhancing preparedness against asymmetric and undersea threats.
- **Future Plans:** The Indian Navy plans to induct all **eight ASW-SWC vessels** by 2027, ensuring comprehensive coverage of India’s coastal and island chains under the **Sagarmala** and **Maritime Vision 2030** frameworks.

### Toxic Chemical Diethylene Glycol in Cough Syrup

**In the News:** Health authorities issued a nationwide alert after laboratory tests detected the **toxic chemical Diethylene Glycol (DEG)** in samples of certain cough syrups manufactured by small-scale pharmaceutical firms. The contamination raised concerns over drug safety, regulatory oversight, and the need for stricter quality control in India’s pharmaceutical exports and domestic markets.

#### Key Points:

- **Toxic Substance Identified: Diethylene Glycol (DEG)**, an industrial solvent used in antifreeze and brake fluids, was found in some cough syrup samples. DEG is **highly toxic** when ingested and can cause **acute kidney failure, metabolic acidosis, and death**, particularly among children.
- **Health Impact:** Exposure to DEG-contaminated medicines has historically led to multiple poisoning incidents worldwide, including cases in **India, The Gambia, and Uzbekistan**, prompting WHO alerts.
- **Regulatory Response:** The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** and **State Drug Controllers** have launched a coordinated inspection and recall drive to remove affected batches and identify manufacturing lapses.
- **WHO Involvement:** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** reiterated its warning on untested and substandard cough syrups, urging all countries to strengthen pharmaceutical supply chain monitoring and testing.
- **Preventive Measures:** The Union Health Ministry has mandated **mandatory batch-wise testing** for all syrup formulations containing propylene glycol, glycerin, or sorbitol — ingredients vulnerable to DEG contamination.

### Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla Appointed Brand Ambassador of Buildathon 2025

**In the News:** Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla was appointed as the Brand Ambassador of **Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025**, a national innovation challenge for school students.

#### Key Points:

- **Event:** Viksit Bharat Buildathon is a nationwide innovation movement for students in classes 6 to 12.
- **Scale:** It aims to mobilize over **1 crore students** from about **1.5 lakh schools**. **Themes:** Students will work on four national themes — including Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Swadeshi, Vocal for Local, and Samridhi.
- **Role of Shukla:** As Brand Ambassador, he has urged students to participate and asserted that “every idea, big or small, can help shape Viksit Bharat 2047.”
- **Registration:** Initially open till October 6, the deadline was extended to **October 11, 2025**.
- **Live event & results:** The live Buildathon is scheduled for **October 12 or 13**, and winners will be announced in **December 2025**.
- **Submission & evaluation:** Schools submit entries via photos and videos, which will be evaluated by an expert panel.
- **Prize:** Top teams will be awarded from a ₹1 crore prize pool.
- **Organizer & partners:** The initiative is organised by the Ministry of Education in association with the Atal Innovation Mission and NITI Aayog.

- **About Shukla:** He is a Group Captain in the Indian Air Force, test pilot, and ISRO astronaut.
- **Milestone:** He became the first ISRO astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS).

### India-AI Impact Summit Logo Unveiled Blends Ethics, Heritage, and Innovation

**In the News:** The Government of India unveiled the logo for the **India-AI Impact Summit 2026**, combining elements of ethics, heritage, and innovation to reflect India's vision in AI.

#### Key Points:

- **Central Symbol:** The logo's core is the **Ashoka Chakra**, symbolising ethical governance, duty, and constitutional values.
- **Design Idea:** It blends India's cultural heritage with motifs of modern AI and technological progress.
- **Colour & Form:** The logo uses a gradient and circular forms to represent inclusivity, continuity, and dynamic innovation.
- **Intent & Messaging:** It conveys that AI must be rooted in ethics and respect for Indian values even as it drives innovation.
- **Organisers:** The logo and summit are spearheaded by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) under the IndiaAI initiative.
- **Broader Context:** The summit shifts focus from AI safety/governance to **impact and implementation**, especially in Global South contexts.

### Indian Air Force Day 2025 Celebrates Modern Strength, Legacy

**In the News:** India observed **Indian Air Force Day 2025** (the 93rd anniversary), celebrating the modern strength, legacy, and valor of the IAF with a grand parade and aerial displays at Hindon Air Base.

#### Key Points:

- **Date & Origin:** Indian Air Force Day is observed every year on October 8, marking the establishment of the IAF in 1932.
- **Venue:** 2025 celebrations were held at the Hindon Air Force Base in Ghaziabad.
- **Tribute:** Chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Chief of Defence Staff laid wreaths at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.
- **Parade & Display:** The parade featured fighter jets like Rafale, Su-30MKI, and MiG-29, plus older platforms as tributes.
- **Highlight:** The celebrations included a special emphasis on **Operation Sindoor**, displayed as a defining moment of IAF's operational excellence.
- **Airspace Closure:** Hindon Airport's airspace was closed temporarily, and some flights were suspended during the rehearsals.
- **Prime Minister's Message:** PM Modi extended greetings to air warriors and their families, praising their discipline, bravery, and service.
- **Legacy & Role:** The IAF is showcased not only as a military force but also for its role in humanitarian missions and disaster relief.
- **Return to Hindon:** The 2025 edition reestablished Hindon as the principal venue after past ceremonies held elsewhere.
- **Modern Strength:** The displays underscored India's enhanced air capabilities and growing technological sophistication.

### India to Host 8th International Solar Alliance Assembly In Delhi

**In the News:** India will host the **8th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** in **New Delhi** from **October 27 to 30, 2025**, at **Bharat Mandapam**. The event will bring together ministers, global leaders, and energy experts from more than 120 member countries to deliberate on strategies for accelerating the global adoption of solar energy, particularly in the developing world. The Assembly underscores India's leadership role in advancing solar diplomacy and shaping global energy transitions through sustainable and equitable pathways.

#### Key Points:

- **Event Overview:** The 8th ISA Assembly will be hosted by India at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from October 27 to 30, 2025. The event will include ministerial sessions, policy dialogues, and high-level discussions focused on the expansion of solar energy access and investment across member nations.
- **Global Solar Cooperation:** The Assembly will evaluate global progress under ISA's solar programs and set new cooperative goals for the coming decade. It aims to strengthen partnerships for solar infrastructure, enhance technology transfer, and mobilize finance for renewable projects in developing and least developed countries.

- **Focus on the Global South:** India will emphasize its commitment to the Global South, advocating affordable solar access, sustainable financing models, and resilient supply chains to support climate action in vulnerable economies. The Assembly will also seek to identify scalable solutions that can replicate India's success in renewable deployment.
- **Themes and Agenda:** The discussions will revolve around universal solar electrification, solar-powered agriculture, rooftop solar adoption, and innovative financing tools such as blended finance and risk-mitigation frameworks. The Assembly will also highlight India's progress under missions like PM-KUSUM and the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- **About ISA:** The International Solar Alliance, co-founded by India and France in 2015, serves as a collaborative platform for promoting solar energy worldwide. Headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, ISA has more than 120 member and signatory countries committed to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and ensuring energy equity.
- **Expected Outcomes:** The 8th ISA Assembly is expected to adopt a forward-looking roadmap for scaling solar technologies, enhance financial and technical collaboration, and align its goals with the upcoming COP-30 climate commitments, positioning India at the heart of the global solar transformation.

### IAF to Receive First Tejas Mk1A Fighter Jet

**In the News:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) is scheduled to receive its **first Tejas Mk1A** fighter jets in **October 2025**, marking a pivotal moment in India's pursuit of self-reliant defence capabilities. This delivery comes after repeated delays in engine supply and system integration, and is being closely watched as a test of India's indigenous aerospace ambitions.

#### Key Points:

- **Delivery & Ceremony:** The first two Tejas Mk1A jets are expected to be handed over on **October 17, 2025**, at HAL's Nashik facility, in a formal ceremony attended by the Defence Minister.
- **Upgraded Variant:** The Mk1A is a significantly enhanced version of the base Tejas Mk1, equipped with an **AESA radar**, a sophisticated **Electronic Warfare Suite (EWS)** for threat detection and jamming, and improved maintainability and survivability features.
- **Indigenisation & Contract:** In September 2025, India signed a ₹62,370 crore (approx. USD 7 billion) contract with HAL for **97 Mk1A jets** (68 single-seat + 29 twin-seat), with over 60–65% indigenous content planned and involvement of 105 Indian suppliers.
- **Challenges Overcome:** The rollout had been delayed due to supply chain disruptions—especially the late delivery of GE F404-IN20 engines. The first engine was delivered in March 2025 after a two-year delay.
- **Strategic Importance:** The induction of Tejas Mk1A is expected to help replace aging jets like the MiG-21, strengthen India's air combat fleet, and validate the "Make in India" vision for defence technology.
- **Future Outlook:** Deliveries of the Mk1A series are slated to span 2027–28 onward. Meanwhile, development of the more advanced **Tejas Mk2 / Medium Weight Fighter** continues, targeting induction in the latter part of the decade.

