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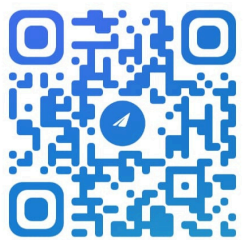
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INDIAN POLITY

1.EC FINALISES ELECTORAL COLLEGE FOR VICE-PRESIDENTIAL POLL



- The Election Commission has finalized the Electoral College for the vice-presidential election, which was necessitated by the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- The Vice-President of India is elected by an Electoral College consisting of elected and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and elected members of the Lok Sabha.
- The Election Commission announced that the Electoral College list for the 2025 vice-presidential election has been finalized.
- The list will be available for purchase at a designated counter in the Election Commission office from the date of notification, which is expected to be announced soon.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned as Vice-President on July 21, more than two years before the scheduled end of his term on August 10, 2027.
- As per Clause 2 of Article 68 of the Constitution, an election to fill a vacancy in the office of the Vice-President due to death, resignation, removal, or other reasons must be held “as soon as possible.”
- The person elected in such a case will serve a full five-year term from the date they assume office.
- A period of 30 days is stipulated between the issuance of the notification calling the Electoral College to vote and the actual polling date.

2.PM TO INAUGURATE BHUPEN HAZARIKA'S BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Assam on September 8.
- He will take part in the inauguration ceremony of the birth centenary celebrations of cultural icon Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.
- Modi will inaugurate the 2G bio-refinery plant at Numaligarh Refinery Limited, constructed at a cost of Rs 4,200 crore.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma informed that Modi will first visit Golaghat for the NRL event.
- He will then travel to Mangaldai in Darrang district to launch the Guwahati Ring Road.
- The Prime Minister will also launch the Kuruwa-Narengi bridge over the Brahmaputra in Darrang.
- In Mangaldai, he will lay the foundation stone of Mangaldai Medical College and Hospital.
- Later in the evening, Modi will reach Guwahati to inaugurate the year-long birth centenary celebrations of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, organised by the State government.
- District commissioners have been instructed to prepare a list of 50 persons who had come in contact with Dr. Hazarika.
- A portal has been developed for people interested in attending the centenary celebrations to register themselves.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Assam on August 29, ahead of the Prime Minister's visit.
- During his visit, Amit Shah will inaugurate the newly built Raj Bhawan.
- He will also attend a Panchayat convention of the NDA in Guwahati.
- Shah will participate in the birth centenary celebrations of former Chief Minister Golap Borbora in Guwahati.
- The State government will launch the Orunodoi 3.0 scheme on September 17, coinciding with Prime Minister Modi's birthday.
- The Orunodoi 3.0 scheme will cover 40 lakh beneficiaries across Assam.
- The Nijut Moina scheme is being expanded to include more girls from the State's two Central universities and students of self-financing courses.
- A pilot scheme named Orunodoi Plus has been announced.
- Under Orunodoi Plus, beneficiaries purchasing LPG cylinders will receive an additional Rs 250 as subsidy.

3.PM'S 'PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA' ENTERS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR MOST REGISTRATIONS IN A MONTH

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' initiative has entered the Guinness World Record for the “most people registered on a citizen engagement platform in one month”, as announced by the Ministry of Education (MoE).
- A total of 3.53 crore valid registrations were received during the eighth edition of the programme.



- As part of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' (PPC), Prime Minister Modi interacts directly with students, teachers, and parents.
- The initiative aims to transform the examination period into a "festival of positivity, preparation, and purposeful learning", promoting encouragement over stress.
- 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' has been redefined as a national approach to examinations by turning stress into a celebration of learning.
- The eighth edition in 2025 recorded over 21 crore viewership across all media platforms.
- The overwhelming participation in PPC 2025 reflects the country's collective commitment to holistic and inclusive education, aligning with the vision of a Viksit Bharat.
- PPC is an annual event where Modi addresses students preparing for board exams and answers their questions related to exam stress and other concerns.
- The first edition of the Prime Minister's interactive programme with school and college students was held at Talkatora Stadium in February 2018.

4.CENTRAL POWER AUTHORITY IDENTIFIES SUBANSIRI PROJECT AS 'VULNERABLE'



- The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has classified the 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHEP) as 'vulnerable'.
- An advisory has been issued to the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) for implementing an Early Warning System (EWS) in the project.

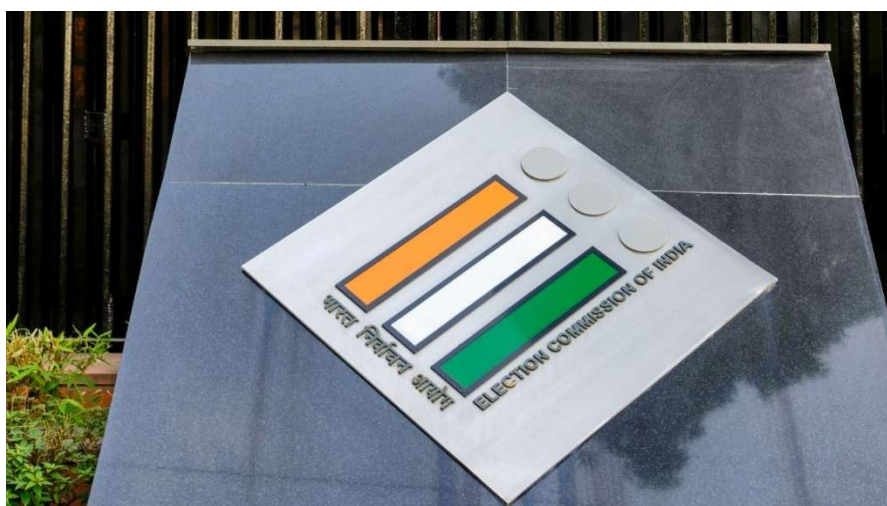
- Hydroelectric projects located above 1,500 metres elevation and positioned first in the basin in the upper Himalayan region are considered vulnerable by the CEA.
- For such projects, implementing an EWS is mandatory.
- The CEA has issued advisories to all developers of identified vulnerable projects to install EWS.
- Other projects identified as sensitive:
 - Rangit (60 MW), Sikkim
 - Panyor Lower (405 MW), Arunachal Pradesh
 - Kameng (600 MW), Arunachal Pradesh
 - Chuzachen (110 MW), Sikkim
 - Tashiding (97 MW), Sikkim
 - Rongnichu (113 MW), Sikkim
 - Dikchu (96 MW), Sikkim
 - Teesta III (1,200 MW), Sikkim
- Currently, 209 hydroelectric projects with a total installed capacity of 43.18 GW have been commissioned in India.
- Of this, at least 2,027 MW belongs to the Northeastern states.
- The generator rotor of Unit 4, weighing 673 MT — the heaviest-ever equipment handled in an Indian hydropower plant — was successfully lowered into the pit on July 20.
- This will enable the boxing up of Unit 4, paving the way for early testing and commissioning of four units of 1,000 MW capacity out of the total eight units (250 MW each) for the 2,000 MW SLHEP.

5.UNION CABINET APPROVES 4 COMPONENTS OF SDPS FOR ASSAM AND TRIPURA

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved four new components under the existing Central Sector Scheme (CSS) of Special Development Packages (SDPs) for Assam and Tripura with a total outlay of Rs.4,250 crore.
- The Union Cabinet approved Rs.500 crore for development of infrastructure in Adivasi inhabited villages/areas of Assam as per the Memoranda of Settlement (MoS) signed by the Governments of India and Assam with the Adivasi groups of Assam.
- Rs.500 crore was approved for development of infrastructure in the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) area of Dimas National Liberation Army/Dimas People's Supreme Council inhabited villages/areas of Assam as per the MoS signed by the Government of India and Government of Assam with the Dimas National Liberation Army (DNLA)/Dimas People's Supreme Council (DPSC) groups of Assam.
- An amount of Rs.3,000 crore was approved for the development of infrastructure in Assam, as per the MoS signed by the central government and state government with the ULFA groups of Assam.
- Moreover, Rs.250 crore was approved for development of tribals of Tripura as per the MoS signed by the Governments of India and Tripura with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) groups of Tripura.

- The overall outlay of the proposed four new components will be Rs.7,250 crore, out of which Rs.4,250 crore will be provided under the existing Central Sector Scheme of Special Development Packages for Assam (Rs.4,000 crore) and Tripura (Rs.250 crore), and the remaining Rs.3,000 crore will be contributed by the Assam government from their resources.
- The impacts envisaged, apart from Employment Generation Potential, include Infrastructure & livelihood projects to create employment; benefits to youth and women via skill development, income generation, and local entrepreneurship; stability to mainstream affected communities.

6.ECI DELISTS 334 UNRECOGNISED POLITICAL PARTIES



- The Election Commission of India (ECI) delisted 345 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) that had not contested any election for the last six years since 2019 and whose offices could not be physically located at their registered addresses.
- After reviewing the facts and recommendations of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), the ECI delisted 334 RUPPs, reducing the total from 2,854 to 2,520.
- These delisted RUPPs will no longer be eligible for benefits under Sections 29B and 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, or the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
- Aggrieved parties can appeal to the Commission within 30 days.
- The move is part of ECI's ongoing strategy to remove redundant political parties that only exist on paper.
- The "purging exercise" began in June 2025, with the ECI directing State and UT CEOs to verify compliance of 345 RUPPs with election participation and operational requirements.
- CEO reports found that 334 out of 335 parties investigated were non-compliant. Show-cause notices were issued, and parties were given a chance to respond through hearings.
- Currently, there are six national parties, 67 state parties, and 2,854 RUPPs registered with the ECI.
- As per EC guidelines, any party that does not contest elections for six consecutive years is removed from the list of registered parties.
- Since 2022, the ECI has delisted 284 defaulting RUPPs and declared 253 inactive to clean up the political space from non-functional parties.

7.LOK SABHA PASSES NEW INCOME TAX BILL IN JUST 3 MIN



- The Income Tax Bill (No. 2) 2025, aimed at replacing the 63-year-old law governing income taxation for individuals and corporations, was passed in the Lok Sabha in just three minutes.
- The Bill streamlines TDS, exemptions, and other compliance-heavy provisions, and allows individuals to claim refunds without penalty on delayed filings.
- It was passed amid Opposition disruptions over allegations of irregularities in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had withdrawn the earlier version of the Income Tax Bill, 2025 (introduced in February), and on August 8 presented an updated version incorporating recommendations of a Parliamentary panel.
- The Bill was passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha despite slogan shouting by the Opposition.
- It will now move to the Rajya Sabha for approval, and thereafter to the President for assent, after which it will become law.
- The new Bill reduces the size and complexity of the current Income Tax Act by drastically cutting the number of effective sections and chapters, and nearly halving the word count.
- It eliminates the concepts of "assessment year" and "previous year," replacing them with the simpler term "tax year."
- Individuals will be allowed to claim TDS refunds even if they file their return beyond the statutory deadline for filing the original income-tax return.
- It provides for 'nil' TCS on Liberalised Remittance Scheme remittances for education purposes financed by any financial institution.
- Deductions for certain inter-corporate dividends for companies opting for concessional tax rates have been reintroduced, aligning with provisions of the existing Income-tax Act, 1961.

8.AADHAAR NOT CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP: SC

- The Supreme Court described the Bihar special intensive revision (SIR) row as "largely a trust deficit issue."

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) stated that roughly 6.5 crore people out of the total 7.9 crore voting population did not have to submit any documents if they or their parents were listed in the 2003 electoral roll.
- The court is hearing multiple pleas challenging the ECI's electoral roll revision exercise in Bihar.
- A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi remarked that it "largely appears to be a case of trust deficit, nothing else."
- The bench questioned the petitioners challenging the EC's June 24 decision to conduct the SIR, citing concerns that it could disenfranchise one crore voters.
- The Supreme Court supported the EC's decision not to treat Aadhaar and voter cards as conclusive proof of citizenship, requiring them to be backed by other documents.

9. PARLIAMENT PASSES NATIONAL SPORTS BILL AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION



- The National Sports Governance Bill was passed by Parliament, with Rajya Sabha giving approval just 24 hours after Lok Sabha.
- This marks a historic first for India's sports administration, which will now be regulated by a national board with its own dispute resolution mechanism.
- The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, reinforcing NADA's autonomy as required by the World Anti-Doping Agency, was also passed.
- Both bills now await presidential assent to become acts.
- A key feature of the Sports Governance Bill is the creation of the National Sports Board (NSB) to ensure stringent accountability.
- The NSB can de-recognise a national body if it fails to hold elections for its Executive Committee or commits gross irregularities in election procedures.
- Failure to publish annual audited accounts or misuse of public funds will also invite NSB action, though it must consult the relevant global body before acting.
- The bill also proposes a National Sports Tribunal with powers of a civil court to decide disputes related to selection, elections, and issues involving federations and athletes.
- Tribunal decisions can only be challenged in the Supreme Court.

10.117 ENDANGERED LANGUAGES BEING PRESERVED: MINISTER KIREN RIJJU

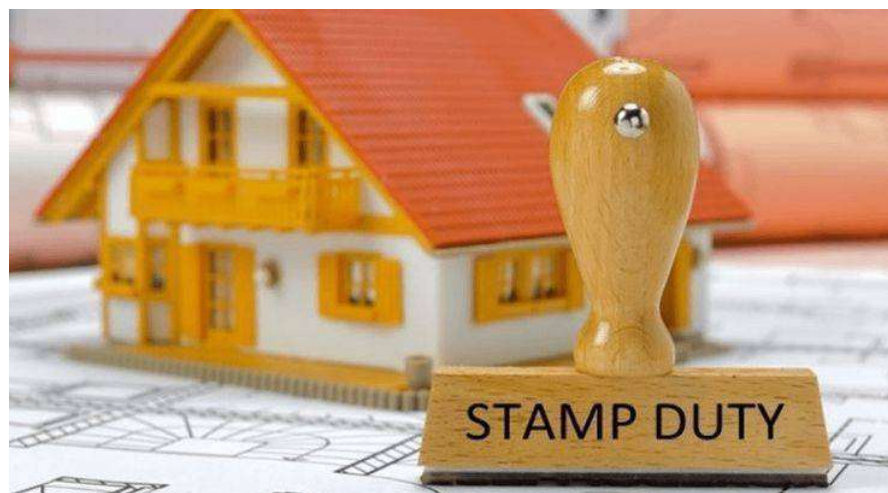
- A total of 117 endangered languages/mother tongues, each



spoken by less than 10,000 people, have been selected from across India for study and documentation under a Central government scheme.

- Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju informed the Rajya Sabha that the Bharatvani digital knowledge platform represents 77 tribal languages, offering resources like language learning tools, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and glossaries.
- The Central government is promoting Sanskrit through three Central Universities, which receive funds based on need and utilisation.
- The *Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India* (SPPEL) is implemented by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, to document and preserve all mother tongues/languages spoken by less than 10,000 people.
- Government policy aims to promote all Indian languages, including classical ones.
- CIIL promotes all Indian languages, including classical languages Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia, while the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai, focuses on Tamil.
- In 2024–25, ₹83.50 lakh each was spent on Kannada, Telugu, Odia, and Malayalam, while ₹1,430 lakh was spent on Tamil.
- Steps to promote mother tongues include:
 - Development of 117 primers in 22 Scheduled and 99 Non-Scheduled languages.
 - Development of 52 additional primers in local and mother tongues by NCERT and CIIL.
- In higher education and technical fields:
 - AICTE has provided engineering textbooks in 12 Indian languages.
 - The first Marathi-medium engineering batch from Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering, Pune, graduated successfully.
 - Major exams like NET, CTET, NEET, JEE, CUET, and SSC are now conducted in 12 Indian languages.
 - UGC allows students to write exams in local languages, regardless of the medium of instruction.

11.GOV'T SLASHES STAMP DUTY, WAIVES PENALTY FOR PAYMENT DELAY



- The State government has approved the collection of stamp duty at a concessional rate of 3% for registration of tea gardens that have changed ownership in recent years.
- Any penalty due on such transactions because of delayed payment of stamp duty has been waived.
- Over 50 tea gardens in the State have changed hands in the last two to three years.
- These changes in possession occurred through court-ordered amalgamation schemes, without registering the property transfer or paying the required stamp duty.
- A notification from the Revenue and Disaster Management (registration) department was issued on August 11 regarding the amalgamation between Moran Tea Company and McLeod Russel Ltd.
- The notification stated that such transfers of possession do not automatically result in the transfer of property rights, leading to underutilisation of the economic value of the asset.
- The government noted that this practice has prevented unlocking the economic value of tea garden land, causing avoidable revenue losses and restricting investment potential in the sector.
- The “competent authority” approved a one-time settlement for stamp duty collection at 3% for registration of the amalgamation between Moran Tea Company and McLeod Russel India Ltd.
- The government has extended the same benefit to all tea gardens where past transfers under amalgamation schemes remain unregistered.
- In such cases, District Commissioners will correct land records upon payment of 3% stamp duty based on the valuation on the day of amalgamation or the current valuation.
- The Government of Assam has waived penalties on delayed stamp duty payments for such transactions.

12.PM MODI ANNOUNCES DEMOGRAPHY MISSION TO TACKLE ILLEGAL INFLUX

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned people of a premeditated conspiracy to change the country’s demography through illegal infiltration.

- He said no nation can tolerate intruders and announced a high-powered demography mission to tackle the problem.
- In his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on India’s 79th Independence Day, Modi said the country’s forefathers made the supreme sacrifice to win freedom for Indians,

and it is the duty of its citizens not to accept such activities.

- The Prime Minister said his government has decided to launch a high-powered demography mission to tackle this crisis.
- Modi warned that when demographic changes take place, especially in the border areas, they create a national security crisis.
- Modi also warned about infiltration during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and used the term ‘ghuspaithiya’ in his election campaign.
- The BJP has been raising the issue of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh marrying tribal girls in West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- The party also raised the issue of illegal immigrants in Assam.

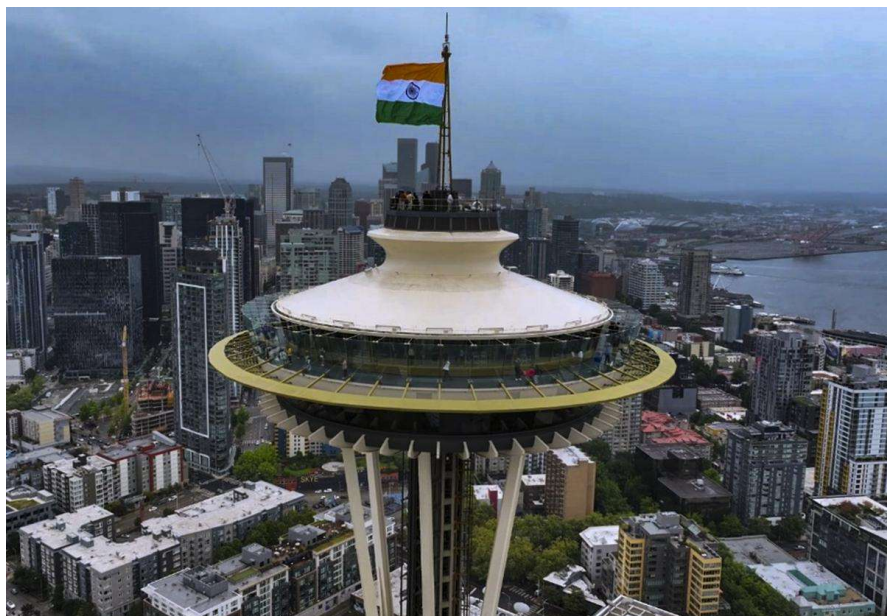
13.IMPOSING FIXED TIMELINES ON GOVERNORS, PRESIDENT WOULD LEAD TO ‘CONSTITUTIONAL DISORDER’: CENTRE TO SC



- Imposing fixed timelines on Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by a State Assembly would amount to one organ of the government assuming powers not vested in it by the Constitution and lead to a “constitutional disorder”, the Centre told the Supreme Court.
- The Centre said this in written submissions filed in the Presidential Reference raising constitutional issues on whether timelines could be imposed for dealing with Bills passed by a State Assembly.
- It said that the alleged failure, inaction or error of one organ does not and cannot authorise another organ to assume powers that the Constitution has not vested in it.
- If any organ is permitted to arrogate to itself the functions of another on a plea of public interest, institutional dissatisfaction or constitutional ideals, the consequence would be a constitutional disorder not envisaged by the framers.
- The note filed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued that the apex court imposing fixed timelines would dissolve the delicate equilibrium established by the Constitution and negate the rule of law.

- The perceived lapses, if any, are to be addressed through constitutionally sanctioned mechanisms such as electoral accountability, legislative oversight, executive responsibility, reference procedures or consultative processes amongst democratic organs.
- Thus, Article 142 does not empower the court to create a concept of ‘deemed assent’, which would turn the constitutional and legislative process on its head.
- The positions of the Governor and President are “politically plenary” and represent “high ideals of democratic governance”. Any perceived lapses must be addressed through political and constitutional mechanisms, not necessarily through judicial interventions.
- Mehta submitted that perceived issues, if any, deserve political answers, not necessarily judicial ones.
- Challenging the apex court, Mehta contended that Articles 200 and 201, which deal with the Governors’ and President’s alternatives after receiving a State Bill, deliberately contain no timelines.
- Despite the proliferation of checks and balances, there are certain zones that remain exclusive to either of the three organs of the State and cannot be trenched upon by the others, the note said, adding that the high plenary positions of Governors and the President fall within that zone.
- The Supreme Court has fixed a time schedule for hearing the Presidential Reference and proposed to start the hearing from August 19.

14.HISTORIC FIRST: INDIAN FLAG HOISTED ATOP SEATTLE’S ICONIC SPACE NEEDLE



- In a proud and unprecedented moment, the Indian Tricolour was hoisted for the first time atop Seattle’s iconic Space Needle to mark India’s 79th Independence Day.
- The event, described as historic by the Consulate General of India in Seattle, symbolised both the cultural pride of Indian Americans and the deepening relationship between India and the US Pacific Northwest.
- The flag hoisting ceremony was attended by the Consul General of India in Seattle, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, and several senior city officials.

- They acknowledged the vibrant Indian American community’s contribution to Seattle’s rise as a major tech hub.
- Following the hoisting, a cultural reception was held at Kerry Park, with sweeping skyline views and the Tricolour atop the Needle in the background.
- Hundreds of Indian Americans gathered to witness the historic sight.
- Distinguished guests included US Congressman Adam Smith (WA-9), Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra L. Stephens, and Seattle Port Commissioner Sam Cho.
- Congressman Smith called the flag hoisting a “powerful tribute to the diversity and unity” of the region.

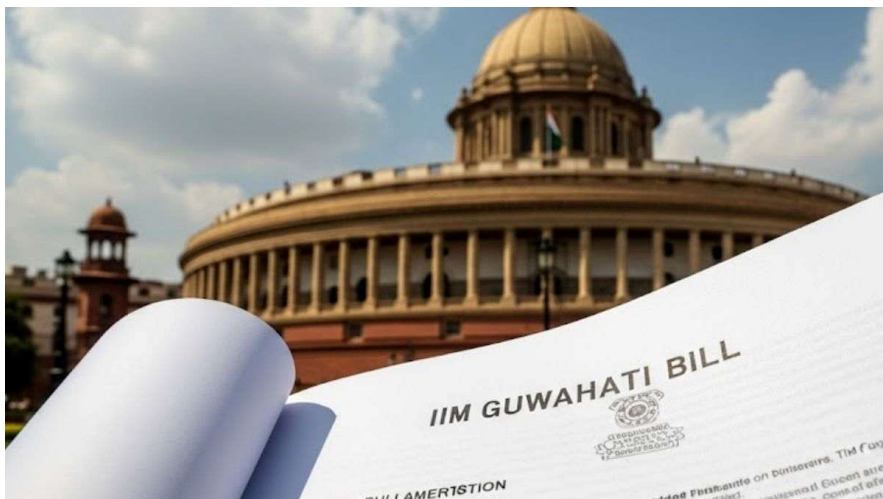
15.GOVt LAUNCHES PM VIKSIT BHARAT ROZGAR YOJNA PORTAL FOR EMPLOYERS, FIRST-TIME EMPLOYEES



- The government launched the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY) portal on Monday, announced by Union Minister Mansukh L Mandaviya.
- Employers and first-time employees have been urged to take advantage of the Rs 1-lakh crore Central scheme.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Employment Linked Incentive Scheme on July 1, 2025.
- With an outlay of nearly Rs 1 lakh crore, the scheme aims to incentivise the creation of over 3.5 crore jobs in the country within two years (August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2027).
- The scheme covers all employers and first-time employees.
- Benefits can be availed by registering on the PMVBRY portal or uploading UAN numbers on the Umang app.
- The scheme has two parts:
 - **Part A:** For first-time employees.
 - A one-time incentive equivalent to an average one-month wage (basic + DA) of up to Rs 15,000 will be provided in two instalments.
 - Employees with gross wages up to Rs 1 lakh are eligible.
 - **Part B:** For employers.
 - Incentives provided under three slabs:

- Rs 1,000 for employees with a salary of Rs 10,000/month.
- Rs 2,000 for employees earning Rs 10,000–20,000/month.
- Rs 3,000 for employees with salaries up to Rs 30,000/month.
- Incentives for generating additional employment across all sectors, with special focus on manufacturing.
- Employers get up to Rs 3,000 per month per additional employee (first-timers and re-joiners) for at least 6 months.
- Incentives paid for 2 years, and for 4 years in the manufacturing sector.
- To qualify, establishments must hire at least 2 additional employees (if fewer than 50 employees) or 5 additional employees (if 50 or more employees) on a sustained basis for 6 months.
- Exempted establishments under the EPF & MP Act, 1952, are also included.
- They must file the electronic challan-cum-return (ECR) and open UANs for all existing and new employees via the Umang app.

