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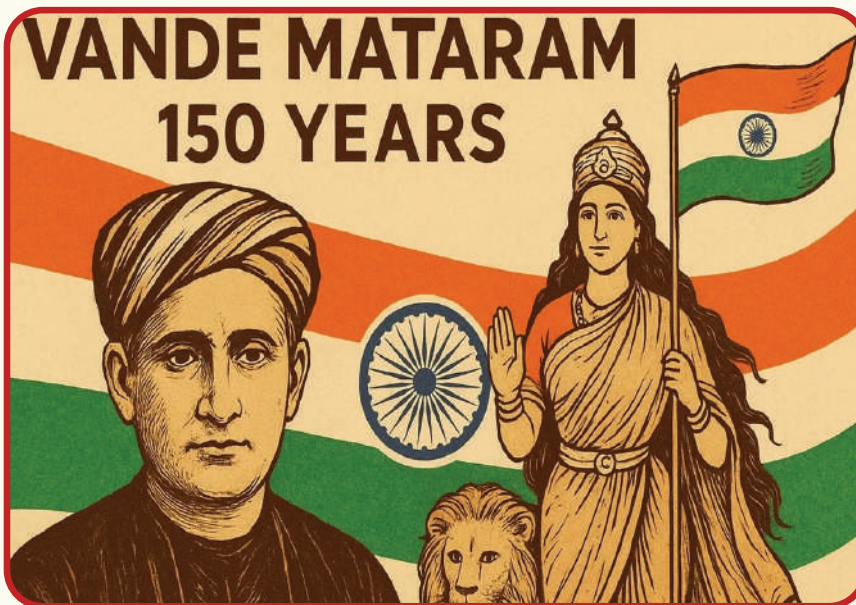
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DECEMBER 2025

(Current affairs simplified for TGPSC & APPSC exams)

Preface

This Monthly Current Affairs Magazine is thoughtfully designed for aspirants of **APPSC**, **TGPSC**, and other state-level competitive examinations. It features **exam-focused, tailor-made content**, curated to meet the evolving demands of these exams.

The magazine is divided into **thirteen (13) comprehensive sections**, covering international, national, and regional (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana) developments. Each topic is presented in a clear, concise, and exam-oriented manner, **seamlessly connecting static knowledge with dynamic current affairs** to help readers develop a deeper and more integrated understanding.

Every edition also includes a set of **50 practice MCQs**:

- ✓ 25 questions based on the most important current events of the month &
- ✓ 25 questions derived from static concepts closely linked to those events.

In essence, this magazine serves as a **one-stop source for current affairs**, meticulously curated to strengthen your preparation and guide you on your journey toward excellence in state-level competitive examinations



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Section-I: POLITY AND POLICIES - recent issues related to Indian constitution, new bills & acts passed by Parliament as well as Legislatures of AP and Telangana etc.

1. Centre rejects Kuki-Zo groups' demand for UT status.

Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in Manipur announced that they held talks with the Union Home Ministry, "focusing on the core demand for a **Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly**" for Kuki-Zo areas.



Interconnected concept:

Creation of a State/UT:

- The creation, alteration, or reorganisation of Union Territories (UTs) is governed by **Article 3** of the Indian Constitution — the same article that deals with the formation of new States. However, Article 239 to 241 (Part VIII) specifically provide for administration of Union Territories.
- Power of Parliament:** Only Parliament (not State Legislatures) has the power to form, alter, merge, rename, expand, or convert States and Union Territories under Article 3 of the Constitution.

Procedure:

- A Bill is introduced in **either House of Parliament** (only with President's prior recommendation).
- If the proposal affects the area, boundaries, or name of a State, the President refers the Bill to

the concerned State Legislature for its views. The State Legislature must respond within a specified period, but its **opinion is not binding on Parliament**.

- After that, Parliament may pass the Bill (**simple majority is enough**). Once passed and President gives assent, the new Union Territory is officially created.

2. Parliament to hold winter session from December 1 to 19.

Parliamentary Affairs minister announced **Winter Session of Parliament** will be held from December 1 to 19.



Interconnected concept:

Sessions of Parliament-

The Parliament of India conducts its business during specific periods called sessions. A session is the period between the first sitting and the prorogation (or dissolution) of either House of Parliament.

- Constitutional Basis:** **Article 85** of the Constitution empowers the President of India to: Summon each House of Parliament, Prorogue (end) either House, and Dissolve the Lok Sabha.
- Gap Between Two Sessions:** Maximum gap is **6 months**. Therefore, Parliament must meet at least twice a year. Conventionally, there are three sessions in a year:

Budget session
(Feb-May)

Monsoon Session
(July-September)

Winter session
(November-December).

3. National Legal Services Day observed on November 9.

National Legal Services Day is celebrated annually in India on **9th November**. This day commemorates the enactment of the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, which came into force on November 9, 1995.

Interconnected concepts:

1. NALSA- National Legal Services Authority.

NALSA was established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 with the objective of **extending free legal services to weaker and vulnerable sections** of society.

- It establishes **Lok Adalats** to facilitate amicable dispute resolution and also supervises, evaluates, and lays down guidelines for various legal aid programmes under the Act.

Lok Adalat serve as an alternate dispute resolution forum aimed at mutually settling or compromising cases. They ensure quick and low-cost justice for litigants, and as per the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, their **award is final and binding**, with **no provision for appeal against their decision**.

- The **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** is the ex-officio Patron-in-Chief of NALSA, a ceremonial and guiding role.
- The Executive Chairman is the **second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court** and is nominated by the President of India to oversee the day-to-day operations and implementation of NALSA's policies

2. Article 39 A (DPSP): The State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, **provide free legal aid**, by

suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

4. Supreme Court: Arrest grounds must be communicated even under IPC/BNS.

In an important judgment with a bearing on personal liberty, the Supreme Court ruled that the requirement of furnishing grounds of arrest to a person placed under arrest will apply even to offences under the **Indian Penal Code & Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** and not just offences under special statutes like the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)** and **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)**.



Interconnected concepts:

1. Article 22:

- No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being **informed**, as soon as may be, of **the grounds for such arrest** nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice.
- Every person who is arrested and detained in custody shall be produced before the **nearest magistrate within a period of twenty-four hours of such arrest excluding** the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the court of the magistrate and no such person shall be detained in custody beyond the said period without the authority of a magistrate.

2. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita:

- The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023** is the new criminal code of India, which came into effect on **July 1, 2024**, replacing the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.

Replacement of Laws: The BNS is part of a trio of new laws that replace the British-era criminal legislations:

- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**
- **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**
- **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)**

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

- Replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)

- Replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)

- Replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

5. Gujarat high court strikes down Vadodara Police's detention order.

The Gujarat High Court has quashed an order of the Vadodara Police Commissioner for detention of an accused in a communal riot case stating that a "mere disturbance of law and order" is not necessarily sufficient for **preventive detention** under the Gujarat Prevention of Anti-social Activities Act (PASA).

Interconnected concept:
Preventive detention:

“Preventive detention must fall within the four corners of Article 21 (protection of life and liberty) read with Article 22 and the statute in question... for 'public order' to be disturbed, there must in turn be public disorder. Mere contravention of law... before it can be said to affect 'public order', must affect the community or the public at large —SC

Preventive detention is a process where an individual is detained by the state without trial or conviction, based solely on the suspicion that the

person may commit acts harming public order or national security.

- Unlike **Punitive detention**, which comes after a criminal act, preventive detention aims to prevent future offenses and is considered an exceptional measure under Indian law

Article 22 (4) states that No preventive detention law can allow detention beyond **three months** unless an **Advisory Board**, composed of persons who are or have been, or are qualified to be, **High Court Judges**, gives its approval **before the expiry of that three-month period**.

6. Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh & Uttarakhand celebrates 25th Statehood Day.

All the three states celebrated their **25th Statehood Day** in November, 2025.

For Jharkhand, **November 15** is significant as it also marks the birth anniversary of revered tribal freedom fighter **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**.

- The event also marks 25 years since **Jharkhand was officially carved out of the southern part of Bihar to become the 28th state** of India in 2000 under the **Bihar Reorganisation Act**.

Jharkhand (from Bihar)

- **Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar** on November 15, 2000, the birth anniversary of **Birsa Munda**, the revolutionary Adivasi leader who led the late 19th-century **Ulgulan** ("The Great Tumult").

Chhattisgarh

- **Chhattisgarh** was formed as a new state on 1 November 2000 by separating 16 eastern districts from **Madhya Pradesh**.

Uttarakhand

- **Uttarakhand** became a separate state on **9 November 2000** after being carved out of **Uttar Pradesh**.

Interconnected concept:

A new state is formed in India through a constitutional process that primarily uses **Article 3 of the Constitution of India**. This power rests entirely with the Parliament of India.

- **Presidential Recommendation:** A bill to alter boundaries or form a new state cannot be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha without the prior recommendation of the President.
- **President refers proposal to affected state legislature for views:** Before introducing the bill in Parliament, the President is constitutionally required to refer the proposed legislation to the legislature of the affected state(s) for their views
- **State Legislature gives opinion (support/oppose/modify):** Parliament is not obligated to accept or act upon the views or resolutions of the state legislature. The will of the Parliament ultimately prevails.
- **Bill passed by SIMPLE MAJORITY:** Unlike amendments to many parts of the Constitution, which require a special majority, a bill to form a new state only needs to be passed by a simple majority (more than half of the members present and voting) in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

7. Government notifies the Digital Personal Data Protection Act.

The Union government notified large parts of the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**, addressing the need for a law to protect the data privacy of Indian citizens.



- The DPDP Rules, 2025 are also a significant step forward in compliance with the Supreme Court's 2017 **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India** judgment affirming the right to privacy.

DPDP Act – Important Provisions:**Applicability**

- Applies to digital personal data processed in India and to foreign processing related to offering goods/services in India.

Data Principal

- The individual whose personal data is processed, including parents/guardians for minors or disabled persons.

Data Fiduciary

- Any entity that determines the purpose and means of processing personal data.

Legitimate Uses (without consent)

- Data may be processed for government functions, court orders, emergencies, employment needs, and public interest.

Rights of Data Principal

- Individuals have rights to access, correct, erase data, seek grievance Redressal, withdraw consent, and nominate someone.

Data Protection Board of India

- A digital-by-design adjudicatory body to inquire into breaches and impose penalties.

Cross-Border Data Transfer

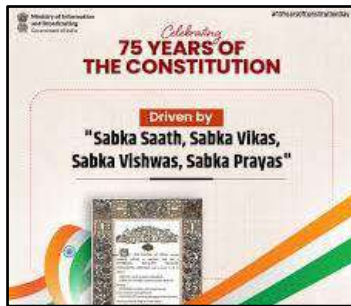
- Permitted to all countries except those restricted by the Central Government.

8. Key takeaways from the CJI's lecture: 'India & the Living Constitution @ 75 Years'.

During his lecture on 'India & the Living Indian Constitution @ 75 Years', the Chief Justice of India remarked that, **Objective Resolution**, presented in 1946 by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was a historic declaration that laid down the **guiding principles and philosophy** of the Constitution.

Justice Gavai explained that Dr. Ambedkar found the **Objectives Resolution** practical but incomplete in two important ways. Dr. Ambedkar said that the Resolution talked about rights but did not give any remedies, noting that 'rights without remedies are meaningless.' This idea later became **Article 32**,

which allows citizens to approach the Supreme Court to protect their fundamental rights.



He also pointed out that the Resolution did not address social and economic equality. This concern later took shape as the **Directive Principles of State Policy** in **Part IV** of the Constitution.

Interconnected concepts:

The **Objective Resolution (1946)** was a formal statement adopted by the Constituent Assembly that laid down the philosophy, guiding principles, and vision for the future Constitution of India. It later became the basis of the Preamble.

- It was **moved by Jawaharlal Nehru** on **13 December 1946** and adopted on **22 January 1947**.

Article 32

Article 32 gives citizens the **right to move the Supreme Court directly** for the enforcement of their **Fundamental Rights**. It is considered the **"heart and soul"** of the Constitution.

Under Article 32, the **SC can issue writs**- Habeas Corpus; Mandamus; Prohibition; Certiorari; Quo Warranto.

Article 32(3) allows Parliament to authorize other courts to issue writs for FR enforcement.

DPSPs: DPSPs are guidelines or principles given to the Central and State Governments for establishing a just, humane, and welfare-based society in India. They are **non-justiciable** (not enforceable in courts) but **fundamental to the governance** of the country.

- India borrowed the concept of DPSPs from the **Irish Constitution**
- DPSP aims to promote social, economic, and political justice.

9. SC strikes down provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act.

The Supreme Court struck down provisions of the **Tribunal Reforms Act of 2021**, as **unconstitutional** and violative of **separation of powers** and **judicial independence**.

- The judiciary's rationale is that since the executive is often a party to litigation before tribunals, it cannot be permitted to play a dominant role in appointing their members.

The search-cum-selection committee proposed under the law is chaired by the Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge nominated by the CJI, and includes **two secretaries to the Government of India**, and one additional member, who may be the outgoing or sitting chairperson of the tribunal.



Interconnected concepts:

1. Tribunals:

- Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies that provide specialised and speedy justice. They were not included in the original constitution and were later introduced through the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1976**, which added **Part XIV-A** containing **Articles 323-A** and **323-B**.

Article	Who Can Establish?	Purpose/Jurisdiction	Covers
Article 323-A	Only Parliament	To establish Administrative Tribunals for service-related disputes	Recruitment and service conditions of employees under the Union, States, local authorities, and government-controlled corporations
Article 323-B	Parliament + State Legislatures	To establish tribunals for specific matters other than service matters	Matters such as taxation, land reforms, labour/industrial disputes, elections, ceiling laws, etc.

10. Supreme Court: Judiciary cannot impose timelines on President or Governors.

A five-judge Supreme Court Bench answered **Presidential Reference (Article 143)** over imposing time lines for Governors and President. It ruled that **courts cannot force the President or Governors to follow fixed deadlines for approving State Bills, and cannot assume that a Bill is automatically approved if a court-given time limit ends.**

What was the Presidential reference?

- The current reference is the result of a two-judge Bench judgment in **State of Tamil Nadu versus Governor of Tamil Nadu** in April 2025, that had specified a timeline of three months for Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by State legislatures.
- The court held that decisions by Governors and the President on such Bills are subject to judicial review. It had exercised its extraordinary power under **Article 142** and granted 'deemed assent' to bills passed by Tamil Nadu assembly that were not assented to by the Governor.
- The present reference had raised **14 questions**, primarily surrounding the **interpretation of Articles 200 and 201**, for the court's opinion.

Key Supreme Court Clarifications:

No indefinite delay

- Governors cannot keep Bills pending without reason; such inaction is unconstitutional.

No 'deemed assent'

- Delayed assent does not automatically make a Bill law, and Article 142 cannot bypass procedure.

Limited discretion

- Governors have discretion under Article 200 but cannot misuse it to obstruct elected governments.

No fixed deadlines

- Courts cannot set timelines since the Constitution says action must be taken "as soon as possible."

Interconnected concept:

1. Advisory Jurisdiction

- **Advisory jurisdiction** refers to the power of the President of India to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on any **question of law** or **matter of public importance** under Article 143 of the Constitution.
- The Court's opinion is **advisory** and **not binding**.

2. Article 142:

- Article 142 of the Constitution of India grants the Supreme Court broad, discretionary powers to pass any order necessary for doing "**complete justice**" in any case pending before it.

11. PAC questions FSSAI over rising sale of adulterated food products.

The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** headed held a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to discuss a range of issues related to food safety and quality control.

Supreme Court's advisory opinion

Breaking down the court's response to **14 questions raised by the President** asking if a constitutional court can impose timelines for Governors and the President to give assent to Bills passed by legislatures

Governor's discretion under Article 200

- May assent to the Bill
- May withhold assent, but must communicate reasons to the State legislature
- May refer the Bill to the President for consideration under Article 201

Judicial limits

- SC cannot impose timelines for assent or create a concept of 'deemed assent' under Article 142

President's role under Article 201

- When a Bill is referred, the President need not seek SC's advisory opinion under Article 143 every time

Governor's accountability

- Governors cannot indefinitely sit on a Bill; if they do, limited judicial review applies
- Courts can direct Governors to decide within a reasonable time frame, but not dictate the outcome



Interconnected Concept:**Public Accounts Committee:**

- **Established:** First set up in 1921 under the Government of India Act, 1919 and became a parliamentary committee in 1950.
- **Composition:** Consists of **22 members** (15 from the Lok Sabha & 7 from the Rajya Sabha)
- Members are elected annually using proportional representation by a single transferable vote, ensuring fair representation of all parties.
- **Term:** Members serve for **one year**.
- **Chairperson:** Appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. By convention since 1967, the Chairperson is from the **opposition party**.
- **Restrictions:** Any minister cannot be a member

12. Centre proposes the 131st Constitutional Amendment for administrative changes in Chandigarh.

- The Centre will introduce the **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2025** in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament. The bill proposed to **include Chandigarh under the ambit of Article 240 of the Constitution**, allowing for the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor to administer the Union Territory.
- This could result in UT of Chandigarh having an independent administrator. Currently, the Governor of Punjab also holds the additional charge as the Administrator of UT of Chandigarh.
- Article 240 of the Indian Constitution grants the **President of India** the power to **make regulations** for the peace, progress, and good government of certain Union Territories.

13. Justice Surya Kant sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India.

President Droupadi Murmu administers the oath of office to **Justice Surya Kant** as the 53rd Chief Justice of India at Rashtrapati Bhava.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) is appointed by the **President of India**. By convention (not in the Constitution), the **senior most judge of the Supreme Court** is appointed as CJI.

Eligibility: To become the Supreme court judge: He/she

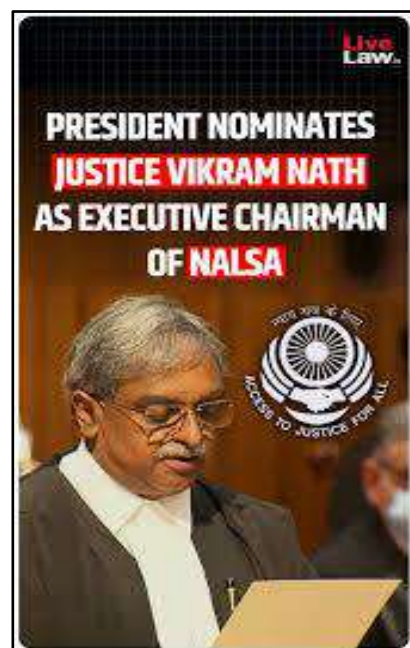
- Must be a citizen of India.

• Must have:

- Served as a **High Court judge for at least 5 years**, OR
- Been an advocate in a High Court for **10 years**, OR
- Be a distinguished jurist (rarely used).

Tenure

- Holds office until age 65 (as per Article 124)
- Can resign by writing to the President.
- Can be removed only by the **process of impeachment** (proved misbehaviour or incapacity) under **Articles 124(4) & 124(5)**.

