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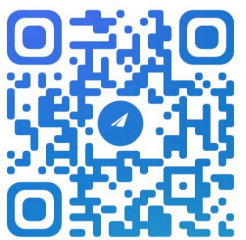
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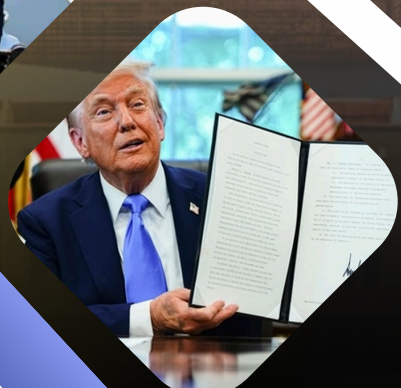
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INDIAN POLITY

1. REFORM, PERFORM AND TRANSFORM: PM MODI HIGHLIGHTS INDIA'S NEW MANTRA



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Members Session in Tianjin, stated that India's new mantra is to reform, perform, and transform.
- He outlined India's vision for the SCO based on three pillars: Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity.
- PM Modi emphasised the importance of security, peace, and stability as foundations for national growth and highlighted India's connectivity initiatives for Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- He proposed the creation of a Civilisational Dialogue Forum to showcase the cultural heritage of SCO member countries.
- Addressing the 25th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State, PM Modi reaffirmed India's constructive and positive role within the organisation.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the SCO to uphold fairness and justice in global affairs.
- The SCO Summit 2025 highlighted the increasing relevance of multipolarity in global governance amid declining trust in unilateral approaches by the U.S.

2. ASSAM POISED TO BECOME GLOBAL RIVER CRUISE DESTINATION, SAYS SONOWAL



- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said Assam is poised to become the next global river cruise destination in the country.
- At the Water Voyage Northeast 2025 conference, Sonowal announced construction of two luxury cruise ships under the Cruise Bharat Mission, with a combined investment of Rs 250 crore, to be deployed on the Brahmaputra by 2027.
- The ships are being built at Hooghly Cochin Shipyard in Howrah, Kolkata.
- The conference was organised by the Inland Waterways Authority of India and the Indian Ports Association, bringing together over 240 stakeholders, including cruise operators, cargo vessel owners, and traders.
- The Minister highlighted investments of over Rs 1,000 crore in inland waterway infrastructure in the Northeast, with Rs 300 crore worth of projects already completed and the rest nearing completion.
- A ship repair facility worth Rs 239 crore at Pandu – the first of its kind in the region – will be ready by 2026.
- By September 2025, a dedicated approach road will be constructed to link NH-27 directly to Pandu Port.
- Rs 299 crore is being invested in new tourist jetties at Guijan, Neamati, Bishwanath Ghat, and Silghat to boost cruise tourism.
- A Regional Centre of Excellence at Dibrugarh is being developed to train 5,000 maritime professionals, empowering local youth.
- The Cruise Bharat Mission, launched in 2024, targets the development of 100 river cruise terminals, 10 sea cruise terminals, and five marinas, while doubling passenger numbers by 2029.
- Currently, 25 river cruise vessels are operational on national waterways, including 14 on the Brahmaputra.
- India's maritime ecosystem has been reshaped since 2014 through initiatives like Sagarmala, Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030, and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) 2047.
- The country's port capacity has nearly doubled, cargo handling has reached 1,600 million metric tonnes, and port turnaround time has reduced to 22 hours.
- The Harit Sagar policy and Harit Nauka initiative are driving a green transition with clean fuels, renewable energy, and eco-friendly inland vessels.
- The Jalvahak Scheme, launched in December 2024, incentivizes cargo transport over 300 km on National Waterways 1, 2, and 16 via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route with up to 35% reimbursement of operating expenditure.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend "India Maritime Week" in Mumbai from October 27–31, delivering the keynote address at the Global Maritime CEO Forum.
- "India Maritime Week 2025" will showcase investment opportunities worth nearly Rs 1 trillion in shipbuilding clusters, port-led connectivity, coastal community development, and eco-friendly logistics.

3.NO ENTRY PERMIT FOR FOREIGNERS INVOLVED IN ANTI-NATIONAL ACTS, ESPIONAGE: MHA ORDER



- Foreigners may be refused entry into or stay in India if convicted of anti-national activities, espionage, rape, murder, terrorist acts, child trafficking, or membership of a banned organisation, as per the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.
- Every State government and Union Territory will set up holding centres or detention camps to restrict the movement of foreigners until deportation.
- Foreigners applying for visas or OCI registration must provide biometric information before approval.
- Illegal immigrants apprehended in India will face restrictions in holding centres or camps until deportation.
- Border guarding forces and the Coast Guard will prevent illegal entry by capturing biometric and demographic details before sending back migrants.
- Grounds for refusal of entry/stay include crimes against humanity, subversive activity (including money laundering/hawala), drug trafficking, human trafficking, racketeering in fake travel documents or currency (including cryptocurrency), cybercrime, and child abuse.
- Foreigners holding valid employment visas cannot work in private sector undertakings engaged in power, water, or petroleum supply without civil authority approval.
- Foreigners must obtain written permission for producing feature films, documentaries, TV/web shows, or other media intended for public exhibition in India.
- No foreigner/group may attempt mountaineering expeditions in India without prior Central government permission, specified routes, liaison officers, and restrictions on equipment.
- Foreigners must obtain permits to enter or stay in protected/restricted areas; those of Afghan, Chinese, or Pakistani origin will not be allowed to visit such areas.

- Restricted areas include Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, parts of J&K, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and others.
- The Bureau of Immigration will maintain an updated list of foreigners prohibited from entering India.
- Seamen and aircraft crew, if foreigners, will require a landing permit or shore leave pass if not holding a valid Indian visa.
- Permission to leave India may be refused if a person is required by a court, suffers from dangerous diseases, their exit could harm foreign relations, or if restricted by specific orders of the Central government or law enforcement agencies.

4.NEPAL, BHUTAN CITIZENS NOT REQUIRED TO CARRY PASSPORT, VISA FOR ENTERING INDIA: MHA



- Citizens of Nepal and Bhutan, as well as Indians entering India by land or air from these two countries, will not be required to furnish a passport or visa.
- Members of the Indian Navy, Army, or Air Force on duty, along with their family members when traveling on government transport, are also exempted from carrying a passport or visa, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.
- The requirement of a valid passport/visa will not apply to:
 - Citizens of India entering by land or air from Nepal or Bhutan.
 - Citizens of Nepal or Bhutan entering India by land or air from their respective borders.
 - Those possessing valid passports while entering/exiting India from destinations other than Nepal or Bhutan (except China, Macau, Hong Kong, or Pakistan).
- The exemption also covers Tibetans who:
 - Entered India after 1959 but before May 30, 2003, with a Special Entry Permit issued by the Indian embassy in Kathmandu.

- Entered India after May 30, 2003, until the Act's enforcement with the new Special Entry Permit issued by the Indian embassy in Kathmandu via designated Indo-Nepal border posts.
- Have registered with concerned registration officers and obtained certificates of registration.
- Persons belonging to minority communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who sought refuge in India due to religious persecution or fear of persecution are exempted from passport/visa rules if they:
 - Entered India on or before December 31, 2024, without valid documents.
 - Entered with valid documents that have since expired.

5.PM TO INAUGURATE NUMALIGARH BAMBOO BIO-REFINERY ON SEPT 14, FUELING GREEN GROWTH



- **Event:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's first bamboo-based bio-refinery.
- **Date & Venue:** September 14, 2025 at Numaligarh Refinery, Golaghat district, Assam.
- **Project Cost:** ₹7,200 crore.
- **Purpose:** Production of ethanol from bamboo – a milestone in India's sustainable energy mission.
- **Significance:**
 - Reduces **dependence on imported crude oil**.
 - Saves **foreign currency**.
 - Cuts **CO₂ emissions** by ~80% compared to petrol.
- **Farmers' Benefit:**
 - Bamboo sourced from ~3,000 farmers in Assam.
 - Annual transactions worth **₹200 crore**.
- **Capacity & Output:**
 - Processes **5 lakh tonnes of bamboo annually**.
 - Produces **50,000 tonnes of ethanol, 18,000 tonnes of furfural, 11,000 tonnes of acetic acid, plus enzymes and formic acid**.
 - Biomass generates **25 MW green power** (5 MW for the refinery).
- **Innovation & Collaboration:**

- Carbon-negative facility.
- Partnership with **IIT Guwahati** on a **pyrolysis project** for **biochar from bamboo waste**.
- Support for **local biotech startups** and expansion of **formic acid production**.
- **Operational Timeline:** Expected to be **functional by December 2025**.
- **Impact:** Will position Assam as a **key hub in India's renewable energy sector**.

6.PM NARENDRA MODI HAILS BHUTAN PM TSHERING TOBGAY'S AYODHYA VISIT



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the ideals of Lord Ram give strength and inspiration to millions across the globe, after Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and his spouse Aum Tashi Doma visited the Shri Janambhoomi temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- Tobgay, on an official visit to India from September 3 to 6, offered prayers at the temple along with his wife .
- During their visit, the couple took part in rituals and inspected the temple premises.
- They were received at the airport by Uttar Pradesh minister Surya Pratap Shahi, who welcomed them on behalf of the state government.
- The visit is part of Tobgay's ongoing tour of India, highlighting the close cultural and spiritual ties between India and Bhutan.
- His spiritual engagements in Ayodhya also align with the broader themes of his visit, where he emphasised the enduring value of ancient learning and shared traditions.

- Earlier, while addressing an event streamed live on Nalanda University's YouTube channel, Tobgay stressed that the "Nalanda spirit," rooted in the ancient centre of learning in Bihar, must continue to thrive, assuring that Bhutan will contribute to spreading and nurturing it.

7.SC RESERVES DECISION ON PRESIDENTIAL REFERENCE REGARDING TIMELINES FOR GUBERNATORIAL ACTIONS



- The Supreme Court reserved its decision on the Presidential reference under Article 143 of the Constitution seeking the Court's opinion on whether timelines can be imposed on Governors to act on Bills passed by state legislatures in the absence of a constitutionally prescribed time limit.
- A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai heard oral arguments over 10 days from Attorney General R. Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, and opposition-ruled states including Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh.
- On July 22, a five-judge Bench comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha, and Atul S. Chandurkar issued notices to the Centre and all state governments in the matter "In Re: Assent, Withholding or Reservation of Bills by the Governor and the President of India" and sought AG Venkataramani's assistance.
- Following the apex court verdict in the Tamil Nadu Bills case, President Droupadi Murmu in May sought the Court's opinion on options available to a Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution when a Bill is presented for assent.
- In April 2025, a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, using powers under Article 142, resolved a standoff between the Tamil Nadu government and Governor R.N. Ravi over delays in granting assent to Bills passed by the Assembly.
- The Court ruled Governor Ravi's refusal to approve 10 Bills as "illegal and arbitrary" and set a three-month deadline for Presidential and gubernatorial approval of Bills passed by the legislature for a second time.
- It clarified that the President must take a decision on Bills reserved by the Governor within three months of receiving them; otherwise, states may file writ petitions seeking a writ of mandamus against the President.
- Using its extraordinary powers, the apex court declared the 10 withheld Bills as deemed assented to on the date they were re-presented to the Governor.

- The Court held that once a Bill is returned, re-passed by the legislature, and presented again to the Governor, it cannot be reserved for the President's consideration.
- The ruling effectively brought Presidential actions under judicial review by supporting a three-month deadline for assent to Bills, prompting the President to make a reference under Article 143.
- Article 143 empowers the President to seek the Supreme Court's advisory opinion on matters of public importance or constitutional interpretation.

8.PM MODI TO DEDICATE ₹18,530 CR PROJECTS IN ASSAM; TO ATTEND BHUPEN HAZARIKA BIRTH CENTENARY



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate and lay the foundation stone for multiple infrastructure and development projects worth over ₹18,530 crore during his visit to Assam.
- At Mangaldai, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for a 430-bed Medical College and Hospital, along with a GNM School and B.Sc. Nursing College at Darrang.
- He will also inaugurate the Guwahati Ring Road Project and the construction of a major bridge over the Brahmaputra River connecting Kuruwa in Darrang with Narengi in Guwahati.
- These projects are estimated to cost ₹3,570 crore, ₹24,530 crore, and ₹31,200 crore respectively.
- At Numaligarh, Modi will inaugurate the world's first bamboo-based 2nd Generation (2G) Bio-Ethanol Plant, built with an investment of ₹5,000 crore.
- He will also lay the foundation stone for a Polypropylene Plant at Numaligarh Refinery Limited, worth ₹7,230 crore, aimed at boosting India's petrochemicals sector.
- In Guwahati, the Prime Minister will attend the birth centenary celebrations of Bharat Ratna Sudhakantha Dr. Bhupen Hazarika and release a special commemorative coin honouring the musical legend.
- Officials said the series of projects will significantly boost healthcare, connectivity, energy, and cultural heritage in Assam, further advancing the Centre's "Act East" and "Viksit Bharat" vision.

9. MODI LAYS FOUNDATION OF 3 MEGA PROJECTS

- In a major boost to the surface communication and health care sectors of Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of three mega projects worth ₹6,300 crore.
- The projects include the 119-km Guwahati ring road connecting the city with Darrang, Kamrup and Morigaon districts at a cost of ₹4,530 crore; a nearly 3-km-long six-lane bridge over the Brahmaputra connecting Kuruwa in Darrang and Narangi in Guwahati at a cost of ₹1,200 crore; and the 430-bed Darrang Medical College and Hospital with a BSc nursing college and a nursing school at a total cost of ₹570 crore.
- Modi laid the foundation of these projects virtually at a ceremonial function organised at the project site of Darrang Medical College at village Punia near Mangaldai.
- Underlining that Assam has greatly benefited from the nationwide connectivity campaign, Modi pointed out that despite six decades of Congress rule in Delhi and decades of governance in Assam, only three bridges were constructed over the Brahmaputra in 60 years.
- He contrasted this with their government's performance, noting that within just one decade, six major bridges have been built.
- Modi said the Kuruwa–Narangi bridge will significantly reduce travel time between Guwahati and Darrang.
- Stating that the new Guwahati ring road will bring significant benefits to the people, Modi noted that once completed, vehicles heading towards upper Assam will no longer need to enter the city, easing urban traffic congestion.
- The ring road will connect five national highways, two state highways, one airport, three railway stations, and one inland water terminal, marking the creation of Assam's first seamless multi-modal connectivity network.
- Emphasising that the government is preparing the nation not just for today's needs but for the requirements of the next 25 to 50 years, the Prime Minister recalled his announcement from the Red Fort regarding next-generation reforms in GST and shared that these reforms are now being implemented.
- Highlighting that in recent years significant progress has been made in the health care sector, Modi noted that earlier hospitals were concentrated in major cities, and seeking treatment there was often expensive.
- To address this, the government expanded the network of AIIMS and medical colleges to every corner of the country, adding that in Assam specifically, dedicated cancer hospitals have been established.
- Modi stated that over the past 11 years, the number of medical colleges in India has doubled, matching the total built in the 60–65 years since Independence.
- He pointed out that in Assam, there were only six medical colleges before 2014, and with the completion of the Darrang Medical College, the state will have 24.

10. SC STAYS FEW KEY PROVISIONS OF 2025 WAQF LAW

- The Supreme Court put on hold a few key provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, including a clause that only

those practising Islam for the last five years could create Waqf, but refused to stay the entire law, outlining the presumption of constitutionality in its favour.