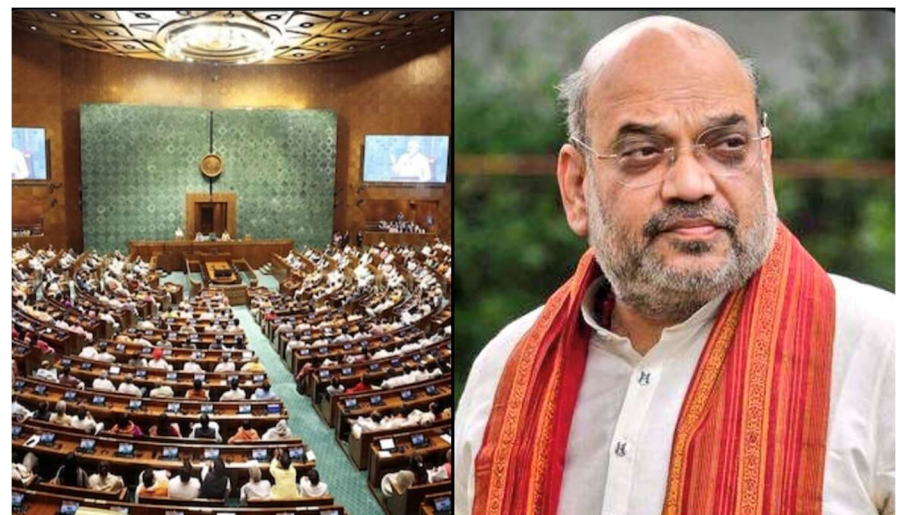
16.LOK SABHA PASSES BILL TO SET UP IIM IN GUWAHATI



- The Lok Sabha passed a bill to set up an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Guwahati with the Union government providing capital support of Rs 550 crore.
- The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025 – which was passed amid din in the Lower House – will help set up the second IIM in the Northeast after Shillong.
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan piloted the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, as the Opposition continued with its protest over the issue of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.
- After the passage of the bill through a voice vote, Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day.
- According to the draft law, the Centre, the Assam government, and representatives of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) signed a memorandum of settlement (MoS) for all-round development of the State.
- The establishment of an IIM in Guwahati as an institution of national importance is one of the projects under the Special Development Package (SDP) provided to Assam.

- At present, there are 21 IIMs that are declared as institutions of national importance and each of those is specified in the Schedule to the IIM Act.
- The Assam government requested the establishment of an IIM in the State for its all-round development.
- The bill noted that until the first Board of IIM Guwahati is constituted under this Act, all powers and functions, which may be exercised or performed by or on behalf of such Board shall be exercised and performed by such person or persons as the Central government may direct on this behalf.
- Assam is at the centre stage of all-round development of the region.
- Establishing an IIM in Assam shall boost the overall education and development of the region and open up significant opportunities for the students of the North Eastern Region of India to develop managerial skills.

17.BILLS INTRODUCED FOR REMOVAL OF MINISTERS ARRESTED FOR 30 DAYS



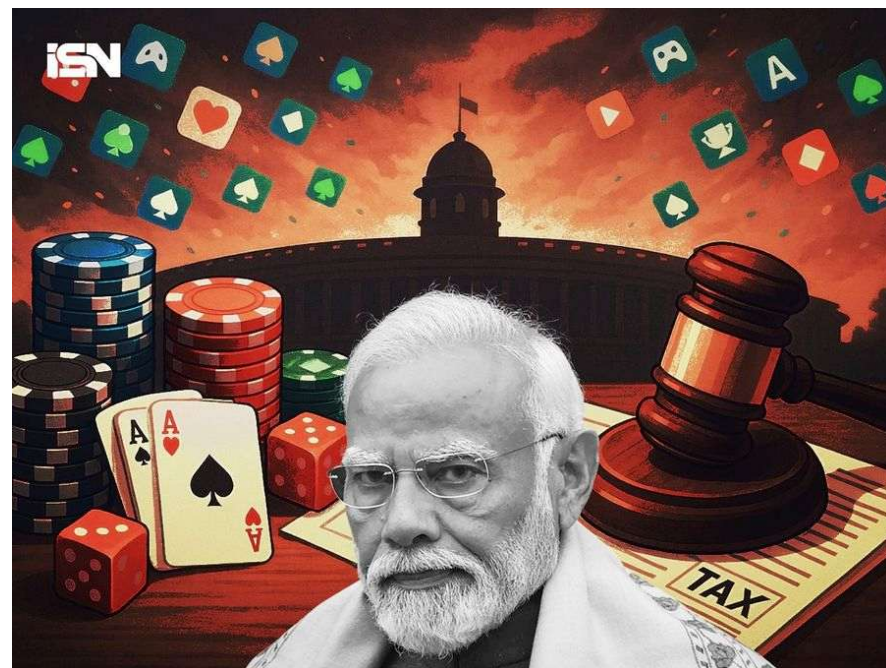
- Home Minister Amit Shah introduced in Lok Sabha three bills for the removal of prime minister, chief ministers, and ministers under arrest for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges.
- Opposition MPs protested fiercely, tore up copies of the draft law, and marched close to his seat shouting slogans.
- Several opposition MPs argued the bills violated constitutional principles, targeted federalism, overturned the principle of ‘innocent until proven guilty,’ were prone to political misuse, and risked turning the country into a police state.
- Shah defended the move, stressing the need for moral values in public life, stating, “We cannot be so shameless that we continue to occupy constitutional positions while facing serious charges.”
- On his proposal, the bills were sent to a Joint Committee of Parliament comprising 21 members from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha for scrutiny.
- The committee has been directed to submit its report to the House by the last day of the first week of the next session, expected in the third week of November.
- The bills will be reviewed by the Joint Committee of Parliament, where opposition members can provide suggestions.

- The three Bills are the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill 2025, the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill 2025, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2025.
- The constitutional amendment bill requires at least a two-thirds majority in both Houses, which the ruling alliance currently does not have on its own.
- The bills propose that if the prime minister, union ministers, or chief ministers are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days for offences carrying a jail term of at least five years, they will lose their positions on the 31st day.

18.GUV CAN'T SEND BILLS TO PRESIDENT AFTER IT COMES BACK TO HIM 2ND TIME FROM ASSEMBLY: SC

- The Supreme Court stated that a Governor cannot send Bills to the President for consideration when presented to him for the second time after being cleared by the State Assembly.
- The court questioned the Centre on the extent of a Governor's powers in granting assent to Bills.
- Under Article 200 of the Constitution, a Governor may assent to a Bill, withhold assent, or send it to the President for consideration.
- A Governor can also return a Bill (except a money Bill) to the Assembly for reconsideration.
- The five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai, made the observation during a hearing on a presidential reference over assent to Bills.
- The bench warned that if Governors could indefinitely withhold assent without returning Bills, elected governments would be subject to the "whims and fancies" of an unelected appointee.
- It emphasized that under Article 200, once a Bill is passed again by the Assembly and presented to the Governor, he must assent and cannot send it to the President in the second instance.
- Justice PS Narasimha rejected the Centre's contention that withholding assent causes the Bill to lapse, calling it counterproductive to the constitutional scheme.

19.LOK SABHA PASSES BILL TO BAN ONLINE GAMES PLAYED WITH MONEY



- Lok Sabha passed the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025**, banning the operation, facilitation, and advertisement of online games involving money.
- The Bill was passed without debate due to Opposition protests demanding discussion on electoral roll revisions in Bihar.
- Once passed by both Houses, offering or facilitating online money gaming will attract imprisonment of up to 3 years and/or a fine of up to ₹1 crore.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that the government aims to promote e-sports and social gaming, with a dedicated authority to be established for regulation.
- The Bill also prohibits advertisements of online money games and bars banks and financial institutions from processing related transactions.
- Online money gaming refers to games played by depositing money with the expectation of monetary or material gain.
- All forms of online betting and gambling, including fantasy sports, poker, rummy, card games, and lotteries, are outlawed.
- Advertising of money games can lead to imprisonment of up to 2 years and/or a fine of up to ₹50 lakh.
- Facilitating financial transactions for money games can result in imprisonment up to 3 years and/or a fine up to ₹1 crore.
- Repeat offences will attract harsher penalties – 3 to 5 years' imprisonment and fines up to ₹2 crore.
- Key offences are classified as cognisable and non-bailable.
- Celebrity endorsements by cricketers and film stars have fueled the popularity of real money gaming apps like Dream11, Games24X7, and Mobile Premier League.
- Government prioritised public welfare over potential revenue loss from the ban.
- Industry bodies – AIGF, EGF, and FIFS – expressed concern, highlighting the sector's valuation at over ₹2 lakh crore, annual revenue of ₹31,000 crore, and ₹20,000 crore tax contribution.
- The sector is projected to grow at 20% CAGR, doubling by 2028.

- The Bill also proposes a regulator for e-sports, educational platforms, and social games.

20.CABINET APPROVES SOP TO CURB FAKE AADHAAR ENROLMENT



- State Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma approved the revised SOP for Aadhaar enrolment of citizens above 18 years to curb fraudulent enrolments.
- The restriction will not apply for one year to individuals from SC, ST, and tea garden communities, with Aadhaar enrolment of left-out individuals from these groups to be completed within a year.
- Cabinet expressed gratitude to the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for announcing the establishment of an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Guwahati, highlighting its potential to strengthen higher education, research, and opportunities for the youth of Northeast India.
- Cabinet thanked the Government of Nagaland and Assam's Environment and Forest Department for successful eviction drives at Rengma reserve forest, Uriamghat, and decided to conduct a plantation drive in the evicted areas starting August 23, 2025, in the presence of Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary.
- Approval was given for ceremonial distribution of sanction letters to 3,14,773 beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) for the 2025-26 financial year.
- NELCO Limited (TATA-NELCO) was nominated as a strategic partner with Samagra Shiksha Axom for implementing the 50 Hubs and 500 Spokes Model for Skill Education across Assam.
- In the first phase, 10 Hubs and 70 Spokes will be established; funding pattern will be 75:25 (75% by TATA NELCO, 25% by the Government of Assam).
- Hub schools and Spoke schools will be secondary and higher secondary schools approved under Samagra Shiksha for skill education.
- Each Hub will offer 10 futuristic trades/sectors with two trainers; each Spoke will offer two trades/sectors with two trainers.
- Hubs and Spokes will be connected via satellite communication provided by TATA NELCO.

21.HM SHAH INTRODUCES LANDMARK BILL FOR REMOVAL OF JAILED PMS, CMS, MINISTERS IN LOK SABHA



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three key bills in the Lok Sabha: the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
- The Constitution Amendment Bill proposes automatic removal of elected officials – Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and Union Ministers – if arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges.
- The Bill seeks to amend Articles 75, 164, and 239AA, mandating removal of ministers in custody for offences punishable by five years or more.
- The President will remove the Prime Minister, Governors will remove Chief Ministers, and Lieutenant Governors will remove Chief Ministers of Union Territories as per the provisions.
- If no resignation or advice for removal is tendered by the 31st day, the office will automatically fall vacant on the 32nd day.
- Reappointment is allowed upon release from custody.
- The bills were referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee following a voice vote.
- HM Shah stressed that elected representatives must uphold public trust and constitutional morality, keeping their conduct above suspicion and prioritising public welfare over political interests.



22.PM MODI TO INAUGURATE MIZORAM'S FIRST RAILWAY STATION ON 13 SEPTEMBER

- PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate Mizoram's first railway station at Sairang on 13 September, linking Aizawl to India's national railway network after 15 years.
- The announcement was made by Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma during the 15th Conference of the Mizoram Police Service Association in Aizawl.
- Sairang Station is the terminus of the 51.38 km Bairabi–Sairang broad-gauge railway line, sanctioned in 2008–09 and later declared a national project.
- The project features 48 tunnels, 55 major bridges, and India's tallest railway pier at 104 metres, also the second-highest railway bridge in the North East.
- The rail line is designed for a lifespan of over 100 years.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone in 2014, and the project has now been completed after a decade of work.
- Trial runs have been cleared by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, with passenger services to start soon.
- The new rail link is expected to reduce transportation costs, improve passenger mobility, and boost Mizoram's agriculture, economy, and tourism.
- Plans are underway to develop Sairang into a world-class station and introduce long-distance services like the Rajdhani Express.

23.UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES BRAHMAPUTRA WING OF RAJ BHAVAN



- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the Brahmaputra Wing of Raj Bhavan in Guwahati and launched eight projects worth ₹322 crore through virtual mode.
- Eight projects were inaugurated or had foundation stones laid, including the investigation centre of the National Cyber Crime Forensic Laboratory (NCFL) at the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, new residential facilities for the Border Security Force Headquarters in Guwahati, barracks for 360 personnel, an officers' mess, and a 10-bed medical facility for the 33rd Battalion of the ITBP in Sonapur.

- Foundation stones were also laid for administrative and residential facilities at the Inspector General Headquarters of the Assam Rifles in Srikona, the mine unit of the Assam Rifles in Silchar, and the regional headquarters of the Assam Rifles in Jorhat.
- Shah highlighted the importance of cyber security, recalling that the first NCFL was set up in Delhi under the I4C initiative in 2019 to protect citizens' money from cybercrime.
- Guwahati now hosts the country's second NCFL, which will safeguard the interests of people across all eight Northeastern states.
- The lab will also assist in countering narcotics and arms smuggling, infiltration attempts, and misuse of the dark net.
- Through the NCFL at Lachit Borphukan Police Academy, policemen from across the Northeast will work round the clock to secure borders, combat smuggling, and protect citizens' earnings.
- New facilities have also been inaugurated for Central Armed Police Forces personnel stationed along the borders.
- The Brahmaputra Wing of Raj Bhavan, built at a cost of over ₹40 crore and spread across more than 3,300 square metres, will provide infrastructure to facilitate constitutional activities smoothly.

24.WHETHER STATE CAN FILE WRIT PETITION BEFORE SC AGAINST DECISION ON BILLS? PRESIDENT ASKS COURT



- Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed a five-judge Supreme Court bench that the President would seek the Court's opinion on whether a state government can file a writ petition challenging a decision taken by the Governor or the President on a Bill, given the immunity provided under Article 361 of the Constitution.
- Article 361 states that the President and Governors are not answerable to any court for acts done in the exercise of their powers and duties.
- The special bench, headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, is hearing the reference made by the President under Article 143 in the aftermath of the Tamil Nadu Bills case verdict.
- The bench earlier suggested that the issue of justiciability of a Governor's discretion on Bills may be left open for adjudication in a future case.
- Mehta, after seeking instructions, confirmed that the President would seek clarity on the scope of a state government filing such writ petitions in view of Article 361 immunity.

- He argued that Article 32, which allows filing writ petitions for enforcement of fundamental rights, can only be invoked in case of their violation.
- A state government, being a constitutional entity, has no fundamental rights of its own and functions only as a guardian of citizens' rights.
- Thus, a state government cannot directly approach the Supreme Court under Article 32 alleging violation of fundamental rights.
- Mehta stated that Article 32 empowers individuals to approach the apex court, and in case of disadvantaged citizens, NGOs may represent them.

- Disputes between a state government and the Centre should be adjudicated under Article 131 through an original suit before the Supreme Court.
- The Solicitor General maintained that the Court cannot issue directions to the President or Governor regarding a pending Bill on its own initiative.



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INDIAN ECONOMY

25. IMPACT OF TRUMP'S 25% PC TARIFF, PENALTY ON INDIAN BUSINESSES: AN EXPLAINER



- US President Donald Trump has announced a 25% additional import duty plus an unspecified penalty on goods imported from India, effective from August 1.
- The penalty was imposed due to India's purchase of crude oil and military equipment from Russia.
- The announcement came unexpectedly while both countries were negotiating a trade agreement.
- These are customs/import duties that the importer pays, often passed on to end consumers.
- The US has not yet clarified the quantum or mode of imposing the penalty; details are awaited via an executive order.
- Currently, a 10% duty applies to all goods (announced April 2), in addition to a 50% tariff on steel and aluminium, and 25% on autos and auto parts.
- These duties are added to existing tariffs. For example, Indian textiles that already face 6–9% duty will now face 31–34% with the new 25% surcharge, plus any penalty.
- The US justifies this move by citing a large trade deficit with India and India's high tariffs that hinder US exports.
- During 2021–25, the US was India's largest trading partner in goods. In 2024–25, bilateral trade stood at USD 186 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports, USD 45.3 billion imports).
- India had a USD 41 billion trade surplus with the US in 2024–25, up from USD 35.32 billion in 2023–24 and USD 27.7 billion in 2022–23.
- In services, India had a surplus of USD 3.2 billion (exports: USD 28.7 billion; imports: USD 25.5 billion), making the total surplus around USD 44.4 billion.
- However, GTRI argues the US enjoys a USD 35–40 billion surplus with India when education, digital services, financial activities, royalties, and arms trade are included.
- In 2024, India's major exports to the US included:
 - Drug formulations and biologicals (USD 8.1B)
 - Telecom instruments (USD 6.5B)
 - Gems and jewellery (USD 5.3B)
 - Petroleum products (USD 4.1B)
 - Auto components (USD 2.8B)

- Garments (USD 2.8B)
- Iron and steel products (USD 2.7B)
- Imports from the US included:
 - Crude oil (USD 4.5B)
 - Petroleum products (USD 3.6B)
 - Coal and coke (USD 3.4B)
 - Cut and polished diamonds (USD 2.6B)
 - Aircraft parts (USD 1.3B)
 - Electric machinery (USD 1.4B)
 - Gold (USD 1.3B)
- Import duties increase the cost of goods in the US market, affecting competitiveness.
- Indian labour-intensive goods like garments, footwear, gems & jewellery, carpets, and handicrafts are likely to be hit.
- Sector-specific impact:
 - Telecom: 25%
 - Gems & jewellery: 30–38.5% (currently 5–13.5%)
 - Food & agri: 29–30% (currently 14–15%)
 - Apparel: 12% + 25% additional duty
- Penalty may further increase effective duty from August 1
- The US itself imposes very high duties on some items:
 - Dairy products: 188%
 - Fruits & vegetables: 132%
 - Cereals & food preparations: 193%
 - Beverages & tobacco: 150%
 - Minerals & metals: 187%
 - Chemicals: 56%
- India's average tariff rate is 17%, compared to the US's 3.3%, but similar to countries like South Korea (13.4%) and China (7.5%).

26. NEXT-GEN GST TOWARDS A SINGLE TAX SLAB GST



- The proposed 'Next Gen GST' aims to introduce sweeping reforms with lower tax rates and just two slabs to boost the

economy and move towards a single tax rate regime as India progresses to a developed nation.

- The new GST framework proposes two tax slabs — 5% and 18% — replacing the current four slabs of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.
- A 40% tax rate will remain for sin goods.
- Government officials describe it as a “game changer reform” comparable to India’s major economic reforms.
- Most common-use items are expected to shift to the lower 5% bracket, leading to price cuts and increased consumption.
- The reform is termed as a “reformed and refined GST” meant to provide a long-term solution rather than temporary tax rationalisation.
- With the end of the Compensation Cess, a Next Gen GST structure was considered necessary for stability.
- The proposal has been the result of nearly six months of deliberations and several meetings, designed to avoid frequent demands for tax changes and prevent input tax credit accumulation.
- Once approved by the Group of Ministers (GoM) and the GST Council, it will bring stability in tax rates.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech, stressed on self-reliance and promoting domestic consumption, aligning with this reform.
- The Union Finance Ministry has sent the proposal to a group of ministers from different States, who will review it before it goes to the GST Council for final approval.
- The GST Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprising State and UT representatives, is expected to discuss the proposal next month.
- Currently, about 20% of items — such as packaged food, beverages, apparel, and hotel accommodation — are taxed at 12%. These account for 5–10% of consumption and 5–6% of GST revenue.
- Shifting these items to the 5% slab may initially reduce revenue, but the Centre expects higher consumption to offset losses within a few months.

27. WORLD BANK TO SUPPORT OVERHAUL OF STATE SCHOOL EDUCATION SYSTEM



- Assam is preparing to launch the ‘Assam-Supporting School Education and Adolescent Wellbeing (ASAP)’ project to overhaul its school education and early childhood care system.
- The initiative was discussed in a meeting between World Bank officials and senior State authorities.

- Approved by the State Cabinet, the project is set to begin in early 2026 and will focus on reforms such as creating model ‘Leader Schools’ and modernizing over 1,700 Anganwadi Centres.
- Objectives include reducing dropout rates, improving learning outcomes, and strengthening adolescent wellbeing.
- The project will introduce systemic reforms, technology-driven solutions, upgraded infrastructure, trained teachers, and robust governance aligned with NEP 2020 and SDG-4.
- Assam has over 44,000 government and provincialized schools, 2 lakh teachers, and nearly 47 lakh students, along with 61,000+ AWCs serving around 16 lakh children.
- Challenges include high dropout and low retention rates, low learning proficiency, shortage of trained science, mathematics, and English teachers, poor pedagogical skills, and inadequate AWC infrastructure.
- Key reforms include upgrading about 400 upper primary and secondary schools to senior secondary level (196 in phase one), building 1,733 model AWCs, establishing a State Resource Centre for Early Childhood Education and adolescent well-being, teacher and AWC worker training, integrating nutrition with foundational learning, career counselling, student assessment reforms, and technology-enabled governance and monitoring.
- Implementation will be jointly managed by Samagra Shiksha Assam, the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD), and the Public Works Department (PWD), overseen by a dedicated project management unit.
- Officials reaffirmed commitment to timely groundwork to ensure the project launches as planned in early 2026.

28. INDIA-CHINA TRADE RELATIONS; DEFICIT WIDENS TO \$99.2 BN: AN EXPLAINER



- Bilateral trade between India and China has been growing steadily, but the trade gap remains sharply in Beijing's favour.
- India has repeatedly expressed concerns about the rising trade deficit and non-trade barriers restricting Indian goods in the Chinese market.
- On August 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed the need for India and China to work together for global economic stability and expressed New Delhi’s readiness to advance ties on the basis of mutual respect, interest, and sensitivity.
- During April–July 2025-26, India’s exports rose by 19.97% to USD 5.75 billion, while imports increased by 13.06% to USD 40.65 billion.