### SC opens door for junior judges to directly become district judges: What the ruling means

**In the News:** The Supreme Court of India delivered a landmark judgment in Rejanish K.V. vs K. Deepa through a five-judge Constitution Bench, holding that **junior judicial officers** (i.e., judges serving in the subordinate judiciary) can compete for **direct recruitment to the post of District Judge** under the quota traditionally reserved for advocates.

#### Key Points:

- **Change in Eligibility Interpretation:** The Constitution Bench reinterpreted Article 233(2) of the Indian Constitution and overruled earlier precedents that excluded serving judges from the "bar quota" route. It held that the clause requiring seven years' advocacy does not constitutionally bar judicial officers from entering the direct recruitment channel.
- **Uniform Minimum Experience Requirement:** The Court mandated that both advocates and judicial officers must have at least **seven years of continuous experience** (whether as an advocate, a judge, or a combination) by the time of **application**, not appointment, to be eligible. Breaks in service may disqualify a candidate.
- **Minimum Experience Requirement:** The Court mandated that both advocates and judicial officers must have at least **seven years of continuous experience** (whether as an advocate, a judge, or a combination) by the time of **application**, not appointment, to be eligible. Breaks in service may disqualify a candidate.
- **Minimum Age Criterion:** A uniform **minimum age of 35 years** is prescribed for all applicants (whether from the bar or judicial service).

- **Prospective Application & Rule Amendments:** The ruling is prospective, meaning it will not disturb past appointments. States, high courts, and judicial service rules must be amended within **three months** to align with the new eligibility framework.
- **Overriding Earlier Precedents:** The decision expressly overruled judgments such as Satya Narain Singh vs Allahabad High Court (1984) and Dheeraj Mor vs Delhi High Court (2020), which had confined direct recruitment to only those who were practising advocates.

### Indian Army Launches Indigenous 'SAKSHAM' Anti-Drone Grid

**In the News:** The Indian Army launched its indigenous 'SAKSHAM' Anti-Drone Grid, a cutting-edge defence system designed to detect, track, and neutralize hostile drones. The system represents a major step towards achieving Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in military technology and counter-drone warfare.

#### Key Points:

- **System Launch:** The Indian Army officially deployed the indigenous SAKSHAM Anti-Drone Grid to strengthen security along sensitive border zones and key defence installations.
- **Objective & Purpose:** The system aims to protect military bases, airfields, and operational zones from drone-borne threats such as surveillance, weaponized payloads, and smuggling.
- **Indigenous Innovation:** Developed in collaboration with Indian startups and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), SAKSHAM integrates advanced radar, electro-optical sensors, and AI-based analytics for real-time threat detection.
- **Technological Capabilities:** The grid features multiple layers of security, combining **jamming, laser-based neutralization, and kinetic interception** to disable or destroy incoming drones.
- **Operational Deployment:** The system has been deployed in critical forward areas and tested under diverse operational environments, ensuring high reliability and precision in mountainous and urban terrains.
- **Alignment with National Vision:** The launch aligns with the 'Make in India' and 'Defence India Startup Challenge' initiatives, emphasizing indigenous R&D and defence manufacturing self-sufficiency.

### Sherry Singh Wins India's First Mrs Universe Crown

**In the News:** Sherry Singh made history by becoming the first Indian woman to win the prestigious **Mrs Universe 2025** title at the global pageant held in Manila, Philippines. Her victory marks a significant milestone for India in the field of international beauty and empowerment platforms.

#### Key Points:

- **Historic Win:** Sherry Singh became the first Indian to be crowned Mrs Universe 2025, surpassing contestants from over 80 countries. The event celebrated women's empowerment, leadership, and cultural diversity.
- **Venue & Event Details:** The grand finale took place in Manila, Philippines, where participants showcased their commitment to social causes alongside grace and intellect.
- **Representation & Advocacy:** Sherry Singh represented India with her campaign focused on women's self-reliance and education, aligning with India's broader push for gender equality and empowerment.
- **Cultural Impact:** Her traditional Indian attire and advocacy for cultural values earned widespread appreciation, highlighting India's global presence in international forums.

### Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

**In the News:** The Government of India launched the 'Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025', a national innovation challenge aimed at developing digital solutions for governance, citizen services, and sustainable infrastructure. The initiative seeks to engage young innovators, startups, and students in building technology-driven tools to accelerate India's journey toward becoming a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.

#### Key Points:

- **Launch & Objective:** The Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025 was launched under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to promote innovation in public service delivery and digital governance.
- **Participation:** The Buildathon invites participation from students, startups, and technology professionals across India to design scalable digital solutions for sectors such as health, education, urban planning, and environment.



- **Focus Areas:** Key themes include AI for Good Governance, Green Technology for Sustainable Growth, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and Inclusive Tech for Rural Empowerment.
- **Collaborating Partners:** The initiative is being conducted in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), MyGov, and leading academic institutions like IITs and NITs.
- **Incentives & Recognition:** Winning teams will receive government incubation support, mentorship from industry experts, and opportunities to pilot their innovations in government programs.
- **Empowering Youth:** The Buildathon embodies the 'Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat' vision, encouraging young minds to contribute directly to national development through innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **Strategic Alignment:** The initiative supports India's Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat missions, fostering homegrown technology solutions for the public sector.

### Three Indian Ports Named Green Hydrogen Hubs

**In the News:** The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways announced that Deendayal Port (Kandla), Paradip Port, and V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin) have been designated as India's first Green Hydrogen Hubs. This initiative aims to transform India into a global leader in clean maritime energy and support the National Green Hydrogen Mission's decarbonisation goals.

#### Key Points:

- **Green Hydrogen Hub Designation:** Deendayal Port in Gujarat, Paradip Port in Odisha, and V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Tamil Nadu were officially identified as India's initial Green Hydrogen Hubs under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.
- **Objective and Vision:** The project seeks to make Indian ports self-sufficient in green fuel production, promote exports of green hydrogen and its derivatives (such as green ammonia and methanol), and reduce carbon emissions in the shipping sector.
- **Implementation and Timeline:** The Ministry has directed the ports to develop **Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia bunkering and refuelling facilities by 2030**, aligned with India's goal of achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070**.
- **Investment and Collaboration:** Public-private partnerships will drive the initiative, with expected investments exceeding **₹20,000 crore** for renewable-energy-based hydrogen production, desalination, and storage infrastructure.
- **Integration with National Green Hydrogen Mission:** These hubs will complement the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to produce **5 million metric tonnes** of green hydrogen annually by 2030.

### 20 years of RTI Act, 2005

**In the News:** India marked **20 years of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**, a landmark legislation that empowered citizens to seek information from public authorities and promoted transparency, accountability, and participatory governance. Commemorative events were held by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** and the **Central Information Commission (CIC)** across the country to highlight the Act's achievements and challenges over two decades.

#### Key Points:

- **Historic Enactment:** The RTI Act came into force on **October 12, 2005**, replacing the Freedom of Information Act, 2002. It gave every Indian citizen the right to access information from public authorities within a specified time frame.
- **Institutional Framework:** The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** and **State Information Commissions (SICs)** were established to adjudicate appeals and ensure compliance with RTI provisions across ministries, departments, and public bodies.
- **Achievements Over 20 Years:** More than **4 crore RTI applications** have been filed since 2005, empowering citizens to demand accountability in welfare schemes, public expenditure, and recruitment processes. Several landmark disclosures have led to reforms in areas like ration distribution, education, and infrastructure spending.
- **Digital Transformation:** The government launched the **RTI Online Portal** and **mobile applications** to simplify filing, reduce delays, and ensure transparency in the digital era. The CIC also adopted **e-hearings and e-filing** systems to improve efficiency.
- **Challenges and Reforms:** Despite its success, delays in responses, vacancies in commissions, and misuse of the Act remain key challenges. The government is now focusing on strengthening institutional capacity, faster grievance redressal, and proactive disclosure under **Section 4** of the Act.

- **Commemorative Initiatives:** As part of the 20-year celebration, the DoPT announced a “**Transparency 2.0**” roadmap, focusing on AI-based information retrieval, citizen data literacy programs, and enhanced record management systems across ministries.

### Government of India Invokes Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with Singapore

**In the News:** In late September 2025, the Government of India formally invoked the **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** with **Singapore** in connection with the investigation into the death of Assamese singer **Zubeen Garg**, who reportedly drowned in Singapore in September 2025. This move enables India to seek legal cooperation from Singaporean authorities, including access to evidence, witness testimony, and other investigatory support.