14. Justice Vikram Nath appointed as Executive Chairman of NALSA.

Justice Vikram Nath, **senior-most judge of the Supreme Court** the, has been nominated as the next **Executive Chairman** of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

- Justice Nath replaces Justice Surya Kant, who was sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) is a **statutory body** formed under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to ensure that poor and vulnerable people get free legal help and are not denied justice because they cannot afford a lawyer.

Who Heads NALSA?

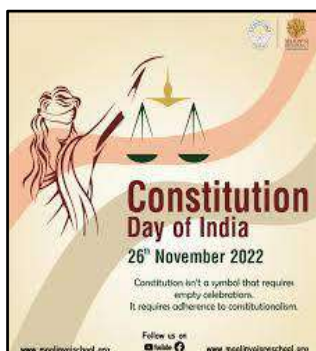
- The **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** is the **Patron-in-Chief**.
- Seniormost **Supreme Court Judge** acts as the **Executive Chairman**.

Key functions:

- Provides **free legal aid** to eligible people (women, children, SC/ST, persons with disabilities, victims of trafficking, poor persons).
- Organises **Lok Adalats** to settle disputes quickly and peacefully.
- Runs **legal awareness programmes** across India.

15. 'Samvidhan Diwas' celebrated on November 26.

Samvidhan Divas, or Constitution Day of India, is an annual observance that commemorates the **official adoption of the Indian Constitution on November 26, 1949** establishing India as a sovereign and democratic republic.



Constitution Day commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly, whose last session ended on November 26, 1949. Two months later, on January 26, 1950,

the **Constitution came into effect after being signed by 284 members**.

This date was chosen because the Indian National Congress's **Poorna Swaraj resolution** had been declared on the same date in 1930. As a result, January 26 is celebrated as Republic Day in India.

16. CJI to examine plea seeking revival of NJAC & to end Collegium System.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant stated orally that the court would consider a plea seeking to revive the **National Judicial Appointments Commission** and bring an end to the Collegium system of judicial appointments to the constitutional courts.



National Judicial Appointments Commission:

The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was a proposed constitutional body meant **to replace the collegium system** for appointing judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts, but it was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015 as unconstitutional.

The NJAC was established by the **99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014**. As per act it is a **six-member commission** comprising of –

- The Chief Justice of India (Chairperson, ex-officio).
- Two other senior-most Supreme Court judges.

- The Union Minister of Law and Justice (ex-officio).
- Two "eminent persons" nominated by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

In 2015, the Supreme Court, in the case of **Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India**, ruled by a 4:1 majority that the NJAC was **unconstitutional**.

17. 'Audit Diwas' observed on November 16.

The **Audit Diwas** is observed on **November 16** as India's first auditor-general assumed the office on this day in 1860.



- **Sir Edward Drummond** took charge as the first Auditor General.

After India became independent in 1947, the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** was established as a constitutional authority with the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1950.

Interconnected concept:

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):

CAG of India is a cornerstone of India's democratic system, responsible for ensuring financial

accountability and transparency in the government's use of public funds.

- **Article 148:** Establishes an independent office for the CAG, outlining the process for appointment, oath, and conditions of service. The President of India appoints the CAG, who can only be removed in the same manner as a Supreme Court judge.
- **Article 149:** Details the CAG's duties and powers, which are further defined by the **CAG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971**.
- **Article 150:** Requires the Union and State accounts to be kept in a format prescribed by the President based on the CAG's advice.
- **Article 151:** Mandates the CAG to **submit audit reports** for Union accounts to the President for Parliament and State accounts to the Governor for the State Legislature.
- **Article 279:** Gives the CAG the **final authority to certify** the calculation of 'net proceeds' of any tax or duty.



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GROUP-I

Y. Nikhitha – Deputy Collector



There were 563 posts, and I never expected to be among the top 10. After several unsuccessful attempts in Civil Services, this Group-1 result was a huge relief. I completed my engineering in 2018 at CVR College, Hyderabad. My parents are teachers, and growing up in an academic environment inspired me to aim for the IAS. I joined R.C. Reddy IAS Study Circle, and that built a strong base. I went upto Civils interview stage, the preparation helped immensely for Group-1. The institute's coaching, updated notes, and guidance made a real difference. I learned that writing my own notes and revising them topic-wise is half the journey to success.

S. Veena – Deputy Collector

I've been preparing for Civil Services for three years, balancing it with Group-1. The process was long and tough, but discipline and consistency paid off. Coming from a middle-class family, with my father a bus conductor and my mother a homemaker, their support meant everything. Coaching at R.C. Reddy IAS Study Circle helped me tremendously - the classes, mock tests, and answer-writing practice sharpened my skills. For mains, writing practice is as important as reading. Focus on concise answers, stay within the syllabus, and practice consistently - that's what made the difference for me.



Section-II A: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - including achievements of ISRO, new innovations & other related issues of S & T.

1. NISAR becomes operational on November 7.

NASA and ISRO declare their first-ever jointly developed **NISAR satellite operational**.



- **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)** is a joint Earth-observation satellite mission by NASA (USA) and ISRO (India). It is launched using **GSLV-F16** and successfully placed into a Sun-synchronous Polar Orbit.
- It is the first satellite **to carry dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar (SAR)**, combining **NASA's L-band radar** and **ISRO's S-band radar** to provide high-resolution, all-weather, day-and-night imaging of Earth's land and ice surfaces every 12 days.
- The satellite orbits at 747 km altitude in a sun-synchronous polar orbit, enabling global coverage of land and ice surfaces **twice every 12 days**.

2. VAIBHAV Fellowship Programme launched.

The Government has launched a new fellowship programme- **Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)** to connect the Indian STEM diaspora with Indian academic and R&D institutions for collaborative research work leading to sharing of knowledge, wisdom, and best practices in the frontier areas of science & technology.



The **Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) fellowships programme** is being implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology**.

- Under the scheme fellowships awarded to outstanding scientist/technologists of Indian origin (NRI/OCI/PIO) who are engaged in research activities in their respective countries.
- The 75 selected fellows would be invited to work in 18 identified knowledge verticals including quantum technology, health, pharma, electronics, agriculture, energy, computer sciences, and material sciences amongst others.

3. ₹1 lakh crore RDI Scheme Fund for Private sector driven R&D.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme** at the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025.



The **Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Scheme** is a landmark Indian government initiative with a **₹1 lakh crore (approx. USD 12 billion) corpus** designed to boost private sector investment in high-impact, strategic R&D projects.

- The scheme offers **long-term, low or zero-interest financing** to accelerate India's technological self-reliance and position it as a global innovation hub.
- The RDI scheme uses a two-tiered funding structure managed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). A **Special Purpose Fund (SPF)** under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) holds the ₹1 lakh crore corpus.

This fund then provides capital to professional second-level fund managers (SLFMs), such as AIFs, DFIs, NBFCs, and FROs like BIRAC and TDB.

4. India launches heaviest military communication satellite CMS-03.

India's space agency ISRO successfully launched the **LVM3-M5 rocket** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The rocket carried **CMS-03 (or GSAT-7R) the country's heaviest communication satellite** ever sent to space. It marked the fifth operational flight of the LVM3 launcher.

Weighing about 4,400 kilograms, CMS-03 is India's heaviest communication satellite **ever launched to a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**. The satellite will provide multi-band communication services across India and nearby ocean regions. It will boost secure data, voice, and video links for both civilian and strategic use.

Interconnected concept:

LVM-3, earlier referred to as Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle Mark 3 or GSLV Mk 3, uses **solid, liquid, as well as cryogenic-fuel** based engines to put up to 8,000 kg in low earth orbit (up to an altitude of 2,000 km from Earth's surface) and up to 4,000 kg in geosynchronous orbit (about 36,000 km).

ISRO is focusing on enhancing the payload capacity of its launch vehicles, particularly in preparation for India's upcoming human spaceflight missions.

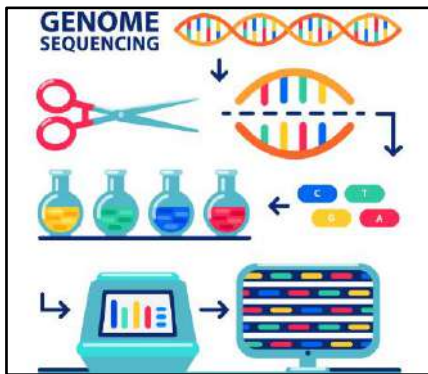
- A key strategy involves boosting the thrust generated by the **cryogenic upper stage (the third stage)**, which contributes nearly 50% of the total velocity required to place satellites into geosynchronous transfer orbits.
- Currently, the **C25 stage** carries 28,000 kg of propellant and generates a thrust of 20 tonnes. The upgraded **C32 stage** will be able to carry 32,000 kg of fuel and deliver a higher thrust of 22 tonnes.
- The space agency is working on developing a new vehicle called **Lunar Module Launch Vehicle (LMLV)** that will be capable of carrying up to 80,000 kg in the low earth orbit — mainly being designed to carry out missions sending humans to the moon.

5. Gujarat launches India's first Tribal Genome Project to tackle inherited diseases.

Gujarat has become the first Indian state to launch a **genome sequencing** initiative focused exclusively on tribal communities.

- The project was announced with the aim of **identifying genetic health risks** and **enabling precision healthcare for tribal populations**. The initiative will sequence the genomes of 2,000 individuals from tribal communities across 17 districts in the State.





Genome sequencing is the process of determining the **precise order of nucleotides** (Adenine, Thymine, Cytosine, and Guanine) in an organism's DNA.

- **Genome:** The complete set of genetic material (DNA or RNA in some viruses) present in an organism, containing all the instructions for its development, functioning, and reproduction. In humans, it comprises over 3 billion base pairs.
- **Sequencing:** Figuring out the exact order of these nucleotide bases (A, T, C, G).

6. IN-SPACe and SIDBI Venture Capital sign ₹1,000-crore Space Sector Fund agreement.

The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** and the Small Industries Development Bank of India Venture Capital Ltd (SIDBI Venture Capital Fund) signed the contribution agreement to operationalise the ₹1,000-crore Venture Capital Fund for the Indian space sector.

- This fund is a **major enabler for India's private space sector**. It will support start-ups with the financial runway needed to test ideas, build indigenous technologies, and scale confidently.



Interconnected concept:

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)

IN-SPACe is a single-window, independent, and autonomous nodal agency within the Department of Space (DOS) that was established as part of India's space sector reforms in June 2020.

- Its primary purpose is **to enable, promote, and authorize the participation of Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs)**, including private companies, startups, and academic institutions, in the entire range of space activities.
- IN-SPACe acts as a bridge between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and private entities, assessing their needs and finding ways to accommodate their requirements in consultation with ISRO.

7. Blue Origin launches NASA's ESCAPEDE Mission to Mars.

Blue Origin has successfully launched NASA's **ESCAPADE mission to Mars**, using its **New Glenn rocket** from Florida.



At the heart of this mission are the twin Escapade spacecraft, called **Blue** and **Gold**, which are designed to study **how Mars lost much of its atmosphere**, a fundamental question for understanding the planet's evolution and potential habitability.

Developed under Nasa's **SIMPLEX program**, these small but sophisticated satellites will probe Mars' magnetic field and plasma environment, gathering data that could unlock secrets about atmospheric escape processes over billions of years.

Interconnected concept:

Blue Origin

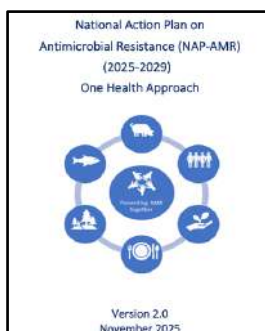
Blue Origin is a private American aerospace company founded by **Jeff Bezos**, focused on

developing reusable rockets and spacecraft to make space travel more affordable and accessible.

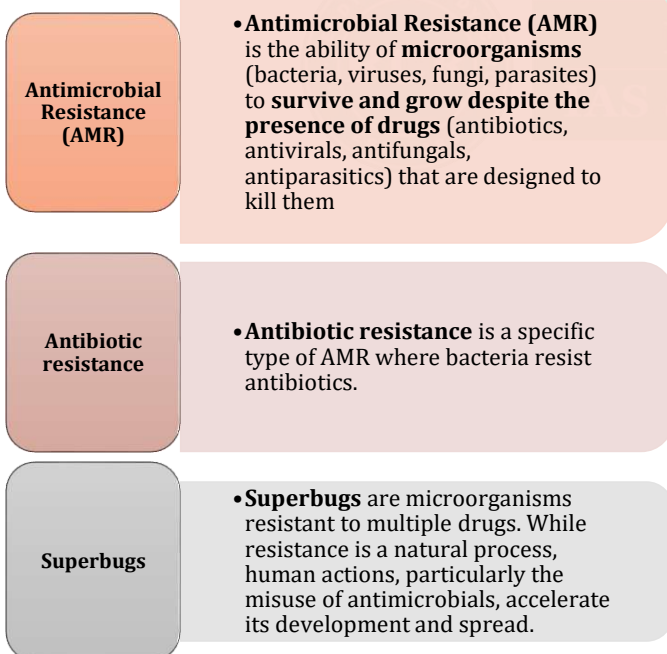
- Its key projects include the **New Shepard** suborbital rocket for space tourism and the **New Glenn** orbital launch vehicle.

8. Centre releases updated plan to curb misuse of antibiotics.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched second version of the **National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (2025–29)**.



Interconnected concepts



9. ISRO tests bootstrap-mode start on CE-20 cryogenic engine.

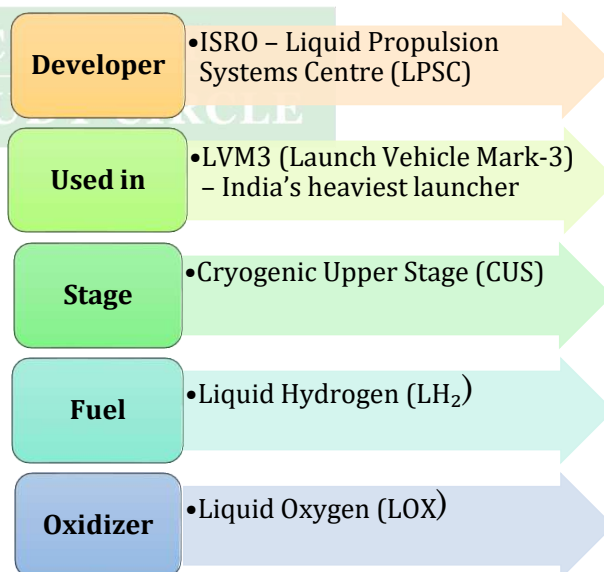
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully demonstrated the bootstrap mode start test on the **CE20 cryogenic engine** which powers the upper stage of the **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) rocket**.



Interconnected concepts:

Cryogenic Engine:

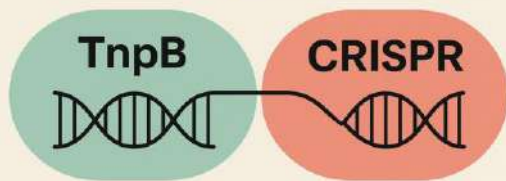
- A rocket engine that uses liquid oxygen (LOX) as the oxidizer and liquid hydrogen (LH₂) as the fuel.
- **Operates at extremely low temperatures:**
 - LOX: -183°C
 - LH₂: -253°C
- The **CE-20 engine** is India's most powerful indigenous **cryogenic** rocket engine.



10. ICAR develops indigenous alternative to CRISPR for genome editing in crops

Indian scientists have created a new, Indian-made method for **genome editing** in crops — a technique used to **cut and modify plant DNA** to improve traits. This offers a **miniature and affordable alternative** to the widely used foreign CRISPR-Cas technology.

TnpB: A New Entry in a Field Long Dominated by CRISPR



- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has received a **patent** for this new technology.
- Instead of CRISPR proteins (like Cas9 or Cas12a), the Indian system uses **TnpB proteins**, which also act like “**molecular scissors**”. These proteins can **cut DNA at a specific location** and allow scientists to **change the gene sequence** to improve how the gene works — for example, making crops more resistant, nutritious, or high-yielding.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Genome editing:

Genome editing (or gene editing) refers to a set of technologies that allow scientists **to add, remove, or alter genetic material at specific locations** in the DNA of an organism. It acts like using **molecular scissors** to precisely cut and modify genes.

How it differs from Genetic Modification?

Genome Editing (GE) is different from **Genetic Modification (GM)**.

- **GE** changes or tweaks the plant's *own* DNA—no foreign genes are added.
- **GM**, on the other hand, adds **genes from other species** into the plant.

For example:

In GM crops like **Bt cotton**, a gene from a soil bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis* is inserted into cotton. This gene helps the cotton plant produce a protein that kills insect pests. So, **GE = editing existing gene**.

GM = adding new genes from outside.

2. CRISPR-Cas9:

CRISPR-Cas9 is a widely used genome-editing technology that allows scientists to cut and modify DNA at precise locations.

- **CRISPR** → Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats.
- **Cas9** → CRISPR-associated protein 9, an enzyme that cuts DNA

Together, they form a naturally occurring defense system in bacteria used to fight viruses.

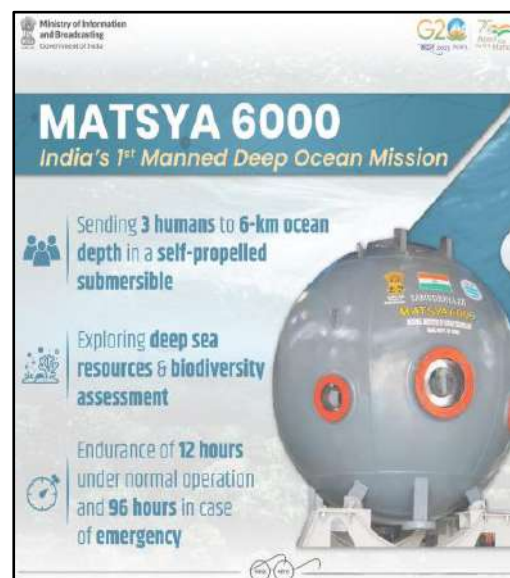
3. In May 2025, ICAR released two new genome-edited rice varieties—‘Kamala’ and ‘Pusa DST Rice 1’—developed by IIRR (Hyderabad) and IARI (New Delhi). These varieties offer better stress tolerance, higher yield, and improved climate adaptability.

- **DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala):** Developed by IIRR using genome editing of the CKX2 (Gn1a) gene. It produces more grains per panicle, gives higher yield, becomes drought-tolerant, and matures early compared to Samba Mahsuri.
- **Pusa DST Rice 1** Developed by IARI (New Delhi) using SDN-1 genome editing. It edits the DST gene, making the rice more tolerant to drought and salinity, while retaining the quality of MTU1010.

11. India's Matsya-6000 to begin Sea trials.

India's own aquanauts — **Ramesh Raju** and **Jatinder Pal Singh** from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) — will pilot the **Matsya-6000 submersible** to explore deep-sea secrets at 500 m depth under the Deep Ocean Mission

- This mission, planned for early next year, will place India among a small group of countries that have this advanced underwater capability.