- In 2024-25, India's exports were USD 14.25 billion, and imports stood at USD 113.5 billion.
- Trade deficit rose from USD 1.1 billion in 2003-04 to USD 99.2 billion in 2024-25.
- China accounted for 35% of India's total trade imbalance (USD 283 billion) in 2024-25, with a deficit of USD 85.1 billion in 2023-24.
- The deficit is large and structural, as China dominates India's import basket across pharmaceuticals, electronics, construction materials, renewable energy, and consumer goods (GTRI).
- GTRI analysis:
 - Antibiotics like erythromycin – 97.7% sourced from China.
 - Electronics – 96.8% silicon wafers, 86% flat panel displays from China.
 - Renewable energy – 82.7% solar cells, 75.2% lithium-ion batteries from China.
- GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava warns that Beijing's dominance gives it potential leverage, turning supply chains into tools of pressure during political tensions.
- India's exports to China are declining, reducing its share in bilateral trade from 42.3% two decades ago to 11.2% today.
- Commerce Ministry notes most Chinese imports are raw materials, intermediate goods, and capital goods (auto components, electronic parts, mobile phone parts, machinery, pharma ingredients) used for producing finished products, including exports.
- Dependence on imports is due to gaps in domestic supply and demand.
- Measures to address the issue:
 - Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for 14+ sectors to boost domestic manufacturing.
 - Stricter quality standards, testing protocols, and mandatory certification to curb substandard imports and protect consumers.
 - Encouraging businesses to diversify suppliers and reduce single-source dependency.
 - Regular monitoring of import surges with corrective action.


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29. AFGHANISTAN WORLD'S MOST FOOD-INSECURE NATION: FAO



- Afghanistan remains the most food-insecure country globally, with 75% of the population facing livelihood instability and over 12 million people urgently needing food aid.
- A UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report released on Wednesday highlights Afghanistan's ranking at the top of the global food insecurity list for 2024 and 2025.
- The report states that 295 million people across 53 countries are experiencing acute hunger, marking an increase of 13 million from 2023.
- Afghanistan has been on FAO's chronic hunger list since 2016, along with countries like Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Syria, and Yemen, primarily due to political instability, humanitarian crises, and climate change.
- Deepening poverty is a major factor behind the worsening food crisis in Afghanistan.
- The return of over 1.6 million Afghan migrants from Iran and Pakistan, coupled with reduced international aid and severe economic restrictions, has intensified the crisis.
- Consecutive droughts, mass unemployment, and damaged agricultural infrastructure have significantly reduced the country's domestic food production capacity.
- In provinces like Ghor and Badakhshan, crop failures and disruptions in livestock farming have been reported.
- Women and children are especially vulnerable, with Taliban-imposed restrictions on women's employment and education further reducing family incomes.

30. NO DUTY CONCESSIONS TO US ON AGRI, DAIRY, GM FOODS: AN EXPLAINER

- India has toughened its position on offering duty concessions on agricultural products, dairy, and genetically modified (GM) foods in the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the US.

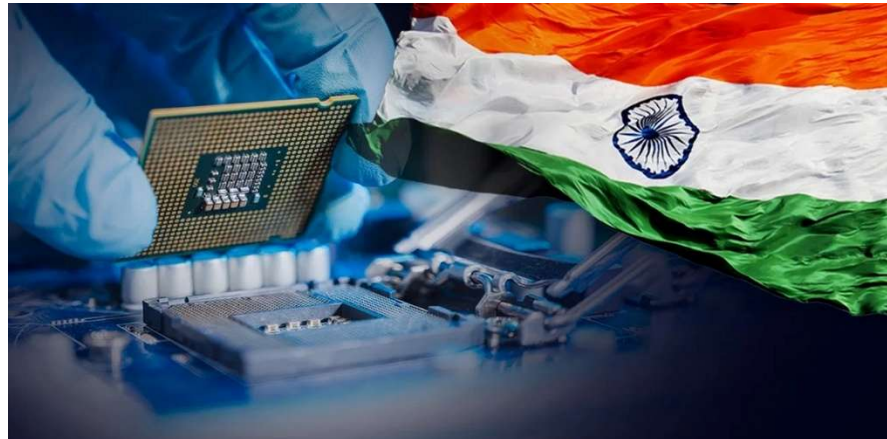
- Despite several negotiation rounds, a final deal remains elusive, prompting US President Donald Trump to announce an additional 25% import duty on Indian goods effective from August 7.
- This move follows the US's previous announcement on April 2, imposing a 26% duty (16% reciprocal tariff + 10% baseline tariff) on Indian imports.
- From August 7, this baseline tariff will be replaced by the newly announced 25% duty, with Indian goods like textiles now facing a total duty of 31–34%.
- Goods already in transit before August 7 will be charged a 10% tariff if they arrive by October 5.
- Some sectors like pharmaceuticals, electronics, and energy products have been exempted from the new tariffs.
- Negotiations for a fair and balanced BTA began in March 2025, with the goal of finalising the first phase by October–November 2025.
- Five rounds of talks have already been completed, and a US delegation led by Brendan Lynch is scheduled to visit India on August 25 for the next round.
- The primary goal of the BTA is to more than double bilateral trade from the current USD 191 billion to USD 500 billion by 2030.
- The US seeks duty concessions from India on industrial goods, automobiles (especially electric vehicles), petrochemicals, wines, dairy items, apples, tree nuts, agri-goods, and GM crops.
- India, in return, demands removal of the 25% additional tariff and a reduction in US tariffs on steel and aluminium (currently 50%), automobiles (25%), and labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, leather, garments, plastics, shrimp, oilseeds, grapes, and bananas.
- India argues that its average tariff is about 17%, while the US's is only 3.3%.
- On agricultural goods, India remains firm due to the high dependence of over 700 million rural Indians on farming livelihoods. Tariff removal could lead to market flooding by subsidised US grains and destabilise local prices.
- Unlike the US, where agriculture is corporatised, Indian farming is livelihood-driven, making tariff protection crucial for food security and price stability.
- On dairy imports, India insists on maintaining GM-free feed certification and bans products from animals fed with animal-derived feed, citing religious sensitivities—making these rules non-negotiable.
- On GM foods, India is wary of allowing imports such as GM soybean meal and DDGS for animal feed, as this could affect India's agricultural exports to the EU, which has strict regulations on GM content.

31.EIGHT COOPERATIVES JOIN HANDS TO LAUNCH ‘BHARAT’ TAXI SERVICE



- India's cooperative sector is set to challenge ride-hailing giants Ola and Uber with the launch of a taxi service under the brand *Bharat* by the end of this year.
- The initiative is backed by ₹300 crore authorised capital and has already onboarded 200 drivers across four states.
- The *Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd*, registered on June 6, represents a consortium of eight prominent cooperatives.
- Key participants include the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO), and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF).
- Last month, Cooperation Minister Amit Shah had indicated that a cooperative taxi service would be launched by the end of 2025 while unveiling a comprehensive cooperative policy for the sector.
- The key objective is to ensure better returns to drivers and provide quality, safe, and affordable services to passengers.
- The venture operates without any government stake and is entirely funded by the participating cooperatives.
- Other founding members include Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd, NABARD, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and National Cooperative Exports Ltd (NCEL).
- The service will adopt a cooperative pricing model, and membership drives are currently underway to scale operations.
- The move is part of a broader effort by the cooperative sector to leverage its collective strength to compete with private players in the ride-hailing market.

32.INDIA'S CHIP MARKET POISED TO SCALE \$110 BILLION BY 2030



- India is transforming from a consumer to a key manufacturer in the global semiconductor value chain, targeting a chip market size of \$100–110 billion by 2030.
- This growth is driven by government-led initiatives like the **India Semiconductor Mission** with an investment of ₹76,000 crore, the **SEMICON India Programme**, and global partnerships such as **iCET**.
- Industry estimates suggest India's semiconductor market was \$38 billion in 2023, \$45–50 billion during 2024–2025, and is projected to reach \$63 billion by 2026 and \$100–110 billion by 2030.
- **Semicon India 2025**, to be held in Delhi from September 2–4, will showcase India's rising global stature with participation from 18 countries.
- The event will unite industry leaders, academia, government, and innovators to enhance collaboration and advance technology across the supply chain.
- As new facilities begin operations, India is positioning itself as a trusted hub for semiconductor manufacturing, reinforcing its digital economy, national security, and technological autonomy.
- A new semiconductor unit—a joint venture between **HCL and Foxconn**—was approved in May 2025 under the India Semiconductor Mission.
- This unit will manufacture display driver chips for devices such as phones, laptops, automobiles, and PCs, with a capacity of **20,000 wafers/month** and **36 million units/month** design output.
- During the **Global Investors Summit 2025**, it was announced that India's first indigenous semiconductor chip will be ready for production this year.
- Five semiconductor production units are currently under construction, marking a major step towards domestic manufacturing capability.
- To boost skilled manpower, the government has launched a programme to train **85,000 engineers** in advanced semiconductor and electronics manufacturing.
- With global chip demand rising and supply chains remaining fragile due to geographic concentration, India is emerging as a dominant player in the effort for global manufacturing diversification.
- The global semiconductor market is projected to reach **\$1 trillion by 2030**, with India poised to command a significant share.

33. LEADERS OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN SHAKE HANDS, SIGN PEACE DEAL



- The leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan shook hands as they joined President Donald Trump at the White House on Friday for a peace summit where they signed an agreement aimed at ending decades of conflict.
- The two countries in the South Caucasus signed agreements with each other and the US that will reopen key transportation routes while allowing the US to seize on Russia's declining influence in the region.
- The deal includes an agreement that will create a major transit corridor to be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, the White House said.
- At the peace summit on Friday, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said the transit corridor will "create connectivity opportunities for so many countries."
- Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called the agreement a "significant milestone."
- Both leaders said the breakthrough was made possible by Trump and his team and joined a growing list of foreign leaders and other officials who have said the US leader should receive a Nobel Peace Prize – something he has coveted.
- The route will connect Azerbaijan and its autonomous Nakhchivan exclave, which are separated by a 32-kilometre-wide patch of Armenian territory.
- The demand from Azerbaijan had held up peace talks in the past.

34. INDIA MINIMISES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MYANMAR



- India has reduced its financial support to Myanmar due to the current political turmoil and security situation in the neighbouring country.
- Official statistics show that the budget allocation under 'Aid to Myanmar' has decreased from ₹400 crore during BE 2023-24 to ₹250 crore at the RE stage, and to ₹370 crore during BE 2024-25.
- While acknowledging the challenges posed by Myanmar's situation, the Ministry of External Affairs remains committed to progressing on key infrastructure projects like the Kaladan Road Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project.
- A Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs noted that the progress of major connectivity projects such as the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport (KMMTT) Project and the Trilateral Highway has been adversely impacted.
- The waterway component (Sittwe Port) of the KMMTT Project has been operational since May 2023, but the physical progress of the road component is only at 10%.
- The committee attributed the slow pace of projects to Myanmar's political environment and recommended continued diplomatic engagement with all stakeholders to ensure expeditious completion of the KMMTT and the Trilateral Highway.
- The Ministry of External Affairs is also closely monitoring developments in Bangladesh and engaging with its interim government.
- The budget allocation under 'Aid to Bangladesh' has also been reduced from ₹200 crore in BE 2023-24 to ₹120 crore in BE 2024-25.

35. MALAYSIA, VIETNAM VITAL COGS IN ILLEGAL RHINO HORN TRADE



- The most common illegal rhino horn trade links are with Malaysia and Vietnam, while seizures in Mongolia represent an emerging trend, according to a report by IUCN and TRAFFIC.
- Between 2021 and 2023, Malaysia accounted for 24% of the total seized rhino horn weight worldwide, with all related seizures naming it as the final country in the illegal trade chain, either as a transit or destination.
- Of the 60 seizures reporting an international trade route linking Africa to other countries, 29 seizures (totaling 850 kg)

were recorded, with Malaysia being the most common trade link.

- The strongest illegal trade link was between South Africa and Malaysia, with 362 kg of rhino horns seized, including a single 160 kg seizure in 2021 – the largest by weight in the analysis period.
- The size and frequency of consignments to Malaysia suggest the involvement of a nationally coordinated organised criminal network.
- Vietnam was another strong illegal trade link, with one seizure of 139 kg, and some large shipments also contained multiple illicit wildlife specimens.
- Vietnam is the second most connected country in the illegal trade network, likely tied to organised crime.
- Other countries along the illegal trade chain included the UAE, Qatar, Singapore, the Philippines, and Germany.
- Compared to the 2022 CoP19 report, where over half of trade records from South Africa were destined for China, only one small (4 kg) seizure bound for China was recorded in 2023.
- A new illegal trade link between South Africa and Mongolia was identified in 2023, involving four seizures between May and September, each weighing 4–19 kg; similar concealment methods suggest a single trafficker.
- In Asia, rhino populations in India and Nepal have grown steadily since 2007, while Indonesia's remain small and highly threatened.
- In India, greater one-horned rhinos increased from 2,150 in 2007 to 3,323 in 2024; Nepal's population rose from 413 in 2007 to 752 in 2024.
- Indonesia's Javan rhino rose from 40–50 in 2007 to 76 in 2021 but declined to about 50 in 2024 due to poaching; the Sumatran rhino fell from 180–200 in 2007 to just 34–47 in 2024.
- Between January 2021 and December 2024, nine greater one-horned rhinos were killed in India and four in Nepal.
- In Indonesia, investigations in 2024 revealed that 26 Javan rhinos were poached in Ujung Kulon National Park by two groups between 2019 and 2023.

36.POTENTIAL REPERCUSSIONS ENORMOUS: REPORT

- Despite frequent natural disasters, China's "water-industrial complex" is pushing ahead with hydropower dam projects in ecologically and politically sensitive areas of the Tibetan plateau.
- A report highlighted Beijing's mega Medog Hydropower Station on the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet, close to Arunachal Pradesh in India.
- The location makes the project a geopolitical flashpoint as well as an environmental concern.
- Apart from India and Bangladesh, downstream nations such as Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, and Vietnam may be affected by China's growing control over the Tibetan Plateau and aggressive dam-building activities.
- The report, authored by Jagannath Panda (Indo-Pacific affairs expert) and Shruti Kapil (ICfS, London), is titled '*How the UK Can Help the Himalayan Water Crisis*'.

- Potential consequences include catastrophic floods in India's northeast during the monsoon due to sudden water releases, and crippling droughts in the dry season from upstream control.
- The dam lies in a highly seismic region, adding to its risks.
- The authors urged the United Kingdom, as a permanent member of the UNSC, to treat the Himalayan water crisis as a global security threat.
- Britain's renewed Indo-Pacific ambitions make it "uniquely placed" to raise Himalayan ecological degradation to a global priority.
- The *National Interest* report noted that the Himalayan region contains the largest reserves of freshwater and its glaciers feed 10 of the world's most important river systems, yet remains under severe threat.

37.ALASKA SUMMIT: NO DEAL ON ENDING WAR IN UKRAINE



- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he will meet US President Donald Trump in Washington after a Russia-US summit ended without an agreement to stop the fighting in Ukraine after three and a half years.
- In a reversal only a few hours after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump said an overall peace agreement, and not a ceasefire, was the best way to end the war.
- That statement echoed Putin's view that Russia is not interested in a temporary truce, and instead is seeking a long-term settlement that takes Moscow's interests into account.
- Trump said he and Putin didn't reach a deal to end Russia's war in Ukraine after their meeting, despite the Russian President saying they had come to "an understanding."
- The two leaders offered scant details on what was discussed while heaping praise on each other.
- Trump and Ukraine's European allies had been calling for a ceasefire ahead of any negotiations.

38. CHINA TO ADDRESS INDIA'S RARE EARTH MINERAL NEEDS



- China has agreed to ease restrictions to facilitate the supply of rare earth minerals and fertilisers to India, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi conveying the forward movement on the matter to his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar.
- Wang, on a two-day visit to India, gave the assurance during his talks with Jaishankar on Monday.
- China promised to address three key concerns of India.
- Jaishankar had on Monday said, without providing details, that he brought up “particular concerns” in the meeting that he had flagged during his visit to Beijing last month as well.
- There was no official word on the matter from either side.
- Rare earth minerals are considered vital for high-end technology products, including electric vehicles (EVs), drones, and battery storage.
- China has been a dominant player in the critical minerals supply chain globally.
- India has been looking at a steady supply of rare earth minerals to fuel its economic growth.
- China accounts for around 70 per cent of global rare earth mining, making it a very dominant player in the global supply chain of the critical minerals.
- China used to export huge quantities of fertiliser to India till 2023.
- However, Beijing stopped the supplies to a large number of countries last year.
- It lifted the restrictions in June but did not relax the norms for resuming exports to India.
- It is learnt that Beijing has stopped exporting tunnel boring machines to India.
- There have been renewed efforts by the two sides to reset their ties that witnessed severe strain following the eastern Ladakh border row.
- In his opening remarks at the meeting with Wang, Jaishankar said that India and China should adopt a “candid and constructive” approach in moving ahead in the engagement after a difficult period.
- The External Affairs Minister also pitched for taking forward the de-escalation process in the border areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh that witnessed over a four-year face-off between the militaries of the two nations.

39. MODI, SHAH PAY TRIBUTE TO TRIPURA'S LAST KING



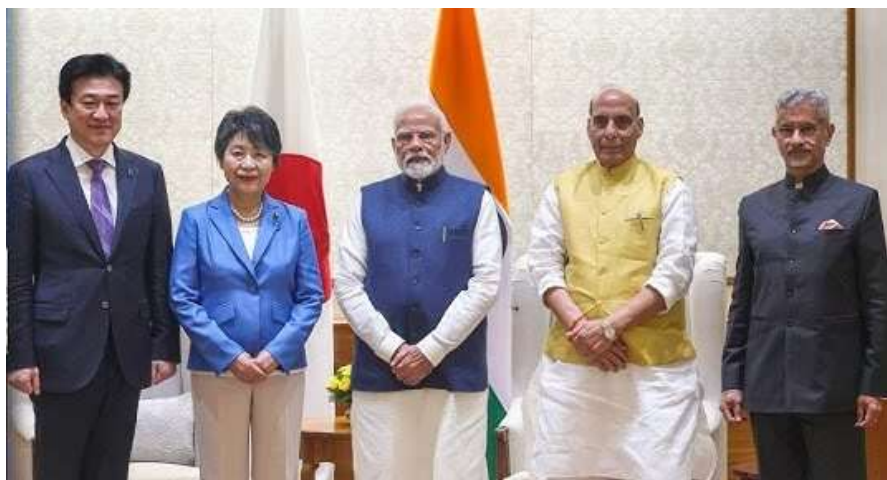
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Health and Family Welfare Minister and BJP President JP Nadda, and many other personalities on Tuesday paid tributes to late Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur (1923-1947), the last king of the erstwhile princely state of Tripura.
- The Tripura government on Tuesday lined up a series of events to observe the 117th birth anniversary of late Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur, regarded as the architect of modern Tripura.
- Paying his homage, the Prime Minister said that remembering Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur Ji on his birth anniversary.
- He is admired for his exemplary efforts in developing Tripura.
- His passion for public service, commitment to empowering the poor, and dedication to social uplift continue to inspire us greatly.
- The Central Government and the Government of Tripura are working tirelessly to realise his vision.
- The BJP government, after coming to power in Tripura in 2018, declared the birth anniversary of Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur as a government holiday since 2019.
- Born on August 19, 1908, Bir Bikram Kishore was the most successful ruler of the erstwhile Manikya dynasty, historians said.

40. INDIA, SAUDI ARABIA AGREE TO DEEPEN MARITIME RELATIONS, FORM JOINT WORKING GROUP

- India and Saudi Arabia have agreed to deepen bilateral maritime relations by forming a **Joint Working Group (JWG)** on maritime cooperation in shipping and logistics.
- The decision was taken during a high-level virtual meeting between Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal and Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistic Services Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser.

- The strategic partnership council, co-chaired by leaders of both nations, has elevated bilateral cooperation significantly.
- Recent developments include the launch of the **Jeddah-Mundra/Nhava Sheva route** by Saudi's Folk Maritime Services, reducing transit times and costs.
- India proposed collaboration on its **MAITRI digital platform** for harmonising maritime trade.
- Saudi Arabia is India's fifth-largest trading partner, while India is the Kingdom's second-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade in FY 2024-25 standing at around USD 42 billion.
- Sonowal highlighted the alignment between India's **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Amrit Kaal Vision 2047** with Saudi Vision 2030.
- India invited Saudi Arabia to explore investment opportunities across its port and shipping ecosystem.
- The **Maritime Development Fund**, with a corpus of over USD 3 billion, offers prospects in port infrastructure, coastal shipping, and logistics.
- Mega projects such as **Vadhavan Port** on the west coast and the **Outer Harbour Project at VO Chidambaranar Port in Tamil Nadu** were presented as key investment destinations.

41.INDIA, JAPAN STRENGTHEN ENERGY COOP THROUGH MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE



- India and Japan have agreed to expand cooperation on carbon capture, utilization, storage, green chemicals, biofuels, and advanced technologies in the energy sector.
- A ministerial-level India-Japan Energy Dialogue was held on Monday through video conferencing, co-chaired by Manohar Lal, Minister of Power, and Muto Yoji, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.
- The two nations have been deepening their partnership in the energy sector under the Japan-India Clean Energy Partnership, focusing on energy security, clean energy transition, and climate change mitigation, according to a power ministry statement.
- This cooperation has been institutionalized through the India-Japan Energy Dialogue and sectoral joint working groups (JWGs).
- Ministries of power, new & renewable energy, oil, and coal presented progress made under their respective JWGs and outlined future cooperation pathways.
- The ministers from India and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to energy security and inclusive growth.

- They welcomed progress in energy efficiency, clean hydrogen, ammonia, and renewable energy initiatives.
- Both sides agreed to further expand collaboration on carbon capture, utilization, storage, green chemicals, biofuels, and advanced technologies in the energy sector.
- The ministers emphasized that the India-Japan partnership will continue to play a pivotal role in developing secure, resilient, and sustainable energy systems in the Indo-Pacific region.

42.MIZORAM REAFFIRMS 1875 NOTIFICATION AS BASIS OF BOUNDARY WITH ASSAM ;



- Mizoram Home Minister K Sapdanga reaffirmed in the State Assembly that the Government upholds the 1875 notification under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, as the legitimate boundary line separating Mizoram from Assam.
- The reference point is "Notification No. 2299P dated 20 August 1875," which marked the 'Inner Line' along the southern frontier of Cachar district under orders of the then British Governor-in-Council.
- Since 1988, over ten rounds of talks have been held between the two States for a permanent settlement of the border issue.
- The latest political-level meeting was held in Aizawl on August 9, 2024, led by Sapdanga for Mizoram and Atul Bora, Assam's Border Protection and Development Minister, for Assam.
- The last official-level dialogue took place in Guwahati on April 25, 2024, and the next round is planned to be held in Mizoram, with the date yet to be finalised.
- Relevant boundary-related documents have been exchanged, and Mizoram has set up a study team to collect archival materials to strengthen its case.
- On infrastructure, particularly roads to police outposts along the border, Sapdanga stated that while improvements are being made, some constraints remain due to both States agreeing to maintain status quo in disputed areas as per their joint statement.

43. JAPAN TO INVEST RS 60,000 CRORE IN INDIA IN OVER A DECADE



- Japan set an investment target of 10 trillion yen (approx ₹60,000 crore) in India over a decade, with both sides sealing multiple major pacts, including a framework for defence ties and a 10-year roadmap to boost economic partnership.
- The measures to enhance the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership were announced after summit talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba.

- A total of 13 key pacts and documents were signed, along with the launch of transformative initiatives, including an economic security architecture to promote supply chain resilience in strategic sectors like semiconductors, clean energy, telecom, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, and emerging technologies.
- Modi announced that Japan would invest 10 trillion yen in India over the next decade.
- One agreement focuses on the mobility of 50,000 skilled and semi-skilled personnel from India to Japan within five years, while another strengthens collaboration in digital public infrastructure.
- The roadmap emphasizes economic security, mobility, ecological sustainability, technology and innovation, health, people-to-people exchanges, and cooperation between Indian states and Japanese prefectures.
- Another pact advances cooperation in supply chain resilience for critical minerals through processing technologies, joint investments in exploration and mining, and stockpiling initiatives.
- Additional agreements include a joint crediting mechanism and a landmark collaboration between ISRO and JAXA for a joint lunar-polar exploration mission under Chandrayaan-5, defining terms for space cooperation.