#### Key Points:

- **What is MLAT and Its Purpose:** The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) is a bilateral agreement that enables cross-border cooperation between countries in criminal investigations and prosecutions. It allows one country to formally request another to provide or obtain evidence, serve judicial documents, execute searches and seizures, facilitate witness examination, and assist with asset recovery.
- **Trigger for Invocation — Zubeen Garg Case:** The trigger for invoking this MLAT was the death of **Zubeen Garg**, which occurred in Singapore on 19 September 2025. The Assam Police registered **FIR 18/2025** in relation to his death, prompting authorities to seek cooperation from Singapore to gather evidence and explore all angles of investigation.
- **Procedural Steps Taken:**
  - The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) forwarded an official **Mutual Legal Assistance request** to the High Commission of India in Singapore, addressed to the First Secretary (Commerce).
  - The request was to be forwarded by the High Commission to the **Attorney General of Singapore**, the designated **Central Authority** in Singapore for MLAT matters.
  - Two Assam police officials were already in Singapore to coordinate and assist in the process.

### Nobel Prize 2025 in Medicine Awarded to Brunkow, Ramsdell & Sakaguchi

**In the News:** The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded jointly to Christopher Brunkow, Stephen Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi for their groundbreaking discoveries related to regulatory T cells (Tregs) and immune tolerance. Their pioneering research unveiled how the immune system prevents self-attack, paving the way for revolutionary therapies in autoimmune diseases, organ transplantation, and cancer immunology.

#### Key Points:

- **Award Announcement:** The Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm announced the 2025 Medicine Prize to Brunkow, Ramsdell, and Sakaguchi for elucidating the genetic and cellular mechanisms that maintain immune balance through regulatory T cells.
- **Scientific Contribution:** The trio’s work uncovered the crucial role of the FOXP3 gene in the development and function of Tregs, explaining how immune tolerance is maintained and how its disruption leads to autoimmune disorders such as type 1 diabetes and multiple sclerosis.
- **Clinical Impact:** Their discoveries have led to transformative therapeutic approaches, including Treg-based cell therapies and immune-modulating drugs designed to restore self-tolerance and control inflammation.
- **Research Milestone:** Sakaguchi first identified regulatory T cells in the 1990s, while Brunkow and Ramsdell later confirmed the genetic basis through FOXP3 mutations in both humans and animal models, linking gene defects to severe autoimmune syndromes.
- **Global Relevance:** Their findings have reshaped immunology by bridging basic science and medical application, influencing treatments for autoimmune diseases, allergies, organ rejection, and cancer immunotherapy.
- **Nobel Context:** The 2025 award continues the Nobel tradition of recognizing discoveries with deep clinical and societal impact, highlighting the intersection of molecular genetics and immune regulation.

### 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: India’s Participation

**In the News:** India actively participated in the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) held in Wellington, New Zealand, from September 30 to October 6, 2025. The conference, convened by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), focused on the theme “Parliamentary Leadership for a Sustainable, Peaceful, and Prosperous Commonwealth.” India’s

participation reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening democratic institutions, fostering multilateral dialogue, and advancing inclusive development across the Commonwealth.

**Key Points:**

- **Conference Overview:** The 68th CPC brought together delegates from over 180 parliaments and legislatures to deliberate on global challenges such as climate change, gender equality, digital governance, and peacebuilding through legislative cooperation.
- **Indian Delegation:** The Indian delegation was led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and included Members of Parliament from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, along with senior parliamentary officials.
- **Key Address:** Speaker Om Birla emphasized the importance of democratic accountability, citizen-centric governance, and technology-driven transparency, highlighting India's Digital Public Infrastructure and parliamentary reforms.
- **Major Discussions:** India contributed to sessions on strengthening women's representation in legislatures, achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and promoting inter-parliamentary diplomacy to resolve global conflicts peacefully.
- **Bilateral Engagements:** On the sidelines, the Indian delegation met with parliamentary leaders from the UK, Australia, Singapore, and Canada to explore collaboration in legislative research, digital lawmaking, and youth participation.
- **Broader Vision:** India's engagement underscored its leadership in the Global South, advocating democratic inclusivity, climate action, and equitable growth, aligning with its vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world as one family.

**Poland Joins NATO Fuel Pipeline Network After 25 Years**

**In the News:** Poland officially joined NATO's Central Europe Pipeline System (CEPS), marking its integration into the alliance's strategic fuel distribution network after 25 years of preparation and coordination. The move enhances NATO's operational resilience and energy security across Eastern Europe amid heightened geopolitical tensions and efforts to strengthen logistical cooperation among member states.

**Key Points:**

- **Historic Integration:** Poland's accession to the NATO pipeline network came after extensive infrastructure upgrades and compliance with alliance standards, making it the first major expansion of CEPS in over two decades.
- **Pipeline Network Overview:** The CEPS spans more than 5,300 kilometers across Europe, supplying jet fuel, diesel, and other petroleum products to NATO airbases, military facilities, and partner nations during peacetime and operations.
- **Strategic Importance:** By joining the network, Poland enhances NATO's eastern logistical corridor, ensuring faster, safer, and uninterrupted fuel delivery to troops and air operations along the alliance's eastern flank bordering Ukraine and Belarus.
- **Energy Security Dimension:** The integration reduces reliance on external fuel suppliers and supports collective defense objectives, particularly amid evolving security challenges posed by Russia's continued military assertiveness in the region.
- **National Preparedness:** Poland's state-owned company PERN S.A. will manage domestic integration of the network, overseeing maintenance, storage, and coordination with NATO's Allied Command for logistics.
- **Geopolitical Context:** The development aligns with NATO's broader efforts to fortify supply chains, diversify energy routes, and ensure operational self-sufficiency under the NATO 2030 strategic framework.

**India Calls for UN Reforms at 80th UNGA Session**

**In the News:** At the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in September 2025, India renewed its call for comprehensive reforms of the UN system, particularly the Security Council, to reflect contemporary global realities. India emphasized that outdated structures no longer represent the geopolitical balance of the 21st century and reiterated its demand for a permanent seat in an expanded and reformed Security Council as part of the G4 grouping along with Japan, Germany, and Brazil.

**Key Points:**

- **India's Address:** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, representing India at the UNGA, underscored the need for democratization of global governance institutions, arguing that the current UN framework reflects a post-1945 world order that fails to address present-day challenges such as climate change, terrorism, pandemics, and digital inequality.
- **Call for Security Council Reform:** India urged the early implementation of Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council reforms, advocating for greater representation of developing nations from Asia, Africa, and Latin America in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

- **Principles Emphasized:** Dr. Jaishankar highlighted the principles of multilateralism, equity, and inclusivity as the foundation for a reformed UN, noting that true legitimacy can only come from equal participation and shared responsibility.
- **Global South Leadership:** India reaffirmed its role as a voice of the Global South, calling for reforms that ensure fair representation of emerging economies and developing countries in decision-making bodies.
- **Alignment with India's Global Vision:** The speech reflected India's broader diplomatic agenda of promoting "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (One Earth, One Family, One Future), aligning with the themes of India's G20 Presidency and advocacy for a multipolar world.

**Support and Partnerships:** India's stance received support from several G4 and African nations who echoed the need for reform, citing the inequities of the current veto-based system that hinders timely action on pressing global crises.

### Nobel Prize in Physics 2025 awarded to Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis

**In the News:** The Nobel Prize in Physics 2025 was awarded jointly to **John Clarke**, **Michel Devoret**, and **John Martinis** for their pioneering contributions to the development of **superconducting circuits for quantum computing**. Their work laid the foundation for scalable quantum technologies, bridging fundamental physics and next-generation computation.

#### Key Points:

- **Award Announcement:** The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced that Clarke, Devoret, and Martinis were being recognized for their "**groundbreaking experiments and innovations in superconducting quantum bits (qubits)** that enabled stable and controllable quantum computation."
- **Scientific Contribution:** The trio developed **superconducting Josephson junction circuits**, enabling the manipulation of quantum states with exceptional precision — a crucial step toward practical **quantum computers**.
- **John Clarke (UK/USA):** Credited for advancing **SQUID (Superconducting Quantum Interference Device)** technology, which became the basis for measuring quantum signals at extremely low noise levels
- **Michel Devoret (France/USA):** Known for creating the "**quantum toolbox**" — a set of techniques allowing precise control and measurement of superconducting qubits, paving the way for error-corrected quantum operations.
- **John Martinis (USA):** Led teams that built some of the first **quantum processors**, including Google's 2019 "quantum supremacy" experiment demonstrating computation beyond classical capabilities.

### India Launches UPI at Supermarkets in Qatar

**In the News:** India officially launched the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** at major **supermarkets and retail outlets in Qatar**, marking a key milestone in expanding India's digital payment ecosystem to the Gulf region. The initiative strengthens cross-border digital financial connectivity and enhances convenience for Indian expatriates and tourists.