Interconnected concepts:

MATSYA-6000: The MATSYA-6000 is India's **first indigenously developed manned deep-ocean submersible**, designed to carry three people to a depth of 6,000 meters for scientific exploration and mineral resource assessment.

It is a key component of the Indian government's **Samudrayan project** under the overarching **Deep Ocean Mission**, managed by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.

Developer: National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.

Capabilities: It is designed for normal operations of up to 12 hours, with an emergency endurance of up to 96 hours, to ensure human safety.

12. India launches first indigenous CRISPR gene therapy 'BIRSA 101' for Sickle Cell Disease.

India launched "**BIRSA 101**", its **first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy** for sickle cell disease (SCD).

- This breakthrough therapy, developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research – **Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB)**, aims to provide an affordable, one-time cure for a condition that is particularly prevalent in the country's tribal communities.



- Mechanism:** BIRSA 101 acts like "precise genetic surgery" by **correcting the specific gene mutation that causes red blood cells to become sickle-shaped**. The patient's own corrected stem cells are then reinfused, offering a potential lifelong cure.

Interconnected concepts:

Gene Therapy

Gene Therapy is a medical technique in which faulty or missing genes in a person's cells are replaced, repaired, or modified to treat diseases.

Used mainly for **genetic disorders** like hemophilia, thalassemia, sickle cell disease, muscular dystrophy, etc.

CRISPR

CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) is a powerful gene-editing technology that allows scientists to precisely modify the DNA of living organisms. It was adapted from a natural defense mechanism found in bacteria and archaea that helps them fight off invading viruses.

Sickle cell disease

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a group of **inherited blood disorders** where red blood cells become stiff, sticky, and shaped like a crescent or "sickle". This abnormal shape causes the cells to block small blood vessels, leading to chronic pain, severe complications, and organ damage.

13. India's first commercial PSLV to launch Oceansat satellite early next year.

India's **first fully industry-built commercial PSLV rocket**, produced by the **HAL-L&T consortium**, is set to launch an **Oceansat satellite** early next year.

- The rocket is a **PSLV-XL variant** and was made under a 2022 contract that awarded the HAL-L&T group the task of building five PSLVs end-to-end, including systems integration

This marks a major transition where, for the first time, the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** has been **manufactured entirely by private industry** rather than ISRO itself.

**Interconnected concept: PSLV**

- PSLV Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) highly reliable "workhorse" rocket, known for its versatility and cost-effectiveness in launching satellites into various orbits.

Third-Generation Launch Vehicle

- PSLV is **India's third-generation launch vehicle** and the first Indian rocket with liquid stages.

Four-Stage System

- The PSLV is a **four-stage rocket** using alternating solid and liquid propellants. The first and third stages use solid propellants, while the second and fourth stages use earth-storable liquid propellants, with the second stage featuring the **indigenous Vikas engine**.

Payload Capacity

- It can carry up to ~1,750 kg to Sun-synchronous orbit and can also launch smaller satellites to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

Variants

- PSLV has variants like **PSLV-CA, PSLV-DL, PSLV-QL, and PSLV-XL**, which differ in the number and size of strap-on boosters to accommodate various payload weights and mission needs.

Commercialisation

- In 2022, ISRO signed a contract with a consortium led by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for the end-to-end production of five PSLV-XL rockets, making them the first industry-built PSLVs.

14. Gavi and UNICEF sign pact to expand access to malaria vaccine.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, along with UNICEF, has announced a new agreement aimed at making the **R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine** far more affordable and widely accessible, thereby enabling greater protection for children.



WHO has prequalified two malaria vaccines to-date: **R21/Matrix-M** (co-developed by the University of Oxford and Serum Institute of India, leveraging Novavax's Matrix-M adjuvant technology) and **RTS, S/AS01** (developed by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), PATH and partners).

R21/Matrix-M is a new malaria vaccine made by Oxford University and Serum Institute of India.

- It uses Novavax's Matrix-M ingredient to make the body's immune system stronger.
- It protects children (about 75% effective) from the most dangerous malaria parasite and is given in 3 doses plus a booster.

Interconnected concept:

Gavi (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization) is an international organisation that helps poor and developing countries get life-saving vaccines at low cost. It brings together governments, WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, vaccine companies, and donors to ensure every child gets vaccinated.

15. Grahha Space gets approval for maiden nanosatellite launch.

Grahha Space, a Bengaluru-based space tech startup, obtained authorisation from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (**IN-SPACe**) to launch its maiden nano satellite mission called **Solaras S2**.

- The launch will happen from **Alcantara Space Centre (CEA)** in Brazil through the Hanbit-Nano

launch vehicle developed by Korea-based Innospace.

Interconnected concept: IN-SPACE

- IN-SPACE (**Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre**) is a government body under the Department of Space that helps private companies take part in space activities like launching rockets, making satellites, or using ISRO facilities.

IN-SPACE

- It acts as a **single window** for private space companies.
- It gives **permission, support, and guidance** for launches, satellites, and space research.
- It ensures **fair use of ISRO facilities** (launchpads, testing centres, tracking systems).
- Promotes **space startups** and builds a stronger space ecosystem.

16.PM inaugurates Skyroot's Infinity campus at Hyderabad.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated space startup **Skyroot's** Infinity Campus and its first orbital rocket, **Vikram-I**, with the capability to launch satellites into orbit.



Skyroot is India's leading private space company, founded by Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka, both alumni of Indian Institutes of Technology and former scientists of ISRO turned entrepreneurs.

- In November 2022, Skyroot launched its sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S, becoming **the first Indian private company to launch a rocket to space**.

Vikram-1:

Vikram-I orbital rocket is India's first privately developed orbital-class space launch vehicle by Skyroot Aerospace.

- It is a **four-stage rocket**, with the first three stages powered by solid fuel and a liquid-fuelled fourth stage for orbital adjustments. Its stages are named after famous Indian scientists:
 - **First Stage:** Kalam-1200 solid motor.
 - **Second Stage:** Kalam-250 solid motor.
 - **Third Stage:** Kalam-100 solid motor.
 - **Fourth Stage:** Raman engines, which are 3D-printed liquid-propellant engines.

The first orbital launch is targeted for February 2026



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Section II B: DEFENSE - achievements of DRDO and other defense related issues.

1. India strengthens Siliguri Corridor security with three new garrisons near the Bangladesh border.

India has strengthened its eastern frontier by setting up three new fully operational military garrisons along the Indo-Bangladesh border to secure the strategic **Siliguri Corridor**, commonly known as the “**Chicken’s Neck**”.



The **Siliguri Corridor**, a 22-kilometre-wide strip in **North of West Bengal**, connects the rest of India with its seven northeastern states and lies sandwiched between Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and China.

- It is the **only land route** linking the North-Eastern states with the rest of India.
- The corridor lies close to **China, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Nepal**, making it highly sensitive for India’s defence.

2. HAL signs agreement with GE Aerospace regarding the Tejas LCA programme.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) sealed a \$1-billion deal with American defence major GE Aerospace to procure **113 jet engines for its Tejas light combat aircraft programme**.



Under the deal, the delivery of the **F404-GE-IN20 engines** will begin from 2027 and the supplies will have to be completed by 2032.

Tejas

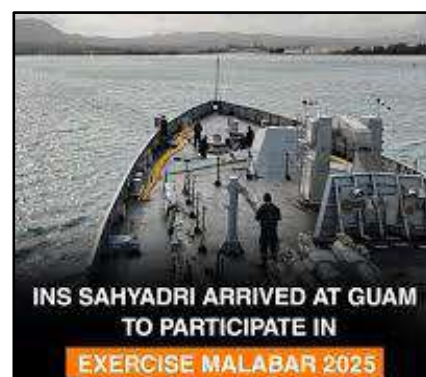
- Tejas is an indigenous **4.5-generation**, single-engine, multi-role light combat aircraft (LCA) developed by HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) under DRDO’s ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency).
- Designed for air-to-air, air-to-ground and reconnaissance roles.
- Replaced ageing MiG-21 fighters in the Indian Air Force.

Strategic Importance:

- Reduces dependence on foreign imports (aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat).
- Boosts India’s defence exports potential.
- Enhances indigenous R&D and aerospace ecosystem.
- Improves combat readiness against regional threats

3. MALABAR 2025 - Naval Exercise begins in the Northern Pacific.

The navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan started the annual **Malabar Naval Exercise** in the Northern Pacific beginning with an aim to further bolster interoperability among them.



MALABAR is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that was started in 1992. It began as a bilateral exercise between the navies of **India and the United States**.

- **Japan and Australia** first participated in 2007, and Japan joined the naval exercise in 2015 as a permanent member, and Malabar became a trilateral exercise. In 2020, for the first time in over a decade, the exercise saw the participation of all four QUAD members. It was the second time that Australia participated in the Malabar series of Naval exercises.
- The Indian Navy has deployed its guided missile frigate **INS Sahyadri** for the mega exercise being hosted by the US.

Interconnected concept:

QUAD

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between **India, USA, Japan and Australia**. The four nations share a common objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.

4. Defence Ministry signs ₹2,095-crore contract with BDL for INVAR Anti-Tank Missiles.

The Ministry of Defence has inked an agreement with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the procurement of **INVAR Anti-Tank Missiles** to enhance the lethality of **T-90 tanks**.



- The **INVAR missile** is a tank-launched, laser beam-riding, tandem-warhead anti-tank guided missile fired from the 125 mm gun of T-90 tanks, with a range of up to 5 km and the capability to defeat explosive reactive armour.

Interconnected concept:

T-90 tank

- The **T-90** is a modern, **third-generation Russian main battle tank** used by the Indian

Army, known for its advanced fire-control systems, explosive reactive armour, and high mobility, making it one of India's most potent front-line battle tanks.

5. Godrej Aerospace delivers first human-rated L110 VIKAS engine to ISRO for Gaganyaan.

In a landmark achievement for India's space ambitions, **Godrej Aerospace** has delivered the **first human-rated L110 stage Vikas engine** to ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC). This milestone is pivotal for the Gaganyaan programme — **India's first indigenous human spaceflight effort**.



The **L110 stage** is the **liquid-core stage** of the **LVM-3** (formerly **GSLV Mk III**) rocket, designed to power the heavy-lift launch vehicle that will carry Indian astronauts.

Interconnected concept:

Gaganyaan objective is to demonstrate indigenous capability for human spaceflight by sending a **three-member crew to a Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** of approximately 400 km for a mission duration of three days, ensuring their safe return to Earth.

- **Launch Vehicle:** A human-rated version of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV Mk III), now known as **LVM-3**

The **first uncrewed test flight (G1)**, featuring the female humanoid robot **Vyommitra**, is slated for

late 2025. The final **crewed mission** is targeted for **early 2027**.

Group Captain **Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**, Group Captain **Ajit Krishnan**, Group Captain **Angad Pratap**, and Wing Commander **Shubhanshu Shukla** are India's astronauts-designate for Gaganyaan.

6. India inaugurates its first MWh-scale Vanadium Flow Battery at NTPC NETRA.

Minister of Power inaugurated India's largest and first **MegaWatt-hour-scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) system** of 3 MWh capacity. This milestone project marks a major step forward in the nation's journey towards Long-Duration Energy Storage (LDES) solutions, enhancing renewable energy integration and grid resilience.

A **Vanadium Redox Flow Battery** is a rechargeable flow battery that uses **vanadium ions in different oxidation states** to store and release energy through a liquid electrolyte system.

It is a contemporary technology that has the potential to emerge as one of the **alternatives for more traditional lithium ion-based batteries**. The development of this advanced battery system will widen the pool of elements that can be sourced and used for making battery systems.

7. DRDO develops next-generation Man-Portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles.

A new generation of **Man-Portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (MP-AUVs)** have been successfully developed by the Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam for **mine countermeasure missions**.



The system comprises multiple AUVs equipped with Side Scan Sonar and Under Water cameras as primary payloads for real-time detection & classification of Mine-Like Objects.

Additionally, a robust underwater acoustic communication has been integrated to facilitate inter-AUV data exchange during operations ensuring enhanced situational awareness.

8. India & Indonesia to advance BrahMos Defence partnership.

Indonesian Defence Minister visited India for a bilateral meeting with Indian Defence Minister. The meeting is being viewed as a significant follow-up to the major defence agreement involving the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**, marking an important step forward in India's expanding defence export programme.

Brahmos

- BrahMos is a **supersonic cruise missile** jointly developed by India (DRDO) and Russia (NPO Mashinostroyeniya). It is named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers
- Original range was 290 km; upgraded versions reach 450–500 km, with future variants up to 800 km.
- **Future Developments:** The ongoing development of the lighter, stealthier BrahMos-NG (Next Generation) and the BrahMos-II (hypersonic) missile (Mach 7+) ensures India remains at the forefront of missile technology.



India has become a **net defence exporter**, with the Philippines being the first country to procure the BrahMos system, and talks ongoing with other nations like Indonesia and Vietnam.

9. BvS10 Sindhu: The all-terrain armoured vehicle to be built by L&T for the Indian Army.

The Indian Army has signed a contract with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for the indigenous production of **BvS10 Sindhu vehicles** - an advanced, all-terrain armoured platform designed for India's diverse terrain.



- The BvS10 Sindhu is a customised version of the proven BvS10 articulated all-terrain vehicle, **adapted specifically for Indian conditions** - from high-altitude snowfields to desert and marshland environments. It also features amphibious capabilities, allowing the vehicle to operate in flooded and coastal regions.
- L&T will manufacture the vehicles at its Armoured Systems Complex in Hazira with technical and design support from BAE Systems, the original manufacturer of the BvS10 platform.

10. U.S. approves sale of Javelin anti-tank missiles to India.

The United States approved a possible sale of two key tranches of military equipment with a combined value of \$93 million for India. New Delhi will soon receive the **Javelin Missile System** and **Excalibur Projectiles** along with other related equipment, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) of the US stated in a notification.



FGM-148 Javelin is a U.S.-made, man-portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM).

- It is Jointly developed by Raytheon and Lockheed Martin.
- It is a fire-and-forget, shoulder-launched third-generation ATGM.

11. BEL signs contract with Indian Army for Indigenous Counter-Drone System.

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has secured a contract with the Indian Army for the **Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDDIS)**, bolstering India's defence capabilities.



System Name

- The system is officially named the **Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDDIS)**.

Capabilities

- The system detects, tracks, and neutralizes hostile drones using radar, EO/IR sensors, RF detectors, and employs jamming and laser-based hard-kill methods.

Operational Success

- **IDDIS** and BEL's '**Akashteer**' air-defence system were deployed during Operation Sindoor (May 2025) and successfully neutralized Pakistani drone intrusions, proving their real-world effectiveness.

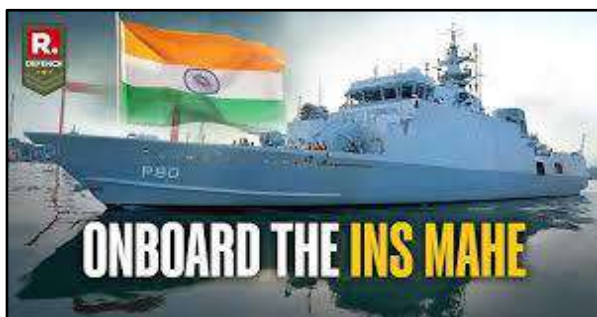
Interconnected concept:**Akashteer' air-defence system-**

The '**Akashteer**' air-defence system is an indigenous, fully automated, and AI-enabled control and reporting network developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the Indian Army's Air Defence Corps.

12. Indian Navy commissions Anti-Submarine Warfare Vessel INS Mahe to strengthen coastal defence.

The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Mahe**, an **anti-submarine warfare shallow-water craft**, at the naval dockyard in the city.

Designed and constructed by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, **INS Mahe** is over **80% indigenous** and is the lead ship of eight vessels in her class and will **replace** the ageing **Abhay-class corvette**.



Named after the former **French colony** on India's western coast, **INS Mahe** marks the **arrival of a new generation of indigenous shallow-water combatants**.

- The vessel will form the first line of coastal defence, integrating seamlessly with larger surface combatants, submarines, and aviation assets to maintain constant vigilance over India's maritime areas of operation.

13. India and France to jointly manufacture HAMMER air-to-ground precision weapons

India's state-owned Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and French firm Safran Electronics and Defence (SED) signed a joint venture cooperation agreement (JVCA) for the production of **Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range (HAMMER)** smart precision Guided air-to-ground weapons in India.



- Also known as a **glide bomb**, **HAMMER** precision-guided munitions have a **range of up to 70 km** and can be fitted to standard bombs of 250kg, 500kg, 1,000kg weights.
- The all-weather weapon is **insensitive to jamming** and can be launched from **low altitude over rough terrains**. What makes it an effective weapon is that it is difficult to intercept and can penetrate fortified structures.

14. PM inaugurates Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) facility.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI)** facility located at the GMR Aerospace an Industrial Park.

SAESI is Safran's dedicated Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) facility for **LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) engines**, which power the Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.



The establishment of this facility marks a significant milestone, as it is not only one of the largest global aircraft engine MRO facilities but also the first time, a global engine OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) has set up an MRO operation in India.



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GROUP-1

P. Sai Prathyush Reddy – DSP



Answer writing is the key to success in Group-1. Knowledge alone isn't enough - how we present it matters. I've been living in Hyderabad for years, and after completing engineering in Bangalore, I began Civil Services preparation. My grandfather inspired me to pursue this path. Though I didn't clear Civils, that preparation helped me excel in Group-1. R.C. Reddy IAS Study Circle played a major role - their faculty, support, and mock tests gave me direction. With one year of focused effort and proper guidance, Group-1 success is achievable for anyone.

Shaik Yunus Waqar – DSP

During preparation, I realized the importance of giving equal attention to every subject. Many aspirants waste time choosing too many books - I focused on one good source for each subject. My father, a lawyer, and my late uncle inspired me to pursue Civil Services. Coaching at R.C. Reddy IAS Study Circle gave me clarity on what to study and how to connect topics with current affairs. I followed the "RRR" method - Read, Revise, Repeat. Consistent study with discipline, exam-oriented focus, and regular revision were my keys to success.

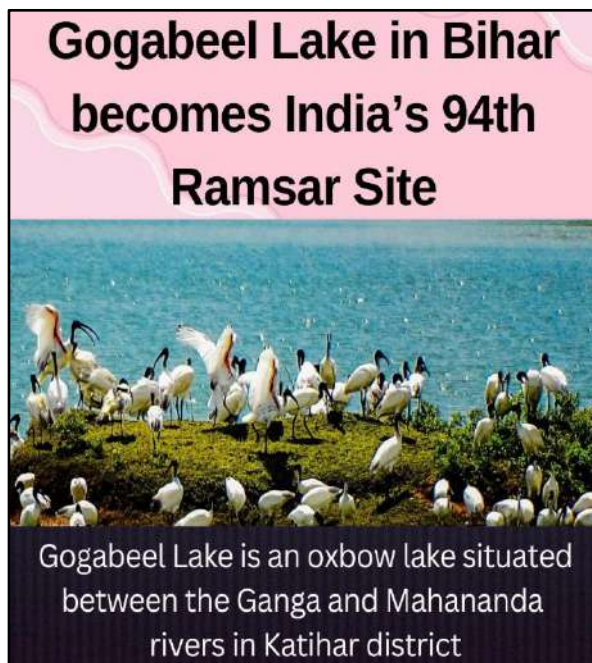


Section-III: ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY - important current issues with respect to environment and climate change.