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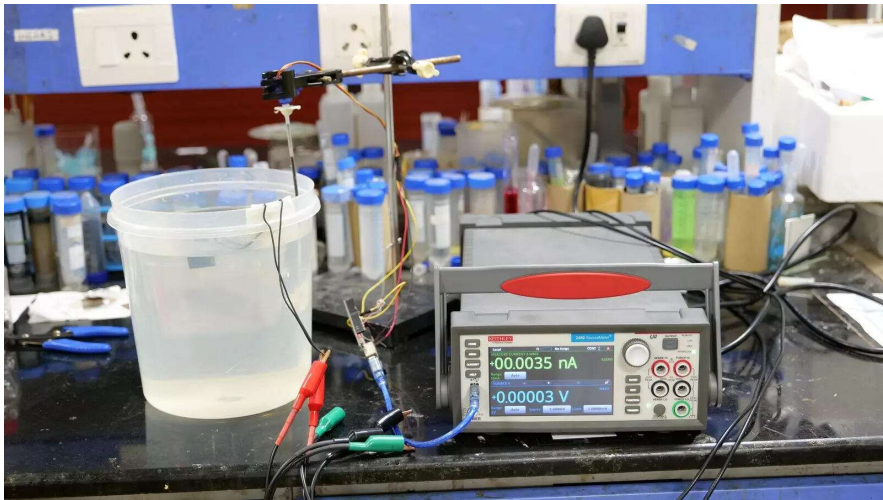


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SCIENCE & TECH

44. UNDERWATER VIBRATION SENSOR DEVELOPED FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH VOICE DISABILITIES



- A team of researchers from IIT Guwahati has developed an underwater vibration sensor that enables automated and contactless voice recognition.
- The sensor was developed in collaboration with researchers from Ohio State University, USA.
- It provides an alternative communication method for individuals with voice disabilities who cannot use conventional voice-based systems.
- Voice recognition has become integral for operating smart devices, but people with voice disorders remain excluded from this technology.
- Studies indicate that a noticeable percentage of children and young adults (aged 3–21 years) experience some form of voice disability, highlighting the need for inclusive communication technologies.
- To address this, the team focused on exhaled air while speaking, instead of audible voice.
- The underwater vibration sensor can detect water waves created by exhaled air and interpret them as speech signals.
- The sensor is made of a conductive and chemically reactive porous sponge.
- When placed just below the air-water interface, it captures tiny disturbances caused by exhaled air and converts them into electrical signals.
- Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), a deep learning model, were used to accurately recognize subtle signal patterns.
- The setup allows communication with devices from a distance without generating sound.
- Key features include contactless communication for individuals with voice disabilities, AI-powered interpretation using CNNs, and hands-free control of smart devices.
- The next step is clinical validation of the device.
- Researchers also plan to collect datasets from individuals with voice disabilities to refine the model for recognizing specific words or phrases.

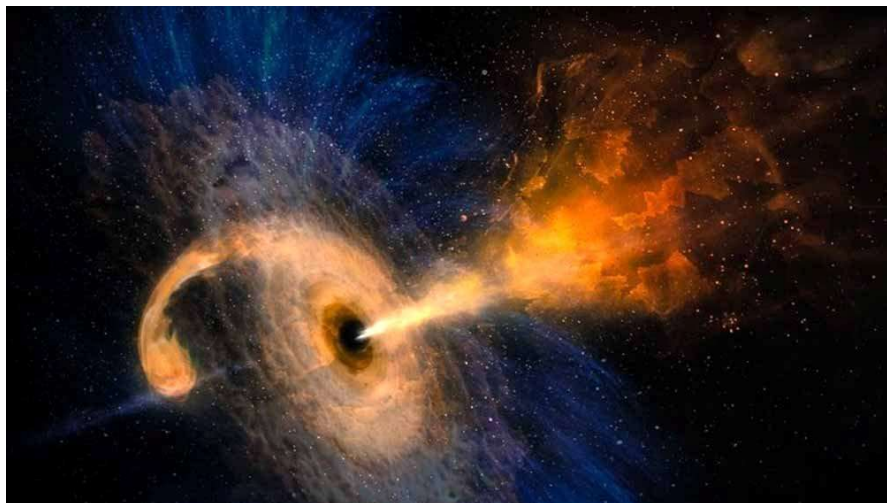
- This will enable the device to operate home appliances and other smart devices through exhaled air patterns.

45. ASSAM RIFLES, IIIT MANIPUR SIGN MOU FOR DRONE TECHNOLOGY



- The Assam Rifles and Manipur-based Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for broader use of drone technology.
- A defence spokesman said that the Assam Rifles, in collaboration with IIIT Manipur, initiated a partnership in drone technology through an MoU signing ceremony held at Mantripukhri in Imphal West district.
- Assam Rifles Inspector General (South) Maj Gen Ravroop Singh and the Director of IIIT Manipur Prof Krishnan Baskar signed the MoU.
- Maj Gen Singh and the Director of IIIT Manipur underscored the growing imperative for defence-academia collaboration in harnessing emerging technologies for national security.
- Both dignitaries shared insights on the transformative potential of drone systems in modern warfare and emphasised the need for joint efforts to accelerate technology absorption within operational frameworks, the spokesman said.
- The spokesman said that in a significant leap toward future-ready defence preparedness, the day also marked the launch of an Advanced Drone Training and Refresher Course tailored for the sentinels of our borders.
- The programme includes hands-on training in drone flight operations, maintenance protocols, and certification aligned with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) standards.
- Designed to enhance both technical proficiency and field adaptability, the course aims to equip personnel with the skills necessary for surveillance, reconnaissance, and logistics support in dynamic terrains.

46.IIT GUWAHATI RESEARCHERS DETECT MYSTERIOUS X-RAY FLICKERS FROM DISTANT BLACK HOLE



- Researchers at IIT Guwahati, in collaboration with ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) and the University of Haifa, Israel, have detected a mysterious X-ray signal pattern from the black hole GRS 1915+105, located around 28,000 light years from Earth.
- Data from India's space observatory AstroSat revealed the X-ray brightness alternating between bright and dim phases, each lasting several hundred seconds.
- Black holes draw gas from the outer layers of companion stars, producing extreme heat and emitting X-rays that provide insights into their surrounding environment.
- The observed alternation between two distinct brightness phases offers a deeper understanding of the intense gravitational forces and high temperatures near the edge of the black hole.
- The findings have been published in the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* in a paper co-authored by Prof. Das, research scholar Seshadri Majumder, Dr. Nandi, and Dr. Sreehari Harikesh of the University of Haifa.

47.ISRO COMPLETES FIRST AIR-DROP TEST FOR GAGANYAAN



- ISRO successfully carried out the first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) to validate the parachute-based deceleration system for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission.
- The end-to-end demonstration was conducted near Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

- The exercise was jointly executed by ISRO, the Indian Air Force, Defence Research and Development Organisation, the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.
- The Gaganyaan project aims to demonstrate India's capability to send humans into space and safely return them to the Earth.
- It is planned as the country's first human spaceflight programme and will also involve precursor unmanned missions to test systems critical for crew safety.
- The parachute-based deceleration mechanism is a key component to ensure the safe recovery of the crew module during re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere and subsequent landing.

48.INDIA, JAPAN INK PACT FOR CHANDRAYAAN-5 TO EXPLORE MOON TOGETHER



- India and Japan signed the implementing arrangement for the Chandrayaan-5 mission, a joint exploration of the polar region of the Moon by their space agencies.
- The arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) was signed during PM Narendra Modi's visit.
- The Chandrayaan-5 mission aims to study lunar volatile materials, including water, near a Permanently Shadowed Region (PSR) in the lunar South Pole.
- The mission will be launched by JAXA using its H3-24L launch vehicle, carrying an ISRO-made lunar lander and a Japan-made lunar rover.
- ISRO will develop the lunar lander and several scientific instruments for exploration and in-situ analysis of volatiles in the lunar polar region.

DEFENCE

49.DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL CLEARS PROJECTS WORTH RS 67,000 CR



- The Defence Ministry cleared key military projects, including procurement of long-endurance drones, mountain radars, and missile systems at a cost of around Rs 67,000 crore.
- The projects, aimed at boosting India's military capabilities, were approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by the Defence Minister.
- The DAC approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about Rs 67,000 crore, the Defence Ministry said.
- For the Indian Navy, approval was accorded for the procurement of compact autonomous surface craft, BrahMos fire control system and launchers, and upgradation of BARAK-1 point-defence missile system.
- The procurement of compact autonomous surface craft will provide the capability to the Indian Navy for detection, classification, and neutralisation of threats in anti-submarine warfare missions.
- For the Indian Air Force, approval was given for procurement of mountain radars and upgradation of Saksham/Spyder weapon system.
- The procurement of mountain radars will enhance the air surveillance capability along and across the borders in the mountainous region.
- The upgradation of Saksham/Spyder system for integration with the integrated air command and control system will enhance air defence capability.
- The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), or the initial approval, was also accorded for procurement of Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs) for the three services.
- The proposed MALE RPAs can carry multiple payloads and weapons and operate at longer ranges for long-endurance missions.

50.INDIA HAS ABIDING INTEREST IN PEACE IN THE REGION: MEA:



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51.PARLIAMENT PASSES TWO LANDMARK MARITIME BILLS

- Parliament passed two landmark maritime bills for the first time under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

(MoPSW), paving the way for a modern, efficient, and globally aligned maritime policy framework in India.

- The Lok Sabha passed the 'Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024', aimed at streamlining maritime governance with a modern and internationally compliant approach.
- The Rajya Sabha passed the 'Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025', replacing a century-old colonial-era law with updated legislation designed to promote ease of doing business and future-readiness in India's shipping sector.
- The new bills replaced age-old colonial acts with pragmatic and modern legislations that comply with international laws.
- The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024, is a progressive and future-ready law that replaces the outdated Merchant Shipping Act of 1958.
- The Bill significantly aligns India's maritime legal framework with global standards and strengthens India's position as a trusted maritime trade hub.
- It is part of a series of major legal reforms undertaken over the past 11 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership to enable robust growth in the shipping and maritime sectors.
- These reforms have improved efficiency, transparency, and global competitiveness in the maritime domain.
- The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, had become bulky, fragmented, and outdated, with 561 sections, and failed to address modern maritime challenges or implement India's obligations under several International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions.
- The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, passed in the Rajya Sabha, repeals the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925.
- The new legislation is part of the government's broader effort to modernize India's legal framework by eliminating outdated colonial-era laws and aligning with global best practices.
- This reform is aimed at enhancing ease of doing business in the maritime sector.

52. NAVY SHIPS 'UDAYGIRI', 'HIMGIRI' TO BE COMMISSIONED ON AUG 26



- Indian naval ships 'Udaygiri' and 'Himgiri', part of Project 17A stealth frigates, are set to be commissioned simultaneously on August 26 at Visakhapatnam.

- The first P17A (Nilgiri Class) stealth frigate, 'Nilgiri', was commissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai in January in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- 'Udaygiri', built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), was delivered to the Navy on July 1.
- This will be the first time two major surface combatants from two prestigious Indian shipyards will be commissioned at the same time at Visakhapatnam.
- These multi-mission frigates can operate in a blue water environment, dealing with both conventional and non-conventional threats in India's maritime zones.
- Project 17A is the follow-on to the Shivalik class (Project 17) frigates; of the seven frigates, four will be delivered by MDL, Mumbai, and three by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- 'Himgiri' is the first P17A ship being built by GRSE, Kolkata.
- The event highlights India's naval modernisation and its capacity to produce sophisticated warships from multiple shipyards, showcasing the success of 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in defence.
- 'Udaygiri' is the 100th ship designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau.
- Both frigates represent a generational leap over earlier designs, displacing about 6,700 tonnes — roughly 5% larger than Shivalik-class frigates — with a sleeker form and reduced radar cross section.
- They use CODAG (Combined Diesel or Gas) propulsion plants powered by diesel engines and gas turbines, driving controllable-pitch propellers, managed via an Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).
- Weapon suite includes supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, a 76 mm MR gun, 30 mm and 12.7 mm close-in weapon systems, and anti-submarine/underwater weapon systems.

53. CRPF LAUNCHES 'BMI CAMPAIGN' FOR ITS 3.25-LAKH PERSONNEL



- CRPF, the country's largest paramilitary force, launched a 'BMI campaign' to improve the health of its over 3 lakh personnel and keep them combat-ready.
- The campaign will run in two phases and conclude on October 31.
- CRPF Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh launched the campaign at the force headquarters.

- CRPF has a strength of 3.25 lakh personnel and is designated as the lead internal security force of India, with three main combat theatres: anti-Naxal, counter-terrorism, and counter-insurgency operations.
- It is the largest among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other special forces functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Body Mass Index (BMI) is a scientific method to check if an adult has a healthy weight, calculated by dividing weight (kg) by height (m²).
- WHO guidelines state that a normal BMI ranges between 18.5 and 24.9.
- The DG highlighted that the campaign is not “punitive” but inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call for a disease-free India and healthier citizens through better food and lifestyle habits.
- In phase one, BMI of all personnel will be recorded by the medical wing.
- Personnel with BMI above the standard will receive three months of focused support, including dietary guidance, physical exercise, and supervised training programmes.
- After three months, another BMI assessment will be conducted to evaluate progress.
- In phase two, those unable to meet the prescribed BMI standard will undergo “structured” regimens at three specialised training centres of the force.

54. ‘INDIA, CHINA REACH COMMON GROUND ON BORDER MANAGEMENT’



- India and China have reached a new understanding on the management and control of the frontier during Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s visit to New Delhi, the Chinese foreign ministry said.
- Wang visited New Delhi on August 18 and 19 during which he held extensive talks with NSA Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- Summing up the outcome of Wang’s visit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing that the two sides also agreed on resuming dialogue mechanisms in various fields, deepening mutually beneficial cooperation, upholding multilateralism, jointly dealing with global challenges and opposing unilateral bullying acts.
- Mao said in his meetings, Wang also noted that “the current circumstances further highlight the strategic significance of China-India relations and the strategic value of bilateral

cooperation” apparently referring to the US President Donald Trump’s tariff threats.

- A press release issued by the Foreign Ministry about Wang’s meeting with PM Modi said Wang has conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping’s and Premier Li Qiang’s warm greetings to him.
- Wang welcomed Modi’s visit to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to be held in the Chinese city of Tianjin on August 31 and September 1.
- The Chinese Foreign Minister said that the successful meeting between Modi and Xi in Russia last year has provided guidance for the resumption and a new start for China-India relations.
- Both sides have been earnestly implementing the common understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries, promoting bilateral relations to enter a new course of improvement and development, he told Modi.
- Through comprehensive and in-depth communication, in terms of bilateral relations, the two sides have agreed on restarting dialogue mechanisms across various fields, deepening mutually beneficial cooperation, upholding multilateralism, jointly addressing global challenges, and opposing unilateralism and bullying acts, the press release quoted him as saying.
- Wang emphasised that the China-India relations have experienced ups and downs, and the lessons learned are worth remembering, it said.

55. INDIA CONDUCTS FLIGHT TESTS OF AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM



- India successfully conducted the maiden flight tests of an integrated air defence weapon system (IADWS) off the coast of Odisha, showcasing its growing military capabilities in a changing regional security environment.
- IADWS is a multi-layered air defence system comprising indigenous quick reaction surface-to-air missiles (QRSAM), very short range air defence system (VSHORADS) missiles, and a high-power laser-based directed-energy weapons (DEW) system, according to the Defence Ministry.
- The indigenous air defence system was flight-tested at 1230 hours on Saturday.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the

developer of the platform, and the armed forces on the successful flight tests.

- These tests come three-and-a-half months after Operation Sindoor.
- Under IADWS, integrated operation of all weapon systems will be managed by a centralised command and control centre developed by DRDO.
- VSHORADS and DEW are developed by Research Centre Imarat and Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences respectively.
- All weapon system components, including missile systems, drone detection and destruction system, command and control mechanism, communication, and radars, performed flawlessly.

56.INDIA-THAILAND TO CONDUCT JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE IN UMROI FROM SEPT 1 TO 14



- The Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army will conduct the 14th edition of the Joint Bilateral Military Exercise MAITREE from September 1–14 at the Foreign Training Node, Umroi.
- The Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI), Indian Army, stated that the exercise is being held in India after five years.
- The 13th edition of Exercise MAITREE was conducted at Fort Vachirapakan in Tak Province, Thailand.
- The Indian Army contingent for the previous edition comprised 76 personnel, mainly from a Battalion of the Ladakh Scouts, along with personnel from other arms and services.
- The Royal Thai Army contingent also consisted of 76 personnel, mainly from the 1st Battalion, 14 Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division.

57.BREW OF UNITY: INDIAN ARMY INAUGURATES MAYUDIA CAFÉ IN ARUNACHAL TO STRENGTHEN CIVIL TIES



- The Indian Army inaugurated the Mayudia Café at the scenic Mayudia Pass in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Dibang Valley to strengthen civil-military relations and promote grassroots development.
- The café, surrounded by snow-capped peaks and lush valleys, was opened by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Dao Division, Deputy Commissioner Fwrrman Brahma, senior Army officials, local residents, and representatives of the Spear Corps.
- It aims to offer much-needed refreshment facilities in a region previously lacking basic tourist amenities while celebrating local culture, promoting eco-tourism, and creating economic opportunities for nearby communities.
- The GOC described it as a “symbol of hope, opportunity, and friendship,” highlighting its role as a cultural and social hub showcasing Arunachal Pradesh’s hospitality and heritage.
- Deputy Commissioner Brahma praised the initiative for bridging civil-military gaps and boosting local livelihoods through sustainable tourism.
- With increasing tourist footfall to Mayudia Pass, the café is expected to become a vital stop for travellers and an economic catalyst for the region.
- The project reflects the Indian Army’s broader vision of combining defence, development, and diplomacy to foster cooperation and long-term partnerships with frontier communities.

58.DOUBLE STRIKE AT SEA: INS UDAYGIRI AND INS HIMGIRI TO JOIN INDIAN NAVY FLEET TOMORROW



- The Indian Navy will simultaneously commission two Nilgiri-class stealth guided-missile frigates, **INS Udaygiri** and **INS Himgiri**, on 26 August at Visakhapatnam.
- This will be the first time two major surface combatants built by different Indian shipyards are inducted together.
- Earlier this year, **INS Nilgiri**, the lead ship of the class, was commissioned, and with Udaygiri and Himgiri, a three-frigate squadron will be operational.
- Each frigate weighs around 6,700 tonnes and features advanced stealth design with reduced radar cross-section for enhanced survivability.
- They are powered by **Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion** and controlled via an **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)**.
- Weaponry includes supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, advanced anti-submarine systems, and close-in defence systems, enabling them to counter multi-dimensional maritime threats.
- The commissioning comes amid growing Chinese maritime influence through its "string of pearls" strategy, signalling India's readiness to secure sea lanes from the Strait of Malacca to the African coast.
- The ships were built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai**, and **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**, involving over 200 MSMEs and generating thousands of jobs, boosting India's defence ecosystem.

59. IAF MIG-21S TO RETIRE ON SEPT 26



- Indian Air Force's MiG-21 fighter jets, the backbone of its combat fleet for over six decades, made their last operational flights at the Nal Air Force Station in Bikaner, a month ahead of the formal retirement ceremony to be held in Chandigarh on September 26.
- As part of the symbolic farewell, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh flew solo sorties of the MiG-21 from Nal on August 18–19, marking an emotional moment for the force and for generations of pilots trained on the Russian-origin fighter jet that served the force for 62 years.
- At maximum reheat, it could climb more than 250 metres per second. It was made to intercept, and in that role, it served India remarkably well.

- However, the technology is now outdated and difficult to maintain, making way for new platforms such as the Tejas, Rafales, and Su-30s.
- The MiG-21 underwent several upgrades, most recently the Bison version, equipped with modern avionics, radar, and beyond-visual-range missiles.
- The IAF currently operates two squadrons of the jet, which will be phased out next month.
- The official farewell in Chandigarh, where the MiG-21 was first inducted in 1963, will mark the closure of a historic chapter in India's air power.

60. INDIA, ALGERIA BOLSTER DEFENCE TIES DURING ARMY CHIEF GEN DWIVEDI'S VISIT



- Fostering the spirit of South-South cooperation, India and Algeria took a significant step towards boosting bilateral defence cooperation during Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi's ongoing official visit to the North African country.
- The visit reinforces recent high-level engagements between the two countries and focuses on enhancing army-to-army ties and capability development, including training.
- According to the Ministry of Defence, the COAS is on a four-day official visit to Algeria from August 25 to 28.
- It comes soon after the recent visits by the President of India and the Chief of Defence Staff, underlining the importance accorded to strengthening India-Algeria relations.
- The visit aims to reinforce defence and security engagement between India and Algeria, with a focus on bolstering Army-to-Army cooperation, sharing perspectives on regional and global security challenges, and exploring avenues for defence industrial collaboration.
- During his visit, General Dwivedi will hold meetings with top Algerian defence officials, including General Said Chanegriha, Minister Delegate to the Minister of National Defence and Chief of Staff of the People's National Army, and Lieutenant General Mostefa Smaali, Commander of Land Forces.
- He will also visit several key military institutions, including the School of Command and Major Staff in Tamentfoust and the Cherchell Military Academy, one of Algeria's premier training establishments.

- A ceremonial tribute will be paid at the iconic Martyrs Memorial, commemorating Algeria's struggle for independence.

61.INDIA, FIJI RESOLVE TO BOOST DEFENCE TIES



- India and Fiji firmed up a broad action plan to ramp up defence ties and vowed to work jointly for a peaceful Indo-Pacific following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Fijian counterpart Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka.
- Modi stated, "India and Fiji may be oceans apart, but our aspirations sail in the same boat," with the Fijian leader by his side.
- Rabuka arrived in Delhi on a three-day trip, his first visit to India as Prime Minister of the South Pacific nation.
- Fiji holds importance for India in maritime security, especially as India looks to expand defence ties amid China's growing strategic influence in the Pacific region.
- Following the talks, both sides inked seven pacts to enhance cooperation in areas including medicine, skill development, trade, and capacity building.
- Modi and Rabuka condemned the Pahalgam terrorist attack in the strongest terms and reiterated their commitment to "zero tolerance" for terrorism.
- The leaders rejected "double standards" on terrorism and agreed to boost bilateral cooperation to combat the menace, as stated in the joint statement.
- Modi announced that India will provide training and equipment support to strengthen Fiji's maritime security.
- Modi emphasised India's role as a co-traveller in the development of the Global South, highlighting respect for its independence, ideas, and identity.
- He also assured support to Fiji in addressing climate change and disaster response challenges.
- Both leaders shared a vision for a robust, inclusive, and sustainable Indo-Pacific with an economic architecture to promote mutual prosperity.
- The joint statement highlighted the growing momentum in bilateral defence ties and underlined shared interests in advancing regional peace, stability, and prosperity.
- India also announced the creation of a defence attaché post in its high commission in Fiji.

- Modi announced gifting of 12 agricultural drones and two mobile soil testing laboratories to Fiji.

62.NAVY COMMISSIONS MULTI-MISSION STEALTH FRIGATES



- Indian Navy commissioned two multi-mission stealth frigates, INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, each equipped with eight BrahMos missiles and advanced indigenous weapons and sensors.
- The commissioning of these Project 17A stealth frigates, presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Eastern Naval Command, marks the first time two frontline surface combatants built at different shipyards were commissioned simultaneously.
- Udaygiri is the second ship of Project 17A, built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai, while Himgiri is the first P17A ship constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- Udaygiri is the 100th ship designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB), marking a major milestone in indigenous warship design over five decades.
- Both vessels are follow-on ships of the Project 17 (Shivalik) class frigates, incorporating major improvements in design, stealth, weapons, and sensors for full-spectrum maritime missions in blue-water conditions.
- P17A class frigates displace about 6,700 tonnes, are 5% larger than Shivalik-class, feature reduced radar cross section, and incorporate modular construction for faster delivery.
- The weapons suite includes supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, 76 mm MR Gun, and a combination of 30 mm and 12.7 mm close-in weapon systems.
- The construction involved an industrial ecosystem of 200+ MSMEs, generating around 4,000 direct and 10,000+ indirect jobs, with 75% indigenous content aligning with Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.