- In order to “protect the interest of parties” and “balancing the equities,” the order stayed some provisions, including the powers accorded to a collector to adjudicate the status of Waqf properties and ruled on the issue of non-Muslim participation in Waqf boards.
- The bench directed the Central Waqf Council not to have more than four non-Muslim members in the total composition of 20 besides asking state Waqf boards to have not more than three such members in the total of 11.
- The following part of clause (r) of Section 3 of the Amended Waqf Act — ‘any person showing or demonstrating that he is professing Islam for at least five years’ — shall stand stayed until the rules are framed by the State Government for providing a mechanism for determining the question as to whether a person has been practising Islam for at least five years or not.
- The apex court further stayed a provision which said a property should not be treated as “Waqf property” till the designated officer submits his report.
- Another provision stating, in case the designated officer determines the property to be a government property, he should make necessary corrections in revenue records and submit a report to the state government, was also stayed.
- “Unless the issue with regard to title of the Waqf property in terms of Section 3C of the Amended Waqf Act is not finally decided in the proceedings initiated under Section 83 of the Amended Waqf Act by the tribunal and subject to further orders by the high court, neither the Waqfs will be dispossessed of the property nor the entry in the revenue record and the records of the board shall be affected,” it held.
- Till the final determination about the title of a disputed property by the tribunal and subject to further orders of the high court in an appeal, no third-party rights would be created.
- It did not stay Section 23 (appointment of chief executive officer and his term of office and other conditions of service) of the amended law, but directed the authorities “as far as possible” an effort should be made to appoint the chief executive officer of the board who is the ex officio secretary from the Muslim community.
- The bench clarified its directions were prima facie and interim in nature, and would not prevent the petitioners or the government from advancing full arguments on the constitutional validity of the law during the final hearing.
- According to the Act, Waqf refers to an endowment made by a Muslim for charitable or religious purposes, such as building mosques, schools, hospitals, or other public institutions.
- Another defining feature of a Waqf is that it's inalienable – which means it cannot be sold, gifted, inherited or encumbered - it said.

11. NEW DELHI TO HOST INDIA-AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026 ON FEB 19-20



- New Delhi will host the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 on February 19–20, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The summit will bring together global leaders, innovators, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to shape a collective vision for artificial intelligence.
- It comes at a time when nations are racing to harness AI's transformative potential for economic growth and innovation, amid a growing consensus on safe, ethical, and governance frameworks for AI.
- The summit will focus on measurable impact of AI and highlight India's role as a convener for the Global South and beyond.
- It will showcase AI's transformative role in enabling inclusive development, sustainability, equitable progress, and shaping a shared vision for AI.
- Eight new entities have been selected to build foundational models, marking a significant stride in India's AI leadership ambitions.
- Under the IndiaAI Foundation Models pillar, eight projects were launched to build indigenous AI models trained on India-specific data.
- Selected from about 506 proposals, these initiatives cover multilingual and domain-specific models, scientific discovery, healthcare, and industrial innovation.
- Avatar AI will create specialised 'AI Avatars' optimised for Indian languages and domains such as agriculture, healthcare, and governance.
- IIT Bombay Consortium Bharat Gen will develop multilingual and multimodal models with an open-source approach to support applications in agriculture, finance, legal, health, and education.
- Fractal Analytics will build India's first large reasoning model designed for structured reasoning, STEM disciplines, and medical problem-solving.
- Tech Mahindra Maker's Lab will design a model for Indic languages (focused on Hindi dialects) and develop an agentic AI platform, Orion, for government applications.

- Zenteiq is developing BrahmAI, a science-driven multimodal foundation model to advance engineering intelligence, scientific computing, and industrial innovation.
- GenLoop will create small language models to support all 22 scheduled Indian languages with native reasoning and content moderation.
- Intellihealth will enable early screening of neurological disorders and advance brain-computer interface research.
- Shodh AI will develop a model for material discovery integrating AI into experimental workflows to accelerate innovation in material sciences.
- Thirty Data and AI Labs have been launched pan-India, forming the first wave of a 570-lab network.
- The first 27 labs are in partnership with NIELIT across Tier 2 & 3 cities, and three labs have been set up in Mokokchung, Mhow, and Mohali with Intel.
- These labs will deliver foundational AI and data training courses under the FutureSkills initiative of the IndiaAI Mission.
- IndiaAI Fellowship Programme has been expanded to support 13,500 scholars, including 8,000 undergraduates, 5,000 postgraduates, and 500 PhD researchers from diverse disciplines.
- This expansion brings the IndiaAI Fellowship at par with PM Research Fellowships and opens opportunities to students from engineering, medicine, law, commerce, business, and liberal arts.

12. PM MODI TO LAY FOUNDATION STONE OF NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT AT BANSWARA



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Mahi-Banswara nuclear power project in Rajasthan, marking NTPC's entry into the atomic energy sector.
- Four indigenously developed Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MWe each are being built as part of the Mahi-Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (MBRAPP).
- The project is being developed by Anushakti Vidyut Nigam Ltd (Ashvini), a joint venture between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and NTPC.
- The project site is located along the banks of the Mahi river near Napla in Banswara district.
- At present, NPCIL and Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (Bhavini) are allowed to build and operate nuclear power plants.

- A 2015 amendment to the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 paved the way for joint ventures between NPCIL and other public sector companies to build nuclear power plants.
- Besides NTPC, NPCIL has also entered into joint ventures with Indian Oil Corporation to develop nuclear power plants on a commercial basis.
- The MBRAPP units are among the ten 700 MWe PHWRs that the government plans to build under the fleet mode approach, approved in 2017.
- Besides Mahi-Banswara, fleet mode nuclear plants will come up at Kaiga NPP (two units), Gorakhpur-Haryana (two units), and Chutka-Madhya Pradesh (two units).
- The government has set an ambitious target of 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047.
- Currently, NPCIL operates 24 commercial nuclear power reactors in the country with an installed capacity of 8,780 MWe, with plans to increase it to 22,480 MWe by 2031-32.

13. BORROWERS CAN'T REDEEM PROPERTY AFTER PUBLICATION OF AUCTION NOTICE: SC



- The Supreme Court held that borrowers cannot redeem property after publication of auction notice as purchasers acquire indefeasible rights once a sale certificate is issued by creditor banks and financial institutions under the SARFAESI Act.
- A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan observed that the SARFAESI Act, enacted in 2002 to protect banks and financial institutions, still contains ambiguities in Section 13(8) and some rules which have prolonged litigation.
- The Court held that the 2016 amendment to Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, which extinguishes a borrower's right of redemption once the secured creditor publishes an auction notice, applies even to loans taken before the amendment if the default occurred after September 1, 2016.
- Justice Pardiwala, writing a 140-page judgment, urged the Ministry of Finance to review these provisions and bring necessary changes before it is too late.
- The bench noted that despite the SARFAESI Act being in force for nearly 23 years, procedural issues continue to plague the legislation.
- The Court highlighted a "glaring anomaly" in Section 13(8) and Rules 8 and 9 of the SARFAESI Rules.

- The Court directed a copy of its verdict to be shared with all High Courts, as well as the Principal Secretaries of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Law & Justice.
- Referring to the amended provision, the bench said it extinguishes the borrower's right of redemption if dues are not paid before publication of the auction notice.
- It noted that the SARFAESI Rules do not specify a distinct notice of sale required to be issued by the secured creditor for the transfer of the secured asset by lease, assignment or sale.
- The SARFAESI Act was brought into force to provide expeditious procedures for recovery of large debts in NPAs.
- The Court rejected the contention of borrowers that their right of redemption should be construed based on the date of the loan taken.
- It clarified that any third-party rights created over the secured asset would be non est in view of this judgment.

14. CABINET APPROVES ₹69,725-CR PACKAGE TO REVITALISE SHIPBUILDING, MARITIME ECOSYSTEM:



- The Union Cabinet approved a ₹69,725 crore package to revitalise India's shipbuilding sector and reduce dependence on foreign ships as part of the government's plan to regain the country's maritime power.
- The package introduces a four-pillar approach to strengthen domestic capacity, improve long-term financing, promote greenfield and brownfield shipyard development, enhance technical capabilities and skilling, and implement legal, taxation, and policy reforms to create a robust maritime infrastructure.
- The Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme will be extended until March 31, 2036, with a total corpus of ₹24,736 crore.
- The scheme aims to incentivise shipbuilding in India and includes a Shipbreaking Credit Note with an allocation of ₹4,001 crore.
- A National Shipbuilding Mission will be established to oversee the implementation of all initiatives.
- A Maritime Development Fund has been approved with a corpus of ₹25,000 crore to provide long-term financing for the sector.
- This includes a Maritime Investment Fund of ₹20,000 crore with 49% participation from the Government of India and an

Interest Incentivisation Fund of ₹5,000 crore to reduce the effective cost of debt and improve project bankability.

- The Shipbuilding Development Scheme, with a budgetary outlay of ₹19,989 crore, aims to expand domestic shipbuilding capacity to 4.5 million gross tonnage annually, support mega shipbuilding clusters, infrastructure expansion, establish the India Ship Technology Centre under the Indian Maritime University, and provide risk coverage including insurance support for shipbuilding projects.
- India currently holds 0.06% of the total global shipbuilding market and ranks 20th in the industry but aims to break into the top 10 by 2030 and top 5 by 2047.
- The share of export-import cargo carried on Indian ships has reduced from 71% in 1987–88 to just 5% in 2022–23.
- The package is expected to unlock 4.5 million gross tonnage of shipbuilding capacity, generate nearly 30 lakh jobs, and attract approximately ₹4.5 lakh crore investments into India's maritime sector.
- The initiative will strengthen national, energy, and food security by bringing resilience to critical supply chains and maritime routes.
- It will reinforce India's geopolitical resilience and strategic self-reliance, advancing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and positioning India as a competitive force in global shipping and shipbuilding.
- India has a long and illustrious maritime history, with centuries of trade and seafaring connecting the subcontinent to the world.
- The maritime sector supports nearly 95% of the nation's trade by volume and 70% by value.
- A landmark day for India's Aatmanirbhar maritime ambitions with the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approving the transformative ₹69,725 crore package to revitalise shipbuilding and the maritime sector.
- This is a giant leap towards Aatmanirbhar Shipping and India's aim of becoming a top 5 shipbuilding nation by 2047, said Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

15. HIROSHIMA SURVIVORS HAIL PM MODI AS CHAMPION OF GLOBAL PEACE



- Hiroshima atomic bomb survivors on Saturday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his advocacy of world peace and

his philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', honouring him with a citation by the Japanese NGO 'Peace Culture Village'.

- The recognition came during the observance of 'Vishwa Seva Pakhwada 2025' in Japan.
- A delegation of the Indian Minorities Federation (IMF) celebrated Prime Minister Modi's 75th birthday and also honoured the bombing victims on the 80th anniversary of the atomic attacks.
- The delegation included Rajya Sabha MP and IMF convener Satnam Singh Sandhu, IMF Co-Founder Prof Himani Sood, and members of the Indian diaspora in Japan.
- Also present were Toshiko Tanaka, a member of Nobel Peace Prize-winning group Nihon Hidankyo of atomic bomb survivors, and Kenta Sumioka, a third-generation atomic bomb survivor and Managing Director of Peace Culture Village in Hiroshima.
- The citation, signed by Toshiko Tanaka and Kenta Sumioka, was handed over to the IMF convener.
- It acknowledged Prime Minister Modi's efforts to promote peace across the world and hailed him as a steadfast global voice of peace.
- The citation noted that PM Modi's leadership affirms humanity's greatest strength lies in dialogue, cooperation, and collective responsibility for a future free of nuclear weapons.
- It further recognised PM Modi's contributions to nuclear peace through acts of remembrance that dignify victims and inspire younger generations to reject nuclear conflict.

16. PM MODI LAUNCHES SWADESHI 4G NETWORK: INDIA ENTERS NEW ERA OF DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched BSNL's Swadeshi 4G mobile network, marking a significant milestone in India's journey toward digital self-reliance.
- Developed entirely by Indian firms, the project places India among telecom-innovating nations such as South Korea, Sweden, China, and Denmark.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that the Swadeshi 4G project reflects India's growing technological strength and strategic autonomy in critical infrastructure.
- The network, built by C-DOT, Tejas Networks, and TCS, covers nearly 98,000 sites, connects over 30,000 villages, and benefits more than 2 million subscribers.
- It is cloud-native and ready for a seamless 5G upgrade.
- As part of the Digital Bharat Nidhi, the project aims for 100% 4G saturation, bridging the rural-urban digital divide and creating thousands of jobs in the indigenous telecom ecosystem.

17.MANN KI BAAT: PM PRAISES ZUBEEN



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes to legendary singer Zubeen Garg, who had passed away in Singapore on September 19.
- In the 126th episode of his monthly radio programme *Mann Ki Baat*, Modi mentioned that while Assam was celebrating the birth centenary of Bhupen Hazarika, a moment of sadness had descended a few days earlier as people were mourning the untimely demise of Zubeen Garg.
- Modi said that Zubeen Garg had been a renowned singer who had made his mark across the country, had a deep connection with Assamese culture, would always remain etched in people's memories, and that his music would continue to captivate generations to come.
- He further remarked in Assamese that Zubeen Garg had been a shining gem (ujjal ratna) of Assam's cultural heritage and would always live in the hearts of the people.
- Prime Minister Modi, while also recalling the contributions of musical icon Dr Bhupen Hazarika, stated that Bhupen Hazarika's songs connected different countries around the world and mentioned a commendable effort made in Sri Lanka where artistes had translated Bhupen da's iconic song *Manuhe Manuhar Babe* into Sinhala and Tamil, whose audio he had played.
- Modi also shared that a few days earlier he had had the privilege of participating in Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary celebrations in Assam, which he found to be a truly memorable event.

18.LEADING FIRMS TO INVEST RS 1.02 LAKH CR IN FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR: GOVT



- The government announced that it had signed agreements with 26 overseas and domestic firms during the 'World Food India' summit for investments worth ₹1.02 lakh crore in India's food processing sector.
- It was stated that the summit, organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, had been held at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital from September 25 to 28.
- In an official statement on Sunday, the ministry mentioned that World Food India 2025 had concluded on a historic note with investment commitments of unprecedented scale.
- It added that over the course of the four-day event, 26 leading domestic and global companies had signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth a total of ₹1,02,046.89 crore, marking one of the largest investment announcements in India's food processing sector.
- According to the ministry, these MoUs were projected to generate direct employment for over 64,000 people and create indirect opportunities for more than 10 lakh individuals.
- The ministry informed that the companies signing MoUs included Reliance Consumer Products, The Coca-Cola System in India, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), Fair Exports (India) Pvt Ltd (Lulu Group), Nestle India, Tata Consumer Products Ltd, and Carlsberg India Pvt Ltd.
- It was stated that the commitments spanned across diverse segments such as dairy, meat and poultry, packaged foods, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, spices and condiments, confectionery, edible oils, fruits and vegetables, and ready-to-eat products.
- The proposed investments were said to be spread across multiple states including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and the north-eastern region.
- It was informed that Reliance Consumer Products Ltd had signed a ₹40,000-crore agreement with the Food Processing Industries Ministry to establish integrated food manufacturing facilities across the country.
- The ministry stated that three Coca-Cola bottlers in India would jointly invest ₹25,760 crore (USD 2.96 billion) to expand the country's food processing infrastructure and had signed memoranda of understanding with the ministry for greenfield and brownfield projects.

INDIAN ECONOMY

19.INDIA INDUSTRIAL FAIR (IIF) 2025 TO SHOWCASE ASSAM AS NE'S INDUSTRIAL HUB FROM OCT 30



- Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) has announced the India Industrial Fair (IIF) 2025, scheduled from October 30 to November 2 at Veterinary College Ground, Khanapara, Guwahati.
- Following the success of IIF 2022, which brought together 400+ MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and investors, the upcoming edition aims to be the North East's largest industrial fair.
- The event will be held under the Chief Patronage of the Assam Chief Minister and the Patronage of the Industry Minister.
- IIF 2025 is expected to attract over 50,000 visitors, including senior cabinet ministers, policymakers, and international delegates.
- More than 500 stalls will showcase sectors such as AI, drones, EVs, defence, renewable energy, tourism, handloom, handicrafts, and start-ups.
- The fair will feature B2B and B2G meetings, investor summits, export promotion workshops, and technology transfer sessions in collaboration with IIT Guwahati.
- Special emphasis will be placed on women entrepreneurs, artisans, and start-ups.
- Key themes include waste-to-wealth, renewable energy, and sustainable industrial practices.
- LUB leaders highlighted that IIF 2025 will open new opportunities for businesses while strengthening the industrial ecosystem of Assam and the North East.

20.INDIA CAUTIONS AGAINST MISUSE OF EXPORT MEASURES

- India cautioned against weaponising export-related measures or misusing them to create artificial scarcity, distort markets, or disrupt supply chains at the SCO Trade Ministers' Meeting in Vladivostok on September 6.
- India emphasised that calibrated and transparent use of such measures is essential to maintain trust in international commerce.