1. India adds Bihar's Gogabeel lake as a new Ramsar site.

Gogabeel Lake located in the Katihar district of Bihar, has been officially designated a **Wetland of International Importance** under the Ramsar Convention.

- This addition brings the total count of Ramsar sites in India to **94**.



Interconnected concepts:

Ramsar Convention:

- It is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It was signed on 2 February 1971 at Ramsar, Iran — this date is globally observed as World Wetlands Day
- **Unique Feature:** It is the only global environmental treaty that focuses on a single ecosystem (wetlands).
- **India's Membership:** India became a party to the Convention on 1 February 1982.
- **Montreux Record** –It lists Ramsar sites where the ecological character has changed or is under threat due to human activities, thus needing urgent conservation priority.

Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and **Loktak Lake** (Manipur) are the two Indian sites currently included in the Montreux Record.

2. UNFCCC COP30 convenes in Belém, Brazil - Key takeaways.

COP30 stands for the **30th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC). This major international climate summit is held in **Belém, Brazil**.



The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is a foundational international environmental treaty established to address the problem of climate change. It was adopted on May 9, 1992 at Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat is in Bonn, Germany.
- **Objective:** It provides the overarching framework for global efforts to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.
- **COP-Decision-making Body: Conference of the Parties (COP)** is the **supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** and serves as the primary forum for global climate governance.
- **Major Legal Instruments under UNFCCC:** The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has led to two primary, major legal instruments (often referred to as "protocols" in common usage) and one significant amendment: the **Kyoto Protocol**, the **Doha Amendment**, and the **Paris Agreement**.

Key Takeaways:

The conference ended with the adoption of the **Belem Political Package**. It refers to the full suite of decisions and agreements adopted at the conclusion of the COP30 climate conference. They are:

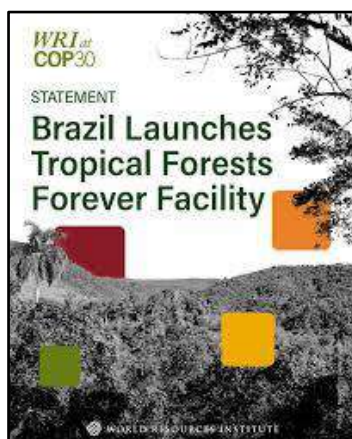
- A political commitment was made to **triple adaptation finance for developing nations by 2035**.
- The **Belem Action Mechanism (BAM)** was established within the UN climate system to support a **just transition** for communities and workers affected by the shift away from fossil fuels.

Other take aways:

- **Belem Health Action Plan:** It is aimed at strengthening global health systems to cope better with the impacts of climate change
- **Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF):** Brazil, formally launched the TFFF, which is designed as a “payment-for-performance” model that uses agreed satellite monitoring standards and systems to reward **tropical forest countries** with a continuing source of funding as long as they preserve their forests
- **Santa Marta conference:** In a move to push for a global phaseout of fossil fuels, Colombia announced an international conference on **Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels**, to be co-hosted with the Netherlands, in Santa Marta.

3. India joins the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF).

India joined as observer in **Brazil’s initiative** to establish the **Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF)**, recognizing it as a significant step towards collective and sustained global action for the preservation of tropical forests.



The TFFF is proposed as a blended-finance mechanism designed to **incentivize countries to prevent the deforestation & degradation of moist broadleaf forests**.

- TFFF aims to mobilise around USD 125 billion through **public and private investment**, using returns to pay nations that conserve forests.
- The TFFF could support over **70 Tropical Forest Countries (TFCs)** that currently host over 1 billion hectares of moist broadleaf tropical and subtropical forests.
- High-income countries and areas with monoculture forests are not eligible for the program.

4. Delhi’s AQI approaches ‘Severe’ category.

Delhi’s air quality is currently in the “**severe**” and “**hazardous**” categories, with many areas recording an **Air Quality Index (AQI)** of over 400. The overall average AQI for Delhi has surpassed the severe threshold.

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD'S AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)	CATEGORY
0-50	Good
51-100	Satisfactory
101-200	Moderate
201-300	Poor
301-400	Very Poor
401-500	Severe

Air Quality Index:

The AQI in India is a standardized system that measures and reports air quality based on the concentration of major air pollutants, including **PM10, PM2.5, Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Ozone (O₃), Carbon monoxide (CO), and Ammonia (NH₃)**.

- The AQI is categorized into **six levels** namely - Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe with associated health advisories.
- This system helps inform the public about local air quality and its potential health effects.

5. CITES report urges India to halt wildlife imports until adequate checks are ensured.

CITES has warned that wild animals are **being illegally caught and later passed off as captive-bred**. It has advised India to stop importing critically endangered species like **gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees and snow leopards** until stronger checks are in place and proof is given to the **CITES Secretariat** that illegal wildlife trade is being prevented.

Interconnected concept: CITES

CITES (**Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**) is an international agreement between governments aimed at ensuring that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

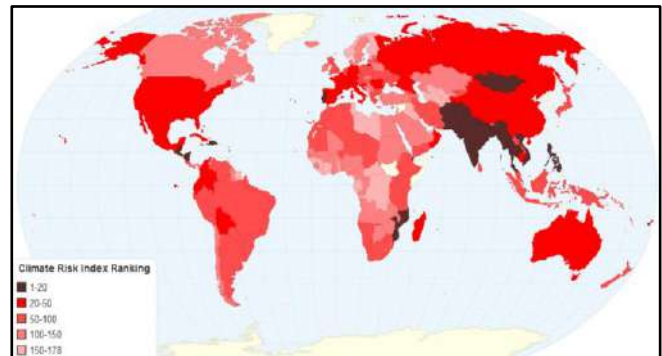
- CITES does not **ban trade** completely but **monitors, regulates, or restricts** it through a **permit system**. No international shipment of endangered species is allowed without export and import permits from the CITES authorities of the two countries involved.
- Species are categorized into **three Appendices** based on the degree of protection they need:

Appendix I	Appendix II	Appendix III
Species threatened with extinction. Trade is allowed only in exceptional circumstances	Species not necessarily threatened with extinction but may become so unless trade is regulated.	Species protected in at least one country, which asks others to assist in controlling trade.
Tiger, Asian Elephant, Rhino	Indian Cobra, African Lion	Indian Star Tortoise, Walrus

6. India ranks 9th in the global Climate Risk Index.

As per new **Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026 report by Germanwatch**, India was **ninth** on the list of countries most affected by extreme weather events between 1995 and 2024.

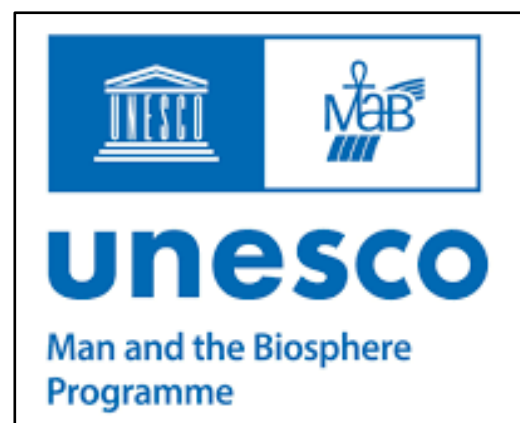
- The analysis was presented at the ongoing **COP30 in Belem, Brazil**. This is the second version of the report to be released this year.



- According to the CRI analysis, **India is highly affected by recurring extreme weather events**, which have, over the years, affected both people and the economy. In the last three decades, India faced around **430 extreme weather events** like floods and landslides, heat waves, cyclones, and droughts, which affected more than a billion people in the country and resulted in inflation-adjusted losses of around **\$170 billion**. More than 80,000 people were reported killed in these events.

7. Oman elected to UNESCO's MAB International Coordinating Council.

Oman was elected to the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme** for the 2025–2029 term.



The **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**, launched by **UNESCO** in 1971, is an intergovernmental scientific initiative aimed at establishing a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.

- **World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR):** The MAB Programme works primarily through its global **network of designated Biosphere Reserves**.

These sites are nominated by national governments and remain under their sovereign jurisdiction, but their international status is recognized by UNESCO.

8. Ethiopia selected to host COP32 in 2027.

Ethiopia has been confirmed as the host of the 32nd edition of the annual Climate Change Conference (**COP32**) in 2027, even as the choice of next year's host remains uncertain.

Ethiopia was selected by the African group of countries over its rival Nigeria, which too had bid to host the event. **Ethiopia will organize COP32** in its capital city, **Addis Ababa**.

- The host country of **COP31 next year is still undecided, with both Australia and Türkiye** persisting with their candidature.

Interconnected concept:

- The **COP (Conference of the Parties)** meetings are the annual global climate conferences held under the **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)**, where all member countries come together to review progress, negotiate climate agreements, set emission-reduction targets, decide climate finance, and collectively work towards tackling climate change.
- The COP meetings are held by rotation in **five UN-designated geographical regions** – Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, and Western Europe and Others. Countries volunteer to host the event. But if there are more than one candidate, the respective geographical region selects one by consensus. The host country acts as the president of the climate conference, and in that capacity exercises immense influence over the proceedings and outcomes.

9. India flags concerns over climate finance at COP30 negotiations.

India reiterated that inadequate climate finance remains the biggest barrier to advancing global climate action and urged developed countries to fully implement a key finance provision of the **Paris Agreement** that has long been overlooked.

In two separate statements delivered on behalf of the **BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India, China)** and the **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs)** at the **COP30 climate conference in Belém, Brazil**, India highlighted the urgency of reaching a clear, universally accepted definition of climate finance and urged substantial scaling up of adaptation funding.

- It also stressed the need for the full implementation of **Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement**, which mandates that developed nations “**shall provide financial resources**” to developing countries.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Paris Agreement

- The **Paris Agreement (2015)** is a legally binding international climate treaty adopted under the **UNFCCC at COP21 in Paris**. It aims to strengthen the global response to climate change through long-term climate action by all countries.

Its main goal is to limit global warming to:

- Well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
- Aim for 1.5°C target.

The treaty also requires all Parties (countries which have joined the agreement) to state **every five years** what they are doing to tackle climate change - known as their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**.

2. BASIC countries:

BASIC refers to a group of four large developing countries that coordinate their positions on **climate change negotiations** under the UNFCCC.

BASIC = Brazil + South Africa + India + China

3. Like-Minded Developing Countries

The **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs)** is a coalition of **developing nations** that coordinate their positions mainly on **climate change negotiations** under the UNFCCC.

- They advocate for **equity, climate justice, and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**.

10. NBWL's Standing Committee clears 13 defence and paramilitary projects in Ladakh & Arunachal Pradesh

The **Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** has recommended 13 defence

and paramilitary projects, most of them in high-altitude protected areas of Ladakh and one in Arunachal Pradesh.

- The committee has recommended the use of 0.37 hectares of the Eco-Sensitive Zone of the **Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh** for the construction of a 158-metre-long permanent bridge.

Interconnected concepts:

The **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** is the apex advisory body on wildlife conservation in India. It advises the Central Government on policies, laws, and measures related to wildlife protection.

- Established under **Section 5A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- Chaired by the **Prime Minister of India** and consists of 47 members

Standing Committee of NBWL is chaired by **Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change**. It has the power to **approve projects in Protected Areas** on behalf of the full NBWL.

11. India to release its Climate Action Plan for 2035 by year-end.

Environment Minister said India's next set of climate action plan, called **Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs for the year 2035** will be finalised and released before the year-end deadline.

Environment minister further stated that 'along with its 2035 NDCs, India would also release its first **Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)**, as mandated under the Paris Agreement. BTRs are part of reporting mechanism instituted under the Paris Agreement, though which countries are supposed to periodically provide information about their **greenhouse gas emissions inventory**.

INDIA'S CLIMATE TARGETS: EXISTING AND NEW

Target (for 2030)	Existing: First NDC (2015)	New: Updated NDC (2022)	Progress
Emission intensity reduction	33-35 per cent from 2005 levels	45 per cent from 2005 levels	24 per cent reduction achieved in 2016 itself. Estimated to have reached 30 per cent
Share of non-fossil fuels in installed electricity capacity	40 per cent	50 per cent	41.5 per cent achieved by the end of June this year
Carbon sink	Creation of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional sink through afforestation	Same as earlier	Not clear.

Interconnected concept:

Nationally Determined Contributions

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the climate action plans that each country prepares and submits to the under the Paris Agreement (2015). **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)**

- **Country-specific:** Each nation decides its own targets—hence “nationally determined.”
- **Submitted to UNFCCC:** They become part of the global effort to limit warming to **well below 2°C**, ideally **1.5°C**.
- **Updated every 5 years:** Each update must be more ambitious than the previous one
- **Legally binding to report, not to achieve:** Countries must **regularly report progress**, but achieving the targets is not legally enforceable.
- India's last NDC, for the period 2030, was announced in 2022 and the latest NDC is to be announced for the year 2035.

India's NDCs (Updated in 2022)

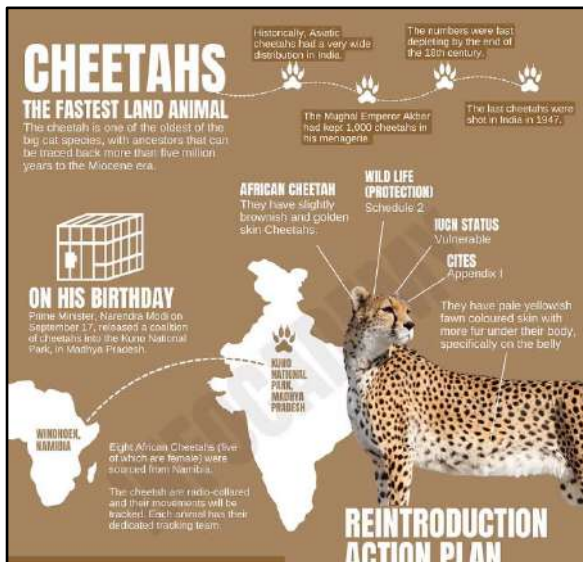
- Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by **45% from 2005 levels by 2030.**
- Achieve **50% Cumulative Electric Power Capacity from Non-Fossil Fuel sources by 2030.**
- Create an additional **Carbon Sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes**

12. First India-born cheetah at Kuno National Park gives birth to five cubs.

Indian-born cheetah **Mukhi** has given birth to five cubs at **Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh**, a historic milestone for the country's reintroduction program.

- **Mukhi is the first cheetah born in India to reproduce.** This success demonstrates the species' adaptation and potential for establishing a self-sustaining population in Indian habitats.

Mukhi is the sole surviving cheetah cub born to Namibian cheetah Jwala in India at Kuno, a landmark for the **country's cheetah reintroduction project**.



India's **Project Cheetah** is an ambitious, ongoing conservation initiative to reintroduce the cheetah to the country, decades after it was declared extinct there in 1952.

- Launched in 2022, the project involves **translocating African cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa** to specially selected habitats in India, primarily Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

13. Environment Minister addresses LeadIT Industry Leaders' Roundtable at COP30, Brazil

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, addressed the **LeadIT Industry Leaders' Roundtable** during **UNFCCC CoP30 at Belem, Brazil**.



The **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)** is a global initiative co-chaired by **India and Sweden**, dedicated to accelerating the transition of heavy, "hard-to-abate" industries

(such as steel, cement, and chemicals) to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

- It was launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and is supported by the World Economic Forum.

14. Supreme Court recalls verdict prohibiting post-facto environmental clearances in 2-1 decision.

The Supreme Court of India, in a 2:1 majority verdict **recalled** its earlier judgment in **Vanashakti vs. Union of India** that had banned the granting of ex-post facto environmental clearances (ECs), or retrospective green clearances.



In **Vanashakti vs. Union of India** case struck down the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's (MoEF&CC) 2017 Notification and 2021 Office Memorandum (OM) that allowed ex-post facto environmental clearances (ECs) for projects that have already begun construction or operation without the mandatory prior approval.

- Now, Supreme court has withdrawn its earlier ruling in the Vanashakti case, which had completely banned giving environmental clearances after a project had already started."

15. India to host the Global Big Cats Summit in New Delhi next year.

Union Environment Minister announced that India will host the **Global Big Cats Summit** in New Delhi next year, while speaking at the High-Level

Ministerial Segment of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** in Brazil.

Interconnected concept: International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is a global initiative launched by India to protect the world's big cat species—such as **tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and pumas**.

- The alliance aims to promote cooperation among countries for conservation, share best practices, fund protection efforts, and strengthen global wildlife protection strategies.

16. India participates in the 11th Joint Crediting Mechanism meeting.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, participated in the 11th **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** Partner Countries' Meeting. It was held on the sidelines of **UNFCCC COP30 in Belém, Brazil**.

Joint Crediting Mechanism:

The **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** is a bilateral climate cooperation initiative launched by

Japan to facilitate the diffusion of leading low-carbon and decarbonizing technologies and infrastructure in partner countries.

- It operates under **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** to support sustainable development and enable the quantitative sharing of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction credits between the participating countries.



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Section IV: NATIONAL EVENTS - covers current national happenings.

1. Ethiopia to adopt India's DAY-NRLM model for poverty alleviation.

A high-level delegation from the government of Ethiopia has visited India, for understanding the implementation strategies of the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, India's flagship initiative for poverty alleviation and women's economic empowerment.



2. Indian Railways to deploy AI-based DRISHTI system for enhanced freight train security.

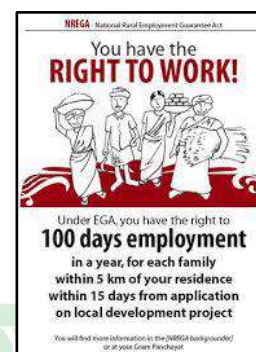
Indian Railways is planning to install a new AI-based "**DRISHTI (AI-based Locking Monitoring System) technology** to enhance the security and monitoring of freight trains. This system is designed to **provide real-time status updates on door lock conditions and detect any anomalies or tampering during transit.**

- Its primary purpose is to enhance the security and integrity of freight movement within the Indian Railways network by providing real-time monitoring of wagon door locking conditions.
- This new technology is being developed through a collaborative initiative between the Northeast

Frontier Railway (NFR) and Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati - Technology Innovation and Development Foundation (IITG TIDF).

3. Supreme Court directs centre to resume MGNREGA operations in West Bengal.

The Supreme Court cleared the path for restarting the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** in West Bengal after a gap of three and a half years.



The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)**, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005, is a landmark social security initiative that guarantees at least **100 days of wage employment in a financial year** to adult members of rural households willing to do **unskilled manual labour**.

- **Legal right:** Guarantees 100 days of employment for each household every financial year.
- **Unemployment allowance:** If work is not provided within 15 days of demand, an allowance must be paid by the state government.