SPORTS & AWARDS

63.SRK, VIKRANT MASSEY, RANI MUKERJI WIN TOP HONOURS



- Hindi cinema dominated the 71st National Film Awards announced for the year 2023.
- Shah Rukh Khan won his first-ever National Award for Best Actor for *Jawan*, shared with Vikrant Massey for *12th Fail*.
- 12th Fail* was also awarded Best Feature Film.
- Rani Mukerji received her first National Award for Best Actress for *Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway*.
- Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* by Karan Johar was named Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.
- Meghna Gulzar's *Sam Bahadur* won Best Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values, and also bagged awards for Make-up and Costume Design.
- Vaibhavi Merchant won Best Choreography for *Dhindhora Baaje* (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani).
- Shilpa Rao was named Best Female Playback Singer for *Chaleya* (Jawan).
- Sudipto Sen was awarded Best Director for *The Kerala Story*, which also won Best Cinematography.
- Kathal: A Jackfruit Mystery* starring Sanya Malhotra won Best Hindi Film.
- Vijayaraghavan (*Pookalam* - Malayalam) and Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar (*Parking* - Tamil) shared the Best Supporting Actor award.
- Urvashi (*Ullozhokku* - Malayalam) and Janki Bodiwala (*Vash* - Gujarati) shared Best Supporting Actress; both films also won Best Film in their respective language categories.
- Ashish Bende's Marathi film won Best Debut Film of a Director.
- Telugu film *Hanu-Man* won Best Film in AVGC and Best Action Direction.
- Animal* won awards for Best Sound Design, Best Background Score, and Special Mention for Re-recording Mixer.
- Utpal Datta from Assam was awarded the Swarna Kamal for Best Film Critic.
- Best Screenplay was shared between *Baby* (Telugu) and *Parking* (Tamil).

- PVNS Rohit (*Baby*) was named Best Male Playback Singer for *Premisthunna*.
- GV Prakash won Best Music Director (songs) for *Vaathi* (Tamil).
- Kasarla Shyam was Best Lyricist for *Ooru Palleturu* (Balagam – Telugu).
- Deepak Kingrani won Best Dialogue Writer for *Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai* (Hindi).
- Best Editing went to Malayalam film *Pookkaalam*, and Best Production Design to *2018* (Malayalam).
- Best Child Artists: Sukriti Veni Bandreddi (*Gandhi Tatha Chettu*), Kabir Khandare (*Gypsy*), and *Naal 2* actors Treesha Thosar, Shrinivas Pokale, and Bhargav Jagtap.
- Naal 2* was also named Best Children's Film.
- Best Regional Language Films:
 - Assamese: *Rongatapu 1982*
 - Bengali: *Deep Fridge*
 - Tamil: *Parking*
 - Kannada: *Kandeelu*
 - Marathi: *Shamchi Aai*
 - Odia: *Puskara*
 - Punjabi: *Godday Godday Chaa*
 - Telugu: *Bhagavanth Kesari*
- In non-feature film categories:
 - Best Film: *Flowering Man* (Hindi)
 - Best Documentary: *God, Vulture and Human*
 - Best Director: Piyush Thakur for *The First Film*
 - Best Script: Chidananda Nayak for Kannada short film *Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know*

64.FIVE FROM ASSAM WIN BIG AT 71ST NATIONAL FILM AWARDS



- Five film personalities from Assam received prestigious honours at the 71st National Film Awards for the year 2023, announced in New Delhi.
- The **Rajat Kamal Award for Best Assamese Film** was awarded to *Rangatapu 1982*, produced by **BRC Cine**

Production and directed by **Adityam Saikia**. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

- Another **Rajat Kamal** was awarded to the **Best Tai Phake Film**, *Pai Tang... Step of Hope*, produced by **Naba Kumar Bhuyan** and directed by **Prabal Khaund**, also carrying a prize of Rs 2 lakh.
- The **Swarna Kamal Award for Best Film Critic** went to **Utpal Datta**, with a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.
- **Shilpika Bordoloi** received the **Swarna Kamal Award for Best Debut Film (Non-Feature)** for her Mizo-language film *Mau: The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw*. This award carries Rs 3 lakh.
- The **Rajat Kamal Award for Best Biographical Film** was awarded to *Lentina Ao – A Light on the Eastern Horizon*, produced by **NFDC** and directed by **Sanjib Parasar**, with a cash award of Rs 2 lakh.

65.GALLANTRY & SERVICE MEDALS TO 21 FROM ASSAM ON INDEPENDENCE DAY 2025



- A total of 21 officers and personnel from Assam Police, Fire Service, and Home Guard & Civil Defence have been named for distinguished service, gallantry medals, and meritorious service awards for Independence Day 2025.
- **President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM):** Awarded to Partha Sarathi Mahanta, Commissioner of Police, Guwahati.
- **Medal for Gallantry (GM):** Awarded to Gurav Abhijit Dilip (Superintendent of Police), Hemanta Kumar Boro (Sub Divisional Police Officer), and Akhil Ranjan Das (Constable).
- **Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) – Assam Police:** Awarded to Sanjukta Parasor (Inspector General), Vivek Raj Singh (Inspector General), Jayshree Khersa (Commandant), Hridayjit Barman (Superintendent of Police), Numal Mahatta (Superintendent of Police), Debasish Borah (Commandant), Tabu Ram Pegu (Commandant), Nirmal Chandra Biswas (Deputy Superintendent of Police), Lalit Saikia (Inspector), Akhil Kumar Das (Sub Inspector), Dhruba Sarki (Inspector), Nabin Chandra Sharma (Assistant Commandant), and Rabindra Singha (Sub Inspector).
- **Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) – Fire & Emergency Services, Assam:** Awarded to Ashok Das (Sub Officer), Khagen Chandra Kalita (Leading Fireman), and Tarak Chandra Talukdar (Sub Officer).
- **Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) – Home Guard & Civil Defence, Assam:** Awarded to Dr. Santanu Roy Chowdhury (Post Warden, Volunteer).

66.NEUFCE MASTER THE ART OF WINNING



- NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) retained their Durand Cup title by defeating Diamond Harbour FC (DHFC) 6-1 in the final.
- The 134th edition of the Durand Cup final was held at Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan.
- NEUFC became the first team since East Bengal (1989–1991) to successfully defend the Durand Cup.
- The victory highlighted NEUFC's dominance in Indian football's oldest tournament.

67.NORTHEAST UNITED FC HONoured WITH PRESIDENT'S CUP



- NorthEast United FC made history by becoming the first team in over three decades to successfully defend the Durand Cup title.
- The team was honoured with the prestigious President's Cup by President Droupadi Murmu at a special ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The Durand Cup, Asia's oldest club competition, awards three trophies – the Durand Cup (instituted in 1888), the Shimla Trophy (donated by citizens of Shimla in 1903), and the President's Cup (instituted in 1956 by then President Dr Rajendra Prasad).
- This was the first time since the institution of the President's Cup that the President of India personally invited the winning team to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- NorthEast United FC defeated Diamond Harbour FC 6–1 in the final at Kolkata to lift the 134th edition of the Durand Cup.
- With this victory, the Highlanders became the first team since East Bengal in 1991 to defend the crown.
- The club delegation at the ceremony included John Abraham, Mandar Tamhane, Indian assistant coach Amogh Adige, team captain Redeem Tlang, Golden Glove winner Gurmeet Singh, and Asheer Akhtar, who scored the opening goal in the final.

68. ASSAM GIRLS SCRIPT HISTORY WITH MAIDEN SUBROTO CUP FOOTBALL TITLE



- Assam created history as the girls' team of Betkuchi High School, Guwahati, lifted the 64th Subroto Cup International School Football Tournament title in New Delhi.
- At Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, the Under-17 team defeated West Bengal's Nandajhar Adibasi Tapashili High School 3-1 in the final, organised by the Indian Air Force.
- This marked Assam's first-ever victory in the Subroto Cup girls' category; earlier, in 2014, a State team had reached the final but ended as runners-up.
- Betkuchi High School went a step further this time, securing the prestigious trophy.
- Mary Mech stood out by scoring nine goals in the last four matches, including two hat-tricks, while Milina Brahma also recorded a hat-trick, contributing to Assam's triumph.

69. AOA UNVEILS BHOGESWAR BARUAH NATIONAL SPORTS AWARD TROPHY:



- The Assam Olympic Association (AOA) unveiled the Bhogeswar Baruah National Sports Award trophy in honour of the Arjuna awardee and the first Assamese athlete to win a gold medal at a multinational event (Asian Games 1966).
- The unveiling ceremony was attended by Sports Minister Nandita Gorlosa, boxer Ankushita Boro, AOA General Secretary Lakhya Konwar, AOA Vice President and senior journalist Subodh Malla Barua, along with other dignitaries.
- The award will be presented annually to celebrate sporting excellence and inspire future generations, with the inaugural ceremony scheduled for September 3 in Guwahati.
- Several international athletes have confirmed their participation, and legendary sprinter PT Usha will be among the distinguished guests.
- AOA officials also announced that Sarusajai Stadium will be formally renamed after Bhogeswar Baruah to honour his legacy.
- The award will recognise athletes in six categories, including three marquee honours – Best Sportsperson of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award in Sports, and Emerging Sportsperson of the Year.
- The awards will be presented every year on Bhogeswar Baruah's birthday, September 3.

ASSAM & NORTH-EAST

70.RS 56-CR EROSION PROJECT UNDER WAY IN MAJULI



- The Centre stated that the Brahmaputra Board has initiated a project worth ₹56.34 crore to tackle erosion in critical stretches of Majuli Island.
- The project, titled "Protection of Majuli Island from Flood and Erosion of River Brahmaputra Phase-V," focuses on implementing bank protection measures using porcupines at multiple vulnerable locations across Majuli.
- In collaboration with INTACH, the Brahmaputra Board has undertaken a comprehensive study to formulate a policy for riverine islands in the Brahmaputra, covering over 30 islands, with special emphasis on Majuli.
- The study follows a community-inclusive approach aimed at the sustainable management of erosion-prone riverine islands.
- According to a study by the Central Water & Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, continuous erosion near the confluence of the Subansiri and Brahmaputra rivers was observed between 1986 and 2023, particularly in Major Chapori NC, from Katoni Gaon Na Satra to Banpurai.
- Major sediment deposition was identified between Ratanpur Miri Gaon and Kathal Khowa Pam, while the Kamala Bari region experienced erosion initially but saw deposition during 2018–2023.
- A significant deposition of about 27.47 sq km occurred near Kamala Bari during 2021–2022.
- Overall, approximately 75 sq km of land has been eroded from various parts of Majuli Island.
- Around 58 sq km of area has experienced sediment deposition along the Brahmaputra's banks within Majuli.
- The CWPRS study, commissioned by the Brahmaputra Board, analyzed satellite imagery from 1986 to 2023 to assess river channel behavior, changes in bank line positions, and erosion-deposition patterns.

71.ARUNACHAL EMERGING AS INDIA'S HYDRO CAPITAL: KHANDU



- Arunachal Pradesh is on track to become India's leading hydropower hub, with Chief Minister Pema Khandu describing it as a "rising hydro capital" that merges natural beauty with modern development.
- The state has a hydropower potential of 56,000 MW, making it central to India's clean energy ambitions.
- Hydropower projects that were previously stalled are now being implemented as engines of prosperity.
- Key developments include the completion of the 600-MW Kameng Hydroelectric Project and the nearing commissioning of the 2000-MW Subansiri Lower Project.
- The 2880-MW Dibang Multipurpose Project, which is set to be the largest in India, is under development.
- Additionally, 13 new projects with a combined capacity of 15,000 MW are expected to be launched within the next three years.
- CM Khandu highlighted that these projects also focus on people's empowerment, citing benefits like ₹4,171 crore worth of free power to the state, ₹735 crore invested into local communities, and expected annual dividends of ₹1,884 crore.
- Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing that hydropower is enhancing electricity access, uplifting communities, and driving economic growth.
- The state's hydropower push aligns with national clean energy goals and represents a shift towards infrastructure-led economic transformation in this frontier state.
- However, concerns have been raised by indigenous communities and civil society groups regarding displacement, ecological damage, and the lack of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in large dam projects.
- Despite this, state leaders assert that development and sustainability can coexist, positioning Arunachal Pradesh as a model for green growth in India.

72. AAU BID TO BOOST EXPORT OF TRADITIONAL RICE VARIETIES



- Assam Agricultural University (AAU) has launched an initiative to boost the export of traditional rice varieties by providing pure planting materials (seeds) to farmers.
- Traditional rice varieties like Joha (Kola and Kunkoni Joha) and Bao (Tora and Kokua Bao) have recently gained recognition in international markets, especially in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.
- However, export volumes remained low due to quality issues; many consignments were rejected because farmers used impure seeds.
- To address this, AAU, under Vice Chancellor Dr. Bidyut Chandan Deka, has initiated a programme to produce and distribute pure seeds, ensuring the quality of rice exports.
- Dr. Chetia explained that a batch of seeds can be reused for two to three cultivation cycles, after which fresh seeds must be planted.
- A pilot project for Bao rice has been launched in Nagaon district, in collaboration with the UN World Food Programme, the State Government, and a Self-Help Group (SHG).
- AAU, along with the State Government, has also established the first gene bank of the northeastern region, conserving 7,000 germplasms of rice, including 3,000 indigenous varieties.
- The gene bank aims to conserve germplasms of other indigenous crops to maintain biodiversity for future generations.
- Since its establishment in 1969, AAU has released 40 improved crop varieties, including 24 rice varieties, as well as rapeseed, sesame, green gram, black gram, millet, field pea, chilli, and brinjal.
- Among the developed crops is 'Labanya,' a new purple rice variety found to be highly nutritious due to its high antioxidant content.

73. RS 188-CR MARITIME SKILLS HUB TO BE SET UP IN DIBRUGARH

- The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways plans to establish a Rs 188 crore Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE) for maritime training in Dibrugarh.
- The announcement was made by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal during the ongoing Parliament session.

- The initiative aligns with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission.
- The RCoE will provide advanced maritime skill development, offering training in smart navigation systems, marine engineering, logistics, IT, and inland waterway operations.
- Certified courses in maritime safety and inland transport will be offered in line with national standards.
- The project is scheduled for completion in 19 months and aims to generate substantial employment opportunities, especially for youth in the Northeast.
- The Dibrugarh RCoE will complement the existing Maritime Skill Development Centre in Guwahati, which provides training in inland vessel management, general purpose rating, hospitality, safety, and crew operations.
- Together, both centres will act as national hubs for maritime talent, particularly from underrepresented and remote regions like the Northeast.
- The RCoE will support the growth of India's maritime cities being developed in strategic coastal and island locations such as Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Gujarat.
- These maritime cities will offer services including ship and seaplane repair, eco-tourism, bunkering terminals, and free trade zones.
- The Dibrugarh RCoE will also aid in developing new economic corridors along the Brahmaputra River, improving connectivity between the Northeast and the rest of India as well as South and Southeast Asia.
- The initiative supports the government's strategy to boost inland water transport, lower logistics costs, and integrate interior regions with global trade routes.
- Establishing the Dibrugarh RCoE is part of the broader national vision to position India as a global maritime leader by 2047.
- It aims to create a skilled workforce in maritime technology, logistics, and port management, fostering sustainable and inclusive growth in the maritime sector.
- Once operational, the Dibrugarh centre is expected to attract aspirants from across the country, offering hands-on training, industry-recognized certification, and long-term career prospects in inland waterways and the maritime ecosystem.

74.7 INSTITUTES RECOGNISED AS CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE



- The government has recognised seven premier institutes, including four IITs, as Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under the **National Critical Mineral Mission**.

- The decision was approved by the **Project Approval and Advisory Committee**.
- These CoEs will focus on innovative and transformational research to enhance India's scientific and technological capabilities in the critical minerals domain.
- Critical minerals are essential for sectors like **clean energy, mobility transition, advanced technology, electronics, defence, and space**.
- The recognised institutes include **IIT Bombay, IIT Hyderabad, IIT-ISM Dhanbad, and IIT Roorkee**, among others.
- Each CoE will function through a **hub-and-spoke model**, forming consortia to pool research and development expertise across institutions.
- The Ministry of Mines had earlier invited proposals and conducted a comprehensive two-tier evaluation and approval process.
- The **National Critical Mineral Mission**, launched in January, is a government initiative to boost self-reliance in the critical minerals sector.
- The mission spans a **seven-year period from 2024-25 to 2030-31**.
- Its goals include increasing **domestic production**, reducing **import dependence**, and encouraging **exploration** and **responsible sourcing** of critical minerals.

75.ASSAM HOSTS 2ND MONSOON FORUM TO BOOST CLIMATE-SMART FARMING



- The **second edition of the Assam State Monsoon Forum** was held as a key step toward **climate-resilient farming** and **weather-based planning**.
- The forum was **jointly organized** by the **Department of Agriculture**, the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, and the **Government of Assam**, in collaboration with the **World Food Programme (WFP)**.
- The event brought together stakeholders from **agriculture, disaster management, water resources, and allied sectors** to improve the use of **climate information** for vulnerable farming communities.
- The focus was on **women and smallholder farmers**, who are disproportionately affected by climate variability.
- The forum is part of the **ENACT project** (*Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based Solutions and Gender-Transformative Approaches in Assam*), supported by the **Government of Norway** and promoted

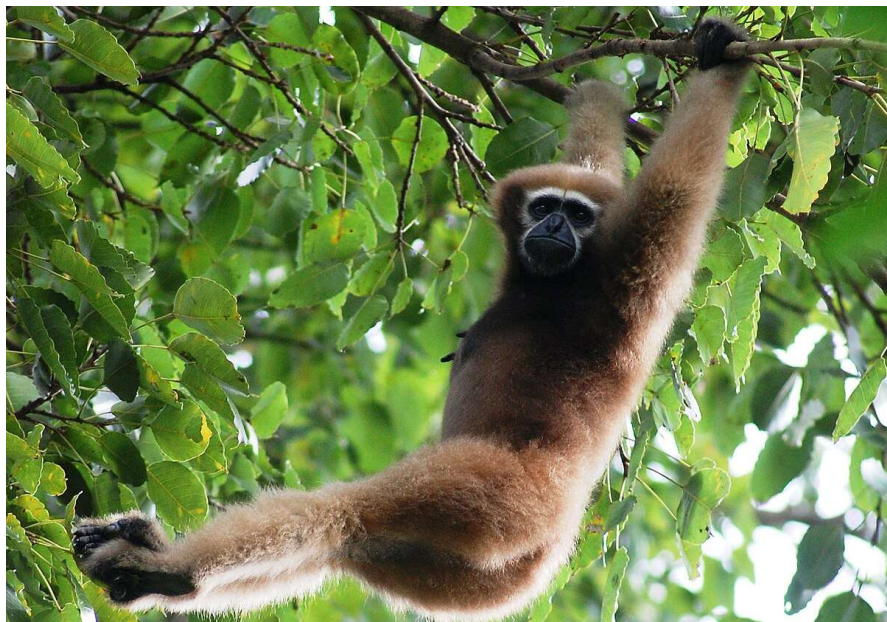
globally by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.

- It was recommended that the **Monsoon Forum be institutionalized and held annually** before the onset of monsoon to better prepare communities.
- The platform aims to **empower local communities** by ensuring better **access and use of simplified, localised weather data** for informed decision-making.

76.NW-57 ON KOPILI OPERATIONALISED

- In a step towards the revival of Assam's river-based trade and sustainable logistics, National Waterway-57 (River Kopili) was operationalised with the first-ever cargo trial run.
- The trial run commenced from Govardhan Bridge in Chandrapur, Kamrup, to Hatsingimari in South Salmara.
- This movement marks the resumption of intra-state waterborne freight transport in Assam after over a decade.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, called it a 'watershed moment' for Inland Waterways Transport in Assam and the Northeast.
- The cargo vessel MV VV Giri, with self-loading capacity, carried 300 metric tonnes of cement from M/s Star Cement.
- The journey covered a 300-km route using the Kopili river (NW-57) and the Brahmaputra river (NW-2), taking approximately 12 to 14 hours.
- With this development, over 1,168 km of national waterways in Assam have become operational.
- Cargo movement has resumed on four national waterways in Assam: Brahmaputra (NW-2), Barak (NW-16), Dhansiri (NW-31), and Kopili (NW-57).
- These 1,168 km of operational waterways offer a reasonable, economical, and effective alternative mode of transportation.
- Inland water transport is expected to decongest roads, bring economies of scale, and enhance prosperity for riverine communities.
- Shifting freight from road to waterways reduces emissions, eases road congestion, and lowers logistics costs while utilizing natural resources efficiently.
- The trial run replaced approximately 23 truckloads of cement, demonstrating the potential of inland water transport.
- This is the first cargo trial on the 46-km-long NW-57 since 2014, marking a turning point in intra-state cargo revival through Assam's river systems.
- The operationalisation aligns with Maritime India Vision 2030 and PM Gati Shakti, aiming to establish sustainable, integrated, and efficient transport infrastructure nationwide.

77.HOOLOCK GIBBON OF ASSAM AMONG SIX MOST ENDANGERED PRIMATE SPECIES OF WORLD



- The Western Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*) of Assam, India's only ape species, has been declared one of the world's most endangered primates.
- This designation was made at the 30th Congress of the International Primatological Society (IPS) held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, from July 20–25.
- The congress brought together 657 registered delegates from 53 countries to assess the world's 25 most endangered primates for the 2025–2027 cycle.
- The special session was chaired by Dr. Russell A. Mittermeier, chair of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group.
- Among the 25 most endangered primates, six are from Asia, including the Banka Slow Loris, Sangihe Tarsier, Pig-tailed Langur, Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey, Tapanuli Orangutan, and the Western Hoolock Gibbon.
- Dr. Chetry, Director of the Primate Research and Conservation Division at Aaranyak, highlighted the Western Hoolock Gibbon's status as one of 20 gibbon species in Asia and listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- Its distribution spans eastern Bangladesh, northeastern India, and parts of Myanmar, with Indian populations restricted to the southern bank of the Brahmaputra and east of the Dibang river.
- The gibbon is found across seven northeastern states: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.
- The species is facing severe threats due to habitat loss from encroachment, unregulated resource extraction, infrastructure development, tea plantations, shifting cultivation, forest fragmentation, hunting, and illegal wildlife trade.
- Instances of local extinction have already been recorded in fragmented forest areas of Northeast India, indicating a continuous population decline.
- Dr. Chetry called for urgent conservation actions, including habitat restoration, creation of ecological corridors, scientific research, capacity building for forest personnel, and active community involvement.

- He emphasized the need to promote the Western Hoolock Gibbon as a flagship species to foster wider public and policy support for biodiversity conservation in the region.

78.CM LAUNCHES MUKHYA MANTRIR NIJUT MOINA AASONI 2.0



- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched **Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Aasoni 2.0** by initiating the statewide distribution of forms for the scheme at a central function held at the **Birinchi Kumar Barua Auditorium** in Gauhati University.
- Under the scheme for the year **2025–26**, **four lakh girl students** pursuing **higher secondary, graduation, post-graduation, and BEd** will receive monthly financial assistance.
- The financial assistance is structured as follows:
 - ₹1,000 for **higher secondary** students
 - ₹1,250 for **undergraduate** students
 - ₹2,500 for **postgraduate** students
- While **Nijut Moina 1.0** covered **state universities and provincial colleges**, steps are now being taken to include **central universities** like **Tezpur University** and **Assam University** within the scheme's ambit.
- In the previous year, **1.60 lakh girl students** benefited from the scheme. This year, the coverage has expanded to benefit **four lakh girls**.
- Applications must be submitted to the respective institutions, and data will be uploaded via **SCERT, Darpan, and Samarth** Portals.

79.OVER 3.78 LAKH HA OF FOREST LAND IN STATE UNDER ENCROACHMENT

- Encroachment of reserved forest land across Assam has become a major concern.
- Over 3.78 lakh hectares of forest land remain under encroachment as per available records.
- Encroachments have reduced the State's forest cover, contributing to climate change and increasing man-elephant conflict.
- The total reserved forest area in Assam is 18.12 lakh hectares.

- As of March 31, 2021, 3.87 lakh hectares were under encroachment.
- In recent years, eviction drives have cleared 11,925 hectares of encroached land.
- Major eviction drive successes:
 - 14.40 sq km in Lumding
 - 17.50 sq km in Poba
 - 20.99 sq km in Burachapori
 - 5.88 sq km in Karimganj
 - 4.72 sq km in Mangaldoi
 - 28 sq km in Orang
 - 12 sq km in Golaghat
- Recently, arms and ammunition worth ₹17 crore have been procured for the department.
- New vehicles are being procured in a phased manner.