#### Key Points:

- **Launch Initiative:** The launch of UPI in Qatar was jointly facilitated by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Qatar Central Bank (QCB)**, with support from major Qatari retail chains.
- **Objective:** The initiative aims to enable **instant, secure, and low-cost digital payments** for Indian visitors and residents in Qatar, promoting financial inclusion and reducing dependence on cash and cards.
- **Operational Details:** Indian consumers can now **scan QR codes using any UPI-enabled app** (such as BHIM, Paytm, or Google Pay) at participating supermarkets, allowing seamless rupee-based transactions converted to Qatari Riyals.
- **Diplomatic Context:** The move follows the strengthening of **India-Qatar economic and fintech cooperation**, reflecting growing trust in India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** model.
- **Economic Impact:** With over **750,000 Indian expatriates** in Qatar, UPI integration is expected to boost retail transactions, tourism spending, and remittance efficiency.
- **Broader Expansion:** Qatar becomes the **fifth Gulf nation** to adopt UPI after the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain, expanding India's global digital payments footprint.

### Who is the First Woman to Lead NASA as Acting Administrator?

**In the News:** Janet E. Petro became the **first woman to lead NASA** (as Acting Administrator), marking a historic milestone for the space agency.

#### Key Points:

- **Appointment:** Janet Petro was named Acting Administrator of NASA on January 20, 2025.



- **First Woman:** Her appointment made her the **first woman** ever to head NASA in any capacity.
- **Role & Duration:** She oversaw NASA's programs, operations, and budget during the transition period.
- **Predecessor & Successor:** She succeeded Bill Nelson and served until July 9, 2025, after which Sean Duffy became Acting Administrator.
- **Background:** Petro has been Director of NASA's Kennedy Space Center since June 2021.

### WHO Flags Teen Vaping Surge as Global Addiction Risk

**In the News:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has sounded an alarm over a **surge in teen vaping**, flagging it as a global public health risk due to rising nicotine addiction among youth.

#### Key Points:

- **Scale:** At least **15 million teenagers** aged 13–15 use e-cigarettes worldwide.
- **Youth vs Adults:** In countries with data, teens are **nine times more likely** than adults to vape.
- **Total Users:** Globally, over **100 million people** now vape, of whom ~86 million are adults.
- **Industry Shift:** As conventional tobacco use declines, the tobacco industry is pushing **new nicotine products** like e-cigarettes to maintain users.
- **Health Warning:** Vaping is contributing to a **new wave of nicotine addiction**, especially among non-smoking youth.
- **Gateway Risk:** A study shows youth who vape are about **three times more likely** to start smoking tobacco later.
- **Call to Action:** WHO calls for stronger regulations, tighter advertising bans, taxation, and stricter enforcement to curb youth access.

### Chemistry Nobel Prize Winners 2025

**In the News:** The **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025** was awarded jointly to **Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar M. Yaghi** for their pioneering work in developing **metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)** novel molecular architectures with wide applications in sustainability and materials science.

#### Key Points :

- **Laureates:** Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, Omar M. Yaghi
- **Award Reason:** "for the development of metal-organic frameworks"
- **What are MOFs:** Crystalline structures combining metal ions and organic linkers to form porous networks with "rooms" or cavities where gases or molecules can flow
- **Applications:** Harvesting water from air, capturing carbon dioxide, storing toxic gases, catalysing chemical reactions, filtering pollutants from water
- **Innovation:** By altering building blocks, MOFs can be custom-designed for specific tasks
- **Historical start:** In 1989, Richard Robson first proposed frameworks combining metal ions and organic linkers; later Kitagawa and Yaghi improved stability and versatility
- **Prize share & amount:** They share equally the prize of **11 million Swedish kronor**

### Khaled El-Enany Set to Become First Arab UNESCO Chief

**In the News:** The UNESCO Executive Board overwhelmingly voted (55 to 2) to nominate **Khaled El-Enany** of Egypt as the next Director-General, making him poised to become the **first Arab** to lead UNESCO.

#### Key Points:

- **Nomination:** El-Enany was nominated by UNESCO's Executive Board for Director-General.
- **Vote Margin:** He beat Édouard Firmin Matoko (Congo) by 55 to 2.
- **Formal Approval:** His nomination goes to all UNESCO member states for ratification in November during the General Conference.
- **Historic First:** If confirmed, he will be the **first Arab** to lead UNESCO.
- **Academic & Career Background:** He is an Egyptologist, professor at Helwan University, and former Minister of Tourism & Antiquities.
- **Previous Roles:** He directed the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, led museum renovations, and served in government ministries.

### László Krasznahorkai Wins the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature

**In the News:** The Swedish Academy awarded the **2025 Nobel Prize in Literature** to Hungarian author **László Krasznahorkai** “for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art.”

#### Key Points:

- **Award & Citation:** Krasznahorkai received the Nobel Prize in its entirety (one full share), with the Academy highlighting how his works maintain artistic affirmation even in bleak, apocalyptic settings.
- **Literary Style & Themes:** His writing is marked by long, flowing sentences, dense prose and existential urgency. His themes frequently explore despair, decay, absurdism, isolation, and the tension between chaos and order.
- **Cultural & Aesthetic Influences:** Krasznahorkai is often aligned with the Central European tradition—seen as a successor to Kafka and Thomas Bernhard—while also drawing on contemplative influences from his travels in East Asia (China, Japan).
- **Major Works & Reception:** His breakthrough novel *Satantango* (1985), a bleak portrait of a crumbling collective farm, remains canonical and was adapted into a film by Béla Tarr. Other celebrated works include *The Melancholy of Resistance*, *War and War*, and *Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming*.
- **Historical Significance & National Context:** Krasznahorkai is the second Hungarian author to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, following Imre Kertész in 2002.

### 12,000 Year Old Pillar Carved with Human Face Unearthed in Türkiye

**In the News:** Archaeologists in southeastern Türkiye unearthed a **12,000-year-old T-shaped pillar** at the Neolithic site of Karahantepe that bears a **carved human face** — the first such discovery of its kind in the region. The find was announced under the **Taş Tepeler (Stone Hills) Project** and is hailed as a breakthrough in understanding early human symbolic and artistic expression.

#### Key Points:

- **Discovery & Site:** The pillar emerged from excavations at Karahantepe, part of the Taş Tepeler network of ancient sites in southeastern Türkiye.
- **Age & Significance:** Dating to about 12,000 years ago (Pre-Pottery Neolithic era), the monument is among the earliest known attempts by humans to depict facial features in stone.
- **Design & Features:** The T-shaped pillar incorporates a stylized human face carved at its upper section. The facial depiction has sharp contours, deep eye sockets, and a broad, flattened nose — similar in style to earlier human sculptures found in the area.
- **Symbolic Implications:** Previously, T-shaped pillars at sites like Göbekli Tepe and Karahantepe were thought to represent humans abstractly (via stylized arms and body). The addition of a face suggests an evolution from symbolic representation toward more direct, anthropomorphic art.
- **Cultural & Archaeological Impact:** The find deepens our understanding of early human cognitive and symbolic development. It suggests that people in the Neolithic period were experimenting with self-representation and identity, rather than limiting pillars to purely ritual or architectural functions.
- **Broader Context:** Karahantepe is part of a cluster of important Neolithic sites in southeastern Anatolia that also includes Göbekli Tepe. These sites are redefining views about the transition from hunter-gatherer lifestyles to complex communal and ritual spaces.

### Israel, Hamas agree to 1st phase of Gaza peace plan

**In the News:** Israel and Hamas formally agreed to the **first phase** of a U.S.-brokered peace plan aimed at halting the two-year war in Gaza. The agreement includes a ceasefire, a partial Israeli withdrawal, and a major hostage-prisoner exchange.

#### Key Points:

- **Ceasefire & Withdrawal:** Israel will begin a phased withdrawal from parts of Gaza, pulling back troops to a pre-agreed line while halting active combat operations.
- **Hostage and Prisoner Exchange:** Hamas has committed to releasing all remaining living hostages within 72 hours of the withdrawal. In return, Israel will free hundreds of Palestinian prisoners (including those serving life sentences) concurrently.
- **Humanitarian Access:** With the cessation of hostilities, aid convoys carrying food, medicine and relief supplies will be allowed into Gaza in much higher volumes to address the dire humanitarian crisis.

- **Ratification Process:** The agreement is contingent upon approval by Israel's cabinet. Once ratified, implementation is expected to begin quickly, with hostilities ceasing within 24 hours.
- **Unresolved Issues:** Key challenges remain, such as Gaza's post-war governance, the disarmament of Hamas, security guarantees, and long-term reconstruction. These will be addressed in upcoming phases of the peace plan.