4. Punjab becomes the first state to implement the amended BharatNet scheme statewide.

Government of India launched **BharatNet** in 2011. The project aimed at providing **affordable high-speed internet** access to every Gram Panchayat in the country. This initiative, under the **Ministry of Communications**, seeks to empower rural India, fostering inclusive growth and bridging the gap between urban and rural communities.

Bharat Net to Bridge Digital Divide in Rural and Remote Areas



Amendment:

Government approved the **Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)**. The program provides for internet access by **Optical Fibre (OF) connectivity** to **2.64 lakh GPs** in ring topology and also to provide OF connectivity to the remaining non-GP villages (approx. 3.8 lakhs) on demand basis.

- The Bharat Net program is funded through **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)**.

Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) is a fund that aims to improve the quality and accessibility of telecommunications services in India. It was established by the government of India as a replacement for the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.

5. Cabinet approves rationalisation of royalty rates for four Critical Minerals.

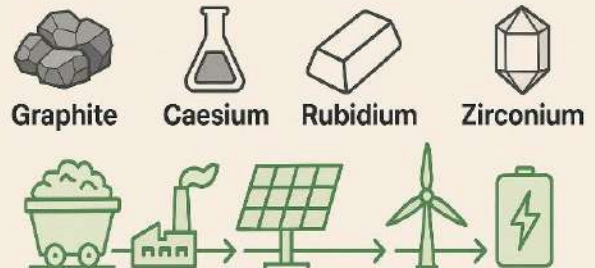
The Union Cabinet has approved the rationalisation of **royalty rates for four critical minerals** essential for green energy applications and high-tech industries.

The four critical minerals are:

Graphite, Caesium, Rubidium & Zirconium.

- While graphite is a crucial component in electric vehicle (EV) batteries, zirconium is used in nuclear energy due to its exceptional corrosion resistance. Caesium is mainly used in the high-tech electronic sector, particularly in atomic clocks, GPS systems and rubidium is used in making specialty glasses used in fibre optics, telecommunication systems, and night vision devices.

Government rationalises royalty rates on critical minerals to boost green-energy supply chain

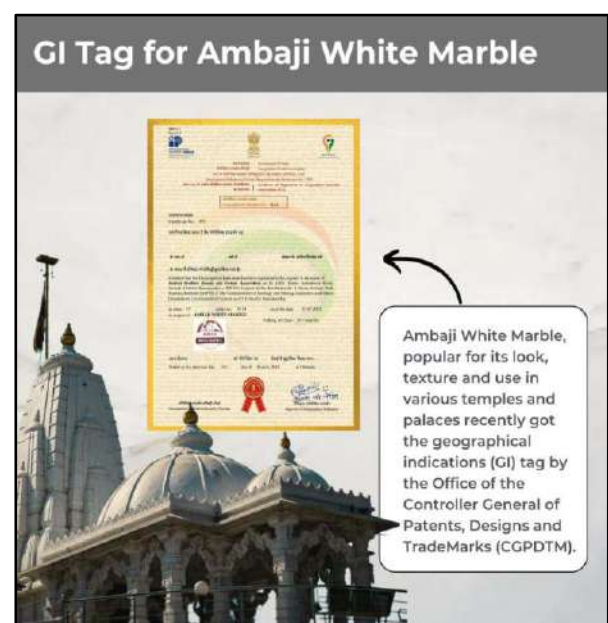


Interconnected concept:

Rare earths

- Rare earths** are a subset of the critical minerals grouping that includes 17 metallic elements nestled lower down in the periodic table, from **lanthanum (atomic number 57) to lutetium (71)**, as well as plus **scandium (21) and yttrium (39)**.
 - These elements are characterised by their high density, high melting point, high conductivity and high thermal conductance. They are classified as heavy or light, based on atomic weight.

6. Ambaji Marble receives Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



The **Ambaji Marble** – found in Banaskantha district of **north Gujarat** – has received a **Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag)** by the Union government.

The GI tag will help Ambaji marble establish a distinct brand identity in global markets, boosting demand in India and abroad and giving a fillip to local industries and artisans

A **Geographical Indication (GI)** is a form of **intellectual property right (IPR)** that identifies a product as originating from a specific **geographical location**, where a **unique quality, reputation, or characteristic** of the product is essentially linked to that place.

- It is governed under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and**

Protection) Act, 1999. India enacted this law to comply with WTO-TRIPS Agreement, which mandates GI protection.

- GI tag valid for **10 years**, and can be **renewed** indefinitely.



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GROUP-I

S. Sudeep Reddy – DSP



Instead of reading ten books once, I preferred reading one book ten times. That approach, along with strong family support, helped me stay focused. I prepared for Civils and Group-1 simultaneously, and R.C. Reddy IAS Study Circle's faculty and answer-writing sessions helped me refine my approach. I always studied with the goal of improvement, not pressure. Success comes when you work sincerely in the right direction. Quality matters more than quantity - focus on limited material, revise often, and practice writing within time limits.

S. Jaswanth Raj – DSP

Goals like Civil Services or Group-1 should come from personal passion, not influence. My parents - a DE in the Irrigation Department and a teacher - encouraged me to aim high. I studied with a clear plan and exam orientation. Coaching at R.C. Reddy IAS Study Circle was a turning point - the faculty and mock tests helped me focus on exactly what was needed. I learned to cut out unnecessary topics and concentrate on revising the essentials. Limiting my material and focusing on quality study made all the difference.



Section-V: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – covers issues at global level impacting India & its relations with other countries.

1. BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network holds its first biennial meeting in Kochi.

The first biennial conference of **BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network, BIMReN**, was hosted in Kochi, reinforcing the country's **Blue Economy cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region**.



BIMSTEC is a **regional organization** that connects **South Asia and Southeast Asia**. It aims to **promote economic cooperation, connectivity, and development** among countries bordering the **Bay of Bengal**.

It serves as a **bridge between SAARC and ASEAN** region

- **Formed:** 6 June 1997 (through Bangkok Declaration)
- **Headquarters:** Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Member Countries (7)**

Region	Members
South Asia	India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal & Bhutan
Southeast Asia	Myanmar & Thailand

2. India and Bhutan inaugurate the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II hydropower project.

India and Bhutan jointly inaugurated the **1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II hydroelectric project** during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan.

- The project is a run-of-the-river facility located on the Punatsangchhu River in the Wangdue Phodrang district of Bhutan.



During the visit, the leaders also agreed to resume work on the main dam of the long-delayed 1,200 MW Punatsangchhu-I project and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in renewable energy fields like solar, wind, and green hydrogen.

Interconnected concept:

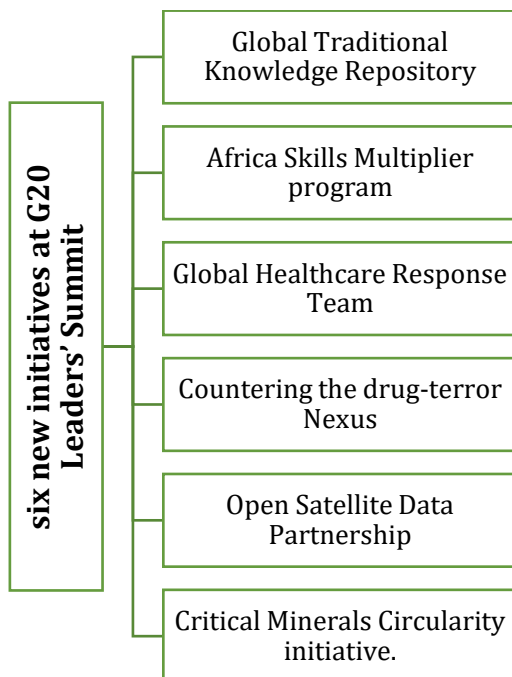
- The total length of the border between India and Bhutan is approximately 699 km. Four Indian states share a border with Bhutan:

Arunachal Pradesh; Assam; West Bengal and Sikkim

3. Prime Minister attends the G20 Summit in South Africa.

Prime Minister Narendra visited Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the 20th **G20 Leaders' Summit**. On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed **six new initiatives** aimed at global development.



These include setting up of the following:

- **Global Healthcare Response Team:** A pool of trained medical experts from member nations who can be **rapidly deployed during health emergencies and natural disasters** to ensure a swift and coordinated response.
- **G20-Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative:** Highlighting Africa's role in global progress, he proposed training one million certified trainers in the next decade through a train-the-trainer model to strengthen local capacity and jobs
- **Global Traditional Knowledge Repository:** To preserve global wisdom on sustainable living, India proposed a G20 repository, building on its Indian Knowledge Systems initiative.
- **G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus:** Warning of the public health and security risks from substances like fentanyl, PM called for an initiative to disrupt trafficking networks and choke illicit terror funding.
- **G20 Open Satellite Data Partnership:** This initiative aims to make satellite data from G20 space agencies more accessible to developing countries for various applications, including agriculture, fisheries, and disaster management.
- **G20 Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative:** Modi proposed fostering recycling, urban mining, and second-life battery projects to strengthen supply chain security for critical minerals essential for clean energy transitions.

Besides, PM Modi also held bilateral meetings with some leaders.

Interconnected concepts:**1. G20:**

The **G20** is a group of **20 major economies**—19 countries plus the European Union and the African Union. It was formed in **1999** to bring together the world's biggest economies to discuss **global economic issues**.

- 2025 G20 summit is the fourth consecutive G20 Summit being held in the Global South. India had hosted the summit in 2023, followed by Brazil in 2024. Indonesia had hosted the summit in 2022.

2. IBSA:

IBSA is a **trilateral group** of three major democracies and emerging economies— **India, Brazil, and South Africa**.

4. Seychelles becomes the sixth member of the Colombo Security Conclave.

The **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)** included **Seychelles as the sixth member** state with the grouping gaining momentum as a key architecture to ensure stability of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



- The CSC is a regional security grouping in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. It brings together National Security Advisers (NSAs) from member states for coordinated action on common security challenges.
- Current full members: **India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh, and (recently) Seychelles**.

5. UNSC reforms “no longer an option, but a necessity”: PM Modi at IBSA Summit.

Speaking at the **India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Leaders' Summit**, the Prime Minister stressed that reforming the **UN Security Council** is not merely desirable but indispensable. He urged the IBSA countries to voice a strong, unified call for overhauling global governance institutions.



- The **India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum** is a unique international tripartite grouping that links the three large democracies and major economies from Asia, South America, and Africa.
- The forum provides a platform for the three countries to coordinate their positions on major global issues and **advocate for reforms in global governance institutions, notably the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**, arguing that current structures are outdated and unrepresentative of 21st Century realities.

Interconnected concept:

United Nations Security Council (UNSC),

The United Nations Security Council is **one of the six principal organs of the UN system** and is the primary organ charged with ensuring international peace and security.

The UNSC consists of 15 members:

- **Five Permanent Members (P5):** China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These nations hold **veto power**, allowing any one of them to block a substantive resolution.
- **Ten Non-Permanent Members:** Elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms based on equitable geographical distribution. Five members are elected annually. These members do not have veto power.

6. India launches the ACITI partnership with Australia & Canada.

India announced the launch of a new trilateral initiative - the **Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership** - aimed at advancing cooperation in key futuristic sectors.



ACITI initiative will help strengthen collaboration among the three democratic nations in crucial areas such as emerging technologies, clean energy, diversified supply chains, and the mass adoption of artificial intelligence.



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Section-VI: ECONOMY - covers issues of Indian Economy & Development.

1. Meghalaya approves amendment to raise fiscal deficit ceiling from 3% to 3.5%.

The Meghalaya Cabinet has approved an amendment to the Meghalaya **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2006**, allowing the state to expand its fiscal deficit limit in accordance with central guidelines.

- The amendment permits the state government to increase its fiscal deficit ceiling from 3 per cent to 3.5 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- This amendment aligns with the Government of India's framework for fiscal flexibility and is expected to enable additional borrowing to support developmental and infrastructural needs.

The enhanced borrowing space is likely to help the state finance ongoing projects and strengthen public investment without violating national fiscal norms. The amendment will take effect once it is formally passed in the assembly.

Interconnected Concept:

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act:

- **Purpose of the Act:** The FRBM Act was enacted to promote fiscal discipline, ensure long-term macroeconomic stability, and reduce the government's fiscal and revenue deficits in a planned manner.
- **Key Fiscal Targets:** The Act mandates the government to bring the **fiscal deficit down to 3% of GDP** and gradually eliminate the revenue deficit to ensure that borrowings are used for productive purposes.
- **Transparency Requirements:** The Act makes it compulsory for the government to present the **Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Statement, Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement, Macro-Economic Framework Statement**, and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework along with the annual Union Budget.
- **N.K. Singh Committee (2016) Recommendations:** The N.K. Singh Committee to review FRBM act recommended bringing central government debt down to 40% of GDP and state debt to 20% of GDP, and also suggested establishing an independent Fiscal Council for better oversight.

2. Cabinet approves Export Promotion Mission with ₹25,060 crore outlay.

The Union Cabinet has approved the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)** — a flagship initiative announced in the Union Budget 2025–26 to strengthen India's export competitiveness, particularly for **MSMEs, first-time exporters**, and **labour-intensive sectors**.



The Mission will operate through two integrated sub-schemes:

- **NIRYAT PROTSAHAN** – focuses on improving access to affordable **trade finance for MSMEs** through a range of instruments such as interest subvention, export factoring, collateral guarantees, credit cards for e-commerce exporters, and credit enhancement support for diversification into new markets.
- **NIRYAT DISHA** – focuses on non-financial enablers that enhance market readiness and competitiveness, including export quality and compliance support, assistance for international branding, packaging, and participation in trade fairs, export warehousing and logistics, inland transport reimbursements, and trade intelligence and capacity-building initiatives.

EPM consolidates key export support schemes such as the **Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES)** and **Market Access Initiative (MAI)**, aligning them with contemporary trade needs.

3. Centre launches ASHA: an AI-driven platform for PDS feedback.

Union Food and Public Distribution Ministry launched several digital initiatives aimed at modernising warehousing operations, improving supply chain efficiency, and enhancing

transparency across the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**.

- **ASHA:** A major initiative is the **Anna Sahayata Holistic AI Solution (ASHA)**, an AI-based platform that allows **beneficiaries to share their feedback** on ration distribution through AI-enabled calls in their preferred language.
- **ANNA DARPAN:** The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has introduced Anna Darpan, a new **microservices-based platform that replaces the existing Depot Online System**. ANNA DARPAN connects key activities such as procurement, storage, movement, sales, quality checks, labour management and contract monitoring under one integrated system. It serves as **a single unified source of truth** for both FCI and DFPD.

Interconnected concept:

PDS

Public Distribution System (PDS) is a key food security program in India under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution**. It provides essential commodities at subsidized prices through **Fair Price Shops (FPSs)** to vulnerable populations.

Both the Central and State Governments share responsibility for PDS.

- The Central Government, primarily through the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, handles procurement, storage, transportation, and allocation of food grains to states.
- State Governments manage operations such as identifying beneficiaries, issuing ration cards, and overseeing FPS functioning.

4. 2.25 crore ineligible NFSA beneficiaries removed in the last 4–5 months.

The Centre said that about 2.25 crore ineligible beneficiaries of the free monthly ration scheme (**National Food Security Act-NFSA**), have been removed in the last 4-5 months.



National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, establishes a rights-based framework for food security, providing subsidized foodgrains through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to a significant portion of the **rural (up to 75%)** and **urban (up to 50%)** population.

- The act differentiates between **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households**, who receive 35 kg of foodgrains monthly, and **Priority Households (PHH)**, entitled to 5 kg per person per month.

5. Commerce Secretary reviews India-EAEU FTA negotiations in Moscow.

Commerce Secretary reviews the progress of **India-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Free Trade Agreement** negotiations in a series of meetings in Moscow.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry emphasised that these efforts are aimed at reaching bilateral trade of 100 billion US dollars by 2030 and to expand the country's exports through industrial and technological collaboration.

Interconnected concept:

Eurasian Economic Union:

The **Eurasian Economic Union** is a regional economic bloc formed in **2015** to promote **free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour** among its member countries.



Member Countries

- Russia
- Belarus
- Kazakhstan
- Armenia
- Kyrgyzstan

6. Eight Core Sectors record zero growth in October 2025.

India's eight core industries posted 0% growth in October 2025, slipping sharply from 3.3% month-

on-month in September, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce, **marking the weakest performance in 14 months.**



The **Eight Core Industries** are the key sectors that form the backbone of India's industrial economy and together make up **40.27%** of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

- The core industries are: **Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, Electricity.**

7. Centre notifies all four new Labour Codes.

In a historic decision, the Government of India has announced that the four Labour Codes are **effective from 21st November 2025**, rationalising 29 existing labour laws. The four codes are:

1. **Code on Wages, 2019**
2. **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**
3. **Code on Social Security, 2020**
4. **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020**

- **The Code on Wages, 2019:** Universalizes the **right to a minimum wage** for all workers and **ensures timely wage payments**, replacing four existing laws.
- **The Industrial Relations Code, 2020:** **Streamlines industrial dispute resolution**, allows for fixed-term employment with benefits equal to permanent workers, and raises the threshold for lay-offs and retrenchment in industrial establishments.
- **The Code on Social Security, 2020:** Expands social security coverage to all workers, including gig and platform workers, and consolidates nine existing social security acts.
- **The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSHC):** This code unifies 13 existing laws to ensure better safety

standards, mandatory health check-ups, and improved working conditions across various industries.

Interconnected concept:

Labour is a **Concurrent List subject**, and while most states have finalised rules aligned with the **four Codes, central-level implementation remains pending. This delay results in:**

- Uneven social security coverage for workers, and
- Compliance complexity for employers operating across multiple states.

8. Centre examines relief measures for SEZs to boost production and competitiveness.

Commerce and Industry Minister announced that government is examining proposals to roll out certain relief measures to boost production in **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**.



SEZ is a specifically **delineated, duty-free enclave** within a country's national borders that is treated as a foreign territory for the purposes of trade operations, duties, and tariffs.

- These zones are designed to promote rapid economic growth by attracting domestic and foreign investment, boosting exports, and generating employment opportunities.
- The SEZ Act, 2005, and SEZ Rules, 2006, provide the legal framework.



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TOPPER TESTIMONIALS

GROUP-I

D. Shanthi Priya – Municipal Commissioner



Balancing my software job and Group-1 preparation was tough. I studied seven to eight hours daily after work and devoted weekends completely to preparation. My mother's strength kept me going after my father passed away when I was six. Becoming a Collector was my childhood dream. Civil Services preparation laid the foundation, and R.C. Reddy IAS Study Circle guided me through Telangana-specific topics. Their expert faculty and mock tests helped me master the syllabus and improve my writing. Consistent effort, proper guidance, and family support made my dream come true.

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Section-VII: HISTORY & CULTURE – covers events of historical significance, art forms & other relevant aspects.