80.NAMRUP FERTILIZER PLANT RECORDS ITS HIGHEST-EVER UREA PRODUCTION



- Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) has achieved its highest-ever urea production from the Namrup-III plant during April–July 2025, producing 1,02,003 metric tonnes.
- This is the highest cumulative four-month production from Namrup-III since its commissioning in 1987, marking a turnaround after 37 years of operation.
- July 2025 recorded the highest-ever monthly output and the lowest-ever energy consumption by the plant, indicating improved efficiency and process optimization.
- The production target for FY 2025–26 is 2,45,000 metric tonnes, compared to 1,86,000 metric tonnes in the previous year.
- BVFCL is the only PSU manufacturing urea in the Northeast, supplying under the brand name 'Mukta' to farmers across Assam and other Northeastern states.
- The company also produces bio-fertilizers, NPK, and trades in other fertilizers to promote sustainable agriculture in the region.
- BVFCL will partner in the Assam Valley Fertilizer & Chemical Company Limited (AVFCCL) brownfield expansion project, a joint venture with other central PSUs and the Government of Assam.

- The upcoming plant will have a proposed capacity of 12.7 lakh metric tonnes and is expected to transform the fertilizer industry in the region.

81.ASSAM: STATE CABINET APPROVES FOUR MOUS WORTH RS 1,843 CRORE



- The state cabinet approved four MoUs worth ₹1,843 crore with cement factories, hotels, and soft drink companies.
- Number of development blocks in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) increased from 22 to 23.
- Ration allowance for Assam Forest Protection Force personnel raised from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500 per month.
- In line with the observance of 2025 as the Book Year:
 - One-time grants to be given to 1,000 young writers of the state.
 - An extra ₹1,000 to be paid to each state government employee with November salaries for purchasing books.
 - ₹5 lakh to be paid to district-level and ₹2.5 lakh to co-district-level organizers of book fairs.
 - Biography of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika to be distributed among 12 lakh families in January 2026.
- ₹178 crore approved for six science centres in the state.

82.ASSAM GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES AARANYAK'S WGL FOR WILDLIFE CRIME FORENSICS



- The Government of Assam has officially recognised the Wildlife Genetics Laboratory (WGL) of Aaranyak and its Director, Udayan Borthakur, for their expertise in wildlife genetics and wildlife forensic analysis under Section 329(4) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.
- This is the first time in Assam that a laboratory and an expert in the wildlife sector have been recognised under the BNSS, 2023 for aiding wildlife crime investigations and control through DNA-based forensic evidence gathering.
- The recognition follows an order from the Governor of Assam on August 4, 2025, and a notification issued by the Special Chief Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department.
- Under the notification, the WGL and Borthakur will be authorised as scientific experts to assist law enforcement agencies in collecting and analysing forensic evidence in wildlife offences.
- This step is expected to strengthen wildlife crime investigations and improve conviction rates through advanced DNA sampling methods.

83. 'LABANYA' RICE FROM ASSAM WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION



- Assam Agricultural University (AAU) has received national recognition for its new rice variety, 'Labanya' (TTB-AAU-Dhan-41), with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) granting it a Certificate of Registration on July 7, 2025.
- The certificate grants AAU exclusive rights to produce, sell, and distribute Labanya under the Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.
- Labanya combines the nutrition of traditional black rice with higher yield and better adaptability for commercial farming.
- It yields 4.5–5 tonnes per hectare, compared to 1.5–2 tonnes for traditional black rice.
- It has a lower glycemic index, cooks faster, and has aromatic grains, making it a healthy choice for daily diets.

- Rich in antioxidants, flavonoids, amino acids, and minerals, it offers higher milling quality with about 60% head rice recovery.
- The variety is ideal for gluten-free flour, bakery products, and traditional dishes.
- Farmers in Assam, Punjab, and Daman & Diu are already cultivating it, with the Daman & Diu government actively promoting its cultivation.
- Labanya was launched in the market before formal registration, with exclusive marketing rights given to a local entrepreneur.
- It is now sold in over 18 states, with more than 30% repeat customers.
- PPVFRA rights will last six years, with an option to extend for another nine years, ensuring long-term benefits for AAU and farming communities.

84. STATE TO HAVE 10 NEW CO-DISTRICTS

- Assam will have 10 new co-districts, taking the total number of administrative blocs in the state to 49, as per the Chief Minister's Office.
- The newly created co-districts are: Boko-Chhaygaon and Palashbari in Kamrup district, Borsola and Rangapara in Sonitpur, Mariani and Teok in Jorhat, Makum and Digboi in Tinsukia, Dholai in Cachar, and Dudhnoi in Goalpara.
- The initiative aims to bring essential services closer to citizens, improve administrative efficiency, and strengthen public welfare delivery.
- In the first phase, 39 co-districts were inaugurated on October 4 and 5 last year.
- Co-districts have powers related to land revenue matters, developmental works, welfare schemes, magisterial functions, food and civil supplies, administrative matters, panchayat and rural development, and disaster management.

85. CENTRE APPROVES TATO-II HYDRO PROJECT IN ARUNACHAL



- The Central government approved an investment of ₹8,146.21 crore for the construction of a 700 MW Tato-II Hydro-Electric Project in Shi Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The estimated completion period for the project is 72 months.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave the approval.

- The project will have an installed capacity of 700 MW (4 x 175 MW) and is expected to produce 2,738.06 million units of energy.
- The generated power will improve electricity supply in the state and help balance the national grid.
- The project will be implemented through a joint venture between North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Government of India will provide ₹458.79 crore as budgetary support for roads, bridges, and associated transmission lines, and ₹436.13 crore as Central Financial Assistance towards the state's equity share.
- Arunachal Pradesh will receive 12% free power and 1% for the Local Area Development Fund.
- The project will bring significant infrastructure development and socio-economic benefits to the region.
- Around 32.88 km of roads and bridges will be developed, mostly for local use.
- The district will gain essential infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, marketplaces, and playgrounds, financed from a dedicated project fund of ₹20 crore.
- Local communities will benefit from compensation, employment opportunities, and CSR activities.

86.PORTAL LAUNCHED FOR SPECIAL SCHEME

- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma formally launched the 'special scheme for grant of arms licences to original inhabitants and indigenous Indian citizens in vulnerable and remote areas of Assam' through the Sewa Setu portal during an event at the Lok Sewa Bhawan.
- The scheme reflects the State government's concern for the security of citizens living in vulnerable and remote areas of Assam due to geographic and socio-political factors.
- The State Cabinet had decided on this scheme on May 28 this year, followed by a government notification under the Arms Act 1959 and the Arms Rules 2016.
- The scheme allows original inhabitants of Assam and indigenous Indian citizens with a genuine threat to life and safety due to the vulnerability of their region to apply for arms licences.
- Applications will be individually scrutinized based on threat perception, personal security needs, and necessity for possessing licensed arms, with inputs from designated police and intelligence authorities.
- Detailed police verification will include local inquiry, examination of past criminal records, and assessment of socio-economic background.
- Grant of a licence will require full compliance with the Arms Act 1959, the Arms Rules, and other applicable orders.
- The Home and Political Department will oversee implementation and may request periodic reports from District Magistrates and Senior Superintendents of Police.
- Applicants must be residents of vulnerable and remote areas, undergo rigorous field-level security assessments, police verification, and obtain the recommendation of the Senior Superintendent of Police.

- Licences will be issued only after thorough vetting and adherence to all legal provisions under the Arms Act 1959 and the Arms Rules 2016.

87.DRAFT NOTIFICATION ISSUED ON ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE AROUND DEEPOR BEEL



- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued a draft notification declaring an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam's only Ramsar site.
- Public objections and suggestions are invited within 60 days of the notification's publication (July 2, 2025).
- The ESZ will cover 38.84 sq. km around the sanctuary, extending from 25.294 metres to 5 km from the wetland boundary.
- Deepor Beel, on Guwahati's southwestern edge, spans ~40 sq. km in summer and shrinks to ~10 sq. km in winter; 4.1 sq. km was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2009.
- The wetland supports 150+ bird species (including endangered vultures and greater adjutant storks), elephants from Rani and Garbhanga forests, 50 fish species, 12 reptiles, 6 amphibians, and 155 aquatic macro-biota.
- Threats include urban expansion, industrial waste, encroachment, and the Guwahati–Goalpara railway line.
- Assam government must prepare a Zonal Master Plan within 2 years of the final notification, in consultation with local communities, and in line with central/state laws.
- The Master Plan will involve state departments: Environment, Forest & Climate Change; Wildlife; Urban Development; Panchayati Raj & Rural Development; Tourism; Revenue; Agriculture; Horticulture; Water Resources; Pollution Control Board; Irrigation & Flood Control; Municipality; and Public Works & Highways.
- The plan must not restrict existing approved land use/infrastructure unless specified, but should make them eco-friendly and efficient.
- It must address restoration of denuded areas, conservation of water bodies, catchment/watershed/groundwater management, soil/moisture conservation, and community needs.
- It must demarcate worship places, villages, urban settlements, forests, agricultural areas, fertile lands, parks, orchards, lakes, and other green/water bodies.

Activities in the ESZ will follow three categories:

• **A. Prohibited Activities:**

- Mining, stone quarrying & crushing (except small-scale for locals' personal use).
- Polluting industries (new or expansion).
- Major hydroelectric projects.
- Hazardous substances (production/processing/use).
- Discharge of untreated effluents.
- New sawmills, brick kilns, commercial firewood use, new windmills.
- Large-scale livestock/poultry farms (except small-scale per CPCB 2016 rules).

• **B. Regulated Activities:**

- Hotels & resorts banned within 1 km of the sanctuary; beyond, only per tourism plan.
- Construction allowed only for local use; commercial construction within 1 km banned, beyond 1 km regulated.
- Small-scale non-polluting industries allowed (as per CPCB).
- Agro-based industry using indigenous materials permitted.
- Felling of trees with permission.
- Forest produce collection (NTFP) under law.
- Electrical/communication towers & cables regulated (underground preferred).
- Infrastructure & roads allowed with safeguards.
- Balloon/drones/helicopters for tourism regulated.
- Hill slope/riverbank protection regulated.
- Night commercial traffic regulated.
- Agriculture, horticulture, dairies, fisheries permitted for locals.
- Large-scale livestock/poultry farms regulated (for local needs).
- Treated wastewater reuse preferred; regulated if discharged.
- Groundwater extraction & wells regulated.
- Additional regulations: solid waste management, exotic species introduction, ecotourism, signage, changes in agriculture systems, hotel fencing, air/vehicular/noise pollution.

• **C. Promoted Activities:**

- Rainwater harvesting, organic farming, renewable energy (biogas, solar, etc.).
- Cottage industries, village artisans, green technology.
- Agroforestry, herbal & horticultural plantations.
- Eco-friendly transport, skill development, land/forest restoration, environmental awareness.
- A Monitoring Committee headed by the District Commissioner of Kamrup (Metro) will oversee ESZ implementation, with officials from forest, pollution control, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, municipality, NGOs, and universities.

Citizens may send feedback within 60 days (from July 2, 2025) to the Secretary, MoEFCC, or via email at esz-mef@nic.in.

88.STATE GOVT PLANS SOP TO MONITOR CASES AT HOSPITALS:



- Concerned at the death of an infant at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital allegedly due to negligence of staff, the State government has directed all medical colleges to inspect critical equipment at the institutions, and has set in motion an exercise to prepare an SOP to monitor cases at hospitals.
- The managements at all medical colleges have been asked to check all equipment at ICUs and other critical units.
- In case any defect is found, they are to be changed with immediate effect.
- The Director of Medical Education has been directed to consult experts and come up with an SOP for monitoring cases in different departments.
- The SOP will be developed within seven days and circulated among the medical colleges.
- A protocol will be prepared for each unit, which will contain a step-by-step checklist of different activities related to monitoring, sterilization, etc.
- It will be based on clinical guidelines.
- The heads of departments will be responsible for ensuring that the checklist is followed.
- The staff at medical colleges is also being sensitized to ensure “zero error rate” and human oversight.
- Meanwhile, the government has also fast-tracked the project for the digitization of the hospital management system.
- The JICA-funded project – Assam Healthcare System Strengthening Project – will be initially implemented in seven medical colleges.
- Procurement is in the final stages, and work is slated to begin within a month or two.
- It should be implemented in six months' time.
- Every module in the medical colleges will be digitized, and it is expected to help both patients and doctors.
- Patients will not have to carry reports, as records will be digitized.
- Patients will also be able to get OPD and procedural times online.

- Records of more than 22,000 assets of the medical colleges have already been brought to an online platform.
- Request for repair and its mapping are being done digitally.
- Records of all employees – more than 10,000 – of the medical colleges have also been brought on the online human resource management system.
- Sanction of leaves, ACRs, service records, and published papers have been onboarded, saving loads of paperwork and enhancing monitoring.

89. MUKHYAMANTRI MAHILA UDYAMITA ABHIYAN: CM HIMANTA BISWA SARMA LAUNCHES 2ND PHASE



- Geological Survey of India (GSI) has confirmed significant gold reserves in Odisha, marking a major milestone for India's mineral economy.
- Reserves identified in Deogarh (Adasa-Rampalli), Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Nabarangpur, Angul, and Koraput; exploration ongoing in Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri, Sambalpur, and Boudh.
- State Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena announced the discovery in March 2025.
- Estimates suggest 10–20 metric tonnes of gold may be present, compared to India's 2020 domestic production of 1.6 tonnes and annual imports of 700+ tonnes.
- Exploration is being upgraded from G3 to G2 level, involving deeper sampling and drilling.
- The discovery may generate jobs, boost infrastructure, and diversify Odisha's already strong mining sector (chromite, bauxite, iron ore).
- While not drastically reducing gold imports, it signals progress toward self-reliance and regional economic upliftment.

90. ASSAM STARTUP PIONEERS SUSTAINABLE BOATS FROM WIND TURBINE WASTE

- An Assam-based startup has achieved a breakthrough in addressing one of the world's emerging environmental challenges – discarded wind turbine blades.
- Akvotransiro Tech Pvt. Ltd., a Guwahati-based DPIIT-registered startup, has successfully tested India's first catamaran built from end-of-life turbine blades, offering a sustainable solution for water transport.
- India is expected to generate 25,000–30,000 metric tons of turbine blade waste annually by 2030, with each blade weighing 10–25 tons and composed of non-recyclable fiberglass and carbon fibre.
- Globally, this figure could reach 43 million metric tons by 2050, according to Cambridge University research, a press release stated.
- Akvotransiro's Wind2Water technology upcycles these discarded blades into modular hulls, transforming them into durable, low-cost vessels.
- The company's first 4-person prototype catamaran, tested extensively on Deepor Beel near Guwahati, has demonstrated the feasibility of turning waste into reliable boats.
- Founded in 2020, Akvotransiro has been supported by TIH-IIT Guwahati, NECTAR and FiiRE, Goa.
- The company pioneered bamboo-composite boats, flood-rescue vessels, lightweight canoes, and an 18-passenger River Trimaran.
- Its patented bamboo-composite process remains the world's only proven, production-ready green boat technology.
- The Wind2Water innovation, once shortlisted for the EU's EIC Programme (2021–22), now positions India as a global frontrunner in circular economy solutions.
- Unlike past efforts to repurpose blades into playground furniture, Akvotransiro has created vessels with real utility – rugged catamarans and floating docks for passenger, cargo, and rescue operations.
- By tackling a looming waste crisis and boosting inland water transport, the startup has turned an "impossible problem" into a working, scalable solution, the release added.

91. NEW WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEM IN ARUNACHAL TO BOOST AIR SAFETY



- A Heliport Automatic Weather Observation System (HAWOS) has been tested and commissioned at the Roing Helipad in Lower Dibang Valley district, Arunachal Pradesh.

- The initiative is under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS), Itanagar, with technical support from the Regional Meteorological Centre, IMD, Guwahati.
- Arunachal Pradesh's challenging topography and unpredictable weather have historically posed serious threats to air safety, causing several tragic incidents involving prominent personalities and Army officers.
- The installation of HAWOS marks a major step in ensuring safer skies for both civilian and defence helicopter operations in the State.
- Real-time weather data will provide timely and precise meteorological information to aid pilots in making safer decisions in unpredictable conditions.
- HAWOS collects continuous weather information at heliports and disseminates it in data and voice formats to pilots, particularly during critical landing phases.
- HAWOS installations have been completed at eight heliports in Arunachal Pradesh: Naharlagun, Namsai, Daporijo, Bhalukpong, Anini, Koloriang, Miao, and Roing.
- With this system in place, pilots can make more informed decisions, reducing risks associated with sudden weather changes, a persistent challenge in the hilly State.

92.INDIA'S GREEN POWERHOUSE: NATION'S FIRST BIO-REFINERY READY IN ASSAM



- India's first and largest bio-refinery has been completed in Golaghat, Assam, and will be formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September.
- Built over 34 acres in Numaligarh with an investment of ₹4,000 crore, the Assam Bio-Refinery Project is part of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), established under the historic Assam Accord.
- The foundation stone was laid by PM Modi on 9 February 2019, and six years later, the refinery is ready to commence operations, marking a significant step towards reducing fossil fuel dependence and promoting green energy.
- The facility will use around five lakh tonnes of bamboo annually, sourced from farmers across the Northeast, to produce:
 - 49,000 metric tonnes of ethanol
 - 19,000 metric tonnes of furfural
 - 11,000 metric tonnes of acetic acid

- 32,000 metric tonnes of liquid CO₂
- 25 MW of power annually

- The project is expected to inject over ₹200 crore annually into the rural economy, engage nearly 30,000 farmers, and create about 3,500 jobs in bamboo cultivation, transport, and supply chain services.
- It will establish Assam as a hub for green energy innovation, cut carbon emissions, and promote a circular economy while reducing crude oil imports.

93.AMCH RECOGNISED AS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR RARE DISEASES

- The Central government has designated Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) as a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Rare Diseases under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), 2021, administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- This recognition places AMCH among an elite group of only 15 institutions in the country selected for this status.
- The memorandum confirming the designation was issued by the Rare Disease Cell of the Ministry.
- AMCH will play a pivotal role in the diagnosis, management, prevention, and treatment of rare diseases – a critical and underserved area in India's healthcare landscape.
- This is the first medical institution from Assam and the Northeastern region to receive this status, highlighting its strategic and academic importance in the region's public health ecosystem.
- The recognition will enhance the availability of specialised care for patients with rare and complex disorders across the Northeast.
- Founded in 1947, AMCH is one of the oldest and most reputed medical institutions in eastern India, known for academic excellence, clinical innovation, and community healthcare.
- Over decades, AMCH has contributed to producing healthcare professionals, conducting vital research, and expanding medical services across the region.
- Under the CoE designation, AMCH will be responsible for patient identification, genetic diagnostics, multidisciplinary treatment, and community outreach.
- It will also receive government funding to strengthen infrastructure and advance research.
- The milestone marks a significant step in India's efforts to address rare diseases, often called 'orphan' diseases due to low prevalence and lack of accessible treatment.
- Thousands of patients and families in Northeast India can expect better diagnosis, management, and improved quality of life through this initiative.

94. ASSAM TOPS LIST IN CRUDE OIL & GAS ROYALTY



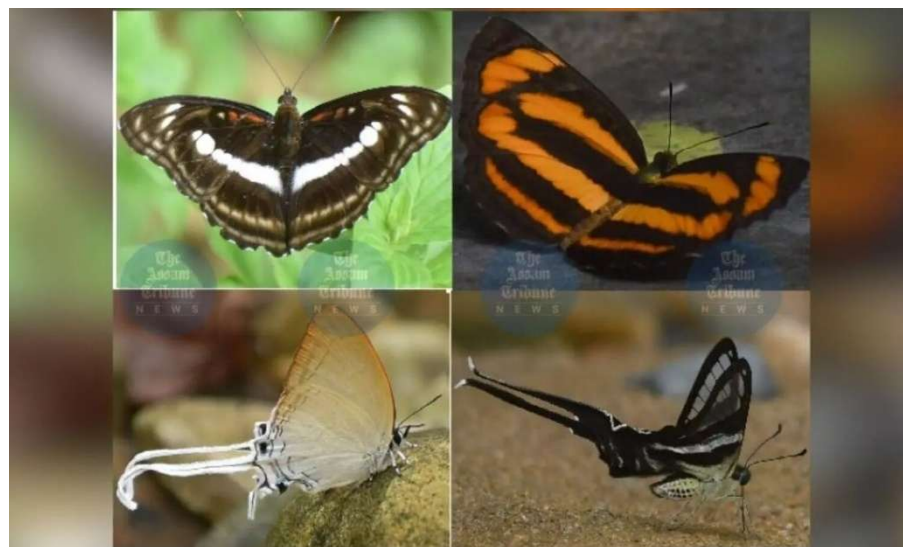
- Assam topped the list of states receiving royalty from crude oil and gas in 2024-25, earning ₹3766.01 crore (provisional) according to the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- This was the highest amount among the ten crude oil and gas-producing states in India.
- Other states received: Andhra Pradesh ₹364.57 crore, Arunachal Pradesh ₹29.39 crore, Gujarat ₹3330.15 crore, Jharkhand ₹11 crore, Madhya Pradesh ₹86.2 crore, Rajasthan ₹3470.33 crore, Tamil Nadu ₹409.57 crore, Tripura ₹114.76 crore, and West Bengal ₹0.01 crore in 2024-25.
- Assam's royalty earnings in previous years were ₹1432.08 crore (2020-21), ₹2475.63 crore (2021-22), ₹3977.2 crore (2022-23), and ₹3672.33 crore (2023-24).
- The statistics were sourced from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Union Ministry.

95. ASSAM AMONG TOP PERFORMING STATES IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024 report was released in New Delhi, declaring Assam, Tripura, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh as the 'top-performing' States in energy efficiency performance for 2023-24.
- The SEEI 2024 assessed the energy efficiency performance of 36 States and Union Territories (UTs) for the financial year 2023-24.
- Compared to SEEI 2023, the number of 'frontrunner' States reduced from 7 to 5, with Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu maintaining this status.
- Two states – Assam and Kerala – feature in the 'achiever' category, while Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh were classified as 'contenders'.
- In the buildings sector, 24 States notified the Energy Conservation Building Code 2017, with 20 States integrating it into municipal by-laws.
- The industry sector saw 10 States adopt MSME energy efficiency policies.

- In municipal sustainability, 25 States developed Climate Action Plans or Heat Action Plans, with 12 reporting collaborations between State designated agencies and urban local bodies.
- The transport sector saw widespread adoption, with 31 States implementing State Electric Mobility Policies and 14 mandating EV charging infrastructure in buildings.
- In agriculture, 13 States promote integrated cold storage and solar-powered agricultural pumps, with Kerala achieving 74 per cent adoption of energy-efficient or solar-powered agricultural pumps.
- All 36 States and UTs have developed State Energy Efficiency Action Plans, whereas 31 States and UTs reported the formation of State-Level Steering Committees on Energy Transition under the chairmanship of the chief secretary.
- The sixth edition of the index featured an enhanced implementation-focused framework with 66 indicators across seven key demand sectors, including buildings, industry, municipal services, transport, agriculture, electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs), and cross-sector initiatives.

96. 'BUTTERFLY WALK' IN DULLUNG FOREST REVEALS OVER 70 EXOTIC SPECIES



- A 'Butterfly Walk' was conducted by nature lovers and conservationists with support from the State's forest and tourism departments at the Dullung Reserve Forest in Lakhimpur district.
- The event recorded more than 70 exotic butterfly species, including White Dragontrail, Paris Peacock, and Thai Cruiser.
- Moth species such as Moon Moth, Atlas Moth, and Japanese Silk Moth were also found during the walk.
- Over 15 bird species and several other insect species were recorded inside the reserve forest, which is home to 'siya nahar' and 'gela thekera' trees.
- The initiative was led by Loren Sonowal of the Nature Conservation Society and Madhab Das of Assam Tourism's 'Awesome Assam'.
- The programme aimed to create awareness about the conservation of butterflies and other species of nature.
- The Butterfly Walk was supported by the Pthalipam forest beat office, Lakhimpur, and collaborated with 'Wiki Loves Butterfly', 'Assam Forest', 'Wild Feathers', 'NE Narrative', 'Bihanga Bandhu', and 'Rainforest Indian'.