- India called for addressing persistent trade deficits by ensuring greater market access and simplifying processes for trade facilitation.
- These remarks come amid challenges faced by India's auto and electronics sectors due to export restrictions on rare earth magnets and fertilisers by China, a member of the organisation.
- India also warned that trade-linked climate measures should not result in arbitrary or unjustified discrimination.
- India's trade deficit with China has risen to about \$100 billion in 2024-25.
- With the SCO accounting for 42% of the world's population and 17.2% of global trade, India stressed the need for coordinated action to enhance trade flows, address vulnerabilities, and support inclusive growth across the region.
- Representing India, Amitabh Kumar, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, underlined the importance of an open, fair, inclusive, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.
- He highlighted the need for a development-centred agenda that includes a permanent solution on Public Stockholding for food security purposes, effective Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries, and restoration of a fully functional two-tier WTO dispute settlement system.
- He also underlined the significance of services trade and the temporary movement of skilled professionals, in line with national laws and transparency, to support greater participation of MSMEs in global value chains.
- On the digital economy, India proposed SCO workstreams focused on fair, transparent, and predictable regulatory frameworks, voluntary cooperation on best practices, and capacity-building for secure, innovation-led digitalisation.

21.INTEGRATED UPI-UPU LAUNCHED; TO BOOST CROSS-BORDER REMITTANCES



- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia unveiled the UPI-UPU integration project at the 28th Universal Postal Congress in Dubai.
- The initiative combines India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Interconnection Platform to transform cross-border remittances.

- Scindia described the project as “more than a technology launch, but a social compact,” noting that the reliability of the postal network combined with UPI’s speed will enable families across borders to send money faster, safer, and at lower costs.
- Developed by India’s Postal Department, NPCI International Payments Ltd, and UPU, the initiative integrates the reach of postal services with the affordability and speed of UPI.
- The project seeks to:
 - Connect through seamless data-driven logistics.
 - Include by delivering affordable digital financial services to migrants and digital enterprises.
 - Modernise with AI, DigiPIN, and machine learning.
 - Cooperate through South–South partnerships with a UPU-backed technical cell.
- Scindia announced financial support of \$10 million during this cycle to channel technology into innovation, focusing on e-commerce and digital payments.
- He also announced India’s candidature for the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of the UPU, underscoring commitment to a connected, inclusive, and sustainable future for the global postal community.
- Deepak Chand Thakur, CEO and co-founder of NPST, said the initiative validates India’s position as a payments innovator and system builder.

22.NEPAL'S TRADE WITH CHINA GREW BUT INDIA REMAINS LARGEST PARTNER



- India’s geographic proximity, long-standing trade treaties, duty-free access for many goods, and seamless land transit routes have made it Nepal’s largest trade partner.
- Trade corridors linking Nepal to China remain underdeveloped, and annual trade with China (about \$724 million) is far smaller compared to its trade with India (over \$8 billion in FY 2022-23).
- In FY 2022-23, Nepal imported goods worth over \$7 billion from India and exported around \$755 million.
- In the first nine months of FY 2023-24, Nepal’s total exports fell by 3.7% compared to the same period the previous year, mainly due to a 6.2% drop in exports to India.
- Conversely, exports to China surged by 232% but still form only a small fraction of total exports.
- Imports also fell by 2.8% overall, with a 3.2% decline from India but a 33.4% rise from China.

- Since Communist leaders came to power in Nepal, the country has tilted towards China, influenced by shared political philosophy.
- Former Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli’s official visit to China in late 2024 broke the tradition of Nepali leaders visiting India first after taking office, signaling a shift in foreign policy.
- Despite political shifts, Nepal’s trade and economy have lagged, with frequent protests and changes in government adding to instability.
- Nepal, once a key exporter of agricultural commodities, now struggles to meet domestic demand for staples like paddy, milk, and sugarcane.
- Sumit Bikram Rana, Program Director of The Himalayan Dialogues, urged Nepal to position itself as a competitive supplier to Indian markets instead of viewing India only as a dominant exporter.
- The country, historically a net exporter of paddy, sugarcane, and lentils, now imports wheat, sugar, and cooking oil.
- Agricultural bottlenecks include fragmented landholdings, poor storage and logistics, underdeveloped agro-processing units, and lack of all-weather irrigation, leading to declining exports and dependence on imports from China and India.
- The World Bank projected Nepal’s economy to grow 4.5% in FY2025 (up from 3.9% in FY2024), driven by domestic trade, hydropower generation, and paddy production despite the impact of natural disasters.
- It remains to be seen how Nepal handles the new wave of protest movements sweeping the country.

23.CLEAN PLANT PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN HORTICULTURE, INDIA’S EMPower FARMERS:



- Nine Clean Plant Centres will be established across the country as part of the recently approved Rs 1,765.67 crore Clean Plant Programme (CPP).
- The programme aims to boost India’s horticulture sector by providing virus-free planting material.

- A \$98 million loan from the Asian Development Bank supports the initiative focused on key fruit crops, including grapes, oranges, and pomegranates.
- Of the nine Clean Plant Centres, three will be set up in Maharashtra at a cost of Rs 300 crore: Pune for grapes, Nagpur for oranges, and Solapur for pomegranates.
- Large nurseries will receive up to Rs 3 crore each, while medium units will get Rs 1.5 crore assistance under the scheme, collectively producing 8 crore disease-free seedlings annually.
- The programme will increase yields, enhance fruit quality, and protect small-scale farmers from biotic and abiotic threats.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) oversees technical progress and facilitates capacity building.
- As of now, 578 grapevine samples from seven states have been tested, while 535 apple samples from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Punjab are under testing with hazard analysis in progress.
- The official CPP website has been launched as a central hub for resources, updates, and insights to revolutionise horticulture in India.
- A national-level laboratory is to be set up in Pune for research on original plant species under CPP.
- From January to March, teams from ICAR, NHB, and ADB studied nursery ecosystems, design, operations, and cost structures.
- The team conducted lab assessments, strengthened diagnostic and computational capabilities.

24.GOV'T GIVES INFRA STATUS TO LARGE SHIP BUILDING INDUSTRY



- In a bid to promote Make in India, the government has included large ships in the harmonised master list of infrastructure.
- Commercial vessels having a gross tonnage of 10,000 or more, which are under Indian ownership and flag, will be qualified to get infrastructure status.
- Commercial vessels having a gross tonnage of 1,500 or more, which are built in India and are under Indian ownership and flag, will also get the status.
- Large ships are included in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the category of transport and logistics, the finance ministry said in a Gazette notification dated September 19.
- The provision to include large ships above a specified size in the infrastructure harmonized master list (HML) was announced in the Budget 2025-26.
- The infrastructure tag allows benefits such as easier borrowings overseas, raising funds through tax-free bonds, tax concessions, and access to dedicated lenders such as IIFCL and debt funds.
- The government had included 'Shipyards' in the updated HML of Infrastructure Sub-sectors in 2016.
- The harmonised master list on infrastructure has five main sectors and now 38 sub-sectors — transport, energy, water sanitation, communication, and social and commercial infrastructure.
- Any fresh sector or sub-sector will be included in the master list if it has six characteristics: natural monopoly, high sunk costs and asset specificity, non-tradeability of output, non-rivalness in consumption, possibility of price exclusion, and presence of externalities.
- According to the Maritime India Vision 2030, Indian shipping companies struggle to grow tonnage due to difficulties in accessing required finance.
- Apart from proposing the infrastructure status for large ships, the Budget for 2025-26 had also announced the setting up of a Maritime Development Fund (MDF) of Rs 25,000 crore.
- This fund will directly benefit financing for ship acquisition.
- It aims at boosting Indian-flagged ships' share in the global cargo volume up to 20 per cent by 2047.
- By 2030, MDF is aiming at generating around Rs 1.5 lakh crore investment in the shipping sector.

INTERNATIONAL

25.25TH COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT OF THE SCO ADOPTED TIANJIN DECLARATION:



- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2025** was held at **Tianjin, China**.
- **Key Points from the Declaration**
- **Counterterrorism & Regional Conflicts:** Rejected double standards in counterterrorism, stressed global cooperation to prevent cross-border terrorist movement. Condemned the terrorist attack in **Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir** (no reference to Pakistan). Criticised US and Israeli military strikes on **Iran**.
- **UN Reform:** Called for adapting the UN to modern realities with greater representation for developing countries in its governing bodies.
- **Sustainable Development & AI:** Supported equal rights for all nations in developing and using **Artificial Intelligence**. Acknowledged India's vision of "**One Earth, One Family, One Future**", reinforcing its global leadership in inclusive development.
- **China's Initiatives:** Opened access to **BeiDou** satellite system for SCO members, pledged **\$1.4 billion in loans** over three years, and proposed an **SCO Development Bank**.
- **SCO Plus Summit:** Chaired by China, it included member states, observers, dialogue partners, honoured guests, and heads of major international organisations.

26.BHUPEN HAZARIKA COMES ALIVE AT WORLD EXPO, JAPAN



- At the ongoing World Expo in Japan, the immortal works of Assam's icon Bhupen Hazarika were presented before a global audience, according to an official statement.
- To commemorate the birth centenary of the legendary artiste, a special event was organised at the multipurpose hall in the India Pavilion.
- The event showcased Hazarika's creative legacy and artistic journey, bringing his contributions to the international stage during this centenary year.
- Cultural artistes from Assam highlighted the depth of his songs, the distinctive style of his compositions, and his artistic vision, reflecting the State's natural beauty, cultural vibrancy, and universal humanism.
- The cultural troupe presented dance interpretations of some of his most iconic songs, including *Mahabahu Brahmaputra*, *Moi Eti Jajabor* and *Manuhe Manuhor Babe*.
- The programme drew participation from the audience in Japan as well as other parts of the world.
- A Bharat Ratna awardee, Bhupen Hazarika had shared a close bond with Japan, visiting the country on multiple occasions and fostering warm relations with its people.
- A presentation on Hazarika's musical journey with specific mention of his close ties with Japan, his contribution in the field of art, culture and society, and the Assam government's initiatives on the birth centenary celebration of the legend was made at the event.

27.INDIA-SINGAPORE MOU ON GREEN, DIGITAL SHIPPING CORRIDOR



- India and Singapore formalised their maritime partnership by signing an MoU to establish the **India-Singapore Green & Digital Shipping Corridor**.
- The agreement was signed by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal and Singapore's Acting Transport Minister Jeffrey Siow in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong.
- The MoU aims to accelerate the transition of the maritime sector towards zero- or near-zero greenhouse gas emission fuels and promote seamless digital integration across ports.

- Areas of cooperation include alternative marine fuel infrastructure, green hydrogen, e-methanol, shore-to-ship power systems, and the use of advanced digital technologies for real-time cargo and vessel management.
- Both countries will also collaborate on joint research and innovation in green maritime solutions.
- The two Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated the JN Port – PSA Mumbai Terminal (BMCT) Phase-II, developed by Singapore’s PSA International.
- BMCT-II will increase JNPT’s handling capacity to 4.8 million TEUs, reinforcing India’s position in global container trade.
- With DFC-ready rail links, 63 ICDs ensuring last-mile connectivity, and a skilled workforce, BMCT-II is expected to accelerate India’s logistics growth and regional prosperity.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Green & Digital Shipping Corridors agreement will boost the green fuel supply chain and digital port clearance, while strengthening India’s port infrastructure with Singapore’s expertise.
- Sarbananda Sonowal described the MoU as transformational, complementing Sagarmala, Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030, and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) 2047.
- The corridor is expected to significantly reduce trade costs through digitalised port clearance systems and cut shipping-related emissions by up to 20% on pilot routes.
- It aligns with global decarbonisation efforts, as shipping accounts for nearly 3% of worldwide emissions.
- The agreement also holds strategic importance in the Indo-Pacific, linking India’s Act East Policy with Singapore’s role as a regional maritime hub.

28.NEIF TO DEBUT IN SINGAPORE, SHOWCASING NORTHEAST INDIA’S CULTURE AND TRADE



- The North East India Festival (NEIF) will debut in Singapore from September 19 to 21, 2025, at the Suntec Convention & Exhibition Centre, showcasing the North Eastern Region’s (NER) cultural heritage, trade opportunities, and tourism potential.
- Organised under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Act East Vision, NEIF has earlier been held in Bangkok (2019, 2022) and Ho Chi Minh City (2023). Modi has described it as a key initiative to boost connectivity between Southeast Asia and Northeast India.

- The 2025 edition is significant as it coincides with the 60th anniversary of India–Singapore diplomatic relations and the India–ASEAN Year of Tourism.
- The festival is being organised by Trend MMS with support from the Indian High Commission, Ministry of External Affairs, state governments, and Singapore-based associations.
- An Investors’ Roundtable hosted by the Singapore Business Forum will precede the festival’s opening, bringing together top industrialists and Northeast leaders.
- Singaporean ministers will participate in various sessions, while Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita will attend the closing ceremony.
- The main exhibition (September 20–21) will feature 60 stalls displaying GI products, agri-horti produce, food processing items, handicrafts, Assam tea, and regional cuisines.
- Around 150 folk artistes will present traditional performances, complemented by cultural showcases from Indian performers in Singapore.
- The festival aims to connect entrepreneurs, artists, and tourism promoters from the Northeast directly with ASEAN markets, enabling collaborations in agriculture, textiles, travel, and creative industries.

29.UNESCO TO CREATE FOOD ATLAS OF MEGHALAYA’S UNIQUE CUISINE



- UNESCO has expressed interest in developing a food atlas of Meghalaya, a project that will highlight its unique tribal cuisine and the cosmopolitan culture of Shillong.
- According to Fredrick Roy Kharkongor, Principal Secretary of Arts and Culture, the UNESCO International Food Atlas and Digital Platform is an upcoming initiative.
- The project aims to reinforce the value of foodways — the cultural, social, and economic practices related to the production and consumption of food — as living heritage.
- This initiative is intended to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- A UNESCO statement noted that “foodways are closely linked to many aspects of socio-economic development and cultural life,” including farming, fishing, rituals, traditional skills, and sustainable food production.
- The project also seeks to create new knowledge and develop interactive tools to document and safeguard foodways for future generations.

30.INDIA, ISRAEL INK AGREEMENT TO COMFORT INVESTORS OF BOTH COUNTRIES



- India has cut down the local remedies exhaustion period for Israeli investors to three years from the earlier five years under the Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) signed between the two countries.
- A similar provision was included in India's investment pact with the UAE, which came into effect last year.
- The India-Israel BIA, aimed at providing comfort to investors of both countries, also includes portfolio investments – a deviation from such treaties in the past.
- Local remedies exhaustion means that investors must first try to resolve their disputes using the legal system of the host country before they can take the matter to international arbitration.
- Normally, India maintains a five-year period for this provision.
- An official said that the India-Israel BIA was signed on the lines of the India-UAE bilateral investment treaty, with an OECD member country.
- The pact includes provisions to safeguard investments against expropriation, ensure transparency, and enable smooth transfers and compensation for losses, according to the finance ministry.
- At the same time, it balances investor protection with the state's regulatory rights, preserving sufficient policy space for sovereign governance.
- The agreement is expected to pave the way for increased bilateral investments between the two countries, which presently stand at a total of USD 800 million, thereby benefiting businesses and economies in both nations.

31.INDIA, GULF COUNCIL DISCUSS EXECUTION OF JOINT ACTION PLAN

- India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) discussed deepening cooperation across various pillars of the India-GCC Joint Action Plan (JAP) 2024-2028 – including political dialogue, security, trade and investment, agriculture and food security, transportation, energy, health, culture and education – during the two-day India-GCC Political Dialogue in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

- The GCC was established by an agreement in Riyadh in 1981 among Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, based on their special relations, geographic proximity, similar political systems rooted in Islamic beliefs, joint destiny, and common objectives.
- India and GCC countries share historically close and friendly ties, strengthened by vibrant trade linkages and strong people-to-people connections.
- In recent years, ties between India and GCC countries have deepened in multiple sectors, including trade, investment, energy, health, technology, and cultural exchanges.
- Nearly 10 million Indian diaspora reside in the GCC region, further cementing the partnership.
- Trade and investment between India and the GCC continue to grow, with total trade reaching around USD 178 billion in FY 2024-25.