### Global Fintech Fest 2025 Kicks Off in Mumbai by PM Address

**In the News:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025** in Mumbai, highlighting India's leadership in digital innovation and financial inclusion. The event, organized under the theme "Fintech for a Viksit Bharat and Inclusive Global Growth," brought together global leaders, investors, regulators, and innovators to discuss the future of technology-driven finance and sustainable economic development.

#### Key Points:

- **Event Launch:** Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Global Fintech Fest 2025 in Mumbai, emphasizing that India has become a global hub of digital public infrastructure, driving innovation in financial inclusion, payments, and digital identity systems. The Prime Minister outlined India's role in shaping the global digital economy through scalable fintech solutions like UPI, Aadhaar, and ONDC.
  - **Theme and Vision:** The central theme, "Fintech for a Viksit Bharat and Inclusive Global Growth," reflects India's dual objective of promoting domestic digital transformation while enabling technology-led financial empowerment across developing economies. PM Modi underscored fintech's power in bridging the financial divide and advancing sustainable growth.
  - **Global Participation:** The event saw participation from over 120 countries, including key stakeholders from the World Bank, IMF, BIS, and leading fintech firms. Global CEOs, central bank governors, and startup founders engaged in sessions exploring cross-border payments, AI in finance, cybersecurity, and ESG-focused fintech innovation.
  - **India's Digital Leadership:** PM Modi praised initiatives such as UPI, Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and the Account Aggregator framework for revolutionizing access to financial services. He highlighted India's progress in building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), which is now being adopted as a model by several nations.
- Policy Announcements:** The Prime Minister announced India's intent to deepen global partnerships in digital payments and fintech governance through the Global DPI Partnership Platform, promoting interoperability and shared innovation.

### Maria Corina Machado Win Nobel Peace Prize 2025 Laureate

**In the News:** Venezuelan opposition leader **María Corina Machado** was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize 2025** for her unwavering commitment to restoring democracy, defending human rights, and promoting nonviolent political reform in Venezuela. Her recognition underscores global acknowledgment of peaceful democratic resistance against authoritarian regimes.

#### Key Points:

- **Award Announcement:** The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to María Corina Machado for her courageous leadership in advocating democratic governance, transparency, and civil liberties amid political repression in Venezuela.
- **Background and Leadership:** Machado, a long-time pro-democracy activist and founder of the opposition movement *Vente Venezuela*, has been a central figure in mobilizing citizens toward peaceful democratic transition and institutional reform. Her leadership has inspired millions within Venezuela and the global diaspora.
- **Peaceful Resistance:** The Committee commended Machado's consistent advocacy for nonviolent resistance and inclusive dialogue as means to achieve political change, even under threats of imprisonment and disqualification from elections.
- **International Recognition:** Her Nobel Peace Prize places her among global icons of peaceful reform and civic courage. The award reaffirms the international community's support for democratic values in Latin America and solidarity with those confronting political persecution.
- **Impact on Venezuela:** Machado's recognition is expected to amplify international pressure for democratic reforms and humanitarian relief in Venezuela, where millions continue to face economic hardship and displacement.

### India and Australia Sign Key Defence Agreements

**In the News:** India and Australia signed a series of **key defence agreements** in New Delhi to enhance military cooperation, joint training, and maritime security across the Indo-Pacific region. The accords mark a significant step forward in the growing

strategic partnership between the two nations under their shared vision of maintaining a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

**Key Points:**

- **Strategic Agreements Signed:** India and Australia concluded multiple defence cooperation agreements covering areas such as logistics support, joint research in advanced military technologies, and intelligence sharing. The pacts aim to strengthen interoperability between the Indian Armed Forces and the Australian Defence Force.
- **Focus on Maritime Security:** Both sides emphasized enhanced collaboration in the Indian Ocean Region, including coordinated patrols, information exchange, and joint naval exercises under the framework of the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)**.
- **Technology and Defence Innovation:** The agreements include joint initiatives in defence manufacturing, cyber defence, and space security. Both nations agreed to co-develop advanced platforms through public-private partnerships and promote technology exchange between defence startups.
- **High-Level Dialogue:** Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and his Australian counterpart **Richard Marles** co-chaired the bilateral talks, reaffirming their commitment to deepen operational cooperation through annual military dialogues and reciprocal training programs.
- **Quad and Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** The defence partnership aligns with the objectives of the **Quad grouping (India, Australia, Japan, and the United States)** to ensure regional stability, freedom of navigation, and deterrence against coercive maritime actions.
- **Joint Exercises and Training:** The nations agreed to expand the scale of joint exercises such as **AUSINDEX** (naval), **Pitch Black** (air force), and **MALABAR** (multilateral maritime exercise), while introducing new tri-service drills.

**India-UK Joint Statement 2025 Highlights Strategic Cooperation**

**In the News:** India and the United Kingdom issued a **Joint Statement** following high-level talks between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and UK Prime Minister **Keir Starmer** in New Delhi. The statement reaffirmed the two nations' commitment to deepen strategic cooperation across defence, trade, technology, and climate action, marking a new phase in the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

**Key Points:**

- **Strategic Dialogue:** The joint statement underscored the shared vision of India and the UK to advance peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. Both leaders emphasized rule-based global order, maritime security, and counterterrorism cooperation as key pillars of their engagement.
- **Trade and Economic Cooperation:** The leaders reiterated their commitment to swiftly conclude the **India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, focusing on market access, services, and investment facilitation. Both sides agreed to expand cooperation in digital trade, innovation ecosystems, and supply-chain resilience.
- **Defence and Security Partnership:** A major highlight was the decision to enhance defence collaboration through joint military exercises, technology transfers, and co-development of next-generation defence platforms. The statement reaffirmed cooperation in maritime domain awareness, space security, and cybersecurity.
- **Technology and Innovation:** Both countries pledged to collaborate on semiconductors, quantum computing, AI governance, and digital public infrastructure to foster innovation-led growth. The UK expressed strong interest in partnering with India's Digital India and IndiaAI initiatives.
- **Climate and Clean Energy Goals:** The statement reinforced shared commitments under the Green Growth Partnership, focusing on renewable energy investments, green hydrogen, and sustainable urban mobility. India and the UK announced new joint R&D programs for clean-tech solutions and carbon reduction.
- **People-to-People Ties:** Both governments agreed to streamline mobility arrangements for students, professionals, and researchers. A new **Young Innovators Exchange Program** will promote educational collaboration between leading universities.

**THE World University Rankings 2026: Look At A Glance**

**In the News:** The **Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026** were released, showcasing global excellence in higher education across 108 countries and regions. The rankings assessed over 2,000 institutions, marking the most comprehensive edition to date, with a focus on research quality, teaching standards, and international collaboration.

**Key Points:**



- **Ranking Overview:** The 2026 edition of the THE World University Rankings featured a record 2,000+ universities, evaluated using 18 performance indicators under five core areas — teaching, research quality, citations, industry engagement, and international outlook.
- **Global Leaders:** The **University of Oxford** retained its top position globally for the eighth consecutive year, followed by **Stanford University** and **Harvard University**. The rankings reaffirmed the dominance of UK and US institutions among the world's top ten
- **India's Performance:** India continued its upward trajectory with over **90 universities** listed in the rankings — the highest representation ever. The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** remained India's top-ranked institution, featuring among the global top 200, recognized for its exceptional research influence and international partnerships.
- **Notable Indian Entries:** The **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)** in Delhi, Bombay, Madras, and Roorkee significantly improved their positions, particularly in research quality and industry collaboration metrics. Several state and private universities also made strong gains in teaching and innovation parameters.
- **Asia's Presence:** China, Japan, and Singapore continued to strengthen their academic presence, with **Tsinghua University** and **National University of Singapore (NUS)** ranking among the world's top 20, highlighting Asia's growing leadership in global education.
- **New Methodology:** The 2026 rankings incorporated an updated framework that placed greater emphasis on *research environment, societal impact, and international knowledge exchange*, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Policy Significance:** The improved performance of Indian universities was attributed to recent reforms under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, enhanced global collaborations, and increased research funding through initiatives such as **PM Research Fellows (PMRF)** and **SPARC**.

### Delhi Declaration Elevates Global South Cities at COP30

**In the News:** The **Delhi Declaration on Urban Climate Leadership** was adopted at the **Global South Cities Forum**, positioning developing-world cities at the forefront of climate action in the run-up to **COP30 in Belém, Brazil**. The declaration emphasized empowering Global South municipalities with climate finance, technology access, and urban resilience frameworks to achieve equitable and sustainable transitions.