97.VRINDAVANI VASTRA SET FOR HOME VISIT:



- The British Museum in London has agreed to loan the Vrindavani Vastra for display in Assam in 2027, with the condition that a special museum be built for the purpose.
- A high-quality digital representation of the Assamese textile will be developed and exhibited in Assam in February 2026.

- The digital exhibition will provide meaningful public access and engagement with the artifact while preparations for the physical loan are completed.
- The British Museum authorities will share recommendations on environmental and security standards for the development of the special museum.
- These measures aim to ensure the safe display and conservation of the textile in 2027.
- The museum is also working towards loaning the textile to CSMVS in Mumbai.
- A new edition of Richard Blurton's book is being developed with updated research and findings.
- The book will be translated into Hindi and Assamese for wider accessibility, particularly for young scholars and local communities in Assam.
- The British Museum has invited Chief Minister Sarma for further discussions; he is likely to visit the UK in October-November.
- The 16th-century silk textile, created under the guidance of Srimanta Sankaradeva, is currently preserved in a special chamber at the British Museum, requiring special permission to view.



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PERSON IN NEWS

98. ARTIST SUJIT DAS TAKES 'PUTHI CHITRA' TO GLOBAL STAGE



- In a remarkable initiative to revive Assam's traditional '*Puthi Chitra*', artist Sujit Das from Nagaon has played a key role in taking this ancient art form to the global stage.
- Once nearly forgotten, *Puthi Chitra* has been rejuvenated through Das's persistent efforts and is now internationally recognized.
- Sujit Das, a recipient of the National Fellowship from the Union Ministry of Culture (2014–15), has showcased *Puthi Chitra* in global exhibitions, including in Dubai and Thailand.
- He has also conducted workshops and exhibitions in Sri Lanka, China, Kenya, and England.
- His artwork has been appreciated by dignitaries such as Prince William and Kate Middleton, who received a *Puthi Chitra* painting from him during their India visit.
- His painting '*Giridhari*', depicting Lord Krishna lifting the Govardhan mountain, was displayed at Kensington Palace, London.
- The Dalai Lama has also lauded his work.
- With over 30 international exhibitions and workshops, Das is now a leading global ambassador of *Puthi Chitra*.
- In 2012, he entered the Guinness Book of Records for creating a painting using the world's longest brush.
- In 2021, he established an Art Village in Nagaon, which includes a museum and an art gallery dedicated to traditional arts.
- Das founded *Jyoti Chitrangan Vidyalyaya* in 1999, which has been training students in *Puthi Chitra* for over 25 years.
- Through his Art Village, he educates students in preparing '*sanchi pat*' (bark of the Agar tree) and in using natural pigments like *Hengul* (vermilion) and *Haital* (yellow arsenic).
- His contributions to the revival and promotion of Assam's *Puthi Chitra* are widely regarded as exemplary and impactful.

99. AMLAN BORA NAMED PORT OF ROTTERDAM'S CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTH ASIA:



- In a significant development boosting trade and diplomatic ties between the Netherlands and South Asia, **Amlan Bora**, a native of **Jorhat**, has been appointed as the **Chief Representative of the Port of Rotterdam Authority** for **India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh**.
- His appointment is expected to strengthen regional maritime cooperation and enhance connectivity between South Asia and one of Europe's largest and busiest ports.

100. ASSAM HOSTS 2ND MONSOON FORUM TO BOOST CLIMATE-SMART FARMING

- The **second edition of the Assam State Monsoon Forum** was held as a key step toward **climate-resilient farming** and **weather-based planning**.
- The forum was **jointly organized** by the **Department of Agriculture**, the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, and the **Government of Assam**, in collaboration with the **World Food Programme (WFP)**.
- The event brought together stakeholders from **agriculture, disaster management, water resources, and allied sectors** to improve the use of **climate information** for vulnerable farming communities.
- The focus was on **women and smallholder farmers**, who are disproportionately affected by climate variability.
- The forum is part of the **ENACT project** (*Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based Solutions and Gender-Transformative Approaches in Assam*), supported by the **Government of Norway** and promoted globally by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.
- It was recommended that the **Monsoon Forum** be **institutionalized and held annually** before the onset of monsoon to better prepare communities.

- The platform aims to **empower local communities** by ensuring better **access and use of simplified, localised weather data** for informed decision-making.

101.YD THONGCHI PRESENTED TABURAM TAID LITERARY AWARD



- Noted Assamese writer and retired administrative officer of Arunachal Pradesh, Padma Shri awardee Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi, has been honoured with the Taburam Taid Literary Award-2025.
- The award was presented by the Taburam Taid Memorial Trust (TTM-trust), Gogamukh (Assam), under the leadership of Assam's Education Minister Dr Ranoj Pegu.
- The felicitation took place in a grand ceremony organised at Gogamukh in Dhemaji district.
- Thongchi received the award in recognition of his significant contributions to tribal literature.
- The award includes a cash prize of ₹50,000, a citation, and traditional attire.

102.SIBA PRASAD MOHANTY APPOINTED AS 1ST MD OF AVFCCL



- Dr. Siba Prasad Mohanty, the current Managing Director of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL), has been appointed as the first Managing Director of the newly formed Assam Valley Fertilizer and Chemical Company Limited (AVFCCL).
- AVFCCL is a joint venture initiative involving the Government of Assam, Oil India, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), HURL, and Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL).

- The company has been established with the goal of enhancing fertilizer production capacity and agricultural development in the north-eastern region of India.

103.BRAZIL MOMENTS STILL INSPIRE MANISHA



- First Indian footballer to play and score in the UEFA Women's Champions League, representing Apollon Ladies (Cyprus) in 2022.
- The first Indian to score against the Brazilian national women's team in a senior international match.
- Winner of the 2020–21 AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year and 2022–23 AIFF Women's Player of the Year awards.
- Played a key role in Gokulam Kerala's Indian Women's League (IWL) titles in 2019–20 and 2021–22, earning the IWL Hero of the League (2021–22) and Emerging Player (2019–20) awards.
- Won consecutive Cypriot First Division titles (2022–23, 2023–24) and the Cypriot Women's Cup with Apollon Ladies; selected for the 2022–23 Pancyprrian Footballers Association (PASP) Team of the Season.

104.GUWAHATI GIRL BECOMES FIRST ASSAMESE TO GRADUATE IN SANSKRIT, CLASSICAL HINDI FROM OXFORD



- Arani S Hazarika, a resident of Parag Das Path, Bamunimaidam, has become the first ever Assamese to graduate in Sanskrit and Classical Hindi from the University of Oxford, one of the world's top five universities.

- She received her Bachelor of Arts degree at the graduation ceremony held at Oxford's iconic Sheldonian Theatre auditorium on August 9.
- The 21-year-old pursued her BA in Sanskrit and Classical Hindi at the University's Balliol College, the oldest college in the English-speaking world, established by John De Balliol in 1263.
- She studied under the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (earlier known as the Department of Oriental Studies).
- As per available records, Arani is also the first Assamese in recent decades to successfully pursue a BA in Sanskrit at this renowned university.

105.SINGER TARALI SARMA TO RECEIVE BHASKAR RATNA AWARD



- The alumni of Kumar Bhaskar Barma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University will present the Bhaskar Ratna award for 2025 to National Award-winning musician Tarali Sarma.
- The award will be presented at a function to be held at the auditorium of Kumar Bhaskar Barma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University at 2 pm on August 12.

106.RAMESH BUDIHAL WINS INDIA'S FIRST MEDAL AT ASIAN SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS



- Indian surfer Ramesh Budihal became the first Indian to win a medal at the Asian Surfing Championships (ASC).
- The 24-year-old secured bronze with a score of 12.60 points in the four-man final, finishing behind South Korea's Kanoa Heejae (15.17) and Indonesia's Pajar Ariyana (14.57).

107.ASSAM'S CULUTURAL ICON HEMANTA DUTTA NO MORE



- The passing of Hemanta Dutta, a legendary figure in Assam's theatre and music landscape, has cast a pall of grief over the state.
- The renowned playwright, lyricist, actor, and director breathed his last at the age of 83 in the Intensive Care Unit of Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH).
- Born on September 24, 1941, in Kharupetia, Darrang district, Hemanta Dutta revolutionized Assam's mobile theatre, earning a unique place in the history of the state.
- His notable plays include *Eita Nasto Lorar Galpa*, *Path*, *Titanic*, *Sendur*, *Akashor Dore Mon*, *Mukti*, *Chakrabehu*, and *Jetuka Paator Rong*, among others.
- *Titanic* is regarded as one of the most popular plays in Assam's mobile theatre history, produced by the late Ratan Lahkar under the banner of Kohinoor Theatre, and performed for several consecutive years with unprecedented audience response.
- Beyond theatre, Hemanta Dutta made remarkable contributions as a lyricist, penning over 500 songs, including *Moi Ji Bate Ore Olo Aji*, *Ei Akash Bor Bishal*, *Xomoi Gotixil*, *Mej Bhora Ausire Raati*, *Jiwonor Kothin Baatat*, and *Kotone Aasa Mor Kolijar Aai*.
- His songs were sung by luminaries such as Jayanta Hazarika, Charu Gohain, Malabika Bora, Shanta Uzir, and Bhupen Hazarika, and have become immortal in Assamese music.
- His song *Bondh Koribo Haat*, *Bondh Koribo Maat* from the film *Pita-Putra* is recognized as the longest Assamese song, spanning 116 lines.

108.AMC DOCTOR RECEIVES BLACKBUCK PIONEER RESEARCHER AWARD

- Dr. Gayatri Gogoi, Associate Professor at Assam Medical College Hospital (AMCH) and Adjunct Researcher at ICMR North East, has been awarded the prestigious Blackbuck Pioneer Researcher Award 2025.
- The award was presented at the National Research Summit, jointly organized by Medical Dialogues and the National Medical Forum, in New Delhi.

- Dr. Gogoi is a renowned physician and researcher from Assam.
- She has made transformative contributions to cancer research.
- She continues to be a leading force in advancing medical knowledge and education in the Northeast region.

109.OLYMPIC BRONZE-WINNING HOCKEY PLAYER VECE PAES PASSES AWAY



- Dr. Vece Paes, a member of the 1972 Munich Olympic Games bronze-winning Indian men's hockey team and father of tennis legend Leander Paes, passed away.
- He was also part of the Indian hockey team that won a bronze medal at the 1971 World Cup in Barcelona, but the Olympic medal in 1972 was the biggest moment of his career.
- After retiring from hockey, Paes served as the team doctor of the Indian Davis Cup team for a decade.
- He also worked as Leander Paes' manager.

110.TEZPUR'S SHIVANI TIBREWAL WINS AWARD AT WIKI LOVES FOLKLORE 2025



- Shivani Tibrewal, a 52-year-old entrepreneur and amateur photographer from Tezpur in Sonitpur district, became the first person from the North East to receive the Noteworthy Contribution Award at Wiki Loves Folklore 2025.
- Wiki Loves Folklore, launched in 2019 and organized by the Wikimedia community, is one of the world's largest cultural

photography contests, dedicated to documenting intangible cultural heritage such as festivals, folk art, traditional clothing, oral traditions, and performing arts.

- Her award-winning photograph, *Golden Reverence*, depicts the Bhandara festival in Jejuri, Pune, showing devotees covering Lord Khandoba in clouds of golden turmeric powder.
- The image was lauded for its cultural richness, technical excellence, and strong storytelling.
- The 2025 edition saw participation from 1,912 individuals across 142 countries, contributing 85,715 new media files to Wikimedia Commons.
- Winners were evaluated on cultural value, originality, and narrative strength.
- Shivani received a \$50 gift coupon, a certificate, and an official contest T-shirt as part of the award.

111.SHAURYA CHAKRA TO ASSAM MAJOR



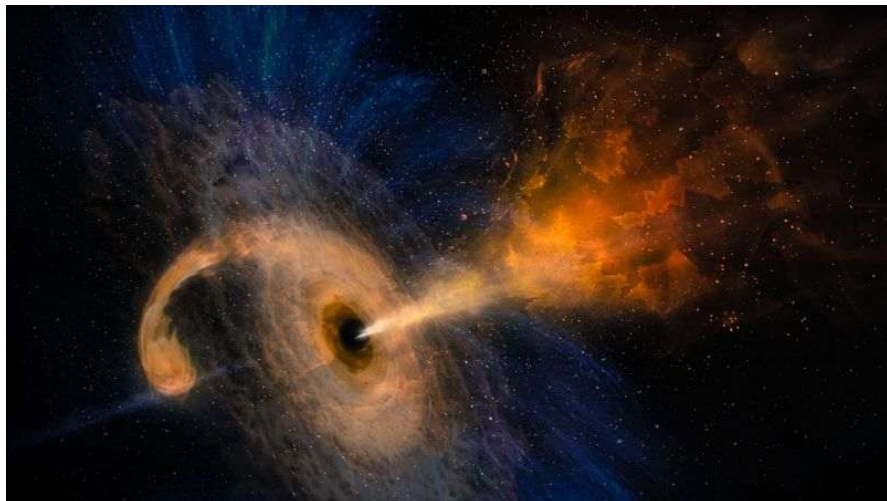
- Major Bhargav Kalita of the Kumaon Regiment has been conferred the prestigious Shaurya Chakra for his outstanding courage and exemplary leadership during counter-terrorism operations in Jammu & Kashmir.
- The gallantry award was announced by President Droupadi Murmu on the eve of Independence Day.
- Serving with the 50 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Kalita was posted in South Kashmir, in districts such as Pulwama, Awantipora, Budgam and Srinagar.
- Major Kalita hails from Rampur village under Palasbari LAC in Kamrup district.

112.MIZO OFFICER CAPTAIN SAILO TO RECEIVE KIRTI CHAKRA FOR GALLANTRY

- Captain Lalrinawma Sailo has been selected for the Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award.
- The announcement was made on the eve of Independence Day, and the award will be formally presented in November in New Delhi.
- He hails from Chanmari in Aizawl.
- Captain Sailo, serving with 4 PARA (Special Forces), led commandos during Operation Sindoor in his sector.
- His team destroyed a terrorist camp inside Pakistan using drones.

- He also played a crucial role in dismantling a terror network in Kashmir.
- His exceptional courage and leadership in high-risk operations earned him the Kirti Chakra.

113.ISRO, IIT G SCIENTISTS DECODE FLICKERING X-RAY SIGNALS FROM DISTANT BLACK HOLE



- A multi-institutional team of scientists from ISRO and IIT Guwahati has detected a mysterious X-ray signal pattern from a distant black hole located about 28,000 light-years from Earth.
- The study also involved researchers from Haifa University, Israel.
- The black hole, **GRS 1915+105**, was observed using data from India's space observatory **AstroSat**.
- The X-ray brightness alternated between **bright and dim phases**, each lasting several hundred seconds.
- During the **bright phase**, the corona became more compact and significantly hotter, producing rapid flickering signals.
- In the **dim phase**, the corona expanded and cooled, causing the flickers to vanish.
- This clear correlation indicates that the compact, oscillating corona is the source of these fast signals.
- The findings reveal that the corona around the black hole is **dynamic**, changing its shape and energy depending on gas inflow.
- The discovery provides new insights into how black holes grow and influence their cosmic surroundings.
- The results have been published in the journal **Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society**.

114.INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO) RANKS PAKISTAN AMONG WORST COUNTRIES IN GENDER PAY GAP

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has ranked Pakistan among the **worst in South Asia** for wage disparities between men and women.

- According to the ILO's latest '**Global Wage Report**', women in Pakistan earn on average **34% less** than men.
- This gender pay gap is **wider than the global average** and worse than in neighbouring countries like India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.
- While some countries have shown gradual progress in reducing wage inequality, Pakistan has made **no improvement**.
- The disparity is driven by **deeply embedded socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors**.
- A large share of women's employment in Pakistan is in the **low-wage informal economy**, including agricultural labour, domestic work, and home-based manufacturing.
- Jobs in the informal sector provide **little protection, limited rights, and no access to formal contracts or benefits**.
- Even in the **formal sector**, women with similar educational qualifications and job experience earn **less than men** across industries like healthcare, education, finance, and manufacturing.

115.MANIKA VISHWAKARMA WINS 'MISS UNIVERSE INDIA' CROWN, TO REPRESENT INDIA



- Manika Vishwakarma won the grand finale of Miss Universe India 2025 held in Jaipur.
- She will now represent India at the prestigious Miss Universe 2025 competition.
- The Miss Universe 2025 pageant is scheduled to be held in Thailand on November 21.

116.AJAY SINGH RE-ELECTED BFI PRESIDENT



- Incumbent Ajay Singh was re-elected as president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) for a third consecutive term.
- He secured a comprehensive victory over Jaslal Pradhan in the long-overdue polls.

117. VALARIVAN STRIKES 10M AIR RIFLE GOLD IN ASIAN SHOOTING MEET



- Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan clinched the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle competition.
- The event was part of the 16th Asian Championships held at Shymkent, Kazakhstan.

118. AISHWARY CLAIMS GOLD IN ASIAN SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP, ADRIYAN WINS IN JUNIOR



- Indian shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions competition at the Asian Shooting Championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.
- In the junior men's 3P event, Adriyan Karmakar clinched the gold medal with an Asian junior record score of 463.8 in the final.
- Earlier, the Indian trio of Aishwary, Chain Singh, and Sheoran secured a silver medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions team event.

119. MIRABAI WINS COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS GOLD ON RETURN

- Star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu delivered a record-breaking performance to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships in Ahmedabad.
- The Tokyo Olympics silver medallist lifted a total of 193kg (84kg in snatch + 109kg in clean and jerk).
- She set new Commonwealth Championship records in snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift.
- Chanu finished atop the women's 48kg category podium.

120. CHINA HONOURS LATE DR BK BASU WITH COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL FOR AIDING CHINA DURING SECOND SINO-JAPANESE WAR

- The Chinese Government honoured late Dr. B. K. Basu with a commemorative medal for his significant contribution in aiding the Chinese people during the Second Sino-Japanese War.
- Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong announced the honour on X, recognising Basu as a member of the Indian Medical Mission (IMM) led by Dr. Dwarakanath Shantaram Kotnis.
- Dr. Basu stayed in China for nearly five years (1938–1943) as part of the IMM.
- In 1958–59, he returned to China for six months to learn acupuncture and later introduced the technique to India.

121. URJIT PATEL APPOINTED IMF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THREE YEARS



- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a three-year tenure.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his name for the post.
- Patel, an economist of international repute, served as the 24th Governor of the RBI from September 4, 2016, and resigned on December 10, 2018, becoming the first central bank chief since 1990 to step down before completing his term.
- He previously worked with the IMF and was on deputation to the RBI in 1996–97, contributing to reforms in the debt

market, banking sector, pension funds, and foreign exchange market.

- Patel also served as a consultant in the Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic Affairs (1998–2001) and has held several key positions in both public and private sectors.



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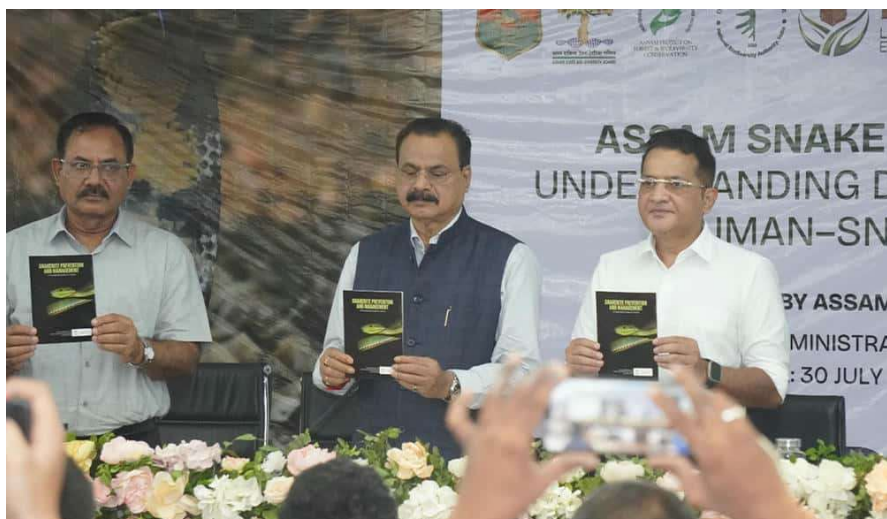
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NEWS IN SHORTS

122.1ST ASSAM SNAKE SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZED:



- Assam hosted its first ‘Assam Snake Symposium’ at the Assam Administrative Staff College on Wednesday.
- The event marked a significant step toward snakebite mitigation and snake conservation efforts in the state.
- The symposium was jointly organized by the Assam State Biodiversity Board, Assam Forest Department, Help Earth, and the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust.
- It brought together over 80 snake rescuers from across Assam.
- National and international experts also participated in the event.

123.PUPPETRY MEETS PURPOSE: SURAKSHA PROJECT BRINGS PUTALA NAACH TO LIFE



- Dr. Anamika Ray Memorial Trust (ARMT), Guwahati, in collaboration with the North East Diocesan Social Service Society (NEDSSS) and SagarikaPutala Theatre, conducted a weeklong series of *Putala Naach* performances under the Suraksha Project from July 25 to July 30.
- The performances were staged across 20 locations in the Sarupani and Sisupani Gaon Panchayat areas of Golaghat district.
- The initiative used traditional string puppetry (*Putala Naach*) to raise awareness about the critical issue of child trafficking.

- It aimed to promote community dialogue and spread awareness through storytelling rooted in local culture and idioms.
- Over six days, the interactive puppet shows engaged audiences—especially children—with stories highlighting the dangers of trafficking and self-protection strategies. Each performance attracted approximately 70–80 participants, indicating strong local interest and community engagement.

124.KRASHENINNIKOV VOLCANO ERUPTS FOR FIRST TIME IN RECORDED HISTORY



- The **Krasheninnikov volcano** on Russia’s far eastern **Kamchatka Peninsula** has erupted for the first time in recorded history.
- Some media reports indicate this is its **first eruption in over 450 years**.
- The eruption began at **2:50 AM local time on Sunday**, sending ash plumes **3–4 km** above sea level, according to the **Kamchatka Volcanic Eruption Response Team (KVERT)**.
- Krasheninnikov is located about **200 km north of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky** and **13 km south of Lake Kronotskoye**, within the **Eastern Volcanic Zone of Kamchatka**.
- The regional branch of the **Emergency Ministry** warned of possible ash emissions up to **6–10 km** from several other active volcanoes in the area.
- Residents and tourists have been advised to **avoid travelling within 10 km** of the summits of these volcanoes.
- The eruption occurred just days after a powerful **8.7 magnitude earthquake** struck off the Kamchatka Peninsula.

125.MARTA HEROICS LEAD BRAZIL TO 9TH COPA AMERICA TITLE



- In a thrilling final, **Brazil defeated Colombia** to retain their **Women's Copa America** title.
- The match was played on **August 2, 2025**, in **Quito**.
- The game ended in a **4-4 draw after extra time**, leading to a **5-4 win in the penalty shootout** for Brazil.
- With this victory, **Brazil secured their ninth continental title** in the tournament's history.

126.ASSAM'S KUNDANRAJ BORGOHAIN WINS SILVER IN OLYMPIC TRAP AT THAILAND CHAMPIONSHIP 2025



- In a significant achievement for **Assam and the Northeast**, ace shotgun shooter **Kundanraj Borgohain** won the **silver medal** in the **Men's Individual Olympic Trap** event.
- The medal was secured at the prestigious **Thailand Championship 2025**.

- This accomplishment highlights the growing presence of northeastern athletes on the **international shooting stage**.

127.NRL AND BSNL SIGN MOU ON INDUSTRY 4.0 ADOPTION



- In a major move to accelerate digital transformation in the refinery sector, **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** and **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** signed a landmark **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.
- The MoU was signed during the **"Industry 4.0 Workshop for CPSEs"**, held under the aegis of the **Ministry of Finance**.
- The workshop focused on enabling **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** to adopt **Industry 4.0 technologies** such as **5G CNPN, Digital Twins, 3D Printing with AI, Virtual Formulation, AR/VR/MR, IoT, and Big Data Analytics**.
- As part of the MoU, **BSNL and NRL** will deploy **India's first 5G CNPN (Captive Non-Public Network)** in the refinery sector.
- The deployment aims to deliver **secure, ultra-reliable, real-time industrial connectivity**, marking a pioneering step in using **indigenous 5G infrastructure** for mission-critical operations.
- The collaboration aligns with the goals of **innovation, efficiency, and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)**.