32.INDIA, ISRAEL SIGN BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENT TO BOOST TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

- India and Israel signed a Bilateral Investment Agreement to provide greater certainty and protection for investors and boost mutual investments.
- The agreement was signed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Israeli counterpart Bezalel Smotrich.
- It marks a historic milestone in India-Israel relations and is expected to boost investments, ensure a minimum standard of treatment, and establish an independent dispute resolution mechanism through arbitration.
- The agreement includes provisions to safeguard investments against expropriation, ensure transparency, enable smooth transfers, and provide compensation for losses.
- It balances investor protection with the State's regulatory rights, preserving policy space for sovereign governance.
- The signing reflects the shared commitment of both nations to enhance economic cooperation and create a more robust and resilient investment environment.
- Bilateral investments currently stand at \$800 million and are expected to increase following this agreement.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasized the need for more business interactions to explore investment opportunities and fully benefit from the agreement.

33.INDIA, EU WORK TO COUNTER SCOURGE OF TERRORISM, INCLUDING CROSS-BORDER

- India and the European Union (EU) held the 15th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism (CT) in Brussels, reiterating their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism.
- Both sides agreed that terrorism is a global phenomenon requiring concerted, sustained, and comprehensive action.

- The meeting was co-chaired by Maciej Stadejek, Director for Security and Defence Policy in the European External Action Service, and K D Dewal, Joint Secretary (Counter-terrorism) in the Ministry of External Affairs, on September 9 in Brussels.
- India and the EU stressed the importance of cooperation in multilateral fora such as the United Nations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), and the FATF.
- The dialogue facilitated a comprehensive exchange on domestic, regional, and global threat assessments.
- Participants emphasised that instability and conflicts in various regions of the world act as catalysts for terrorism and violent extremism.
- Both sides shared updates on key developments in their respective counter-terrorism policies and discussed important topics in the fight against terrorism.
- These topics included measures to counter terror financing, prevent online radicalisation, continue exchanging information on the designation of terrorists and terrorist entities, and address the implications of emerging technologies.
- India and the EU also explored ways to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation and identified areas for future collaboration.
- The next meeting of the Joint Working Group will take place in New Delhi on a mutually convenient date.

34. ACT EAST POLICY TO GET MAJOR BOOST



- India's engagement with South Asian and Southeast Asian countries is increasing, giving a major boost to the Act East Policy, but talks with Pakistan are unlikely in the near future.
- India's interaction with ASEAN and South Asian countries has grown significantly, which is crucial for effective implementation of the Act East Policy.
- On September 4, the Prime Minister of Singapore visited India and held wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including discussions on possible Singaporean investments in India.
- Singapore is a hub for technology and airplane maintenance, offering potential benefits for India.
- Peace and stability in Myanmar is essential for the success of the Act East Policy; with general elections due in December, the situation there is expected to improve.

- Improved stability in Myanmar will facilitate completion of the India–Myanmar–Thailand trilateral highway.
- Enhanced connectivity will enable the Kaladan project, providing a new sea route to India's Northeast region.
- Better connectivity is key to development and will give a major boost to the Northeast region.
- Japan is facing a shortage of skilled manpower and, due to improved relations with India, plans to take skilled workers from India.
- From October, Japan will begin teaching the Japanese language to 50,000 Indian youths; in the future, around five lakh youths from India are expected to work in Japanese companies.
- India–China relations have improved after Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to China.
- Economic activities between the two countries have increased and the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has resumed.
- India has resumed issuing tourist visas to Chinese nationals and efforts are ongoing to resolve border disputes amicably.
- Guwahati may see an increase in international flights in the coming days.

35. INDIA ANNOUNCES \$680 MN PACKAGE FOR MAURITIUS



- India announced a special economic package of around USD 680 million for Mauritius and signed seven agreements to expand bilateral ties in key sectors including maritime security.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said a free and secure Indian Ocean is a shared priority for both countries.
- Modi hosted Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Varanasi, highlighting the deep cultural links between India and Mauritius and describing the two nations as "not just partners but a family."
- India remains fully committed to strengthening the security of Mauritius's exclusive economic zone.
- Both sides will work towards enabling bilateral trade in local currencies following the successful launch of UPI and RuPay cards in Mauritius.
- Under the special economic package, India will assist Mauritius in implementing at least 10 projects, including strengthening ports, airports, and roads, and setting up new schools and hospitals.
- The seven agreements signed cover cooperation in education, power, hydrography, and space research.

- The hydrography pact will enable joint surveys, navigation charts, and sharing of hydrographic data of Mauritius's exclusive economic zone.
- Modi said India and Mauritius are two nations but share the same dreams and destiny.
- Modi congratulated Ramgoolam and the people of Mauritius on the conclusion of the Chagos agreement.

36.INDIA-CHINA CENTRE PROMOTING VILLAGES FOR BORDER MANAGEMENT



- Strong border villages hold the key to better border management, and keeping this in mind, the Government of India has launched the Vibrant Villages Programme in the villages along the India-China Border.
- The programme is being implemented by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- India was facing problems in managing the international border with China because of a lack of facilities, and people of the bordering villages were migrating to the mainland, while China was constructing new villages close to the international border and bringing people from the mainland to stay there.
- To address this, the Government of India decided to launch the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), a flagship initiative aimed at reversing out-migration by ensuring the comprehensive development of border villages.
- The programme seeks to make the villages self-reliant, improve the quality of life, and strengthen security.
- The programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Mana village, Uttarakhand, and operationalized by Union Home Minister Amit Shah from Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh in April 2023.
- Approved by the Union Cabinet on February 15, 2023, the first phase (VVP-I) covered 662 villages in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh, identified in consultation with ITBP.
- The recently launched VVP-II extends the programme to the remaining land borders.
- As the “First Line of Defence,” the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has appointed DIGs as State Nodal Officers and is actively bringing vibrancy through fairs, cultural events, sports meets, Seema Darshan tours, medical and veterinary camps, and excursions.
- To support local economies, ITBP has signed MoUs with Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh for the

procurement of local produce, with talks underway with Himachal Pradesh.

- Through the Himveer Wives' Welfare Association (HWWA)–run Himashi Outlets, ITBP also promotes handicrafts and indigenous products.
- Since 2024 under VVP, ITBP has organized 780 medical camps (benefiting 26,791 villagers) and 752 veterinary camps (benefiting 7,550 villagers and livestock owners).
- A new MoU with the Uttarakhand government is underway to extend medical support to 108 border villages through ITBP doctors and paramedical teams.
- The force also promotes national integration campaigns – Har Ghar Tiranga, Meri Maati Mera Desh, Swachhta Hi Seva, Nasha Mukta Bharat, plantation drives, and Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra – and has facilitated student Seema Darshan tours, RRU internships, and visits of village representatives to New Delhi for Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations.
- The Vibrant Villages Programme, strengthened by ITBP's grassroots outreach, is ensuring that border villages remain secure, prosperous, and truly vibrant.

37.INDIA, BHUTAN OKAY 'HIGH IMPACT COMMUNITY UPGRADE' PROJECTS



- India and Bhutan reviewed and approved 297 projects worth Nu. 4.06 billion (Rs 406 crore) as the second batch of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) under the 13th Five Year Plan.
- The decision was taken during the 2nd India-Bhutan HICDP Committee Meeting held in Thimphu.
- The Indian delegation was led by Aniket G Mandavgane, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India in Thimphu, while the Bhutanese side was led by Pema Tshomo, Director, Bilateral Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade.
- HICDPs are small-sized projects with short implementation timelines covering rural connectivity, drinking water supply, irrigation, agriculture infrastructure, flood protection, tourism development, township infrastructure development, and waste management.
- These projects are implemented by local governments, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

- For Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan, the Government of India has committed Nu 100 billion (INR 10,000 crore), of which Nu 10 billion (INR 1,000 crore) is earmarked for HICDPs.
- The meeting also reviewed the progress of the first batch of HICDP projects and revised it to 275 projects worth Nu 4.40 billion (INR 440 crore).
- These projects aim to enhance accessibility and economic opportunities for local communities and contribute to improved livelihoods, job opportunities, and food security.

38.DECAY OF DERA TAHLI SAHIB: WIDER LOSS OF SIKH HERITAGE IN PAKISTAN



- Pakistan's neglect of the crumbling Dera Tahli Sahib, a Sikh shrine in Lahore, is not an isolated case but part of a broader tragedy with countless Sikh heritage sites across the country's rural and urban landscapes fading from memory, a report cited.
- Each forgotten sacred shrine deepens the divide between communities and their historical roots.
- According to the report, the Pakistani government, historians, and civil society bear the responsibility to reclaim the memory before it fades.
- Preserving Dera Tahli Sahib would not only honour Baba Sri Chand's legacy but also heal a wound that still lingers in the collective memory of Punjabis across borders.
- Researchers revisited the site earlier this year using both historical maps and modern satellite tools.
- Dera Tahli Sahib stands as a stark reminder of what has been lost.
- The Lahore Railway Station nearby—once the last departure point for countless Hindus and Sikhs fleeing Partition—already evokes powerful emotions for pilgrims.
- Restoring Dera Tahli Sahib could add yet another meaningful stop for the thousands of Sikhs who travel to Pakistan annually in search of their roots, the report stressed.

39.TRUMP ANNOUNCES \$100,000 H-1B VISA FEE IN MOVE THAT COULD IMPACT INDIAN WORKERS



- President Donald Trump signed a proclamation to raise the H-1B visa fee to USD 100,000 annually, which will adversely affect Indian professionals in the US.
- The proclamation is titled 'Restriction on entry of certain non-immigrant workers,' citing abuse of the H-1B visa programme as a "national security threat."
- Immigration attorneys and companies have urged H-1B visa holders or their family members currently outside the US for work or vacation to return within 24 hours to avoid being stranded or denied entry after the proclamation takes effect from 12:01 am September 21.
- The current H-1B visa fee ranges from about USD 2,000 to USD 5,000, depending on employer size and other costs.
- H-1B visas are valid for three years and can be renewed for another three years.
- Trump's decision will significantly affect Indian technology professionals hired by tech companies and others on H-1B visas.
- The proclamation states that the H-1B visa programme, created to bring temporary workers into the US, has been exploited to replace, rather than supplement, American workers with lower-paid, lower-skilled labour.
- Trump stated that technology CEOs hiring foreign workers on H-1B visas are "going to be very happy" with the new move.
- Trump ordered the Secretary of Homeland Security to restrict decisions on petitions not accompanied by a USD 100,000 payment for H-1B specialty occupation workers currently outside the US for 12 months following September 21, 2025.
- The Secretary of State will issue guidance to prevent misuse of B visas by alien beneficiaries of approved H-1B petitions with employment start dates before October 1, 2026.
- The restrictions will not apply to individuals or companies if it is determined that hiring such workers is in the national

interest and does not threaten the security or welfare of the US.

- The proclamation said IT firms have prominently manipulated the H-1B system, significantly harming American workers in computer-related fields.
- The share of IT workers in the H-1B programme grew from 32% in 2003 to over 65% on average in the last five fiscal years.
- Some of the most prolific H-1B employers are now consistently IT outsourcing companies.

40.INDIA AND BHUTAN INAUGURATE FRIENDSHIP TSIRANG MULTI-SPORTS HALL PROJECT



- The Tsirang Multi-Sports Hall, an India-Bhutan friendship project, was inaugurated on Friday, announced the Indian Embassy in Thimphu.
- The new indoor sports complex is expected to tremendously benefit the local community.
- India and Bhutan reviewed and approved 297 projects worth Nu. 4.06 billion (Rs 406 crore) as the second batch of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan.
- The decision was taken during the 2nd India-Bhutan HICDP Committee Meeting held in Thimphu.
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- These projects are implemented by local governments, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.
- For Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan, India has committed assistance of Nu. 100 billion (INR 10,000 crore), of which Nu. 10 billion (INR 1,000 crore) is earmarked for HICDPs.
- The meeting also reviewed the progress of the first batch of HICDP projects and revised it to 275 projects worth Nu. 4.40 billion (INR 440 crore).

- These projects aim to improve accessibility, economic opportunities, livelihoods, job creation, and food security for local communities.

41.EU DEFENCE AGREES TO PRESS 'DRONE WALL' PROJECT



- European Defence Ministers agreed to develop a "drone wall" along their borders with Russia and Ukraine to improve detection, tracking, and interception of drones violating Europe's airspace.
- The decision follows multiple incidents where Europe's borders and airports were tested by rogue drones; Russia has been accused but denies involvement.
- The drone wall will be discussed at an EU summit in Copenhagen next week and again in October in Brussels.
- Europe's defence industry will also be involved in the project, according to Kubilius.
- Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland have been working on a drone wall project, though the European Commission rejected a joint Estonia-Lithuania funding request in March.
- NATO jets scrambled on September 10 to shoot down Russian drones breaching Polish airspace, highlighting the expensive response to a relatively cheap threat.
- Airports in Denmark were temporarily closed this week after drones were flown nearby.
- Polish Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said the hybrid war is ongoing and warned that all EU countries will experience it.
- He stressed that the threat from Russia is serious and requires a radical response.
- He urged all EU partners to join the project, pointing out that drone threats can also come from ships or vessels nearby, not just from the eastern flank.

42.NATURAL GAS DISCOVERED IN ANDAMAN SHALLOW OFFSHORE BLOCK

- Oil India Ltd (OIL) has discovered natural gas reserves off the Andaman Islands but has not yet estimated the size of the find.

- The discovery was made in the second exploratory well Vijayapuram-2 drilled in the Offshore Andaman Block AN-OSHP-2018/1, won under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).
- Preliminary analysis of gas samples, collected during intermittent inflow as part of initial production testing, confirmed the presence of natural gas.
- Gas isotope studies are being carried out to understand the genesis of the gas.
- OIL and ONGC have been exploring hydrocarbon reserves in the Andaman Sea to reduce India's heavy dependence on imported oil (88%) and gas (50%).
- ONGC began drilling an ultra-deepwater well ANE-E in March but has not shared results yet.
- The discovery may indicate the presence of a source, migration pathway, or accumulation of hydrocarbons, aiding future exploration and drilling strategies.
- This is the first reported occurrence of hydrocarbons during the ongoing exploration campaign in the Andaman Shallow Offshore Block.
- Initial production testing of the well at 2,212–2,250 metres depth confirmed natural gas presence with intermittent flaring.
- Gas samples tested at Kakinada showed 87% methane content.
- The size of the gas pool and commercial viability will be assessed in the coming months.
- Establishing hydrocarbons in the Andaman basin is a significant step, aligning with similar discoveries in the belt stretching from Myanmar in the north to Indonesia in the south.

43.2 NEW RAIL PROJECTS CONNECTING INDIA WITH BHUTAN ANNOUNCED

- Two new railway projects connecting India and Bhutan were announced by the Union government to strengthen connectivity and trade in the region.

- Two major links identified: the 69-km Kokrajhar–Gelephu line (Assam to Bhutan's Gelephu) and the 20-km Banarhat–Samtse line (West Bengal to Bhutan).
- Combined estimated cost of the projects: Rs 4,033 crore.
- The projects will boost trade, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges.
- Samtse and Gelephu are Bhutan's major export-import hubs along the 700-km India-Bhutan border.
- Gelephu is being developed as a 'mindfulness city' and Samtse as an industrial town by the Government of Bhutan.
- The announcement highlighted key cross-border railway initiatives set to transform bilateral ties.
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri outlined the vision, implementation strategy, and significance of the projects.
- Kokrajhar–Gelephu line has been declared a Special Railway Project for fast-tracked clearances and land acquisition.
- The Indian Railways Ministry will fund works on the Indian side, while the Government of India (through MEA) will support Bhutan's portion under Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan.
- The model ensures most infrastructure lies on the Indian side while supporting Bhutan's development needs.
- India, as Bhutan's top trading partner, will further strengthen economic ties and regional development through these projects.
- Environmental safeguards are being integrated at the planning stage to minimize ecological disruption in the Himalayan foothills.
- Coaches for the new lines will be manufactured in India under the 'Make in India' initiative.
- Once operational, the projects will enhance accessibility, promote balanced regional growth, and create employment opportunities.