#### Key Points:

- **Declaration Adoption:** The Delhi Declaration was unanimously endorsed by over 60 mayors and city representatives from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. It aims to strengthen the collective voice of Global South cities within global climate negotiations, ensuring that urban development priorities are integrated into COP30's climate agenda.
- **Focus on Climate Justice:** The declaration highlights that cities in developing nations face disproportionate climate risks while having limited financial and technological capacity. It calls for equitable access to adaptation funds, recognition of urban loss and damage, and inclusive financing mechanisms under global climate frameworks.
- **Urban Resilience and Infrastructure:** Participating cities committed to developing climate-resilient infrastructure, expanding renewable energy use in transport and housing, and integrating nature-based solutions for sustainable urban ecosystems. The plan aligns with India's **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** mission and the **National Mission on Sustainable Habitat**.
- **Financing Mechanisms:** A dedicated **Global South Urban Climate Fund** was proposed to mobilize investments for green infrastructure, waste management, clean mobility, and digital climate governance. The fund will seek partnerships with multilateral development banks, private investors, and philanthropic organizations.
- **Leadership and Partnerships:** The forum was co-hosted by India's **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, **UN-Habitat**, and **C40 Cities**, reinforcing India's leadership in advocating inclusive climate governance and South-South cooperation on sustainable urbanization
- **Path to COP30:** The Delhi Declaration will serve as an input document for COP30 negotiations in Brazil, advancing the agenda of climate equity, city-level adaptation, and localized implementation of the Paris Agreement. It underscores that resilient cities are central to achieving net-zero and sustainable growth targets for the Global South.

### Buddha's Relics to Visit Russia's Kalmykia for First Time

**In the News:** India announced that the **sacred relics of Lord Buddha** from the **National Museum, New Delhi**, will travel to **Kalmykia, Russia**, for public veneration — marking the **first-ever visit of Buddha's relics to Russia**. The event symbolizes

India's deep civilizational and cultural connection with Russia and reaffirms its role as the custodian of Buddhist heritage under the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future).

**Key Points:**

- **Historic Pilgrimage:** This will be the first time that Buddha's relics, also known as "**Kapilvastu Relics**," are being taken to Russia. The relics will be enshrined for exposition in **Elista**, the capital of Kalmykia — the only Buddhist-majority region in Europe.
- **Custody and Escort:** A high-level Indian delegation led by officials from the **Ministry of Culture, National Museum, and International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** will accompany the relics. They will be displayed under strict conservation protocols in specially designed climate-controlled cases.
- **Duration and Venues:** The relics will be displayed in Kalmykia for public worship and cultural events for nearly **three weeks**, attracting devotees, scholars, and monks from Russia, Mongolia, and other parts of Europe and Central Asia.
- **Significance of Kalmykia:** Kalmykia holds a unique place as Europe's only Buddhist republic, with deep historical ties to Tibetan and Indian Buddhism. The hosting of Buddha's relics marks a milestone in Indo-Russian cultural relations and interfaith harmony.
- **Previous Global Exhibitions:** India has previously sent the relics of Lord Buddha to countries such as **Thailand, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Japan**, where millions of devotees paid homage. The Russia visit expands this global outreach to the Eurasian region.

**Rishi Sunak Joins Microsoft and Anthropic as Adviser**

**In the News:** Former UK Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** joined **Microsoft** and **Anthropic** as a **strategic adviser** to guide their global artificial intelligence (AI) governance and safety initiatives. His appointment follows his leadership in establishing the world's first AI Safety Summit in 2023 at Bletchley Park, highlighting his continuing influence in shaping the ethical and regulatory frameworks for AI development.

**Key Points:**

- **Advisory Role:** Rishi Sunak will serve as an adviser to Microsoft and Anthropic, focusing on developing transparent, accountable, and safety-driven AI systems. His experience in AI policy and global governance will support these companies in aligning innovation with responsible regulation.
- **Industry Significance:** Microsoft and Anthropic—two leading AI firms—are collaborating on advancing frontier models and safety standards. Sunak's role is expected to help bridge dialogue between governments, regulators, and industry leaders to ensure that emerging AI technologies remain beneficial and secure.
- **Background and Leadership:** As Prime Minister, Sunak launched the **UK AI Safety Institute** and hosted the **Global AI Safety Summit** in 2023, which laid the groundwork for international cooperation on AI risks. His continued involvement reflects his commitment to balancing innovation with oversight.
- **Global AI Governance:** His appointment is seen as a milestone in strengthening cooperation between the public and private sectors on AI governance, with Sunak expected to advise on ethical deployment, cybersecurity, and global AI safety standards.

**Trump's 100% tariffs on China: How Chinese rare earth export curbs may ignite next trade war**

**In the News:** Former U.S. President **Donald Trump** announced sweeping **100% tariffs on all Chinese imports**, marking an escalation in U.S.-China trade tensions. The move, aimed at protecting American manufacturing and countering what Trump termed "China's unfair trade practices," triggered warnings of retaliation from Beijing. China, in response, signaled potential restrictions on exports of **rare earth elements**, which are critical for global high-tech and defense industries, raising fears of a renewed trade war.

**Key Points:**

- **Tariff Announcement:** Trump declared a blanket 100% tariff on approximately **\$450 billion worth of Chinese goods**, including electronics, machinery, and consumer products. The decision seeks to reduce U.S. dependence on Chinese manufacturing and revive domestic production capacities.
- **China's Countermove:** Beijing hinted at curbing exports of **rare earth elements**—vital for semiconductors, electric vehicles, wind turbines, and defense equipment. China currently dominates global supply, accounting for nearly **70% of rare earth mining and 90% of processing**, giving it a powerful economic lever.

- **Global Trade Impact:** Analysts warn that a prolonged tariff confrontation and Chinese export restrictions could disrupt global supply chains, inflate production costs, and destabilize technology markets. Countries reliant on rare earth imports, including the U.S., Japan, and South Korea, may face severe shortages.
- **Economic and Political Context:** The announcement comes amid Trump's renewed presidential campaign, positioning his trade stance as a pillar of his "America First" economic strategy. The measures are seen as both an economic and geopolitical maneuver to counter China's rising influence.
- **Rare Earths and Strategic Risks:** China's potential export curbs could cripple industries producing fighter jets, electric vehicles, and renewable energy components. The U.S. has been exploring alternative sources in Australia, Canada, and Africa but remains heavily dependent on Chinese processing capabilities.
- **Broader Implications:** Experts suggest this confrontation could mark the beginning of a "Trade War 2.0", with technology supply chains—especially AI chips, green energy materials, and critical minerals—becoming the new battleground for global economic dominance.

## SPORTS

### India's Best-Ever Medal Haul at World Para Athletics Championships 2025

**In the News:** India registered its best-ever performance at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025, held in Kobe, Japan, securing a record 38 medals — including 15 gold, 11 silvers, and 12 bronze. This historic achievement marked India's emergence as a global force in para-athletics, surpassing its previous best of 29 medals at the 2023 edition in Paris. The performance reflected the growing strength of India's para-sports ecosystem and its commitment to inclusivity and excellence in sports.

#### Key Points:

- **Historic Achievement:** India finished fourth in the overall medal standings, marking its highest-ever ranking in the history of the World Para Athletics Championships and setting new benchmarks for future global competitions.
- **Star Performers:** Sumit Antil, Devendra Jhajharia, Deepthi Jeevanji, Nishad Kumar, and Mariyappan Thangavelu led India's medal charge with record-breaking performances in javelin throw, high jump, and sprint events, drawing international acclaim.
- **Event Highlights:** Deepthi Jeevanji set a new world record in the women's 400m T20 category, while Sumit Antil retained his world title in the F64 javelin throw event with a championship record.
- **Team Effort and Preparation:** The Indian contingent of 73 para-athletes represented the nation's largest-ever delegation to the Championships, supported by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).
- **Government and Institutional Support:** The stellar performance was attributed to enhanced training facilities under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), improved sports science support, and international exposure initiatives by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- **National Recognition:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya lauded the athletes for their determination, resilience, and contribution to India's growing sporting legacy.

## SCIENCE AND TECH

### Vyommitra: India's Humanoid Robot for Gaganyaan Mission

**In the News:** India's semi-humanoid robot Vyommitra is set to play a pivotal role in the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Gaganyaan Mission, the country's first human spaceflight program. Developed by ISRO's Human Spaceflight Centre (HSFC), Vyommitra is designed to simulate human functions and assist astronauts in space operations, serving as a precursor to India's first crewed orbital mission scheduled for 2026.

#### Key Points:

- **Project Overview:** Vyommitra, whose name is derived from Sanskrit meaning "space friend," is a female-looking humanoid robot created to operate in microgravity environments, conduct experiments, and communicate with ground control during uncrewed test flights of the Gaganyaan Mission.
- **Technological Capabilities:** The robot can monitor environmental parameters such as cabin pressure, oxygen levels, and temperature, and replicate human gestures, speech, and facial expressions. It can also perform switch operations, respond to commands, and convey data back to mission control.