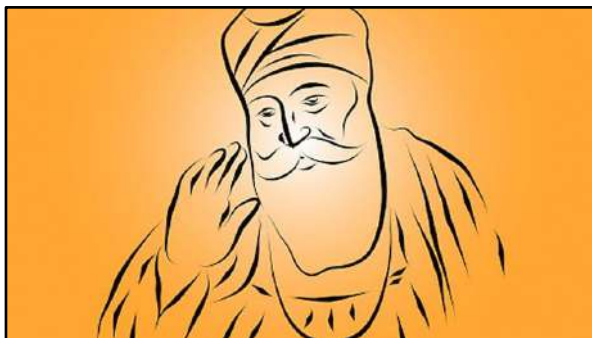
1. Guru Nanak Jayanti 2025 observed across the country.

Guru Nanak Jayanti, also known as **Gurupurab** or **Prakash Utsav**, marks the birth anniversary of **Guru Nanak Dev**, the first among the ten gurus and the **founder of the Sikh religion**.

- On Guru Nanak Jayanti, devotees come together to listen to soulful hymns and kirtans, and the celebrations conclude with a **langar** — a **community meal shared with everyone**, irrespective of religion, caste or social status.

Guru Nanak:

Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism and is revered as the **first of the 10**



Sikh Gurus. His teachings, recorded in the **Guru Granth Sahib**, laid the foundation for Sikhism.

2. National Song 'Vande Mataram' marks 150 years - PM launches year-long celebrations.

Prime Minister inaugurated year-long commemoration of 150 years of the **National Song "Vande Mataram"** and released a commemorative stamp and coin on the occasion.

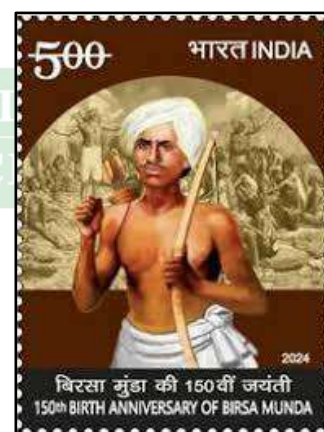
VandeMataram was written by **Bankimchandra Chatterji** in 1875. It was first published in the literary journal Bangadarshan as part of his novel **Anandamath**.

- At Indian National Congress session, 1896 (Calcutta), Rabindranath Tagore sang VandeMataram for the first time in public.

- In 1907, **Madam Bhikaji Cama** raised the tricolour flag for the first-time outside India in Stuttgart, Berlin. The words VandeMataram was written on the flag.
- On **24 January 1950**, Dr. Rajendra Prasad addressed the Constituent Assembly, stating that VandeMataram, due to its significant role in the freedom movement, should have the same status as the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana, and be honoured equally.

3. Gujarat commemorates 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda.

The Gujarat government is actively celebrating the **150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda** as the year-long '**Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh**' (Tribal Pride Year) 2025.



- Birsa Munda led the '**Ulgulan**' (The Great Tumult or Great Uproar) against British policies between 1895 and 1900.
- The rebellion was a response to British land revenue policies that destroyed the traditional '**Khuntkatti system**' (collective land ownership)
- The movement aimed to achieve Munda Raj (self-rule), end British rule, and expel the **dikus**.
- Birsait Faith:** Birsa Munda founded the Birsait faith, which preached monotheism (worship of 'Singhlonga', the sun god) and strict moral conduct
- Teachings:** He advocated against alcoholism, superstitions, and black magic, promoting hygiene, spiritual unity, and pride in tribal identity.

4. ASI restricts visitor entry into the 'Nata Mandap' of Konark Sun Temple.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has barred tourists from entering the 'Nata Mandap' of the **Konark Sun Temple** in Odisha's Puri district.



Interconnected Concept:

The **Konark Sun Temple**, located in Odisha, India, is a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its architectural grandeur and religious significance.

- Built in the 13th Century CE during the reign of **King Narasimhadeva I** of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, it is dedicated to Surya, the Hindu Sun God, and represents the pinnacle of Kalinga temple architecture.

5. PM announces 10-year national pledge to remove remnants of colonial legacy.

In his Sixth Ramnath Goenka Lecture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a 10-year plan to undo the colonial mindset introduced in India since 1835. He urged the nation to '**lock away**' the **Western way of thinking** that **Thomas Macaulay** promoted by replacing India's traditional knowledge systems with colonial education.



Interconnected concept:

Education under British rule (Up to 1857):

1. Initially, the East India Company took on minimal responsibility for education in India.

Eighteenth-century Orientalists were the first to take an interest in the matter.

- **Warren Hastings** established Calcutta Madrasa (1781).
- **William Jones** established Asiatic Society of Bengal.
- **Jonathan Duncan** established Sanskrit College, Benares.

2. It was only in 1813, through **Charter Act 1813**, that the British Parliament contributed to this development, enacting a provision of Rupees one lakh annually 'for the revival and improvement of literature and encouragement of the learned natives of India, and for the introduction and promotion of a knowledge of the sciences.'

3. To administer a large colony like India, the British needed educated professionals to work for them in numbers that would be impractical to import from abroad. For this **Macaulay** drafted the legislation known as the **English Education Act of 1835**.

Around the time that Macaulay was preparing education policy, there was a debate among Indians and the British about the type of education needed in India.

- The **Orientalists** believed in the promotion of **traditional Indian education in vernacular languages**.
- While their opponents **Anglicists**, thought that **the government should spend money only on Western education, delivered in English**.

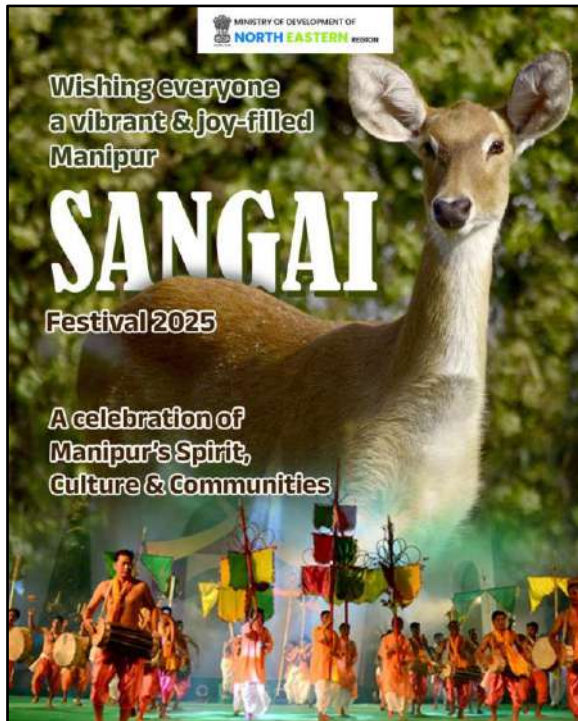
Macaulay belonged to the latter camp, advocating for the creation of a pool of **Indians capable of serving British interests**. This group would be "Indian by blood and colour, but English by tastes, opinions, morals and intellect." Entry into this group would also be limited to only a few Indians, who would then educate the rest of the population according to Macaulay's controversial **Downward Filtration Theory**.

Even the British disagreed with Macaulay's ideas. After the 1857 revolt, Viceroy Lord Mayo criticised the policy, saying the British were spending a lot to educate only a few hundred 'Indians' who did little to spread education to the masses.

Due to this Viceroy Lord Mayo prioritised the recommendations of the **1854 'Wood's Despatch'**, which called for the spread of education in both English and vernacular languages.

6. Manipur Governor inaugurates Sangai Festival.

Manipur Governor inaugurated the **Sangai festival**, the annual tourism festival of the state.



The **Sangai Festival** is an annual cultural festival organized by the Manipur Tourism Department in **Manipur**. It is named after the state animal, the rare **Sangai** (brow-antlered deer), which is found exclusively in the **Keibul Lamjao National Park**.

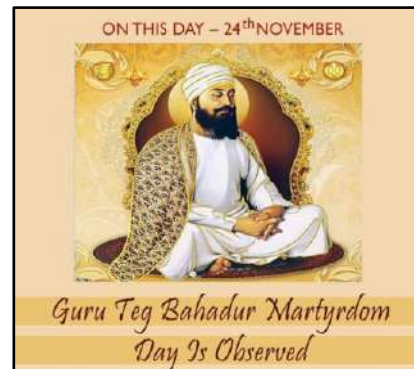
Interconnected concept:

Keibul Lamjao National Park

- The **Keibul Lamjao National Park** in Manipur is the world's only floating national park.
- It is located in the Bishnupur district and is an integral part of the larger **Loktak Lake**, the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India.
- The park is primarily known as the **last natural habitat** for the critically endangered Sangai deer.

7. PM releases special coin and commemorative stamp on 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a special coin and a commemorative postage stamp to mark the 350th Shaheedi Diwas of **Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji**, the **ninth Sikh Guru** revered for his unparalleled sacrifice and defence of religious freedom.



- Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621-1675) was the **ninth of the ten Sikh Gurus**. He fearlessly stood up against the forced conversions of non-Muslims, particularly Kashmiri Pandits, to Islam by the **Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb**.
- He was arrested, brought to Delhi, and **publicly beheaded** in New Delhi on November 11, 1675 (observed annually on November 24 or 25 according to different calendars) for refusing to convert to Islam.



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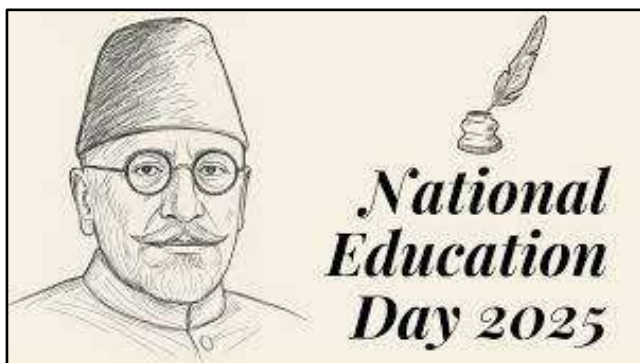
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Section-VIII: SOCIAL ISSUES – covers issues relevant to social aspects like unemployment, poverty etc. & schemes thereby.

1. November 11th-National Education Day.

National Education Day is celebrated on **November 11 every year**, marking the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**.

- While India celebrates its National Education Day on November 11, the world observes **International Day of Education on January 24**.

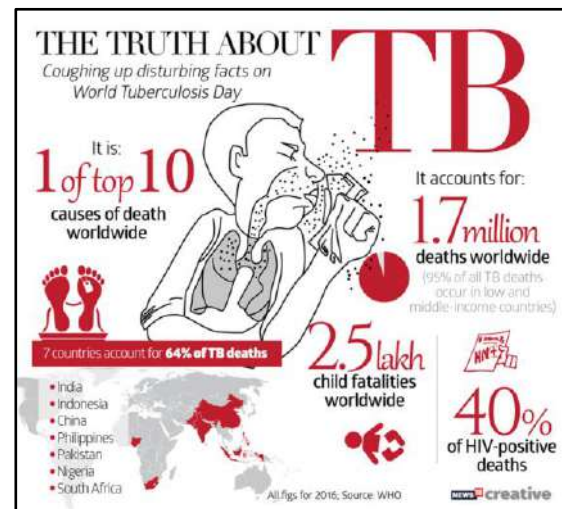


- Azad founded the **Urdu weekly Al-Hilal** in 1912 and later **Al-Balagh**, both of which became influential platforms for anti-colonial ideas.
- His active role in India's independence movement saw him become one of the youngest presidents of the Indian National Congress in 1923, and later, a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi.
- After independence, Maulana Azad was appointed as the **first Education Minister of independent India**. His tenure was marked by visionary reforms that laid the foundation for the country's educational framework.

2. Global TB Report 2025.

While the burden of **tuberculosis** in India continues to decline, the country is nowhere close to achieving elimination, according to the **Global TB Report 2025 released by the World Health Organisation**.

In 2024, India recorded around 27.1 lakh cases and more than three lakh deaths, making it one of the top contributors to the number of TB cases across the world.



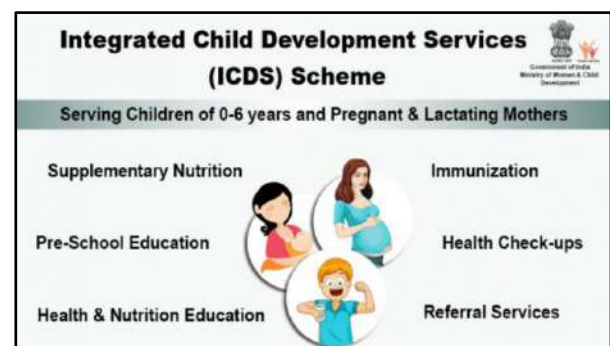
Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by a bacteria called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**. It mainly affects the **lungs**, but it can also attack other parts of the body like the bones, kidneys, or brain.

Interconnected concept:

World Tuberculosis Day, observed on **March 24 every year**. The date marks the day in 1882 when **Dr. Robert Koch** announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.

3. 50 Years of Integrated Child Development Services.

The **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** scheme, a flagship programme of the Indian government, completed **50 years** of service.



- Launch and Nodal Ministry:** The scheme was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 2, 1975, and operates under

the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoW&CD)**.

- **Objectives:** The primary goals include improving the nutritional and health status of **children aged 0-6 years**, providing a foundation for their all-round development,

reducing child mortality and malnutrition, and enhancing the capabilities of mothers to look after their children's needs.

- **Core Services:** The ICDS delivers a package of **six integrated services** through a vast network of **Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)**.

Section-IX: REGIONAL ISSUES OF ANDHRA PRADESH - covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. Andhra Pradesh Forest Department to launch Tiger Census 2026.

Forest Department will soon launch preparations for the All-India Tiger Estimation Survey (Tiger Census) 2026 in the **Nallamala-Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR)** region of Prakasam district.

The survey, conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).



Interconnected Concept:

Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve:

- **Location & Landscape:** Nagarjunasagar – Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) is located in the Nallamala hill ranges, which are an offshoot of the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Tiger Reserve Status:** It was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1983.
- **Largest Tiger Reserve:** The total area of the reserve (core + buffer) is 3727.82 sq.km, making NSTR the largest Tiger Reserve in India.
- **District Spread:** The reserve extends across **Prakasam, Nandyal and Palnadu** districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Constituent Sanctuaries:** Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife

Sanctuary (GBM) together constitute the Tiger Reserve.

- **Hydrology:** The river Krishna flows through this Tiger Reserve.

2. A.P. accelerates its Maritime Development agenda.

Andhra Pradesh, with its **1,053 km-long coastline** is preparing to tap into its largely untapped maritime trade potential. Despite having **port access roughly every 280 km**, the State has so far utilized only a fraction of its coastal advantage. Now, the government is gearing up to showcase major investment opportunities in non-major seaports and shipbuilding at the upcoming CII Partnership Summit.

Key initiatives:

- Under the **Andhra Pradesh Maritime Policy 2024-2029**, the State is investing **over ₹5,000 crore** in **greenfield port infrastructure**, with projects expected to be completed by **end of 2026**.
- Government is developing major projects including **Machilipatnam, Ramayapatnam, Mulapeta, and Kakinada Gateway** ports.
- The government is also making a **strong pitch for a shipbuilding cluster at Dugarajapatnam (Tirupati district)** and is seeking partnerships with **global investors** to bring advanced technology and expertise
- Additionally, **medium and small-scale shipyards** with repair facilities are being planned at **Machilipatnam/Mulapeta and Juvvaladinne/Uppada/Nizampatnam**.
- Over **40 coastal and creek sites** have been identified as suitable for shipbuilding, with **target to manufacture Cape-size vessels, Very**

Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs), and Very Large Gas Carriers (VLGCs).

To attract investors, the State is offering a **comprehensive package of incentives**:

- **12% subsidy** on Fixed Capital Investment (FCI) for sub-large and large projects completed within 5–7 years.
- **15% subsidy** for mega and ultra-mega projects completed within 10 years.
- **Decarbonisation subsidies** ranging from **15% to 35%** on FCI, aimed at promoting **low-carbon, sustainable shipbuilding**.

Note:

Currently, the State ranks **second in the country in cargo handling through non-major ports**, managing about **118 million metric tonnes (MMT) per annum**.

3. NBA releases ₹3 crore to Red Sanders farmers under Access and Benefit-Sharing mechanism.

National Biodiversity Authority has disbursed ₹3.00 crore to 199 beneficiaries, covering 198 farmers from Andhra Pradesh and cultivators of Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*), along with one academic institution, University of Andhra. The disbursement, facilitated through the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, is part of the Access and Benefit-Sharing mechanism under the Biological Diversity Act.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Access and Benefit-Sharing:

The Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) framework governs how genetic resources (plants, animals, microbes) and associated traditional knowledge are accessed and how benefits arising from their use are shared fairly and equitably with the local communities that conserve them.

- **International Framework: The Nagoya Protocol (2010):** Adopted under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992**. Its objective is to ensure **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** arising from utilization of genetic resources.

2. National Biodiversity Authority

India is a signatory to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992**. To implement

its objectives — conservation, sustainable use, and fair benefit-sharing — India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Under this Act, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003.

Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*):

Pterocarpus santalinus, commonly known as Red Sanders. It is a small to **medium-sized deciduous tree** native to the southern Eastern Ghats, particularly found in Andhra Pradesh.

- The tree grows well in dry deciduous forests on rocky, well-drained red soils at altitudes between 150 to 900 meters.
- Its heartwood is dark red, hard, and dense, making it highly valuable for fine furniture, carvings, musical instruments, and natural dyes. In traditional medicine, Red Sanders is used in Ayurveda to treat skin diseases, ulcers, and for blood purification.
- It is classified as **Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List** and is protected under **CITES Appendix II** and the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

4. Centre to establish Yoga & Naturopathy Institute in Andhra Pradesh.

The Centre has agreed to establish an apex research institute for yoga and naturopathy in Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of ₹750 crore.

- The institute would function under the Central government on the lines of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
- The institute, to be set up by the **Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy** under the Ministry of AYUSH, will offer an undergraduate course in Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Science.

Note:

Central government is also planning to establish a **Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy** near Nadimpalem, close to Katuri Medical College in Prathipadu mandal of Guntur district, with an investment of ₹100 crore.

5. A.P. to launch CMEGP to boost MSME entrepreneurship.

The Andhra Pradesh government is planning to launch a new initiative called the **Chief Minister Employment Generation Programme (CMEGP)** to promote entrepreneurship in both the

manufacturing and service sectors under the MSME segment.

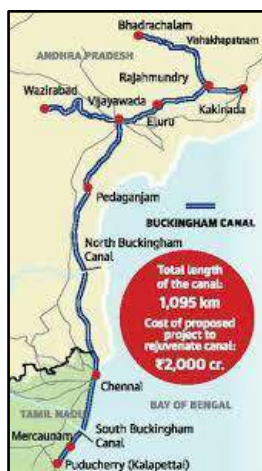


Modelled on the Central government's Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), the CMEGP aims to create self-employment opportunities across rural and urban areas.

- While the PMEGP allows investments of up to ₹50 lakh for manufacturing units and ₹20 lakh for service units, the CMEGP is likely to raise the ceiling to ₹75 lakh and ₹25 lakh, respectively.
- The MSME Department expects the new programme to help establish 5,000 to 6,000 new units across the State.