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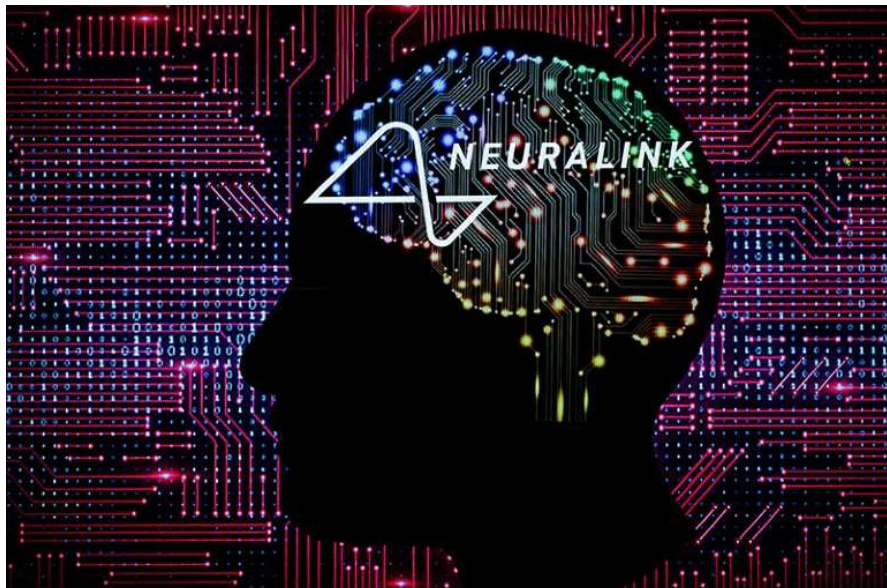
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SCIENCE & TECH

44.NIT SILCHAR SCIENTISTS DEVELOP BRAIN SIGNAL DETECTION CHIP



- A small chip from Silchar made a big impression at Semicon India 2025, a global stage for showcasing semiconductor innovation.
- The indigenously designed chip, a neural amplifier for brain signal detection, was developed by the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar, placing Assam firmly in India's growing semiconductor story.
- The project was led by Prof. Krishna Lal Baishnab (Chief Investigator) with the support of Dr. Sourav Nath (Project Associate-II, who designed the chip) and Dr. Koushik Guha (HoD and Co-Chief Investigator), all from the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering.
- Together, they transformed a research vision into a working piece of hardware now recognised nationally.
- The chip, code-named **C2S0042**, uses low-noise neural amplifiers that can capture brain signals (EEG) with high accuracy.
- With its 600Hz bandwidth, it can even detect subtle high-frequency changes linked to seizures.
- The technology is both complex and life-changing, marking a milestone in semiconductor innovation.
- This chip proves that innovation in semiconductors is not limited to metro cities — even from Silchar, Assam, significant contributions can be made to India's semiconductor future.

45.CHINA UNVEILS NEW WEAPONS AT WW-2 VICTORY PARADE



- In a historic first, China publicly unveiled some of its most advanced military technology — including hypersonic missiles, electronic warfare systems, and unmanned combat platforms — during a massive military parade in central Beijing.
- The event marked the 80th anniversary of China's victory in World War-II and carried a strong message of peace and international cooperation from President Xi Jinping, even as global tensions remain high.
- Held in Tian'anmen Square, the parade showcased hypersonic missiles, directed-energy systems, electronic warfare equipment, and unmanned intelligence platforms, many displayed publicly for the first time.
- More than 10,000 military personnel, over 100 aircraft, and hundreds of tanks and armoured vehicles took part in the parade.
- The parade was overseen by President Xi Jinping, who also serves as General Secretary of the Communist Party and Chairman of the Central Military Commission.
- In his keynote address, Xi underlined the historical importance of the victory, calling it "China's first complete triumph against foreign aggression in modern times."
- This was only the second time since 2015 that China has held such a large-scale military parade to mark Victory Day.
- Towering installations resembling the Great Wall were set up in the square, symbolising Chinese wartime resilience.
- Helicopters carried banners reading "Justice Prevails," "Peace Prevails," and "The People Prevail," while troops marched in precision formations.
- Spectators and veterans witnessed 80 commemorative banners honouring historic military units from the war.
- China's resistance, beginning in 1931, was among the earliest and longest of the Allied nations, tying down over half of Japan's overseas forces and suffering 35 million casualties — about one-third of total global losses in WW-II.
- Representatives from countries that supported China during the war — including the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and Canada — were also invited.

46.SEMICON INDIA: 12 MOUS SIGNED, \$1 BILLION COMMITTED AS PART OF DEEP TECH ALLIANCE



- The ‘Semicon India 2025’ saw **12 MoUs signed** to develop indigenous technologies in areas such as camera modules, microphone buds, miniature packaging, and talent development ecosystem, the government announced.
- To further strengthen innovation, Union Electronics and IT Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the Deep Tech Alliance**, with close to **\$1 billion already committed**.
- Initially focused on **semiconductors**, the Alliance will later expand into frontier sectors like **clean energy, biotechnology, quantum technologies, and space**.
- The Alliance will provide crucial **venture capital support** to emerging deep tech industries, with **exports integrated into 10 approved projects**, ensuring Indian-made chips serve both domestic and global markets.
- Independent studies suggest **semiconductor production in India is already 15–30% more cost-competitive** compared to global benchmarks.
- Vaishnaw stressed that India has pursued **careful professional assessments** instead of rushing approvals, ensuring sustainable growth.
- With **two fabs already functional** and more in the pipeline, India is building momentum in an industry where growth accelerates once the foundation is laid.
- In a unique initiative, **20 chips designed and manufactured by Indian students at the Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL)** were presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- **78 universities** across India are using advanced EDA tools, creating a **deep talent pool** that already accounts for nearly **20% of the global semiconductor workforce**.
- India is also fostering a strong **design and startup ecosystem**, with **28+ startups moving from project to product**.
- Recent MoUs cover **complete IoT chipsets and camera systems**, while institutions like **IIT Madras have released indigenous microcontrollers and processors**.
- The **Design Linked Incentive (DLI)** scheme has generated a portfolio of valuable IPs, and **25 priority products** have been identified for development.
- With the **semiconductor industry projected to touch \$1 trillion by 2030**, India is positioning itself strongly in **talent, trust, and technology**.
- India’s semiconductor journey reached a milestone as the **first set of Made-in-India chips from a pilot line was presented to PM Modi** by Vaishnaw, marking a historic achievement in the sector.

47.IIT-MADRAS TOPS RANKINGS FOR 7TH YEAR STRAIGHT, IISC BEST VARSITY FOR 10TH TIME



- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras retained the top spot in the “overall” category for the seventh consecutive year, while the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru was ranked the best university for the tenth year in a row, according to the NIRF 2025 rankings released today.
- The tenth edition of NIRF was announced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- IISc Bengaluru retained the second position in the “overall” category, followed by IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi, both of which maintained their ranks.
- Among universities, IISc Bengaluru secured the top spot, followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Both IISc and JNU retained their positions, while Manipal Academy of Higher Education bagged the third rank, becoming the first private institution to feature in the top three.
- Jamia Millia Islamia, ranked third last year, slipped to fourth place.
- In the colleges category, Delhi University’s Hindu College and Miranda House retained the first and second positions, followed by Hansraj College and Kirori Mal College. St.

Stephen's College, which ranked third last year, slipped to the fifth spot.

- Nine IITs feature in the top 10 engineering colleges, with IIT-Madras at the top for the tenth consecutive year. IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay retained their second and third spots. NIT Tiruchirappalli is the only non-IIT institution in the top 10 list.
- Among management institutions, IIM-Ahmedabad retained the top rank, followed by IIM-Bangalore and IIM-Kozhikode. Seven IIMs featured in the top 10 B-schools, while IIT-Delhi was the only tech institute in the list. MDI Gurgaon and XLRI-Jamshedpur ranked ninth and tenth, respectively.
- In pharmacy, Jamia Hamdard retained the top spot, while BITS-Pilani rose to second place from third last year.
- In law, the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bengaluru, National Law University (NLU) Delhi, and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad retained the first, second, and third positions, respectively.
- Among medical colleges, AIIMS New Delhi maintained the top spot, followed by PGIMER Chandigarh and CMC Vellore, both retaining their positions.
- In dental colleges, AIIMS Delhi secured the top rank, while Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai, slipped to second place.

48.FIRST TELECOM SYSTEM WITH INDIA-MADE CHIPS GETS TEC CERTIFICATION



- A telecom system built entirely with domestically-produced chips has received certification from the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC).
- TEC certification, issued by the Department of Telecommunications, is a quality benchmark ensuring telecom equipment meets strict performance and safety standards.
- With approval for domestic rollout, the certification also places India's locally-made chips on par with global counterparts, opening doors for exports.
- The achievement marks progress in reducing dependence on imported semiconductors, a weakness exposed by recent global shortages.
- Analysts highlight that India's focus on strengthening capacity in design, assembly, testing, and integration helps address supply chain vulnerabilities.
- Currently, chip production is dominated by Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, China, and the US, and this heavy concentration creates risks that India aims to mitigate.

49.APOLLO HOSPITALS CREATES HISTORY WITH FIRST SAPIEN 3 ULTRA RESILIA VALVE



- Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, has performed India's first implantation of the Edwards SAPIEN 3 Ultra RESILIA transcatheter aortic valve (TAVI).
- This next-generation valve is designed for longer durability and fewer repeat procedures, offering transformative outcomes for patients with severe aortic stenosis.
- The inaugural procedure was carried out by Dr. G. Sengottuvelu, senior interventional cardiologist and head of Structural Interventions at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai.
- The first case involved a 70-year-old patient with severe calcific tricuspid aortic stenosis and a prior coronary stent, considered high-risk for open-heart surgery.
- Using RESILIA technology, doctors were able to provide a safe, minimally invasive, and long-lasting solution.
- The SAPIEN 3 Ultra RESILIA valve incorporates advanced tissue treatment that prevents calcification, stabilises valve tissue, and allows dry storage.
- Clinical studies have shown over 99% freedom from valve deterioration at 8 years, making it the most durable TAVI option worldwide.
- For Indian patients, this breakthrough ensures faster recovery, reduced risk of complications, and a safer long-term path to healthier living.

50.CHINA'S NEWEST AIRCRAFT CARRIER SAILS THROUGH TAIWAN STRAIT FOR THE FIRST TIME

- China's newest aircraft carrier has sailed through the Taiwan Strait, the body of water separating China from Taiwan, the self-governing island that Beijing says must come under its control.
- The sailing could serve as a warning to the US and others against support for Taiwan, though China played down any such motive.
- The Fujian, which is doing sea trials ahead of its commissioning, was heading to the South China Sea to conduct training and scientific experiments, according to the navy's post on social media.



- The navy stated the carrier's activities were not targeting anyone else, while a state media-affiliated social media account quoted an expert saying the Taiwan Strait was the normal, reasonable and efficient route to the South China Sea.
- It was the first time the Fujian had passed through the strait, according to the Yuyuantan account.
- The US Navy and some of its allies periodically send warships through the strait to warn Beijing against any attempt to use force to establish its claim to the island.
- Taiwan and China split after the 1949 civil war, when the defeated Nationalist government fled to Taiwan and set up its own administration.
- The US does not officially recognise Taiwan's government but provides weaponry for its defence and insists any resolution between China and Taiwan should be peaceful.
- China's military last week said it was on high alert after the Canadian frigate Quebec and the Australian destroyer Brisbane sailed through the strait, accusing them of provocative actions that heightened security risks.

51. ALBANIA APPOINTS WORLD'S FIRST AI-CREATED MINISTER TO CURB GRAFT



- Albania has appointed the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated government "minister" with a goal to make the nation "corruption free."
- Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama announced the Digital Minister to his Cabinet.
- The digital assistant is named 'Diella' meaning 'Sun' and has been helping people navigate government services online since January.
- On Thursday, Edi Rama said, "Diella is the first government member who is not physically present, but virtually created by artificial intelligence," Euro News reported.

- Diella has been given responsibility for taking all decisions related to public tenders, making them "100 per cent corruption-free," with every public fund submitted to the tender procedure being perfectly transparent.
- Rama said decisions on who wins public tenders will be removed from government ministries in a "step-by-step" process to ensure all public spending in the tender process is 100 per cent clear.
- Since its launch, Diella has been represented as a woman wearing traditional Albanian attire, though it is unclear whether it will retain this form.
- Corruption in Albania remains a major issue as the country aims to join the European Union, ranking 80th out of 180 countries in Transparency International's corruption index.
- Earlier this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the AI Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, which began with Science Days on February 6-7 and was followed by the Cultural Weekend on February 8-9.

52. INDIA TAKES LEAD WITH AI-DRIVEN FORECASTS TO HELP FARMERS FACE ERRATIC WEATHER



- Climate change is making the pattern of rainfall more erratic and difficult to predict, prompting the Indian government to provide AI-driven forecasts directly to farmers on smartphones to help manage their agricultural operations.
- This year's unusual monsoon, with its early arrival and a rare midseason hiatus, illustrates how fragile agricultural rhythms have become, but also marked a shift with millions of Indian farmers having artificial intelligence on their side, according to an article by Stacey Glaser in *One World Outlook*.
- The article refers to this wider availability of forecasting as not just a technological innovation but also a political and social breakthrough.
- In India, the government sent AI-driven forecasts to 38 million small farmers this monsoon season.
- Weather forecasting, once dominated by elite institutions, is now being reframed as a public good.
- Researchers at the University of Chicago, working with the Indian government, helped bridge the gap between machine learning outputs and actionable advice.
- Amir Jina, an assistant professor involved in the project, said, "What dots hadn't been connected before was this tailoring of forecast to purpose."

- National-level forecasts issue overall warnings of heavy rains, but farmers need specific information such as whether to delay planting rice seedlings or irrigate sugarcane fields — requiring locally relevant data, now made possible through AI forecasts.
- The article also highlights that the scale of India's forecasting opens an opportunity for other countries to emulate the same method.

53.INDIA DEVELOPS INDIGENOUS 4G STACK, JOINS 5-NATION ELITE CLUB:



- India has joined the world's elite group of five nations that have successfully built their own 4G stack.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's fully indigenous 4G stack and one lakh BSNL indigenous 4G towers from Jharsuguda, Odisha.
- Union Minister for Communications and DoNER Jyotiraditya M. Scindia joined virtually from Assam alongside Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma and highlighted the historic significance of the achievement.

- Guided by Prime Minister Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, BSNL developed its own indigenous 4G stack within just 22 months, making India a global leader in the telecommunications sector.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated it is a matter of pride that the Swadeshi 4G network is being dedicated to the nation and announced plans for BSNL to upgrade to 5G soon and launch 6G by 2030.
- One of the five BSNL data centres in India will be set up in Guwahati, generating employment for local youth.
- BSNL's ₹37,000 crore initiative has deployed 97,500 towers, with 92,633 operational, transforming connectivity across remote, tribal, and hilly areas.
- These towers, equipped for 5G readiness, benefit students, farmers, patients, and the armed forces.
- Under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), 19,823 of 27,106 targeted towers have been activated, connecting 26,327 villages and nearly 20 lakh households across aspirational districts, North-East regions, border areas, and LWE zones.
- In August 2025, these towers facilitated 42,773 TB of data usage, averaging 21 GB per customer.
- DBN ensures education, healthcare, and governance reach every doorstep, empowering citizens in remote and hilly regions.
- BSNL's indigenous stack positions India for 5G and 6G leadership and is ready for global export, reflecting the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
- Scindia highlighted that PM Modi's vision has made India a digital vishwa-guru, with 50% of global digital transactions powered by UPI.
- This state-central synergy paves the way for a secure, skilled, and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

DEFENCE

54.DRONE PLATOONS OF ARMY DEBUT IN DRILL NEAR CHINA BORDER:



- The Indian Army's newly raised drone platoons, named **Ashni**, made their debut during a high-altitude military drill in the Kameng sector of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The exercise, **Yudh Kaushal 3.0**, highlighted advanced combat preparedness in the eastern Himalayas, known for its challenging terrain and harsh weather.
- Ashni platoons showcased next-generation technology integrated with traditional tactics to provide a decisive edge in modern and future conflicts.
- Their roles included drone surveillance, target acquisition, precision strikes, airspace dominance, and multi-domain manoeuvres.
- As part of a modernisation strategy, the Army is equipping every infantry battalion with a dedicated drone platoon to enhance future warfare capabilities.
- This was the first operational test of the platoons, with standardisation to follow based on trial outcomes.
- The exercise, which concluded on **August 30**, displayed advanced technology, operational innovation, and professional excellence.
- A key feature was the active involvement of the Indian civil defence industry, showcasing how indigenous innovations are being rapidly transformed into battlefield advantages to strengthen national security and promote self-reliance.