- **Role in Gaganyaan:** Vyommitra will be onboard the uncrewed Gaganyaan test missions to assess life-support systems, crew module performance, and safety mechanisms before human astronauts undertake the final mission.
- **Design and Development:** Built indigenously by ISRO's Inertial Systems Unit and Human Spaceflight Centre, Vyommitra integrates artificial intelligence, robotics, and sensor technologies to enable human-like interactions and autonomous decision-making in space.
- **Testing and Integration:** The humanoid underwent extensive testing in simulated space environments and will participate in forthcoming crew module and abort test flights to validate its operational reliability in orbital conditions.
- **Strategic Importance:** The deployment of Vyommitra symbolizes India's growing technological maturity in human spaceflight and robotics, aligning with ISRO's roadmap for sustained space exploration, including the proposed *Bharatiya Antariksh Station* by 2035.

### India's Dhvani Hypersonic Missile

**In the News:** India successfully tested its indigenous hypersonic missile system named Dhvani, marking a major leap in next-generation defence technology. The missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), demonstrated sustained hypersonic flight capability, positioning India among the few nations with operational hypersonic weapon technology alongside the United States, Russia, and China.

#### Key Points:

- **Test Overview:** The test of the Dhvani hypersonic missile was conducted from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. The missile achieved speeds exceeding Mach 6, validating its scramjet propulsion system and precision-guidance capability.
- **Technological Milestone:** Dhvani integrates advanced scramjet engine technology with composite airframe materials capable of withstanding extreme aerodynamic heating, enabling stable flight at altitudes above 30 kilometers.
- **Development and Design:** Conceived under DRDO's Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) program, Dhvani represents India's transition from experimental hypersonic platforms to deployable weapon systems designed for rapid-response strategic deterrence.
- **Operational Role:** The missile is intended for both conventional and strategic missions, capable of striking high-value targets with unparalleled speed and maneuverability, significantly reducing enemy reaction time.
- **Strategic Significance:** The success of Dhvani enhances India's deterrence capabilities and strengthens its position within the global hypersonic race, supporting the broader "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative in defence innovation.
- **Collaborative Effort:** The project involved coordination between DRDO's Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), and the Indian Air Force, emphasizing self-reliance in propulsion and guidance systems.

### DRDO Launches IRSA 1.0 for Military Radio Interoperability

**In the News:** DRDO has released the **Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) 1.0**, a new national standard to enable interoperability across military communication systems using software-defined radios (SDRs).

#### Key Points:

- **Objective:** IRSA 1.0 standardises interfaces, APIs, execution environments, and waveform portability for SDRs.
- **Collaboration:** Developed jointly by DRDO, the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS), and the tri-services (Army, Navy, Air Force).
- **Interoperability:** The new standard allows different radio systems across services to communicate seamlessly.
- **Waveform portability:** Radio waveforms can be reused across platforms, reducing redevelopment efforts.
- **Evolution:** The standard is meant to evolve with operational needs and integrate future technologies like AI / 5G.
- **Certification & Conformance:** The specification includes testing and conformance clauses for security and reliability.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Philippines Launches Southeast Asia's First Coral Cryobank

**In the News:** The Philippines launched **Southeast Asia's first Coral Cryobank** in Manila, marking a groundbreaking step toward preserving marine biodiversity amid growing threats from climate change and ocean acidification. The initiative aims to secure genetic materials of coral species to support reef restoration and long-term ecological resilience.



**Key Points:**

- **Project Launch:** The Coral Cryobank was inaugurated by the **Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** in partnership with the **University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI)** and the **Philippine Coral Restoration Consortium**.
- **Objective:** The cryobank will collect, freeze, and store **coral gametes, embryos, and tissue samples** using advanced cryogenic techniques to safeguard coral diversity for future restoration efforts.
- **Technological Innovation:** Using **liquid nitrogen storage systems**, coral specimens will be preserved at ultra-low temperatures, allowing scientists to maintain genetic material for hundreds of years without degradation.
- **Climate Response:** The initiative addresses the accelerating **loss of coral reefs** across the Coral Triangle — one of the world's richest marine biodiversity zones — due to rising sea temperatures and pollution.
- **Regional Collaboration:** The Philippines aims to share research and technology with neighboring ASEAN countries to create a **regional coral genome network**, enhancing collective climate resilience.
- **Funding and Support:** The project is supported by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **UNESCO's Ocean Decade Programme**, highlighting global collaboration for marine conservation.

**India's First Red List Unveiled At IUCN Congress**

**In the News:** India unveiled its **first national "Red List" of threatened species** during the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress** held in Geneva. The initiative marks a major milestone in India's biodiversity documentation and aligns with global conservation standards under the IUCN Red List framework.

**Key Points:**

- **Launch Event:** The Red List was jointly unveiled by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** at the IUCN Congress, with participation from leading conservation scientists and international delegates.
- **Objective:** The list aims to provide a **comprehensive assessment of the conservation status** of India's flora and fauna, helping policymakers prioritize species protection and habitat restoration.
- **Coverage:** The initial edition documents **over 12,000 species**, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and plants — evaluated based on IUCN's global criteria for extinction risk.
- **Key Findings:** Several endemic species from biodiversity hotspots such as the **Western Ghats, Eastern Himalayas, and Andaman-Nicobar Islands** were categorized as "Vulnerable" or "Endangered," highlighting urgent conservation needs.
- **Scientific Collaboration:** The assessment involved contributions from **over 50 research institutions, universities, and state forest departments**, ensuring regional data integration and scientific accuracy.
- **Policy Integration:** The Red List will serve as a **baseline tool** for India's future wildlife management, environmental impact assessments, and climate adaptation strategies under the **National Biodiversity Mission (NBM)**.
- **Global Significance:** India's Red List contributes to IUCN's global biodiversity monitoring and reinforces the country's commitment to the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

**India Launches 5 Species Projects During Wildlife Week 2025**

**In the News:** During **Wildlife Week 2025**, the Government of India launched five species-focused conservation projects to strengthen biodiversity protection and human-wildlife coexistence.

**Key Points:**

- **Projects Launched:** Project Dolphin (Phase II), Project Sloth Bear, Project Gharial, Centre of Excellence for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management (at SACON), and Project Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves
- **Aim of Project Dolphin:** Expand monitoring and protection of river and marine cetaceans
- **Sloth Bear & Gharial Plans:** Bring national frameworks for their conservation
- **Tigers Outside Reserves:** Address tiger conservation challenges in non-protected areas, focusing on human-tiger conflict
- **Conflict Management Centre:** The Centre of Excellence will lead research, training, and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.
- **Monitoring & Estimation:** Alongside these, four action plans were unveiled — new population estimation cycles for river dolphins, snow leopards, tigers (Cycle-6), and status reports on the Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican

- **Institutions Involved:** Key agencies like WII, ICFRE, IGNFA, SACON, FRI collaborated in the launches

### India Launched National Red List to Biodiversity Conservation Till 2030

**In the News:** India launched the **National Red List for Biodiversity Conservation till 2030**, a landmark initiative aimed at assessing, monitoring, and protecting the country's threatened species. The initiative was launched by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** in collaboration with the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** to strengthen India's conservation policy framework and align with global biodiversity targets under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

#### Key Points:

- **Initiative Launch:** The National Red List for Biodiversity Conservation till 2030 was officially unveiled by the MoEFCC to provide a comprehensive national inventory of species facing extinction threats. It represents India's first centralized and science-based assessment system for flora and fauna.
- **Objective:** The primary goal of the Red List is to identify, classify, and monitor endangered, vulnerable, and near-threatened species across ecosystems. The initiative will guide conservation planning, funding priorities, and habitat restoration measures over the next five years.
- **Collaborating Agencies:** The effort is being jointly implemented by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) with technical assistance from the IUCN.
- **Scope and Coverage:** The Red List will initially cover more than 25,000 species of plants and animals across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems, creating a dynamic database for conservation monitoring at the national and state levels.
- **Integration with Global Goals:** The launch aligns with India's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which aims to halt biodiversity loss and restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.

## ECONOMY

### Bitcoin Hits All-Time High Above \$125,000 Amid Market Optimism

**In the News:** Bitcoin surged to a record high above \$125,000, driven by renewed investor optimism, growing institutional adoption, and increasing confidence in the broader cryptocurrency market. The rally reflects heightened expectations surrounding spot Bitcoin ETFs, easing inflation concerns, and the strengthening perception of Bitcoin as a hedge against macroeconomic uncertainty and currency depreciation.