6. Buckingham Canal deteriorates further - experts call for urgent restoration.

Buckingham Canal was built during British era, and was an important waterway that parallels the Coromandel Coast of South India from Kakinada of Andhra Pradesh to Parangipettai of Tamil Nadu. The 796 km-long canal has been damaged by cyclones and polluted by sewage and effluent.



Buckingham Canal is a **man-made, tidal navigation canal** running parallel to the **Coromandel Coast** of India. It passes through **Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and the Union Territory of Puducherry**.

- It forms a part of India's **National Waterway-4**.

7. A.P. CM lays foundation for Drone City and Space City in Rayalaseema.

AP Chief Minister and Union Commerce and Industry Minister virtually laid the foundation stone for the proposed **Drone City** and **Space City** in the Rayalaseema region, on the sidelines of the **30th CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam**.



Drone City:

Drone City will be developed on 300 acres at **Orvakal in Kurnool district**, with facilities for drone design, manufacturing, services, and R&D at global standards.

- It will feature **advanced manufacturing parks, testing and certification centres, and training facilities** for 25,000 drone pilots.
- The project is expected to create over 40,000 direct and indirect jobs.
- The State will offer incentives including a 20% capital subsidy and 100% SGST refund.

Twin Space cities:

Twin Space Cities will come up in **Sri Sathya Sai and Tirupati districts** — the first of their kind in the country — to **boost private-sector participation** in the Indian space ecosystem.

- They will focus on satellite prototyping, space-tech startup incubation, component manufacturing, and launch logistics support.
- Space City is projected to attract ₹25,000 crore in investments and generate over 35,000 jobs in the next decade.

- The State has earmarked ₹100 crore under the **Space Tech Fund** as part of **A.P. Space Policy 4.0**.

8. Over ₹11 lakh crore investments finalised at CII Partnership Summit in Vizag.

At the **CII Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam (Vizag)**, various companies, industries, and investors signed agreements with the government. The total value of all these investment promises came to **over ₹11 lakh crore**.



1. The biggest ones among them are an agreement by the **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** to set up a 1- Gigawatt Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Centre and a 6 GWp Solar Power Project to power it, and to build a greenfield integrated food park in the Rayalaseema region.
2. In another significant move, the Government of AP inked pacts with the Singapore government and a few companies in the areas of urban governance, real-time data collection and monitoring, digital governance transformation, sustainable development, and for operating flights between Vijayawada and Singapore thrice a week
3. **ArcelorMittal-Nippon Steel** had already firmed up construction of a mega steel plant project in **Anakapalli district**.
4. GMR Group announced construction of the **Bhogapuram International Airport (BIA) in Vizianagaram district** would be completed by June 2026.
9. **C-DOT to support establishment of Amaravati Quantum Valley.**

The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, India's premier telecom research and

development institution under the Department of Telecommunications, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to participate in the ambitious **Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) initiative**.



Through this partnership between AP Govt and C-DOT, C-DOT proposes to set up a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Quantum Communication & Security Solutions**, along with allied areas like Privacy Enhancement technologies (PETs), in Amaravati Quantum Valley, Andhra Pradesh. C-DOT will focus on Quantum Communication solutions at the proposed Centre at AQV.

Amaravati Quantum Valley:

- Andhra Pradesh Government has taken a giant step in shaping India's quantum future with the initiative of setting up Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV). The project is located in Amaravati and involves state-level partnerships, infrastructure, and training programs. The Amaravati Quantum Valley aims to create an **integrated quantum ecosystem** uniting hardware manufacturing, software development, talent nurturing, and research excellence.

10.A.P. to launch 'Rytanna - Mee Kosam' farmer outreach programme.

In a major outreach initiative aimed at reshaping the agricultural landscape of A.P., the government will organise a week-long farmer awareness programme titled '**Rytanna - Mee Kosam**'.

The drive, involving visits by MLAs to farmers' houses, is designed to educate them on modern cultivation and the **State's new five-point strategy for making agriculture profitable**.

A. P's new five-point strategy:

- **Panchasutras** are the five guiding principles aimed at making agriculture more profitable and sustainable through scientific practices and

agriculture reforms. The five guiding principles are:

Water security
Demand-based cultivation
Agri-tech integration
Food processing
Continuous government support

11.State unveils ₹40,000 crore Horticulture Development Plan for Rayalaseema and Prakasam.

The Andhra Pradesh government plans to give a boost to **horticulture in the Rayalaseema and Prakasam regions** in the State by investing ₹40,000 crore, with focus on increasing farmer incomes and enhancing market infrastructure.

- The plan includes developing roads, irrigation projects, and panchayat-level roads, with a total investment of ₹40,000 crore.
- It prioritises the cultivation of 18 globally sought after horticultural crops in Rayalaseema and Prakasam, out of the 65 crops grown in the region and to provide farmers with the **necessary infrastructure** to maximise productivity and profitability.
- The scheme also focuses on fully utilising **Purvodaya scheme** funds for high-demand horticultural crops
- The initiative aims to benefit nearly **Six Lakh horticulture farmers** across **92 clusters**.

Interconnected concept:

Purvodaya scheme:

The Purvodaya scheme is a **transformative initiative** by the Government of India aimed at the **all-round development of the eastern region** of the country, specifically the **five states** of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha & Andhra Pradesh.

- The goal is to leverage the region's rich natural resources and cultural heritage to transform it into a key economic powerhouse and an engine for the national goal of a "Developed India" (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

12.Reliance JV to set up 1 GW data centre in Vizag.

Digital Connexion, a joint venture of Reliance Industries, Brookfield and Digital Realty, will set up of a **1 GW data centre by in Visakhapatnam** at an investment of ₹98,000 crore by 2030.



- The MoU for the project was signed with **A.P. Economic Development Board (APEDB)**.
- The MoU marks the latest big-ticket investment in the data centre and electronics manufacturing space.
- Visakhapatnam will also host Google's AI Hub, a data centre representing the tech giant's largest investment in India.

Interconnected concept:

Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board

The **Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB)** serves as the state's premier agency for promoting investments, enabling ease of doing business, and advancing strategic economic development.

- Positioned as a single-window interface between investors and the government, APEDB plays a catalytic.
- Chief Minister acts as chairman of APEDB.



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Section-X: REGIONAL ISSUES OF TELANGANA- covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. Telangana establishes AI Innovation Hub.

The Telangana government has established **Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub (TAIH)** as part of the State's emphasis on facilitating measures to make most of the growth opportunities in the emerging technology.

- The primary goal behind setting up TAIH is to ensure that by 2035 Telangana finds a place among the top 20 AI hubs in the world.
- The hub will serve as a focal point for AI-based innovation, research and collaboration across multiple sectors.

2. TG seeks ₹117.76 crore relief support from the Centre.

Telangana State government has decided to seek assistance of ₹117.76 crore from the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** to provide input subsidies to farmers affected by Cyclone Montha.



The National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) is a central financial reserve established by the Government of India to provide immediate relief and assistance in the aftermath of severe natural or human-induced disasters.

- NDRF is constituted under **Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005** and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The fund is managed by the central government and placed in the **"Public Account of India."**

3. Telangana ranked 'Top Achiever' in BRAP rankings.

Telangana has been recognised as **'Top Achiever'** in the national **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2024** rankings announced by the Centre's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).



The State received the top honours in four important business-centric reform areas of **Business Entry, Construction Permit Enabler, Service Sector** and **Land Administration**.

4. State Cabinet approves draft Bill for Gig and Platform Workers.



The Telangana Government has approved the draft **Telangana Gig and Platform Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025**, which is aimed at protecting the interests of thousands of gig and platform workers working for various e-commerce and cab aggregators.

Key features of the draft Bill include:

1. **Gig worker:** A gig worker is a person who participates in a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship including piece-rate work. The work results in payment based on the terms and conditions in the contract. A platform worker is a person engaged through an online system.

2. **Gig and platform workers welfare board:** The state government will constitute a Gig and Platform Workers Welfare Board. The Board will have the Minister of Labour as the Chairperson and a CEO as the Secretary.
3. **Social Security and Welfare Fund:** The state government will establish a Social Security and Welfare Fund for gig and platform workers. The government will levy a Gig and Platform Workers Welfare Fund Fee on the aggregators and platforms.
4. **Rights of Platform and Gig Workers:** The gig and platform workers will have a right to register with the state government on joining any platform regardless of the duration of their work. Upon registration they will be provided with a unique ID valid across all platforms.

5. TG settles 74,782 pending cases through Special Lok Adalat.

A total of 74,782 pending criminal compoundable cases were settled across Telangana during the Special **Lok Adalat**, an exercise conducted by the **High Court of Telangana** and the **Telangana State Legal Services Authority** to promote amicable settlement between parties.



Lok Adalat (People's Court) is a **statutory dispute-resolution mechanism** in India for

settling cases **amicably and swiftly**, without formal court procedures.

- It functions under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**
- Decision (award) of Lok Adalat is **legally binding** on parties. It is **enforceable as a civil court decree**. **No appeal** lies against the award.

6. CAG to set up Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit at Hyderabad:

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) announced setting up a **centre of excellence for financial audit in Hyderabad**.

- This national hub is envisioned to be at the forefront of innovation, research, and professional development in financial auditing.
- The Centre will serve as an incubator for global best practices, foster advanced skills, and drive the standardisation of high-quality financial audit methodologies across the department.

Interconnected concept:

Comptroller and Auditor General of India:

Comptroller and Auditor General is established under **Article 148** of the Constitution.

- Appointed by the **President of India**.
- Audits accounts of the **Central & State Governments, PSUs**, and government-funded bodies.
- Submits reports to the **President** (Union) and **Governor** (States).
- Reports are examined by **PAC** and **COPU** of Parliament.
- Term: **6 years** or up to **65 years**.
- Salary charged on the **Consolidated Fund of India**.
- Removal process is similar to that of a **Supreme Court Judge**.

Section-XI: ONE LINERS - covers important events that does not require subject specialization.

- **Emissions Gap Report 2025** is released by United Nations Environment Program. The Report warns that **despite new climate pledges, the world is on track for a temperature rise of 2.3°–2.5°C**, far exceeding the Paris Agreement goals.
- Ghazala Firdous Hashmi, has made history by becoming the first Muslim woman, the first Indian-origin, and the first South Asian American to be elected as the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, USA.
- **Bangladesh** became the first country in South Asia to join the **United Nations (UN) Water**

Convention. The UN Water Convention is officially called the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. It was adopted in **Helsinki** in 1992 and came into force in 1996.

- The **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** released the **State of the Climate Update** for COP30. 2025 is projected to be the 2nd or 3rd warmest year on record.
- **China** has commissioned its latest **aircraft carrier-Fujian** after extensive sea trials.
- India concluded its two-decade-long military presence at **the Ayni airbase in Tajikistan** in 2022 after its bilateral agreement with the Tajik authorities expired.
- It is located around 20 km from Afghanistan's **Wakhan Corridor**, which shares a boundary with the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and with China's Xinjiang province.
- **Maharashtra** became the first Indian state to **formally collaborate with Elon Musk-owned Starlink** to deliver satellite-based internet connectivity across remote and underserved regions.
- **Google** recently unveiled **Project Suncatcher**, an ambitious research initiative to explore launching **AI-powered data centres into space** by 2027.
- **Maldives** inaugurated the **Hanimaadhoo International Airport**, a project completed with India's financial assistance.
- The Chief of the Air Staff recently commissioned the **Mudh-Nyoma airbase** in Ladakh by making a landing there in a C-130J aircraft.
- Israel has reopened the **Zikim crossing** to enable the United Nations and other international agencies to deliver humanitarian aid to northern Gaza, marking an important change after months of limited access.
- Zikim Crossing is a border point between **Israel** (near the kibbutz of Zikim) and the **northern Gaza Strip**, on the Mediterranean coast.

- **David Szalay** won the **2025 Booker Prize** for his novel "**Flesh**", becoming the first Hungarian-British writer to receive the honour. The Booker Prize, established in the **United Kingdom** in 1969, is regarded as the world's most prestigious award for a single work of fiction
- The **World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO)** is a **proposed** China-led multilateral body aimed at establishing global AI governance standards and fostering international cooperation, particularly for the Global South.
- **India and Botswana** formally announced the **translocation of eight cheetahs** from the African nation.
- **UNEP** unveiled its **Global Cooling Watch 2025 report** at **COP30 in Belem (Brazil)**, warning that worldwide cooling needs could increase threefold by 2050.
- The **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2024** was awarded to Michelle Bachelet, the first and only woman President of Chile
- **Sentinel-6B**, a joint mission between the United States' NASA, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the European Space Agency was launched for **tracking of oceans**.
- **Turkey (Türkiye)** will host COP31 in the resort city of **Antalya**. This decision came after a diplomatic standoff with Australia, which had also bid to host the event.
- **Nitish Kumar** (JDU party) sworn in as Bihar's chief minister for the **10th time**.
- Exercise **Ajeya Warrior** is a joint military exercise between **India and the United Kingdom**.
- Karnataka has launched **KEO (Knowledge-driven, Economical and Open-Source computer)** an **affordable and compact AI-enabled personal computer** designed to reduce the digital learning gap across the state.
- **Mount Semeru**, Indonesia's tallest and most active volcano on Java Island, erupted recently.

- **Garuda 25**, a bilateral air exercise between **India and France** in being held from 16 to 27 November 2025 at Mont-de-Marsan Air Base in France, marking yet another chapter in the strong strategic partnership between the two nations.
- **November 16** is observed as **the National Press Day** to celebrate the role of a free and responsible press in India. The day commemorates the **establishment of the Press Council of India**, which began its operations on this day in 1966.
- Noted environmentalist and Padma awardee **Salumarada Thimmakka** passed away. Thimmakka, renowned as the '**Tree Woman of India**' who planted thousands of trees around her village in south Karnataka.
- The **Hayli Gubbi volcano** in Ethiopia's Afar region erupted on November 23, erupting for the first time in almost 12,000 years.
- Tata Power Company Ltd signed agreements with Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC)

for the 1,125-Megawatt (MW) **Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project in Bhutan.**

- India won the inaugural **Blind Women's T20 World Cup** after defeating Nepal by seven wickets in the final.



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Section-XII: PRACTICE QUESTIONS -(MCQs) based on current affairs.

1. Practice Questions-I

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of October 2025)

1. Ayni Airbase, which was recently in the news, is situated in which of the following countries?

- Afghanistan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Armenia

2. Regarding the “Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF)” initiative, consider the following points:

- This is a France-led international fund intended to incentivise tropical nations to preserve and increase their forest cover.
- Its target is to raise about USD 125 billion from public and private sources, and use the returns to compensate countries that protect forests.
- India has joined the TFFF initiative as observer

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

3. Project Suncatcher, recently announced by Google, refers to which of the following?

- A green hydrogen project for powering EV charging stations in Europe
- A global solar observatory network to study solar storms
- An initiative to develop AI-powered data centres in outer space by 2027
- A plan to create underwater computing hubs to reduce land-based energy use

4. Consider the following statements:

- National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) scientists Ramesh Raju and Jatinder Pal Singh will pilot Matsya-6000 under the Deep Ocean Mission.
- Matsya-6000 can carry two people and is designed to dive up to 6,000 metres.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

5. Exercise Malabar is a naval exercise primarily conducted between which set of countries?

- India, USA, Japan and Australia
- India, USA and Russia
- India, France and Australia
- India, Japan and South Korea

6. Which of the following statements is correct regarding “BIRSA 101”?

- It is India’s first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy launched for sickle cell disease.
- It is a vaccine developed for dengue fever using mRNA technology.
- It is a genome sequencing chip developed for cancer detection.
- It is an AI tool for predicting genetic disorders

7. Consider the following statements:

- India’s first fully industry-built PSLV has been produced by the HAL-L&T consortium.
- This industry-built PSLV will launch an Oceansat satellite in early 2026.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

8. Which of the following proteins is used in India’s newly developed indigenous genome-editing technology by ICAR?

- Cas9
- Cas12a
- TnpB
- ZFN

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Punatsangchhu-II Hydropower Project:

- The 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydropower Project is a Myanmar-India

hydropower collaboration on the Punatsangchhu River.

2. It is being developed with financial and technical assistance from India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Which country has been confirmed as the host of the 32nd Conference of the Parties (COP32) to the UNFCCC, scheduled for 2027?

- a) Kenya
- b) Ethiopia
- c) Egypt
- d) South Africa

11. Consider the following statements about the Export Promotion Mission (EPM):

- 1. NIRYAT PROTSAHAN focuses on providing financial support like affordable trade finance and interest subvention to MSME exporters.
- 2. NIRYAT DISHA focuses on non-financial support such as export quality improvement, branding, packaging, and participation in trade fairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

12. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Seychelles has recently been included as the sixth full member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC).
- 2. The current full members of CSC include India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh, and Seychelles.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

13. The Indian Army recently signed a contract with which company for the indigenous production of BvS10 'Sindhu' all-terrain armoured vehicles?

- a) Tata Advanced Systems

- b) Bharat Forge
- c) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
- d) Mahindra Defence

14. Which of the following countries are members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)?

- 1. Russia
- 2. Armenia
- 3. Uzbekistan
- 4. Kyrgyzstan

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

15. Which country approved the sale of Javelin Missile Systems to India?

- a) Russia
- b) France
- c) Israel
- d) United States

16. Which country hosted the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit?

- a) Japan
- b) Brazil
- c) South Africa
- d) Indonesia

17. The Government of India has announced that the four Labour Codes will come into effect from November 21, 2025. Which of the following is NOT one of these four Labour Codes?

- a) Code on Wages, 2019
- b) Industrial Relations Code, 2020
- c) Code on Social Security, 2020
- d) Code on Employment Guarantee, 2021

18. The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 seeks to bring which Union Territory under the ambit of Article 240, enabling the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor?

- a) Puducherry
- b) Delhi
- c) Chandigarh
- d) Lakshadweep

19. Recently, the Supreme Court of India set aside its earlier 'Vanashakti judgment'. This judgment had dealt with which of the following issues?

- Restricting the use of notified forest land for linear projects like roads and transmission lines
- Halting the issuance of post-facto environmental clearances
- Requiring mandatory relocation of villages located within critical tiger habitats
- Freezing all new mining approvals in elephant reserve landscapes

20. Tata Power Company Ltd recently signed agreements with Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC) for developing which hydroelectric project in Bhutan?

- Mangdechhu Hydropower Project
- Punatsangchhu-II Hydropower Project
- Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project
- Kholongchhu Hydropower Project

21. Consider the following statements regarding National Press Day:

- Statement-I: November 16 is observed as National Press Day in India to celebrate the role of a free and responsible press.
- Statement-II: The day marks the commencement of the Press Council of India, which started functioning on November 16, 1966.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

22. Exercise Ajeya Warrior is a joint military exercise between India and which country?

- France
- United States
- United Kingdom
- Australia

23. Which case struck down the MoEF&CC's 2017 Notification and 2021 Office Memorandum that permitted ex-post facto environmental clearances for projects that began without prior approval?