55.INDIA-THAILAND MILITARY EXERCISE BEGINS AT UMROI.



- The 14th edition of the India-Thailand joint military exercise, Maitree-XIV, began at Umroi and will continue till September 14 as part of the bilateral “military-to-military exchange programme.”
- The objective of the exercise is to enhance cooperation, interoperability, and mutual understanding between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army.
- The exercise focuses on “company-level counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain” under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- The two-week programme includes tactical drills, joint planning, special arms skills, physical fitness, and raiding operations.
- The exercise will conclude with a 48-hour validation exercise simulating realistic operational scenarios.
- The Indian Army is represented by 120 personnel from the Madras Regiment battalion.
- The Royal Thai Army is represented by 53 personnel from the 1st Infantry Battalion and the 14th Infantry Brigade.
- The Maitree exercise between the two armies began in 2006 and is an important bilateral training initiative.
- The current edition further strengthens bilateral defence cooperation and reflects the shared commitment of both nations towards regional peace, stability, and security.
- The previous edition of the exercise was held at Fort Vachirapakan in Tak Province, Thailand.

56.BSF LAUNCHES DRONE WARFARE SCHOOL



- BSF, which guards India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, is training special units of "drone commandos" and "drone warriors" for modern warfare involving remote-controlled aerial platforms, with plans to deploy them in missions such as Operation Sindoor.
- A 'School of Drone Warfare' was inaugurated by BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary at the Officers' Training Academy in Tekanpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- The 2.65-lakh-strong force is raising its maiden "drone squadron" following lessons learnt after Operation Sindoor.
- The School of Drone Warfare will provide special training to border guarding troops in combating modern strategic challenges.
- The institute will prepare drone commandos and drone warriors through five special courses, including UAV operations, anti-drone warfare, surveillance, and intelligence gathering.
- The school has simulators, live drone flying zones, facilities for payload integration in UAVs, night operations, RF jammers, kinetic interceptors, hardware, and AI tools.
- After inaugurating the school, the BSF DG addressed trainee officers and spoke about the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, where drones have played a key role, along with lessons from Operation Sindoor conducted against Pakistan after the Pahalgam terrorist attack.
- Chawdhary highlighted the role of AI and ML in combat, proactive and weaponised drone use for decisive outcomes, the importance of FPV (first-person view) in piloting kamikaze drones, and strategic changes in national policies.
- During Independence Day in August, 18 BSF troops were awarded gallantry medals for "conspicuous bravery" and "unmatched valour" during Operation Sindoor, including two Vir Chakras awarded posthumously.
- The force also counters China-made Pakistani drones that smuggle drugs, weapons, and ammunition into India across the western international border.
- BSF is tasked with guarding the 2,290-km India-Pakistan International Border (IB), the Line of Control (LoC) under the Army's command, and the 4,096-km border with Bangladesh.

57.INDIAN ARMY TEAM KICKSTARTS TRAINING WITH US FORCES



- The 21st edition of the India-US Joint Military Exercise **Yudh Abhyas 2025** commenced with a grand opening ceremony at **Fort Wainwright in Alaska**, highlighting the strengthening defence partnership between the two nations.
- Over the next two weeks, **450 soldiers from each side** will participate in field and command post exercises, while also engaging with subject-matter experts (SMEs) to enhance operational synergy.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced the arrival of the Indian Army contingent at Fort Wainwright for the exercise, scheduled from **September 1 to 14**.
- Alongside the US 11th Airborne Division, Indian troops will train in **heliborne operations, mountain warfare, UAS/counter-UAS, and joint tactical drills**, boosting UN **Peacekeeping Operations** and multi-domain readiness.
- A striking image released by the MEA showed Indian soldiers assembled in front of a **C-17 Globemaster III aircraft**, symbolising the strategic airlift capacity underpinning Indo-US defence cooperation.
- According to the Defence Ministry, the **Indian side is represented by a battalion of the Madras Regiment**, while the **US contingent comprises troops from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment ("Bobcats") of the Arctic Wolves Brigade** under the US Army's 11th Airborne Division.

58.CHINA BORDER ISSUES TO PAK'S PROXY WAR: CDS CHAUHAN LISTS 6 MAJOR CHALLENGES



- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan outlined six key national security challenges facing India, stressing the need to prepare for wars extending beyond land, air, and sea.
- Speaking in Gorakhpur, he emphasized that these challenges are “not momentary but persistent,” requiring constant readiness and strategic coordination.
- The **first challenge** is the unresolved border dispute with China, which he termed India’s “biggest challenge.”
- The **second challenge** arises from Pakistan’s proxy war strategy of “bleeding India by a thousand cuts.”
- The **third challenge** is regional instability, as many neighbouring countries face political, social, and economic turbulence, leaving space for external interference.
- The **fourth challenge** is the evolving nature of warfare, which now includes space, cyberspace, and other emerging domains.
- The **fifth challenge** is posed by the nuclear capabilities of Pakistan and China, complicating conventional warfare strategies.
- The **sixth challenge** is technological, with wars becoming “more intelligent” due to rapid advancements in military technology.

59.INDIAN, US SOLDIERS CONDUCT LIVE DRILLS IN ALASKA TO BOOST DEFENCE TIES



- Reinforcing the growing defence cooperation between India and the US, the armies from both countries conducted live drills at Fort Wainwright in Alaska as part of the 21st edition of the India-US Joint Military Exercise *Yudh Abhyas 2025*.
- A total of 450 soldiers from each side are taking part in field and command post exercises while also engaging with subject-matter experts (SMEs) to further strengthen operational synergy.
- The Indian Army contingent, comprising 450 personnel led by a battalion of the Madras Regiment, arrived in Fairbanks on August 31.
- They are training alongside US soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment (“Bobcats”), part of the 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Arctic Wolves), 11th Airborne Division.
- The 2025 edition is one of the largest bilateral military exercises for the Indian Army in terms of troop mobilisation.

- This edition includes mountain and high-altitude operations under subarctic conditions, heliborne and air mobility integration, backed by artillery and aviation assets.
- The exercise also focuses on electronic warfare, surveillance, counter-drone systems, medical evacuation and combat casualty care in field conditions, and live-fire tactical drills to validate seamless interoperability.

60.INDIA, FRANCE HOLD 17TH COUNTER-TERRORISM MEET IN PARIS



- India and France reaffirmed their strong commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms during the 17th Meeting of the India-France Joint Working Group (JWG) on counter-terrorism, held in Paris.
- During the meeting, the two delegations exchanged views on the current threat assessments in their respective countries.
- Discussions included State-sponsored cross-border terrorism, terrorist activities in South Asia and the Middle East, and the increasing misuse of emerging technologies by terror groups.
- The two sides also focused on challenges posed by radicalisation and extremism, especially online, highlighting the need for joint efforts to counter terrorist propaganda and online recruitment.
- France and India expressed interest in enhancing coordination at international platforms such as the United Nations, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and No Money for Terror (NMFT) initiative.
- The MEA noted that discussions on bilateral and multilateral cooperation focused on intensifying capacity-building measures through training and exercises.
- The two countries also explored expanding the scope of their counter-terrorism dialogue to include organised crime, cybersecurity threats, and exchange of information on online propaganda.
- The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing to convene the 18th JWG meeting in India at a mutually convenient date.
- The longstanding counter-terrorism cooperation between India and France is seen as a vital element of their strategic partnership, rooted in shared democratic values and a joint commitment to global security.

61.ARMED FORCES VISION 2047 UNVEILED



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the Armed Forces for the success of 'Operation Sindoor' and urged the Defence Ministry to implement steps to achieve greater self-sufficiency and innovation to meet future challenges, an official said.
- Inaugurating the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the Eastern Command headquarters of the Army at Vijay Durg, the erstwhile Fort William, the PM reviewed the reforms implemented in the last two years and the plan for the next two years.
- Modi also unveiled the 'Indian Armed Forces Vision 2047' document at the conference.
- The PM was briefed on the operational readiness of the forces in the context of the "new normal" created by Operation Sindoor, and the future of warfare amid emerging technology and tactics, an official statement said.
- Addressing the conference, Modi praised the integral role played by the Armed Forces in nation building, anti-piracy, safe return of Indian citizens from conflict zones, as well as providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) to friendly countries.
- In line with 2025 being the 'year of reforms' in defence, the Prime Minister instructed the Ministry of Defence to swiftly implement concrete steps to achieve greater jointness, atmanirbharta and innovation to meet future challenges and to prevail against any eventuality- the statement said.

62.INDIA REJECTS EU CRITICISM OVER PARTICIPATION IN RUSSIA'S ZAPAD EXERCISE



- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) rejected criticism from the European Union over India's participation in the



multilateral Zapad exercise held in Russia's Nizhniy.

- MEA highlighted that several countries, including NATO members like the United States, Turkey, and Hungary, have also participated in the exercise as observers.
- MEA responded to comments made by European Commission Vice President Kaja Kallas, noting that the Ministry of Defence had already shared details about India's participation.
- MEA emphasized that NATO countries such as the US, Turkey, and Hungary are also or have also been observers in this exercise.
- Kallas had remarked that India's participation in the military exercise and its purchase of Russian oil were hurdles in the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks.

63.MAIDEN INDIA-GREECE MARITIME EXERCISE CONCLUDES, BOLSTERING NAVAL COOPERATION

- The maiden edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian and Hellenic Navies marked an important milestone in the growing defence cooperation between India and Greece.
- The exercise, which concluded on September 18, was conducted in two phases — the harbour phase from September 13–17 at Salamis Naval Base and the sea phase on September 17–18.

- The Indian Navy was represented by guided missile stealth frigate INS Trikanth, while the Hellenic Navy participated with the Frigate (FG) Themistokles, Submarine (SV) Pipinos and one Greek Navy Submarine.
- During the harbour phase, personnel of both navies engaged in a wide range of activities aimed at fostering mutual understanding and synergy.
- Key events included cross-deck visits to strengthen operational familiarity, professional interactions between the crew and a pre-sail conference conducted onboard HS Themistokles, Elli class frigate of the Hellenic Navy.
- During a cultural exchange onboard INS Trikanth, the ship hosted Rudrendra Tandon, Ambassador of India to Greece, Commodore Spyridon Mantis, Commander, Salamis Naval Base, and senior officers of the Hellenic Navy and their families.
- The event showcased India's rich traditions and strengthened bonds between the two maritime forces.
- Additionally, the ship's crew visited the Sacred Rock of Acropolis.

64. CHINA'S 3RD AIRCRAFT CARRIER COMPLETES FIRST ELECTROMAGNETIC TRIALS FOR FIGHTER JETS



- China's navy announced that three carrier-based aircraft have for the first time successfully carried out electromagnetic catapult-assisted take-off and landing from the country's third aircraft carrier, the Fujian.
- Fujian, gearing up for its official induction, is the first among the three Chinese aircraft carriers equipped with the electromagnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS), a technology so far used only by US carriers.
- Carrier-based aircraft J-15T, J-35 and KongJing-600 have successfully completed their inaugural electromagnetic catapult-assisted take-off and arrested landing training on the Fujian, the navy announced.
- The success showed that China's first domestically built catapult-equipped aircraft carrier has obtained electromagnetic catapult launch and recovery capabilities, marking another breakthrough in the development of China's aircraft carriers, according to state-run Xinhua news agency.
- Fujian, stated to be the most advanced aircraft carrier possessing EMALS used by the American aircraft carrier USS Gerald R Ford, was launched last year and since then has completed multiple sea trials, accumulating more than 100 days of sea trials.

- The over 80,000-tonne Fujian, capable of carrying a wide range of aircraft including fighter jets, early warning aircraft, anti-submarine aircraft and drones, will enable China to enter a new era of three aircraft carriers, according to official media reports.
- China plans to commission the Fujian this year as it has completed nearly three years of sea trials, setting the stage for the Chinese navy for the first time to operate three carrier groups.
- Recent trial deployments of the Fujian in the Taiwan Strait and the disputed South China Sea have raised concerns about Beijing flexing its muscle to enforce its territorial claims.
- China claims Taiwan as part of its mainland and also claims most of the South China Sea, contested by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.
- After the operationalisation of the Fujian, China may also extend the deployment of aircraft carriers in India's backyard – the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea – where its naval fleet is active with bases in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa, Pakistan's Gwadar port, and Sri Lanka's Hambantota port, which China acquired as a debt swap.
- According to a recent BBC report, China now operates 234 warships, the largest in the world, overtaking the US Navy's 219.
- The Indian Navy currently operates two carriers – INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya – and is commissioning new ships to maintain its influence in the Indian Ocean.

65. DELIVERIES OF S-400 MISSILE SYSTEMS TO INDIA IN 2026



- Under the USD 5.43-billion deal signed with India in 2018, Russia will complete deliveries of the S-400 Triumph (Triumph) air defence systems next year, according to a media report.
- Russia will complete the contract to supply India with five S-400 Triumph air defence systems in 2026; four of these systems have been delivered to date, and the fifth will be delivered next year.
- According to earlier media reports, the USD 5.43-billion deal (Rs 40,000 crore) was formally signed on October 5, 2018, ignoring the threat of US sanctions.
- In March 2021, US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin discussed India's planned purchase of Russia's S-400 air missile system and warned that the purchase could trigger CAATSA sanctions.
- So far, the US has not invoked the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) signed by

President Donald Trump in his first term, as the S-400 deal has not been formally completed.

- S-400 air defence missiles proved very effective during Operation Sindoor in May, Minister of State Sanjay Seth told the local Indian community during his visit to Moscow to attend the V-Day parade at Red Square as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's representative.
- Seth said India has shown interest to buy more missile systems and is exploring the possibility of acquiring its more advanced S-500 missile systems.

66. INDIAN NAVY TO COMMISSION ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHIP

- The Indian Navy is set to commission its second state-of-the-art Anti-Submarine Warfare-Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), Androth, at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on October 6 this year.
- This comes in the backdrop of China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The commissioning ceremony of the Androth will be presided over by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.
- The event marks the formal induction of the second of the 16 ASW-SWC ships into the Indian Navy.
- Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd., Kolkata, with over 80 per cent indigenous components, Androth is a testament to the Government of India's vision of 'Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance)' and India's growing indigenous maritime capabilities.
- Constructed under the guidance of the Directorate of Ship Production and the oversight of the Warship Overseeing Team in Kolkata, Androth was handed over to the Indian Navy on September 13.
- The name Androth holds strategic and symbolic significance, derived from Androth Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago, underscoring India's commitment to safeguarding its vast maritime territories.
- In its previous avatar, INS Androth (P69) served the nation with distinction for over 27 years before being decommissioned.
- The commissioning of the new Androth honours the legacy and spirit of her predecessor.
- Fitted with advanced weapon and sensor suites, modern communication systems, and waterjet propulsion, Androth is equipped to detect, track, and neutralise underwater threats with precision.

67. GOVT INKS DEAL WITH HAL FOR 97 TEJAS JETS



- The Defence Ministry sealed a ₹62,370 crore deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to procure 97 Tejas Mk-1A light combat aircraft for the Indian Air Force.
- The signing of the contract came over a month after the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the procurement.
- The delivery of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) would commence in 2027-28, with supplies to be completed over a period of six years.
- The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with HAL for procurement of 97 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A, including 68 fighters and 29 twin seaters, along with associated equipment, for the Indian Air Force at a cost of over ₹62,370 crore (excluding taxes).
- It is the second such contract awarded to the state-run aerospace company.
- In February 2021, the Defence Ministry sealed a ₹48,000 crore deal with HAL for the procurement of 83 Tejas Mk-1A jets for the IAF.
- The aircraft will have an indigenous content of over 64 per cent, with 67 additional items incorporated over and above the previous LCA Mk-1A contract signed in January 2021.
- Integration of advanced indigenously developed systems such as the Uttam Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar, Swayam Raksha Kavach, and control surface actuators will further strengthen the Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) initiatives.
- The single-engine Mk-1A will replace the IAF's MiG-21 fighters.
- The LCA Mk-1A is the most advanced variant of the indigenously designed and manufactured fighter aircraft and will serve as a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the IAF.
- The sealing of the contract comes a day before the IAF bids farewell to the MiG-21 fleet.