128.DR HARICHARAN DAS' NOVEL 'ORANGOR RING' (SECOND VOLUME) UNVEILED IN GUWAHATI



- In a dignified literary event held at the **Axam Xahitya Xabha's (AXX) Guwahati office** on **August 2**, the **second volume** of the acclaimed novel **'Orangor Ring'** was officially released.
- The book is authored by noted writer **Dr Haricharan Das**.

- It was formally unveiled by **Debojit Bora**, the **General Secretary of AXX**.

129.INDIA AND THE PHILIPPINES STAGE JOINT NAVAL DRILL IN DISPUTED SCS

- India and the Philippines conducted joint naval exercises in the disputed South China Sea for the first time, marking a significant military deployment that drew a reaction from China.
- Two Chinese navy ships, including a guided-missile destroyer, were observed approximately 25 nautical miles from one of the two Philippine navy frigates involved in the joint sail.
- A reception was held aboard the Indian navy tanker INS Shakti during its port call in Manila.
- The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines stated that the visit was more than ceremonial.
- He emphasized that it sends a powerful signal of solidarity, strength in partnership, and the energy of cooperation between two vibrant democracies in the Indo-Pacific.

130.JAPAN'S OLDEST PERSON IS 114-YEAR-OLD RETIRED DOCTOR WHO CARRIED OLYMPIC TORCH IN 2021



- Shigeko Kagawa, a 114-year-old retired physician from Nara Prefecture, has become Japan's oldest living person, following the death of 114-year-old Miyoko Hiroyasu.
- The announcement was made by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
- Kagawa is seen as a symbol of Japan's remarkable longevity.
- She graduated from medical school before World War II, served in a hospital in Osaka during the war, and later ran her family's clinic as an obstetrician and gynecologist.
- She retired at the age of 86.
- At 109, she became one of the oldest torchbearers in Olympic history during the Tokyo 2021 torch relay.
- Despite a declining overall population, Japan's elderly population continues to grow.

- As of September 1, 2024, a record 36 million people, or 29% of the population, were aged 65 or older — the highest proportion of seniors in the world.
- Those aged 80 and above now make up 10% of Japan's population.

131.CHIEF MINISTER CUP CHESS BEGINS IN GUWAHATI

- The Chief Minister Cup – 2nd Guwahati Smart City International FIDE Rating Chess Tournament 2025 has commenced at Sarusajai, Guwahati.
- A total of 295 players from various states including Delhi, Punjab, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, and host state Assam are participating.
- Two players from Nepal are also competing in the tournament.
- The event is being conducted in a 10-round Swiss league format.
- Each player is allotted 90 minutes with a 30-second increment from the first move.
- International Arbiter Anupam Bhattacharjee from Tripura is officiating as the Chief Arbiter.

132.ASSAM CM INAUGURATES SARAIGHAT LAKE PARK IN AMINGAON, BOOSTING ASSAM'S TOURISM & RECREATION



- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the Saraighat Lake Park in Amingaon, a vibrant recreational and ecological space aimed at boosting tourism in the state.
- The inauguration took place in the presence of Minister for Tourism Ranjeet Kumar Dass and other dignitaries.
- The park offers a serene and scenic environment along with various facilities, including water sports such as jet skiing and boating.
- It serves as a much-needed spot for relaxation and leisure for the public.
- The Chief Minister stated that the project has a dual objective: conserving the ecological importance of the wetland and transforming it into a vibrant tourist destination.

133. BOOK ON AHOM KINGDOM RELEASED IN JORHAT

- A book titled *Asam Aru Ahom*, based on the migration of the Taishan community (later known as the Ahoms) from a Chinese province to Assam, was released today.
- The book traces the establishment of the Ahom kingdom by Swargadeo Chaolung Siu-Ka-Pha in the 13th century, which flourished for 600 years.
- The release ceremony was held at Assam Women's University (AWU), Rowrah, Jorhat.
- The book is authored by Dr. Sumendra Nath Buragohain, a retired principal scientist of the Central Silk Board.

134. PHILIPPINES AGREES TO BOOST FOOD IMPORTS FROM INDIA

- A high-level delegation from the **Philippines** held discussions with **APEDA** and the **Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF)** to enhance imports of key Indian food products.
- The agreement includes the **Philippines' commitment** to prioritize increased imports of essential Indian items such as **rice, buffalo meat, vegetables, fruits, and peanuts**, according to IREF Chairman **Prem Garg**.
- The delegation was led by **Secretary of Agriculture Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr.**
- The meeting, attended by IREF, focused on strengthening **agricultural ties** and **diversifying supply chains**.
- The initiative aims to **reduce dependency on Chinese products** and foster **stronger bilateral cooperation** between India and the Philippines.

135. WHO DECLARES KENYA FREE OF SLEEPING SICKNESS

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) certified Kenya as having eliminated human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) as a public health challenge, making it the 10th country to achieve this milestone.
- This is the second neglected tropical disease to be eliminated in Kenya, following Guinea worm disease in 2018.
- Sleeping sickness is caused by protozoan parasites transmitted by infected tsetse flies, with symptoms including fever, headaches, joint pain, and in advanced stages, neurological issues like confusion, disturbed sleep, and behavioural changes.
- Kenya's first case was detected in the early 20th century, and the country has since carried out strong mitigation efforts.
- The last two exported cases were reported in 2012 from the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

- In recent years, surveillance has been strengthened in 12 health facilities across six historically endemic counties, serving as sentinel sites.
- These efforts are supported by modern diagnostic tools and trained personnel to prevent new transmission.

136. INDIA QUALIFY FOR FIRST TIME IN TWO DECADES



- India qualified for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup football for the first time in two decades after defeating Myanmar 1-0 in their final Group D qualifying match at Yangon, Myanmar.

137. UNDER OPERATION FALCON, OVER 40 ARRESTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR ILLEGAL POACHING OF RHINOS IN ASSAM



- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma shared a video on his X handle highlighting the successes of 'Operation Falcon', an anti-poaching drive launched in 2024 to protect endangered wildlife.
- The video mentioned arrests in various districts: Udalguri (1), Darrang (8), Nagaon (6), Dibrugarh (1), Sonitpur (2), Karbi Anglong (5), and Cachar (1).
- The highest number of arrests was reported in Biswanath district (18).

138.LS SPEAKER CONSTITUTES PANEL TO PROBE CHARGES AGAINST JUSTICE VARMA

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted a three-member committee to probe charges against Justice Yashwant Varma after admitting a multi-party notice for his removal, setting in motion the process of impeachment of the Allahabad High Court Judge.
- The inquiry committee comprises Supreme Court Judge Justice Aravind Kumar, Madras High Court Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, and senior Karnataka High Court advocate B. V. Acharya.

139.ASSAM, GOA CMS WITNESS POLICE PASSING OUT PARADE AT DERGAON

- Goa has become the second state after Manipur to send its police personnel to Assam for training.
- The police personnel completed their 43-week basic training at the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy (LBPA) in Dergaon.
- A passing out parade was held, attended by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant.
- The 700 recruits arrived at LBPA in October last year.
- They underwent intensive training in physical fitness, mental resilience, field tactics, and weapon handling.
- After successful completion of training, they were inducted into the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Indian Reserve Battalions.
- Among the recruits, 569 are male and 131 are female.

140.POLL ROLLS CAN'T REMAIN STATIC, BOUND FOR REVISION: SC

- The Supreme Court stated that electoral rolls cannot “remain static” and must be revised.
- The court disagreed with the argument that the special intensive revision (SIR) of the voter list in poll-bound Bihar lacked legal basis and should be quashed.
- A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi heard the matter.
- The NGO Association of Democratic Reforms informed the court that the exercise should not be allowed across India.
- Leaders of Opposition parties, including the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress, have challenged the Election Commission of India’s electoral roll revision drive in Bihar.

141.PAK CREATES NEW ARMY ROCKET FORCE COMMAND

- Pakistan announced the creation of a new force – the Army Rocket Force Command – equipped with modern technology.

- The new force is intended to serve as a ‘milestone’ in strengthening Pakistan’s combat capabilities.
- The event marked Pakistan’s 79th Independence Day.

142.IIT-G DEVELOPS BIODEGRADABLE, COMPOSTABLE MATERIAL FOR NFR



- Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati to introduce biodegradable and compostable alternatives to conventional plastic.
- The bio-plastic has been developed at IIT Guwahati’s in-house research and development facility and is compliant with ISO 17088 standards.
- This material degrades in compost within a short duration.
- As a pilot project, NFR has introduced eco-friendly green bedroll bags on trains, replacing conventional plastic bags used for linen distribution.
- The initiative enhances passenger convenience by providing durable and environmentally responsible solutions.
- It also helps in reducing landfill waste, lowering the carbon footprint, and conserving natural resources.

143.CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY ADDS ‘SKIBIDI’, ‘TRADWIFE’ AMONG 6,000 NEW WORDS



- “Skibidi” is among more than 6,000 slang terms added this year to the Cambridge Dictionary.

- The term, coined by the creator of an animated YouTube series, can mean “cool” or “bad,” or be used as a meaningless joke.
- Other new additions include:
 - **“Tradwife”** – short for “traditional wife,” describing a married woman who cooks, cleans, and posts about it on social media.
 - **“Delulu”** – a shortening of “delusional,” meaning believing things that are not real or true, often by choice.
 - **“Mouse juggler”** – a device or software that makes it appear you are working remotely when you are not.
 - **“Forever chemical”** – a harmful chemical that persists in the environment for a long time, linked to climate concerns.
- Cambridge Dictionary tracks new words using the Cambridge English Corpus, a database of over 2 billion written and spoken English words.
- The Corpus helps monitor how often new terms are used, in what contexts, and by whom.

144.NEPAL PARTNERS WITH TIKTOK TO PROMOTE TOURISM

- Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) signed a deal with social media platform TikTok to promote its landscape, cultural heritage, and adventure experience among a global audience.
- The deal was signed in the presence of Minister for Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation Deepak Pandey, said a press release issued by the board during a programme.
- The initiative focuses on #LifetimeExperiences, a creator-led campaign that will feature a dedicated in-app experience designed to help travellers discover the country’s must-see destinations and hidden gems - the press release added.
- As per the agreement, NTB and TikTok will work jointly with both local and globally renowned travel creators, inviting and supporting them to explore Nepal and document their journeys through captivating short-form videos that showcase the country’s beauty and culture to audiences worldwide.

145.PRESIDENT MURMU SPEAKS TO DARRANG FARMER OVER PATHARUGHAT UPRISING



- President of India Draupadi Murmu expressed eagerness to visit the farmer martyrs’ village of the historic Patharughat peasants uprising in Darrang.
- She said this while interacting with Dipti Saharia, a woman farmer of Darrang who represented Assam at the special reception function ‘At Home’ at Rashtrapati Bhawan on Independence Day.
- Dipti Saharia said that President Murmu personally took care of all invited guests including her.
- On learning that Dipti was a farmer from Assam, President Murmu recalled the sacrifices of farmers at Patharughat and mentioned receiving an invitation to visit, expressing willingness to go in the future.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also interacted with Saharia and asked about her farmer producer company and the number of women farmers associated with it.
- This Independence Day became memorable for the farmers of Darrang as Dipti Saharia had the privilege of attending the Independence Day evening reception on the President’s invitation.
- Over the past three years, she has helped around 500 women benefit from agricultural schemes, empowering them financially through mustard farming and other agricultural activities.

146.BILL TO REGULATE ONLINE GAMING PLATFORMS GETS CABINET APPROVAL

- Union Cabinet has approved a bill related to the promotion and regulation of online gaming.
- The government is likely to bar platforms offering any online money gaming service, a source said.
- The bill has considered significant mental health issues among users of online games, especially those involving monetary incentives.
- The decision follows government observations that online money gaming facilitates money laundering, fraudulent financial transactions, and cybercrime.
- Under the present legal framework, states and Union Territories are responsible for prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes, including illegal betting and gambling.
- Several real money gaming firms portray themselves as “games of skill” to differentiate from betting or gambling platforms and avoid bans.

147.INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRES AGNI 5 BALLISTIC MISSILE



- India successfully test-fired the Agni 5 intermediate-range ballistic missile with a range of up to 5,000 km.
- The missile was launched from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha, validating all operational and technical parameters, according to the Defence Ministry.
- Agni 5 can cover almost the entire Asian continent, including northernmost China, and parts of Europe.
- The test occurred about three-and-a-half months after the military conflict between India and Pakistan.
- India had previously test-fired the Agni 5 missile in March last year.
- Agni 1 to 4 missiles have ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km and are already deployed.
- Last month, India also successfully test-fired nuclear-capable short-range ballistic missiles Prithvi-II and Agni-I.
- Prithvi-II has a range of around 350 km, can carry a payload of up to 500 kg, and is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads.

148.INDIA, EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION BLOC FOR TRADE TALKS

- India and the five-nation Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) signed terms of reference (ToR) to begin formal negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA).
- The EAEU comprises Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.
- The move aims to diversify India's export markets amid high tariffs imposed by the US.
- The ToR provides a framework for negotiations, aiming to unlock untapped trade potential, boost investments, and establish a stronger India-EAEU economic partnership.
- Bilateral trade between India and EAEU reached USD 69 billion in 2024, marking a 7% rise over 2023.
- With a combined GDP of USD 6.5 trillion, the proposed FTA is expected to expand market access for Indian exporters, promote sectoral diversification, enhance competitiveness, and benefit MSMEs.
- The agreement was signed by Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, and Mikhail Cherekaev,

Deputy Director, Trade Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission.

149.PM MODI TO OPEN BAIRABI-SAIRANG RAIL LINE NEXT MONTH



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally inaugurate the long-anticipated Bairabi-Sairang New Line Railway Project in Mizoram.
- The project, worth ₹8071 crore, marks a milestone in the Capital Connectivity Project of Indian Railways for the North Eastern States.
- With its completion, Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram, will be formally connected to the railway map of India.
- Passenger and goods services to Sairang will commence after the inauguration by the Prime Minister.
- Initially, passenger services will operate between Mizoram and Guwahati and Silchar.
- Later, long-distance services to New Delhi and other destinations will be introduced.

150.42,000 MYANMAR NATIONALS MAPPED UNDER NEW FMR POLICY ALONG INDO-MYANMAR BORDER



- Under the newly enforced Free Movement Regime (FMR) policy, Assam Rifles have mapped around 42,000 Myanmar nationals entering India since December last year.
- Entries were documented through biometric recording and verification to regulate cross-border movement along the Indo-Myanmar border.
- The initiative aims to manage migration flows amidst demographic and security concerns in the Northeast.

- Recorded data will assist in tracking foreign nationals and addressing abnormal population growth, particularly in states like Manipur.
- Assam Rifles, as the primary force guarding the Indo-Myanmar frontier, are tasked with enforcing the FMR norms to curb unchecked migration while preserving local livelihood and traditional ties.
- Experts believe systematic registration will enhance border security, demographic stability, and administrative planning in the long term.

151.NO NEW AADHAAR FOR ADULTS IN ASSAM FROM OCTOBER; SC, ST & TEA TRIBES GET ONE YEAR EXTENSION

- Assam Cabinet approved restrictions on issuing new Aadhaar cards for citizens above 18 years of age.
- Exceptions granted to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and tea garden communities, who get an additional year to enroll.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma cited Aadhaar saturation of 102%, exceeding the state's actual population, as the reason.
- In "rarest of the rare cases," Aadhaar may still be issued with approval from the Deputy Commissioner (DC).
- The DC's decision will follow consultation with the Foreigners' Tribunal and Special Branch for strict scrutiny.

152.FOR US, INDIA IS THE ONLY PARTNER TO COUNTER CHINESE DOMINANCE IN ASIA: REPORT



- India's geography, economy, and demographic trajectory position it as the "only realistic counterbalance" to Chinese dominance in Asia, according to a report in *One World Outlook*.
- The Indo-Pacific is emerging as the decisive arena for global power in the 21st century, and the US requires more than naval patrols and sanctions to counter Beijing's ambitions—it needs a partner with scale, proximity, and legitimacy.
- Among all potential partners, India stands alone, sharing a 2,100-mile land border with China and sitting astride the

Indian Ocean, a critical trade route for China's energy imports.

- Unlike US allies such as Japan or Australia, India can influence both continental and maritime theatres in any strategic equation.
- India's economic rise is not only a domestic success story but also a geopolitical asset, enhancing its ability to fund military upgrades, resist Chinese coercion, and serve as an alternative hub for trade and investment.
- Challenges to the US-India partnership include trade disputes, policy mismatches, and divergent strategic instincts, which could hinder its full potential.
- Former US Ambassador Nikki Haley warned that undermining decades of US-India economic cooperation would be a "strategic disaster."
- India's demographic advantage is significant, with a median age of 29 and a projected population of 1.44 billion in 2025, providing a youthful and expanding labour force. China, in contrast, is facing an aging population, shrinking workforce, and rising labour costs. The report is titled '*Partner, Not Pawn: India's Place in America's Asia Playbook*'.

153.ASSAM'S ANURADHA HANDIQUE SECURES SECOND PLACE IN EUROPEAN FOOD FESTIVAL AT DENMARK



- Anuradha Handique from Nopukhuri Jyotinagar, Tinsukia, won the second prize at Europe's largest vegetarian and vegan food festival in Denmark.
- She represented the rich culinary traditions of Assam at the international event.
- Her entry stood out among global participants, earning her praise from judges and appreciation from food enthusiasts attending the festival.

154.SIKKIM INTRODUCES HIGH-TECH IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT SCA CRICKET GROUND



- The Automatic Pop-up Rain Gun Irrigation initiative aims to support professional-level cricket development in the region while ensuring sustainable water use.
- The ceremony was followed by a friendly exhibition match featuring local players and dignitaries, including CM Tamang, symbolising the role of sport in fostering community spirit and youth engagement.
- The fully automated irrigation system ensures even water distribution across the ground, eliminating manual labour and maintaining optimal playing conditions throughout the year.
- The system also helps significantly reduce water wastage.
- CM Tamang emphasised that the infrastructure upgrade aligns Sikkim's sporting facilities with national standards and demonstrates the state's commitment to nurturing athletic talent.

155.MANIPUR ZOO CONDUCTS FIRST SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION BREEDING OF ASIAN GIANT TORTOISE

- Manipur Zoological Garden (MZG) and India Turtle Conservation Programme (ITCP) conducted the first successful artificial incubation of Asian Giant Tortoises (*Manouria emys phayrei*) this year, where 28 hatchlings hatched out from one nest.
- MZG, located at the foothill of Langol hill range at Eroishemba on the outskirts of Imphal, is one of the smallest zoos in India, though the Central Zoo Authority has categorised it as a medium zoo based on the diversity of birds and animals it houses.
- The Asian Giant Tortoise is a critically endangered species and native to the northeast Indian states such as Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, and Meghalaya.
- MZG is now set to initiate a conservation breeding programme to release them in the wild, contributing to increasing the numbers of this highly threatened and lesser-known species.
- Currently, the hatchlings are being put under proper husbandry care, marking an important landmark in tortoise and turtle conservation in the State.

- The initiative has been actively supported by the MZG team under the supervision of the Chief Wildlife Warden of Manipur.
- MZG also conducted a one-day capacity-building workshop in collaboration with ITCP on August 21, training 25 zoo-keepers and frontline forest staff on conservation and management of tortoises and freshwater turtles.

156.BHAVNA GOGOI STRIKES GOLD



- Bhavna Gogoi, a 17-year-old lifter from Charaideo, won a gold medal on the second day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- This achievement comes soon after Dharmajyoti Dewgharia's record-breaking gold, bringing further pride to the nation and Assam.
- Representing India for the first time at an international event, Bhavna secured the top spot in the 58kg girls' youth category.
- She achieved a total lift of 162kg – 69kg in snatch and 93kg in clean and jerk.

157.NEW INDIAN CONSULATE CHANCERY INAUGURATED IN SEATTLE



- The new chancery of the Consulate General of India in Seattle has been inaugurated by the Ambassador of India to the US, Vinay Kwatra.
- It is located at 1015, 2nd Avenue in the historic Federal Reserve Building, occupying the first and 11th floors.
- According to the Indian mission in Seattle, about 4.4 million Indian Americans/people of Indian origin reside in the US.
- Persons of Indian origin (3.18 million) form the third-largest Asian ethnic group in the US.

- Indian Americans are among the most successful communities, excelling in diverse fields, including politics.
- As of March 2025, six persons of Indian origin serve in the US Congress.
- A 300,000-strong Indian student community contributes over USD 8 billion annually to the US economy.

158.RUSSIAN, CHINESE SUBMARINES CONDUCT FIRST-EVER JOINT PATROL



- The Russian and Chinese navies carried out their first-ever joint patrol in the Pacific region.
- The patrol was launched in early August after the completion of the Russian-Chinese drills *Maritime Interaction 2025* in the Sea of Japan.
- The diesel-electric submarine Volkhov of the Russian Pacific Fleet and a submarine of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy patrolled along an approved route in the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea.
- After completing the mission, the crews returned to their respective home bases.
- Amid the increasing Indo-Pacific posture of Western navies to contain China, Moscow and Beijing have intensified their naval cooperation.
- The joint patrol aimed to strengthen naval cooperation, ensure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, monitor maritime areas, and protect Russian and Chinese maritime economic facilities.

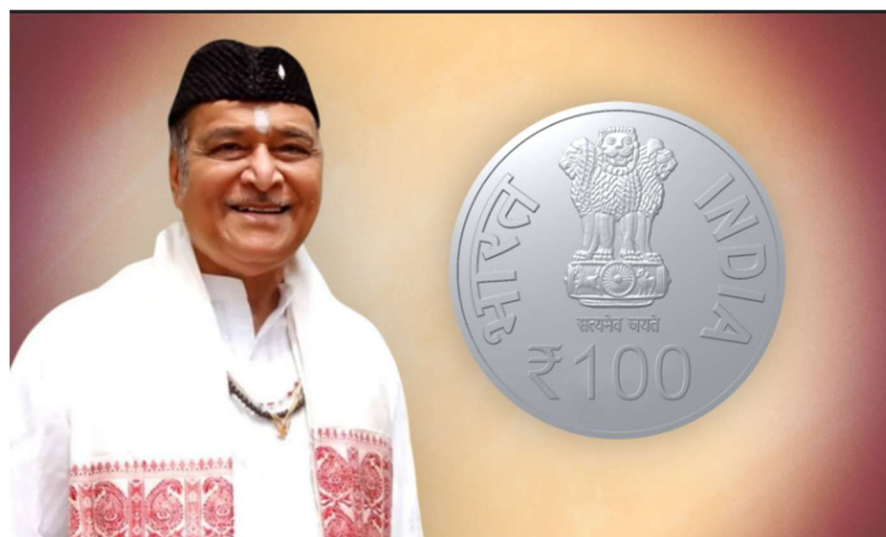
159.MIZORAM ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL TO PROHIBIT BEGGING:

- The Mizoram Assembly has passed a Bill to prohibit begging in the State amid objections by Opposition members.
- Introducing the Mizoram Prohibition of Beggary Bill, 2025, Social Welfare Minister Lalrinpuii stated that the objective is not only to ban begging but also to assist and rehabilitate beggars by providing sustainable livelihood options.
- Concerns have been raised about an increase in begging in Mizoram, although the State still has very few beggars due to its social structure, active involvement of churches and NGOs, and various welfare schemes.
- Chief Minister Lalduhoma mentioned that the primary aim of the Bill is to help and rehabilitate beggars through collective efforts of the government, NGOs, and churches.

160.RAJBONGSHI LANGUAGE INTRODUCED IN SCHOOLS OF BTR

- In a significant step towards promoting linguistic diversity, the Rajbongshi language has been formally introduced as an additional subject in primary schools in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

161.100-RUPEE COMMEMORATIVE COIN ON BHUPEN HAZARIKA



- The Union Ministry of Finance has issued an official gazette notification for the release of a ₹100 commemorative coin to mark the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.

162.INTRODUCTION OF OL CHIKI SCRIPT IN SCHOOLS OPPOSED

- The Assam Santali Sahitya Sabha opposed the introduction of Santali language textbooks published in the Ol Chiki script in the State's schools.
- The Ol Chiki script comprises fewer letters compared to the Roman script.