- M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India
- T.N. Godavarman vs. Union of India
- Vanashakti vs. Union of India
- Narmada Bachao Andolan vs. Union of India

24. Justice Surya Kant took oath as which number Chief Justice of India (CJI)?

- 51st

- 52nd
- 53rd
- 54th

25. Consider the following statements about Samvidhan Divas (Constitution Day of India):

- It is observed every year to mark the adoption of the Indian Constitution on November 26, 1949.
- It commemorates the day India officially became a Republic on January 26, 1950.

Which one of the above statements is correct?

- Only 1
- Only 2
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Answers and explanations in brief:

1. Ans: b

- India concluded its two-decade-long military presence at the Ayni **airbase in Tajikistan**.

2. Ans: b

India joined as observer in **Brazil's initiative** to establish the **Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF)**, recognizing it as a significant step towards collective and sustained global action for the preservation of tropical forests.

- TFFF aims to mobilise around USD 125 billion through public and private investment, using returns to pay nations that conserve forests.

3. Ans: c

Google recently unveiled Project Suncatcher, an ambitious research initiative to explore launching AI-powered data centres into space by 2027.

4. Ans: a

- The MATSYA-6000 is India's **first indigenously developed manned deep-ocean submersible**, designed to carry three people to a depth of **6,000 meters for scientific exploration and mineral resource assessment**.
- India's own aquanauts — **Ramesh Raju and Jatinder Pal Singh** from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) — will pilot the **Matsya-6000 submersible** to explore deep-sea secrets at 500 m depth under the Deep Ocean Mission

5. Ans: a

- Exercise Malabar** was initiated in 1992 as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the

United States to strengthen maritime cooperation.

- Later, Japan and Australia joined, making it a key multilateral exercise among the Quad nations.

6. Ans: a

- India launched "BIRSA 101", its **first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for sickle cell disease (SCD)**.

7. Ans: c

- India's **first fully industry-built commercial PSLV rocket**, produced by the **HAL-L&T consortium**, is set to launch an **Oceansat satellite** early next year (2026).
- This marks a major transition where, for the first time, the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) has been manufactured entirely by private industry** rather than ISRO itself.

8. Ans: c

- Indian scientists have created a new, Indian-made method for **genome editing** in crops — a technique used to **cut and modify plant DNA** to improve traits. This offers a **miniature and affordable alternative** to the widely used foreign CRISPR-Cas technology.
- Instead of CRISPR proteins (like Cas9 or Cas12a), the Indian system uses **TnpB proteins**, which also act like "**molecular scissors**". These proteins can **cut DNA at a specific location** and allow scientists to **change the gene sequence** to improve how the gene works — for example, making crops more resistant, nutritious, or high-yielding.

9. Ans: b

- The Punatsangchhu-II project is a **1,020 MW hydropower project** on the **Punatsangchhu River** in Bhutan. It is designed as a **run-of-the-river** scheme, which is common for Bhutan's hydropower development model.

10. Ans: b

- **Ethiopia** has been confirmed as the host of the 32nd edition of the annual climate change conference (**COP32**) in 2027.

11. Ans: c

- **NIRYAT PROSAHAN** gives **financial help** to MSME exporters.

- This includes things like **cheap loans, interest subvention, export factoring, credit guarantees, and trade finance support**.

- **NIRYAT DISHA** provides **non-financial help**. This includes improving product quality, packaging, branding, taking part in trade fairs, warehousing, logistics support, and export training.

12. Ans: c

- The CSC is a regional security grouping in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. It brings together National Security Advisers (NSAs) from member states for coordinated action on common security challenges.
- Current full members: **India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh**, and (recently) **Seychelles**.

13. Ans: c

- The Indian Army has signed a contract with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for the indigenous production of **BvS10 Sindhu vehicles** - an advanced, all-terrain armoured platform designed for India's diverse terrain.

14. Ans: c

- The **Eurasian Economic Union** is a regional economic bloc formed in **2015** to promote **free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour** among its member countries.
- **Member Countries:** Russia; Belarus; Kazakhstan; Armenia; Kyrgyzstan.

15. Ans: d

- The United States approved a possible sale of two key tranches of military equipment with a combined value of \$93 million for India. New Delhi will soon receive the **Javelin Missile System** and **Excalibur Projectiles** along with other related equipment.

16. Ans: c

- Prime Minister Narendra visited Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the **G20 Leaders' Summit**.

17. Ans: d

- The Centre on announced the implementation of the four Labour Codes – the Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code (2020), Code on Social Security (2020), and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSHCW) Code (2020). The Codes come into effect from

November 21, 2025, replacing 29 Central labour laws.

18. Ans: c

- The Centre will introduce the **Constitution (131 Amendment) Bill 2025** in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament. The bill proposed to **include Chandigarh under the ambit of Article 240 of the Constitution**, allowing for the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor to administer the Union Territory.

19. Ans: b

- The term "**Vanashakti judgment**" refers primarily to a significant May 2025 Supreme Court of India ruling that banned the practice of granting **retrospective** (ex post facto) environmental clearances (ECs) for projects that had already started construction or expansion without prior approval. However, this judgment was subsequently recalled by a larger bench in November 2025.

20. Ans: c

- Tata Power Company Ltd signed agreements with Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC) for the 1,125-Megawatt (MW) **Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project in Bhutan**.

21. Ans: c

- **November 16** is observed as the **National Press Day** to celebrate the role of a free and responsible press in India. The day commemorates the **establishment of the Press Council of India**, which began its operations on this day in 1966

22. Ans: b

- Exercise Ajeya Warrior is a joint military exercise between India and the United Kingdom.

23. Ans: c

- In **Vanashakti vs. Union of India** case struck down the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's (MoEF&CC) 2017 Notification and 2021 Office Memorandum (OM) that allowed ex-post facto environmental clearances (ECs) for projects that have already begun construction or operation without the mandatory prior approval.

24. Ans: c

- Justice Surya Kant is the **53rd & current Chief Justice of India (CJI)**. He succeeded Justice B.R. Gavai and will serve until his retirement on February 9, 2027.

25. Ans: c

- **Constitution Day of India**, also known as **Samvidhan Divas** or National Law Day, is celebrated every year on **November 26**. This day commemorates the formal adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.
- **Date of Adoption:** The Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution on November 26, 1949, after a drafting process that took 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days.
- **Date of Enforcement:** The Constitution came into full effect on January 26, 1950, which is celebrated as **Republic Day**.

Section-XIII: PRACTICE QUESTIONS -(MCQs) based on the static concepts linked to this month's current affairs.

2. Practice Questions-II

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of October 2025)

26. Which of the above gases are actually included while calculating Air Quality Index (AQI) in Indian cities?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Carbon monoxide
3. Nitrogen dioxide
4. Sulphur dioxide

5. Methane

Select correct answer using codes given below

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

27. What does the term "Net-zero emissions" refer to?

- a) Completely eliminating all greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors

- b) Balancing total greenhouse gas emissions released with their absorption or removal
- c) Reducing emissions only from the industrial sector
- d) Replacing fossil fuels fully with renewable energy

28. Which of the following new legislations replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860?

- a) Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)
- b) Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)
- c) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)
- d) None of the above

29. Article 325 of the Constitution of India prohibits exclusion from the electoral rolls on the grounds of which of the following?

- a) Only caste and religion
- b) Only sex and race
- c) Religion, race, caste, sex or any of them
- d) Only religion, race and caste

30. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is mainly concerned with which of the following?

- a) Preventing the extinction of species due to international trade
- b) Regulating the use of chemicals harmful to biodiversity
- c) Controlling greenhouse gas emissions from wildlife transport
- d) Protecting migratory species across international borders

31. Which of the following statements about the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is correct?

- a) FSSAI is a non-statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- b) FSSAI was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- c) FSSAI functions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- d) FSSAI is responsible only for food import regulation in India.

32. Which of the following statements regarding GDP is correct?

- a) Intermediate goods are included in GDP to measure total production
- b) Nominal GDP is adjusted for inflation to reflect real growth

- c) Real GDP measures output using constant prices to remove the effect of inflation
- d) Both Nominal and Real GDP are calculated after excluding taxes and subsidies

33. What does genome sequencing primarily involve?

- a) Identifying the total number of chromosomes in a cell
- b) Determining the precise order of nucleotides in DNA
- c) Studying the physical structure of proteins in a cell
- d) Measuring the rate of genetic mutations over time

34. 3Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), which replaced the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), has been established mainly to:

- a) Promote digital payments across India
- b) Improve the quality and accessibility of telecommunications services
- c) Support startups in the electronics manufacturing sector
- d) Develop semiconductor fabrication units in India

35. Under Article 4 of the Indian Constitution, the creation of a new state requires:

- a) A special majority in both Houses of Parliament
- b) Ratification by at least half of the State Legislatures
- c) A simple majority in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha
- d) Approval of the President and the Supreme Court

36. Consider the following statements regarding BASIC countries:

1. BASIC refers to a group of four large developing countries that coordinate their positions on climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC.
2. The BASIC group includes Brazil, South Africa, India, and China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

37. Which of the following elements are included in the category of rare earth elements?

- Only lanthanum to lutetium
- Lanthanum to lutetium, plus scandium and yttrium
- Only scandium and yttrium
- Only lanthanum to europium

38. Consider the following statements regarding Geographical Indications (GIs):

- A GI tag can be used only by authorised producers from the designated geographical area.
- GI tags are valid for 10 years and can be renewed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

39. Which among the following is the largest tiger reserve in India, located in the Nallamala hill ranges and spread across Prakasam, Nandyal and Palnadu districts?

- Nagarjunasagar–Srisailem Tiger Reserve
- Pakke Tiger Reserve
- Simlipal Tiger Reserve
- Kanha Tiger Reserve

40. Consider the following statements:

- Cess is a tax collected for a specific purpose and must be used only for that purpose.
- Surcharge is an additional tax on taxpayers and is shared with the States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

41. Who among the following donated all her ornaments to Mahatma Gandhi and also gifted 13 acres of land in Pallipadu for establishing the Pinakini Satyagraha Ashram in 1921?

- Durgabai Deshmukh
- Ponaka Kanakamma
- Sarojini Naidu
- Ammu Swaminathan

42. Consider the following statements about the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL):

- The NBWL is a statutory body established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
- The Standing Committee of the NBWL is chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

43. Consider the following statements regarding the Buckingham Canal:

- It is a man-made tidal canal running parallel to the Bay of Bengal along the Coromandel Coast.
- It forms a part of India's National Waterway-4.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

44. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- Under Article 323-A, only Parliament can establish tribunals for service-related matters.
- Under Article 323-B, both Parliament and State Legislatures can create tribunals for subjects such as taxation and land reforms.

Select the correct answer:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

45. Under the Paris Agreement, the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) requires countries to report which of the following?

- Only climate finance received
- Only renewable energy capacity installed
- Greenhouse gas emissions and progress toward NDCs
- Only adaptation-related projects

46. Consider the following statements regarding Inflation:

1. Inflation refers to the rate at which the general price level of goods and services increases over a period of time.
2. As inflation rises, the purchasing power of money or real income decreases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

47. What is the primary purpose of imposing tariffs on imported goods and services?

- a) To reduce government revenue
- b) To make foreign products cheaper
- c) To encourage the consumption of domestically produced goods
- d) To eliminate all forms of international trade

48. Under Article 148 of the Constitution, which of the following is correct regarding the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India?

- a) The CAG is appointed by the Prime Minister and removed by Parliament through a simple majority.
- b) The CAG is appointed by the President and can be removed only in the same manner as a Supreme Court judge.
- c) The CAG is appointed by the Parliament and removed by the President at will.
- d) The CAG is appointed by the Chief Justice of India and removed by the President after consultation.

49. Consider the following statements about ISRO's LVM-3 launch vehicle:

1. LVM-3 uses solid, liquid, and cryogenic fuel-based engines.
2. LVM-3 can place up to 8,000 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

50. Genome sequencing refers to determining the precise order of which of the following in an organism's DNA?

- a) Amino acids

- b) Hormones
- c) Nucleotides
- d) Enzymes

Answers and explanations in brief:

26. Ans: b

The AQI in India is a standardized system that measures and reports air quality based on the concentration of major air pollutants, including **PM10, PM2.5, Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Ozone (O₃), Carbon monoxide (CO), and Ammonia (NH₃)**.

- The AQI is categorized into **six levels**: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe, with associated health advisories.

27. Ans: b

Net-zero emissions is a situation in which a country's total greenhouse gas emissions being released in the atmosphere are balanced with absorption or capture of these gases either in natural sinks like forests or through technological interventions like carbon capture and sequestration.

- The world as a whole has set 2050 as its target year to achieve net-zero status, while individual developed countries have set varying deadlines between 2040 and 2050. China, the world's largest emitter, has announced that it aims to become net-zero by 2060, while **India plans to achieve net-zero by 2070**.

28. Ans: c

The BNS is part of a trio of new laws that replace the British-era criminal legislations:

- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.
- **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973.
- **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)** replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

29. Ans: c

- **Article 325**: No individual to be excluded from electoral rolls on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.

30. Ans: a

- **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)** is an international agreement between

governments aimed at ensuring that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

31. Ans: b

- **FSSAI** is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**, Government of India is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.

32. Ans: c

- Only final goods and services are included in GDP. Intermediate goods — those goods which are used as inputs in the production of other goods — are excluded to avoid double counting.

There are two main measures of GDP: Nominal GDP and Real GDP.

- **Nominal GDP:** It refers to the value of goods and services evaluated at current market prices without factoring in inflation or deflation.
- **Real GDP:** An inflation-adjusted measure that reflects both the value and quantity of goods and services produced by an economy in a given year.

33. Ans: b

- Genome sequencing is the process of determining the **precise order of nucleotides** (Adenine, Thymine, Cytosine, and Guanine) in an organism's DNA.

34. Ans: b

- **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)** is a fund that aims to improve the quality and accessibility of telecommunications services in India. It was established by the government of India as a replacement for the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.

35. Ans: c

- Article 4 of the Indian Constitution states that laws made under Article 2 and Article 3 (which deal with the admission, establishment, formation, and alteration of states) are **not considered constitutional amendments**. Therefore, they **do not require a special majority** as needed for amending most parts of the Constitution under Article 368.
- Such bills need only a **simple majority**—that is, more than half of the members present and voting in both Houses of Parliament.

36. Ans: c

- **BASIC** refers to a group of four large developing countries that coordinate their positions on **climate change negotiations** under the UNFCCC.

BASIC = Brazil + South Africa + India + China

37. Ans: b

- **Rare earths** are a subset of the critical minerals grouping that includes 17 metallic elements nestled lower down in the periodic table, from lanthanum (atomic number 57) to lutetium (71), as well as plus scandium (21) and yttrium (39).

38. Ans: c

A **Geographical Indication (GI)** is a form of **intellectual property right (IPR)** that identifies a product as originating from a specific **geographical location**, where a **unique quality, reputation, or characteristic** of the product is essentially linked to that place.

- It is Governed under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**. India enacted this law to comply with WTO-TRIPS Agreement, which mandates GI protection.
- GI tag valid for **10 years**, and can be **renewed** indefinitely.

39. Ans: a

- Nagarajunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve located in the Nallamala hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh, is the largest tiger reserve in India with an area of 3,728 sq km, spread across **Prakasam, Nandyal and Palnadu districts**.
- It is divided into four divisions – Markapur, Atmakur, Nandyal and Giddalur.
- There are several waterfalls in the reserve such as the **Ethpothala Falls**.

40. Ans: a

- Cess = collected for a **specific purpose**; not shared with States.
- Surcharge = additional tax on income/corporate taxpayers; **not shared with States** (goes only to the Centre).

41. Ans: b

- Nellore-based social worker **Ponaka Kanakamma**, who hailed from a rich landlord community, was a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and gave him all her ornaments for the freedom struggle. She also donated 13 acres in Pallipadu

to establish **Pinakini Satyagraha Ashram**, inaugurated by Gandhiji on April 7, 1921

42. Ans: c

The **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** is the apex advisory body on wildlife conservation in India. It advises the Central Government on policies, laws, and measures related to wildlife protection.

- Established under **Section 5A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- Chaired by the **Prime Minister of India** and consists of 47 members

Standing Committee of NBWL is chaired by **MoEFCC Minister**. It has the power to **approve projects in Protected Areas** on behalf of the full NBWL.

43. Ans: c

- Buckingham Canal is a **man-made, tidal navigation canal** running parallel to the **Coromandel Coast** of India. It passes through **Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu**, and the **Union Territory of Puducherry**.
- It forms a part of India's National Waterway-4.

44. Ans: c

- Article **323-A** empowers **only Parliament** to establish **Administrative Tribunals** for adjudicating service-related disputes of government employees (Union, State, local authorities, and government-controlled corporations).
- Article **323-B** allows **both Parliament and State Legislatures** to create tribunals for **specific matters other than service matters**, such as **taxation, land reforms, labour disputes, elections, ceiling laws**, etc.

45. Ans: c

- The Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) is a mandatory report submitted every two years under the Paris Agreement, where countries disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and progress made toward their climate commitments (NDCs).

46. Ans: C

- Inflation refers to the rate at which the general price level for goods and services increases over a period of time, causing a decrease in purchasing power of money or real income. In other words, as inflation rises, each unit of

currency can buy fewer goods and services than before.

47. Ans: c

- Tariffs are taxes or duties imposed by a government on imported goods and services. Their objective is to make foreign products more expensive compared to domestically produced goods, thereby encouraging consumers to prefer local products. Tariffs also act as a protective measure for domestic industries against foreign competition. Additionally, they serve as a source of revenue for the government.

48. Ans: b

- The CAG is appointed by the President and can be removed only in the same manner as a Supreme Court judge.

49. Ans: c

- LVM-3, earlier referred to as Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle Mark 3 or GSLV Mk 3, uses **solid, liquid, as well as cryogenic-fuel** based engines to put up to 8,000 kg in low earth orbit (up to an altitude of 2,000 km from Earth's surface) and up to 4,000 kg in geosynchronous orbit (about 36,000 km).

50. Ans: c

- Genome sequencing is the process of determining the **precise order of nucleotides** (Adenine, Thymine, Cytosine, and Guanine) in an organism's DNA.



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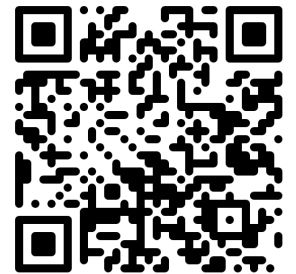
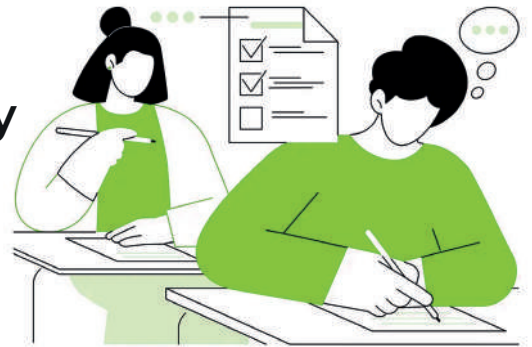


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