68.MIG-21 FLIES THROUGH INDIAN SKIES FOR LAST TIME



- The legendary Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 fighter jets, the backbone of the Indian Air Force's combat fleet for over six decades, made their final flight on Friday, marking the end of an era.
- The farewell took place under a bright sun and clear blue skies, providing a fitting backdrop for the elaborate ceremony to bid goodbye to the Russian-origin warhorse inducted in the 1960s.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the MiG-21 as a mighty machine and a symbol of national pride, noting the deep attachment Indians feel towards the aircraft.
- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, India's first man on the International Space Station, former IAF chiefs AY Tipnis, SP Tyagi and BS Dhanoa, and scores of veterans who flew the aircraft attended the event.
- Shukla, who previously flew MiG-21s, expressed excitement and nostalgia, calling the jet a big part of his life.
- Air Chief Marshal AP Singh flew a MiG-21 Bison sortie with call sign Badal 3, while Dilbagh Singh, who led the first MiG-21 squadron in 1963 and later became IAF chief, was also present.
- Squadron Leader Priya Sharma became the last woman fighter pilot to fly the MiG-21, leaving her mark in aviation history.
- The culmination of MiG-21 operations featured a ceremonial flypast and decommissioning event in Chandigarh, where the aircraft was first inducted over 60 years ago.
- The ceremony included aerial displays such as skydiving by Akash Ganga, formation take-offs by MiG-21s, precision drill movements by the Air Warrior Drill Team, performances by the Surya Kiran aerobatic team, and a symbolic flypast recreating Combat Air Patrol with Jaguars and MiG-21s.
- A joint MiG-21 and LCA Tejas flypast highlighted the transition from the legendary Bison to the indigenous Tejas fighter aircraft.
- MiG-21 jets from Squadron No. 23 participated in the flypast and were given a water cannon salute.
- A ceremonial switch-off of six MiG-21 aircraft before the dignitaries marked the official conclusion of the aircraft's operational service.

69.BSF LAUNCHES NEW COMMAND CENTRE ARMED WITH AI, GIS



- A new AI and GIS-aided command and control system was launched at the BSF headquarters to improve border security with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- The system is named the Decision Support System (DSS).
- DSS will enhance the decision-making capability of commanders at all levels.
- It will allow commanders to plan and execute operations through role-based access using custom-designed dashboards.
- DSS will integrate GIS platforms with legacy operations, incident databases, and sensor feeds from the border, creating a complete operating picture (COP) for force commanders.
- The system will benefit BSF with monitoring and predictive trend analysis for effective border management.
- It will be capable of performing AI and ML-based operations on GIS and using legacy data to predict smuggling hotspots, infiltration routes, etc., for better resource allocation and operational planning.
- DSS will be integrated with electronic border solutions, other BSF command centres, and GIS platforms of other security forces and organisations.

SPORTS & AWARDS

70. INDIAN NGO 'EDUCATE GIRLS' WINS MAGSAYSAY



- An Indian non-profit organisation working for the education of out-of-school girls in remote villages has been named among the 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees.
- The Foundation to Educate Girls Globally, widely known as 'Educate Girls', became the first Indian organisation to receive the prestigious award, according to the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF).
- Often referred to as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize, the award honours outstanding service and greatness of spirit for the people of Asia.
- The other 2025 awardees include Shaahina Ali from the Maldives for her environmental work and Flaviano Antonio L Villanueva from the Philippines.
- Each winner will receive a medallion bearing President Ramon Magsaysay's likeness, a citation certificate, and a cash prize.
- The 67th Ramon Magsaysay Award Presentation Ceremony will be held on November 7 at the Metropolitan Theatre in Manila.
- Educate Girls, founded in 2007 by Safeena Husain, a London School of Economics graduate, was recognised for addressing cultural stereotyping through girls' education and empowering young women with skills, courage, and agency.
- Husain, who was previously working in San Francisco, returned to India to take on the challenge of female illiteracy, beginning in Rajasthan and later expanding to India's most underserved regions.
- The organisation has worked in over 30,000 villages, helping more than two million girls with a retention rate of over 90%.
- In 2015, it launched the world's first Development Impact Bond in education, linking funding to measurable learning outcomes.
- Educate Girls also runs Pragati, an open schooling programme for young women aged 15–29, which has grown from an initial 300 learners to over 31,500.
- Notable previous Indian awardees include Mother Teresa (1962), Jayaprakash Narayan (1965), Satyajit Ray (1967), Arun Shourie (1982), Kiran Bedi (1994), Aruna Roy (2000), Arvind Kejriwal (2006), Sonam Wangchuk (2018), and Ravish Kumar (2019).

71. BOOK CHRONICLES A CENTURY OF PASSION FOR FOOTBALL

- Lokeswar Gogoi's football journey unfolded in libraries, archives, and conversations with players, rather than under floodlights or in national jerseys.
- His lifelong research resulted in the second expanded edition of *Asom Football*, an 825-page chronicle of more than a century of Assam's football history.
- The book covers the period from the early 1900s to recent tournaments, featuring players who represented India, Santosh Trophy campaigns, school tournaments, and forgotten district-level matches.
- It includes anecdotes such as Guwahati's Maharana Club's spirited performance against Mohammedan Sporting in the 1940 IFA Shield.
- The volume documents Assam players in the Calcutta League and other iconic tournaments.
- Rare photographs enrich the book, making it a historical record and a time capsule of football in Assam.

72. MANU BHAKER, SUNIL CHHETRI, LOVLINA AMONG FIRST RECIPIENTS



- Double-Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, Indian football legend Sunil Chhetri, and Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain were among the first recipients of the newly instituted **Bhogeswar Baruah National Sports Awards**.
- Manu Bhaker was named **Best Sportsperson (National)**, while Sunil Chhetri received the **Lifetime Achievement (National)** award for his illustrious football career.
- Weightlifter Bedabrat Bharali was recognised as the **Emerging Player (National)**.
- From Assam, Lovlina Borgohain was adjudged **Best Sportsperson**, Dipankar Bhattacharya received the **Lifetime Achievement** award for badminton, and paddler Priyanuj Bhattacharya was honoured as **Emerging Player**.
- The awards, instituted by the Assam Olympic Association (AOA) in honour of Bhogeswar Baruah — Assam's first

Asian Games gold medallist — will be conferred annually in six categories: Best Sportsperson, Emerging Player, and Lifetime Achievement at both national and Assam levels.

- The inaugural ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AOA president Sarbananda Sonowal, who jointly handed over the honours.
- Special recognition awards were also presented to Prema Dhar Sarma, Swadhin Ch Deka Raja, Balendra Mohan Chakravarty, Jowel Bey, Joydip Das, Pradip MR Brahma, Rimpi Buragohain, Syed Eske Alam, Babul Phukan, and Rakesh Banik.
- Bhogeswar Baruah, who won gold in the 800 metres at the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok and silver in the 4x400m relay at the 1970 Games, was the first Assamese to receive the **Arjuna Award**.
- Chief Minister Sarma termed the launch of the award a defining moment for Assam's sporting fraternity, while Sonowal described it as a tribute to the State's indomitable sporting spirit.
- Both leaders highlighted Assam's emergence as a sporting hub and the government's continued investment in infrastructure, events, and grassroots talent development.

73.INDIA CLINCH HISTORIC MEN'S COMPOUND TEAM GOLD



- India achieved a historic first by winning gold in the men's compound archery team event at Gwangju, South Korea, making up for the disappointment of the women's team, which missed the podium for the first time in eight years at the World Championships.
- India's top qualifier Rishabh Yadav also bagged silver in the mixed team event with veteran Jyothi Surekha Vennam, while the women's team bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals, ending a consistent medal run since 2017.
- Seeded second after Yadav's eighth-place finish in individual qualifiers, the Indian men's trio of Yadav, Aman Saini, and Prathamesh Fuge staged a comeback to defeat France 235-233 in a thrilling final.
- France was represented by Nicolas Girrard, Jean Philippe Boulch, and Francois Dubois, but the Indian team displayed remarkable composure under pressure, continuing their strong form since Saturday.
- Much credit went to Prathamesh Fuge, India's lowest-ranked qualifier at 19th, who redeemed himself after a shaky start with two 9s in the first end.

- The 22-year-old then fired six consecutive perfect 10s, including a decisive final arrow that sealed India's landmark gold medal.

74.GOLDEN DOUBLE FOR INDIA



- Nakshi Hooda cemented their place in Indian boxing history by clinching World Championship titles with gritty wins as the country capped off its best-ever campaign in the women's section on foreign soil.
- Jaismine outclassed Paris Olympics silver medallist Julia Szeremeta of Poland in the 57kg summit clash, prevailing 4-1 on the judges' scorecards (30-27, 29-28, 30-27, 28-29, 29-28) to end her campaign with a golden flourish.
- Debutant Minakshi out-punched Paris Olympics bronze medallist Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan by the same margin in the 48kg final, exacting revenge for her World Cup loss in July.
- Adding to the glory were Nupur Sheoran (80+kg) and the seasoned Pooja Rani (80kg), who signed off with silver and bronze medals respectively in non-Olympic weight categories.
- India ended with a haul of four medals, the best-ever in an overseas edition.
- With their victories, Jaismine and Minakshi joined an illustrious list of Indian world champions featuring six-time winner Mary Kom, two-time champion Nikhat Zareen, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL, Lekha KC, Nitu Ghanghas, Lovlina Borgohain and Saweety Boora.
- Competing in her third World Championships, the 24-year-old Jaismine grew steadily into the bout.
- After a relatively sedate start where both pugilists sized each other up, it was Szeremeta who drew first blood, prodded into action by the referee.
- The much shorter Pole, who had lost the Olympic final to gender-row boxer Lin Yu-ting, was fast and precise, using defensive manoeuvres to dart in and out.
- She negotiated Jaismine's long reach to win the opening round 3-2.

75.71ST NATIONAL FILM AWARDS PRESENTED:

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred National Awards for acting to Shah Rukh Khan, Vikrant Massey and Rani Mukerji while Malayalam superstar Mohanlal was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke lifetime achievement award in a ceremony that doffed its hat to mainstream popular cinema.

- Filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra took home the best film prize for “12th Fail”, and Karan Johar and Apoorva Mehra received the award for “Rocky Aur Rani Kii Kahaani” for best popular film providing wholesome entertainment.
- The best director award went to Sudipto Sen for “The Kerala Story”.
- The National Awards for 2023 were announced in August.
- It’s the first National Award for Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukerji and Vikrant Massey.
- Shah Rukh Khan got it for his role in “Jawan”, sharing his win with “12th Fail” star Vikrant Massey.
- Rani Mukerji bagged it for “Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway”.
- There were whistles and loud cheers as Rani and Shah Rukh went up to receive their awards at the traditionally sober ceremony.
- Mohanlal, recognised for a remarkable career spanning five decades and more than 360 films, got a standing ovation from the crowd gathered at the city’s Vigyan Bhawan.
- Meghna Gulzar and Ronnie Screwvala were presented awards for the biopic on Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw “Sam Bahadur”, the best film promoting national, social and environmental values.
- Vaibhavi Merchant won the best choreography award for “Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani” song “Dhindhora Baaje”.
- Shilpa Rao was named best female playback singer for “Jawan” track “Chaleya”.
- Sanya Malhotra-starrer “Kathal: A Jackfruit Mystery” was named the best Hindi film.
- Regional movies were recognised in categories such as best supporting actor and actress and in technical segments.
- In the language film categories, the winners were — “Rongatapu 1982” (Assamese), “Deep Fridge” (Bengali), “Parking” (Tamil), “Kandeelu” (Kannada), “Shamchi Aai” (Marathi), “Puskara” (Odia), “Godday Godday Chaa” (Punjabi) and “Bhagavanth Kesari” (Telugu).

76.DEVAJIT SAIKIA ELECTED BCCI SECRETARY UNOPPOSED

- It was reported that former Delhi captain Mithun Manhas had been elected unopposed as the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), along with other members including the board’s secretary Devajit Saikia, during its 94th Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- The 45-year-old Manhas was said to have become the 37th president of the cricket body after succeeding former India cricketer Roger Binny, who had resigned from the post the previous month after turning 70.
- It was noted that Manhas was the third consecutive First-Class cricketer to have taken over as the board’s president after Binny and former captain Sourav Ganguly.
- Manhas, who had featured in 157 First-Class, 130 List A and 55 IPL matches between 1997-98 and 2016-17, had reportedly emerged as the frontrunner following an informal meeting of

the board’s power brokers in New Delhi on September 20 ahead of the final day of nomination.

- It was mentioned that he had also served as the director of a three-member ad-hoc committee formed by the BCCI to manage the affairs of the Jammu and Kashmir State Cricket Association (JKCA) due to mismanagement.
- Manhas, with an impressive tally of 9,714 First-Class runs including 27 centuries and 4,126 runs in List A matches, had said he would rely on his experience as a player and administrator.
- Devajit Saikia was reported to have been elected unopposed as the secretary of the Board of Control.
- The AGM was also said to have confirmed a few other key appointments with BCCI secretary Saikia and IPL Governing Council chairman Arun Dhumal retaining their posts, while former India cricketer and Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) president Raghuram Bhat took charge as the treasurer.
- Veteran administrator Rajeev Shukla was stated to continue as the board’s vice-president while M Khairul Jamal Majumdar was named as one of the two representatives in the IPL Governing Council along with Dhumal.

77.INDIA LIFT ASIA CUP WITH 5-WICKET WIN OVER PAKISTAN



- India had showcased resilience and composure to clinch the Asia Cup title, defeating arch-rivals Pakistan by five wickets in a gripping final at the Dubai International Stadium.
- Chasing a modest target of 147, India was said to have relied on Tilak Varma’s unbeaten half-century and a composed knock from Shivam Dube before Rinku Singh sealed the contest with a boundary in the final over.
- Varma was stated to have anchored the chase brilliantly, scoring an unbeaten 69 off 53 balls, while Dube chipped in with a valuable 33 off 22 deliveries.
- India’s reply was described as measured; although Faheem Ashraf (3/29) dented the innings with crucial strikes, the batting line-up reportedly never looked under real pressure.
- The decisive moment was said to have come in the final over, with India needing one run off three balls, when Rinku Singh lofted a boundary to spark celebrations in the Indian camp and among fans at the stadium.
- Earlier, Pakistan was reported to have appeared in control after a fluent opening partnership of 84 between Sahibzada

Farhan and Fakhar Zaman, but then collapsed spectacularly against India's spin attack.

- From a commanding 113 for one, Pakistan was bundled out for 146 in 19.1 overs, losing its last nine wickets for just 33 runs.
- Farhan's 57 off 38 balls, studded with four fours and three sixes, and Fakhar's 46 off 35 deliveries had initially put Pakistan in a promising position.
- However, it was noted that once Kuldeep Yadav dismissed Saim Ayub, the floodgates opened. Kuldeep was described as

the standout bowler with figures of 4/30 in his four overs, while Varun Chakravarthy (2/30) and Axar Patel (2/26) provided excellent support, choking the batters with clever variations and tight lines.

- Jasprit Bumrah, though initially wayward, was reported to have returned to finish with 2/25. His dismissal of Haris Rauf with a searing yorker ended the innings and ensured India carried momentum into the chase.



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ASSAM & NORTH-EAST

78. ASSAM STATE HALL OPENED AT WORLD EXPO 2025 IN OSAKA:



- The Assam State Hall was formally inaugurated at the **World Expo 2025** in Osaka, Japan.
- The event, organised by the **Bureau International des Expositions (BIE)**, is being held from **August 31 to September 6**.
- India has set up the **Bharat (India) Pavilion**, jointly constructed by the **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)** and the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**.
- Assam's participation highlights its **cultural heritage**, strong infrastructure, skilled workforce, technological growth, and investor-friendly environment.
- Entrepreneurs from Assam are showcasing **handloom, handicrafts, fragrances, and flavours**, attracting significant interest from global visitors.
- The **Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam**, organised a cultural performance at the India Pavilion.
- A 10-member troupe, led by renowned artist **Ranjit Gogoi**, presented a variety of traditional folk dances, adding vibrancy to the event.