#### Key Points:

- **Record-Breaking Milestone:** Bitcoin reached a new all-time high of over \$125,000, surpassing its previous peak from March 2025. The surge marks a 40% increase over the past quarter, fueled by institutional inflows and strong retail participation.
- **Market Drivers:** The rally was supported by the approval of new Bitcoin exchange-traded funds (ETFs) across major global markets, enabling easier institutional access and expanding mainstream adoption. Investor confidence also grew amid stabilization in U.S. interest rates and renewed demand for digital assets.
- **Institutional Involvement:** Leading investment firms, pension funds, and corporate treasuries expanded their Bitcoin holdings, citing its long-term value potential and portfolio diversification benefits.
- **Macroeconomic Context:** With inflation easing in major economies and geopolitical uncertainties persisting, Bitcoin's appeal as "digital gold" strengthened, leading to a rotation of capital from traditional assets into cryptocurrencies.
- **Regulatory Developments:** Several governments, including the U.S., Singapore, and the UAE, announced clearer frameworks for digital assets, which improved transparency and boosted market confidence.
- **Altcoin and Market Impact:** The rally had a ripple effect across the cryptocurrency ecosystem, with Ethereum, Solana, and other major altcoins also recording double-digit gains, pushing total crypto market capitalization above \$3.5 trillion.

## OBITUARIES

### Pandit Chhannulal Mishra: Thumri Maestro Passes Away

**In the News:** Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Pandit Chhannulal Mishra, one of India's most celebrated exponents of the Banaras Gharana, passed away at the age of 89 in Varanasi. Revered for his mastery over Thumri, Dadra, and Khayal, his passing marks the end of an era in Indian classical music, leaving behind an enduring legacy that enriched India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

**Key Points:**

- **Early Life and Training:** Born on August 3, 1936, in Hariharpur village of Azamgarh district, Uttar Pradesh, Pandit Chhannulal Mishra was trained under Ustad Abdul Ghani Khan and Pandit Bade Ram Das Ji of the Banaras Gharana, mastering the rich and emotive style of Hindustani classical music.
- **Musical Legacy:** Known as the "Thumri Maestro," he popularized semi-classical genres such as Thumri, Dadra, and Kajri, blending emotional depth with technical precision and bringing Banaras's musical traditions to global audiences.
- **Artistic Contribution:** His renditions were deeply rooted in spirituality and devotion, often drawing from the poetry of saints and regional folk traditions, earning him a place among India's foremost cultural icons.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan (2010) and Padma Vibhushan (2019), two of India's highest civilian honours, in recognition of his lifelong contribution to Hindustani classical music.
- **Association with Kashi:** Pandit Mishra's music embodied the cultural essence of Varanasi, where he spent most of his life performing and teaching, serving as a bridge between classical purity and contemporary appeal.
- **National Tributes:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu paid tribute to the maestro, calling him a "torchbearer of Indian classical heritage" whose art reflected the soul of India's cultural identity.

## JOINT EXERCISE

### Indian Coast Guard Conducts 10th NATPOLREX Off Chennai Coast

**In the News:** The Indian Coast Guard conducted the 10th edition of the National Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-X) off the coast of Chennai. The large-scale exercise aimed to evaluate and enhance India's marine pollution response capabilities, strengthening inter-agency coordination and operational readiness for managing oil spills and marine environmental hazards in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

**Key Points:**

- **Exercise Overview:** NATPOLREX-X was organized by the Indian Coast Guard under the aegis of the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) to assess preparedness for responding to oil spill emergencies in Indian waters.
- **Participants:** The exercise witnessed the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Shipping, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, state maritime boards, port authorities, and major oil companies, demonstrating the integrated approach to maritime safety.
- **Operational Demonstration:** The sea exercise featured coordinated deployment of pollution response vessels, aircraft, and oil containment booms, showcasing the Coast Guard's capability in containment, recovery, and disposal of spilled oil in real-time simulated conditions.
- **International Presence:** Observers from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Japan Coast Guard, and representatives of neighbouring maritime nations attended the event, reinforcing India's commitment to regional cooperation in marine environmental protection.
- **Environmental Focus:** The exercise underscored India's zero-tolerance policy toward marine pollution and its emphasis on sustainable ocean governance under global frameworks such as MARPOL and the UNCLOS conventions.
- **Technological Integration:** Modern response equipment, including skimmers, dispersant spray systems, and pollution control drones, were demonstrated as part of India's evolving marine response infrastructure.
- **Strategic Importance:** NATPOLREX-X highlighted the Indian Coast Guard's role as the national authority for oil spill response, strengthening India's preparedness to protect its 7,500 km coastline, blue economy, and marine biodiversity from ecological threats.

### Exercise Konkan 2025 Begins Off India's West Coast

**In the News:** The India-United Kingdom bilateral naval exercise Konkan 2025 commenced off India's western coast. The exercise aims to strengthen maritime cooperation, interoperability, and mutual understanding between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, underscoring the growing strategic partnership between the two nations in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Key Points:**

- **Exercise Overview:** Konkan 2025 is part of a long-standing series of annual naval engagements between India and the UK, designed to enhance operational synergy and tactical coordination in maritime security operations.
- **Participating Units:** The Indian Navy was represented by INS Chennai and maritime patrol aircraft P-8I, while the Royal Navy deployed HMS Portland, along with integral helicopters and support vessels for advanced joint manoeuvres.
- **Operational Focus:** The exercise features complex surface, anti-submarine, and air warfare drills, including coordinated replenishment at sea, communication exercises, and cross-deck helicopter operations to refine real-time coordination.
- **Strategic Context:** The exercise highlights shared priorities of freedom of navigation, regional stability, and maritime domain awareness in the broader Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.
- **Defence Diplomacy:** Konkan 2025 reinforces India's growing maritime cooperation with Western allies under its SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision and the UK's 'Global Britain' policy focused on Indo-Pacific engagement.
- **Technological Exchange:** The exercise provides a platform for both navies to exchange best practices in advanced naval tactics, cyber-security, and joint humanitarian and disaster relief operations.

**India-UK Hold First Joint Carrier Strike Exercise**

**In the News:** India and the United Kingdom conducted their **first-ever Joint Carrier Strike Group (CSG) Exercise** in the Arabian Sea, marking a major milestone in bilateral maritime cooperation. The exercise featured India's **INS Vikrant** and the UK's **HMS Queen Elizabeth**, demonstrating growing strategic convergence between the two nations in ensuring a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific region.

**Key Points:**

- **Exercise Overview:** The maiden joint carrier strike exercise brought together the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy in high-intensity maritime drills involving advanced air operations, anti-submarine warfare, and coordinated fleet manoeuvres. It showcased interoperability and mutual trust between the two naval forces.
- **Participating Assets:** India deployed its indigenous aircraft carrier **INS Vikrant**, along with destroyers **INS Kolkata** and **INS Chennai**, P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, and MiG-29K fighters. The UK's carrier strike group was led by **HMS Queen Elizabeth**, accompanied by Type-45 destroyers, frigates, and F-35B Lightning II fighter jets.
- **Strategic Objective:** The exercise aimed to deepen operational coordination, enhance maritime domain awareness, and strengthen joint responses to security challenges in the Indo-Pacific, including piracy, illegal trafficking, and freedom of navigation concerns.
- **Diplomatic and Defence Context:** This exercise follows the elevation of the **India-UK relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and the signing of the **India-UK 2030 Roadmap**, which envisions expanded defence collaboration, technology sharing, and joint research in maritime security.
- **Technological and Tactical Focus:** Both navies practiced cross-deck aircraft operations, carrier-based combat simulations, and air defence coordination. These drills also tested real-time data exchange and communication networks between the two navies to enhance interoperability.

**IMPORTANT DAYS****World Mental Health Day 2025: Theme, History, and Importance**

**In the News:** The world observed **World Mental Health Day** with the theme "**Mental Health is a Universal Human Right**", emphasizing global recognition of mental well-being as an essential component of public health and human dignity. The observance, led by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, aimed to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and promote equitable access to mental health care for all.

**Key Points:**

- **Theme and Focus:** The 2025 theme, "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right," highlights the moral and social responsibility of governments, institutions, and individuals to ensure that every person has access to quality mental health care without discrimination or neglect.
- **Historical Background:** World Mental Health Day was first observed in 1992, initiated by the **World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)** and supported by the WHO. Since then, it has evolved into a global movement advocating for mental well-being, policy reform, and increased investment in mental health systems.



- **Objective:** The day aims to create public awareness about mental health issues, encourage open conversations, and promote early intervention and community support systems to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness.
- **Global Participation:** Events and campaigns were organized across over 150 countries, featuring mental health workshops, digital campaigns, and public forums. Educational institutions, workplaces, and NGOs collaborated to host awareness drives emphasizing emotional resilience, workplace well-being, and youth mental health.
- **WHO Initiatives:** The WHO reinforced its commitment to scaling up the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013–2030, which focuses on integrating mental health into primary healthcare and expanding digital access to counseling services, especially in low- and middle-income countries.
- **India's Observance:** In India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, along with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), organized nationwide programs promoting emotional well-being in schools and workplaces. Campaigns like “Mind Matters” encouraged citizens to prioritize self-care and seek help when needed.