79. ARUNACHAL'S TRIBAL LANGUAGES ON BRINK OF EXTINCTION



- The state is home to **over 40 languages and more than 100 dialects**, making it one of India's richest linguistic regions.

- Many of these languages are at risk of extinction, including **Nah**, spoken by the Nah people who number just over 1,000 (Census 2011) and live in Upper Subansiri district.
- Nah belongs to the **Sino-Tibetan language family** and is closely related to Tagin.
- Preservation efforts include language competitions and pictorial glossaries, but speakers remain concerned about its survival.
- Revival initiatives are taking place across the state:
 - In **Nafra**, parents are reviving bedtime storytelling in Sartang.
 - In **Kibithoo**, village schools hold "language days" where children greet and converse in Meyor.
- A government official noted that **UNESCO lists 34 languages** of the state under various levels of endangerment.
- Linguistic expert **Robert Blench** suggested the actual number may vary since the UNESCO report is statistics-based and lacks a comprehensive ground survey.
- According to the state government's Research Department, **73 spoken languages** are currently recorded in Arunachal Pradesh.

80. ARUNACHAL GOVERNOR GREETES PEOPLE ON SOLUNG FESTIVAL



- Arunachal Pradesh Governor **Lt General (Retd) KT Parnaik** extended greetings to the people of the state on the eve of **Solung**, the annual agro-based and socio-religious festival of the Adi community.
- He expressed hope that the festival would continue to uphold the state's **cultural vibrancy and rich traditions**.
- The Governor stated that Solung reflects the **way of life of the Adi community** and has been celebrated since ancient times with devotion, joy, and gratitude.
- Prayers are offered for **a good harvest, healthy livestock, peace, prosperity, and collective well-being**.
- On this sacred occasion, offerings are made to:
 - **Kine Nane** – Goddess of Crops and Prosperity

- **Dadi Bote** – God of the Animal Kingdom
- **Doying-Bote** – God of Wisdom
- and other benevolent deities for blessings of peace, progress, and prosperity.

81.YUVA LEKHAK SANMAN 2025: ASSAM WRITERS GET RS 25K BOOST

- The **Publication Board Assam** has invited applications for the **Yuva Lekhak Sanman** by **September 5, 2025**.
- The award carries a **financial incentive of ₹25,000**.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - Applicants must be **permanent residents of Assam** (proof: residence certificate/voter ID).
 - Books must be written in **Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, or any other ethnic language of Assam**.
 - Translations from other **Indian languages listed in the 8th Schedule** into Assamese or other languages of Assam will be considered.
 - Published articles in **reputed magazines/newspapers** are also eligible.
 - Applicants must be **below 40 years of age as of January 1, 2025** (age proof required).

82.UNNATURAL DEATHS: ASSAM 2ND IN ELEPHANT, 3RD IN TIGER



- Assam ranks **second in unnatural elephant deaths** and **third in unnatural tiger deaths** over the past three years, according to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Elephant deaths in Assam (past three years):**
 - 2022–23: 19
 - 2023–24: 15
 - 2024–25: 21
 - **Total: 55**
- In other Northeast states during the same period:
 - Arunachal Pradesh – 1

- Meghalaya – 9
- Nagaland – 3
- Tripura – 3
- Odisha recorded the highest number with **100 unnatural elephant deaths**. Nationwide, **388 elephants** died unnaturally in three years.
- **Tiger deaths in Assam (past three years): 7**
- Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number with 19, followed by Maharashtra with 11.
- Across India, **66 tigers** died unnaturally in three years.
- **Government measures to prevent unnatural wildlife deaths:**
 - Creation of a network of protected areas (national parks, sanctuaries, conservation reserves, community reserves) under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
 - Provision of strict punishments and forfeiture of equipment, vehicles, or weapons used in wildlife offences.
 - Issuance of guidelines for **eco-friendly linear infrastructure** to reduce human-animal conflicts.
 - Establishment of the **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** to collect intelligence on poaching and illegal trade, coordinate law enforcement, and issue advisories to prevent deaths due to electrocution.

83.ASSAM HOSTS FIRST-EVER JANI SIKAR FESTIVAL HONOURING ADIVASI WOMEN'S BRAVERY

- The Adivasi community in Assam celebrated the Jani Sikar festival for the first time, honouring the courage, leadership, and resilience of Adivasi women.
- The event was jointly organised by the All Adivasi Women's Association of Assam (AAWAA) and the All Adivasi Students' Association of Assam (AASAA).
- Hundreds of women participated, wearing traditional attire and warrior costumes, and reenacted the legendary mock hunt central to the festival.
- Observed once every 12 years, Jani Sikar commemorates the bravery of Adivasi women during a 17th-century battle at Rohtasgarh, Bihar, where in 1610 they disguised themselves as men and fought Mughal invaders.
- The festival celebrates their defiance and heroism, symbolising women's empowerment and preserving Adivasi culture and history in Assam.

84.THREE NORTHEAST STATES AND BIHAR RECEIVE 'DEFICIENT' RAINFALL

- Four states recorded 'deficient' rainfall till August 31; three of them are in Northeast India, including Assam.
- Monsoon period spans from June to September.

- IMD predicted below-normal rainfall for Northeast India in September as well.
- Rainfall deficit: Assam – 33% less, Meghalaya – 42% less, Arunachal Pradesh – 37% less, Bihar – 29% less.
- Ladakh and Rajasthan received 'large excess' rainfall during the same period.
- Eight states recorded excess rainfall, while 22 states received normal rainfall.
- IMD's September 2025 outlook: Northeast likely to see below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures.

85.NTF SIGNS HISTORIC MOU WITH IIT BOMBAY'S BHARATGEN



- In a landmark moment for Assam and the Assamese language, the Nanda Talukdar Foundation (NTF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BharatGen, IIT Bombay, in Mumbai.
- BharatGen is the Government of India's flagship AI initiative led by IIT Bombay to build a sovereign, indigenous large language model for Indian languages.
- BharatGen currently supports nine Indian languages — Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Malayalam, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Telugu, and Kannada. Assamese will be the 10th language to be included.
- Launched in June 2025, BharatGen is India's sovereign and indigenous alternative to global platforms like ChatGPT.
- The programme is led by IIT Bombay, with participation from other IITs, IIITs, and leading institutions, making it the world's first government-funded multimodal large language model (LLM) initiative.
- BharatGen's mission is to develop AI agents fluent in all 22 scheduled Indian languages, grounded in Indian cultural and linguistic data, and made available as an open-source resource.
- For India, BharatGen is both a technological and strategic step to ensure AI inclusivity, linguistic sovereignty, and global competitiveness.
- This milestone is the result of "Digitizing Assam," a community-driven project spearheaded by NTF, which in just 40 months has digitized and preserved over 2 million pages of Assamese books, journals, manuscripts, and ancient xasipaats.

- It is one of the largest citizen-led digital preservation initiatives in the country, largely driven by volunteers, students, and cultural institutions.
- Through this MoU, NTF is contributing its 2 million pages of digitized Assamese content to BharatGen, ensuring Assamese gains representation in the AI era alongside other major Indian languages.
- For the first time, Assamese now has a robust digital corpus capable of powering AI tools and platforms that can generate, translate, and converse in the language.

86.CM HIMANTA BISWA SARMA INAUGURATES ₹57.34-CR JAGADISH CHANDRA BOSE CAMPUS IN HOJAI



- Assam Chief Minister dedicated the newly built **Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose Campus** of **Rabindranath Thakur Vishwavidyalaya** at Hojai, marking a significant milestone in the state's higher education sector.
- Constructed at a cost of **₹57.34 crore**, the campus includes an academic building, administrative block, Vice Chancellor's office, CCTV surveillance, intercom system, and other modern facilities for a secure and efficient learning environment.
- At the inauguration, CM Sarma announced a **₹50 crore package** for further development of the university.
- A new road directly linking the university to the **National Highway** will also be constructed to improve connectivity for students and faculty.
- The Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening higher education infrastructure across Assam, enabling universities to become hubs of knowledge, research, and innovation.
- The inauguration of the Jagadish Chandra Bose Campus is expected to significantly boost academic activities in **Hojai and nearby regions**.

87.ITANAGAR HOSTS NE REGIONAL MINISTERS' MEET

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu said that the budget allocation for the Northeast has risen by 153 per cent since 2014–15, with over ₹1.45 lakh crore invested in infrastructure projects in the region under the PM Gati Shakti Scheme.
- Speaking at the inaugural session of the North East Region Ministers' Conference on Civil Aviation-cum-3rd North East Aviation Summit, the Union minister said the summit has emerged as an important platform to discuss infrastructure development, policy initiatives, and collaborative opportunities to boost connectivity in the region.
- Kinjarapu announced that the government will extend the UDAN scheme for another 10 years in a modified form, providing greater assurance for civil aviation stakeholders, particularly smaller airlines and states.
- Highlighting connectivity as the region's biggest challenge, he said plans are under way to develop heliports in every district of all northeastern states under the extended UDAN scheme.
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, in his address, said the Northeast has witnessed unprecedented development in the last 11 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.
- Khandu announced that Arunachal Pradesh will soon have two additional airports and sought continued support and technical assistance from the Civil Aviation Ministry.
- Civil aviation ministers, representatives from all northeastern states, policymakers, and industry leaders are participating in the daylong event to discuss ways to expand airport infrastructure, promote helicopter and small aircraft services, enhance general aviation, and explore opportunities in seaplanes, drones, and maintenance facilities.
- The summit is jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), with support from the Arunachal Pradesh government.
- This is the first time Arunachal Pradesh is hosting the prestigious event.

88.GU JUMPS TO 9TH IN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

- Gauhati University (GU) has achieved the 9th position among state public universities in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, a significant improvement from its 13th rank last year.
- In addition to its top-10 ranking among state public universities, GU also secured the 33rd spot among all universities in India and the 52nd position among all institutions nationwide.
- This recognition follows Gauhati University's strong performance in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Rankings, where it was placed in the 351–400 bracket and ranked 48th in India.
- This year marks the 10th edition of the NIRF India Rankings, which evaluated institutions across 17 categories.

- For the first time, a new category was introduced to assess performance against Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a special focus on environmentally sustainable practices.
- The top five state public universities in this year's rankings are Jadavpur University, Anna University, Panjab University, Andhra University, and Kerala University.
- GU's entry into the top 10 is a notable milestone for higher education in Assam.

89.STATE LAUNCHES MAJOR SKILL EDUCATION PROJECT WITH TATA-NELCO



- The Department of School Education and Samagra Shiksha Axom, in collaboration with TATA-NELCO, formalized an agreement to implement the 'Hub and Spoke Model of Skill Education' in government secondary schools across Assam.
- This agreement follows an MoU signed on February 26, which established TATA-NELCO as a strategic partner in the state's skill development efforts.
- Under the new arrangement, Samagra Shiksha Axom and TATA-NELCO will launch the project in a phased manner.
- Education Minister Dr. Ranoj Pegu described the partnership as a historic milestone for Assam's education system, emphasizing that it will provide students with cutting-edge skills.
- He stated that the initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focusing on industry-oriented learning and employability.
- The project will be funded in a 75:25 ratio, with TATA-NELCO providing the larger share.
- Officials noted that this represents one of the largest single investments in Assam's education sector in recent years.
- The 'Hub and Spoke' model involves a central "Hub" institution providing vocational resources, trainers, and infrastructure, while nearby "Spoke" schools connect to the Hub to share in the benefits.
- The project will be implemented in two stages:
 - Phase 1: Ten Hub Schools and 70 Spoke Schools will introduce skill courses for Classes IX to XII.
 - Phase 2: 40 Hub Schools and 430 Spoke Schools will be established across the state.
- Each Hub School will offer 10 skill sectors, while each Spoke School will cover two, ensuring access to vocational training in both urban and rural areas.

- Course delivery will be supported by satellite-based technology, with each Hub and Spoke School receiving two expert trainers to ensure quality instruction.
- Identified courses include Artificial Intelligence, Industrial Internet of Things, Robotics and Motion Control, Augmented and Virtual Reality, 3D Printing, Drone Technology, Automobile and Electric Vehicle Technology, Design and Innovation, Computer-Aided Machining, and Home Electronics.
- These courses have been chosen to align with global employment trends and prepare students for future industries, bridging the gap between education and employment.
- Minister Pegu noted that the project will not only modernize vocational education but also equip youth with the knowledge and skills required by present and future industries.

90. ASSAM RIFLES HANDS OVER CANCHIPUR HILLOCK TO MANIPUR GOVT



- The Assam Rifles handed over the historic Canchipur Hillock – also known as the Langthabal Hillock or Langthabal Konung (Palace) – to the Art and Culture Department of Manipur.
- Atop this sacred hillock stands the Langthabal palace complex, located on the southern side of the Manipur University campus at Canchipur, once the seat of power of the Manipur kingdom.
- Established in 1827 by Maharaja Gambhir Singh following the liberation of Manipur from Burmese occupation, the palace served as the capital until 1844.
- The site also houses the Langthabal temple, a centuries-old structure dedicated to traditional Meitei deities, believed to have been patronised during the reign of Maharaja Bhagyachandra Singh in the late 18th century.
- Though now in ruins, the temple remains a revered symbol of Manipur's spiritual heritage, with its mandap and sanctum still drawing quiet reverence from visitors and historians alike.
- Spanning over 22 acres, the palace and temple complex is protected under the Manipur Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1976.
- For over four decades, Assam Rifles and the Indian Army maintained a company operating base at this location.
- Recognising the hillock's immense historical and emotional significance, the Government of Manipur constructed an alternate post for the Assam Rifles on an adjoining hillock, ensuring seamless continuity of security operations while enabling the transfer of the heritage site.

- The relocation process began on November 30, 2023, marked by the inauguration of the new accommodation for the Assam Rifles.

91. BLACK MAJESTY EMERGES FROM THE SHADOWS IN ASSAM'S WILD HEART

- **Event:** Rare **melanistic leopard (black panther)** spotted in **Manas National Park, Assam.**
- **Captured by:** Forest officials during a **routine wildlife monitoring patrol.**
- **Scientific Note:**
 - Melanism = genetic condition with excess **melanin.**
 - Species: same as **Indian leopard (Panthera pardus fusca).**
 - Such individuals are **extremely rare & elusive.**
- **About Manas NP:**
 - UNESCO World Heritage Site, located at the **foothills of the Himalayas along Bhutan border.**
 - Home to endangered species: **Bengal tiger, pygmy hog, golden langur.**
- **Conservation Action:**
 - Officials increasing **camera trap coverage** to study behavior, movement, and breeding.
- **Significance:**
 - Strengthens case for **big cat conservation.**
 - Highlights importance of protecting **fragile habitats of Northeast India.**

92. MANIPUR GOVT TO HONOUR PACTS, MEITEI GROUPS REGISTER PROTEST

- Manipur Chief Secretary said that the agreements signed with Kuki-Zo groups would be honoured, while stressing that the Government is making efforts to restore normalcy in the violence-hit State.
- Two prominent Kuki-Zo armed groups recently signed a Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with the Government on renegotiated terms, agreeing to maintain Manipur's territorial integrity, relocate designated camps away from vulnerable areas, and work for lasting peace and stability.
- Civil society group Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), after meetings in New Delhi with Ministry of Home Affairs officials, decided to "reopen" the Dimapur-Imphal National Highway-2 for free movement of commuters and essential goods.
- Meitei body COCOMI protested the signing of the SoO agreement, while Kuki-Zo organisations criticised KZC for "unilaterally" reopening the highway without wider consultation.
- Several Kuki civil rights and armed organisations condemned KZC's decision, asserting that "Meiteis will not be allowed to enter Kuki-majority areas."
- The Village Volunteers Coordination Committee (Eastern, Southern and Western Zone) opposed the "unilateral"

decision of KZC, claiming it was made without consulting the general public or primary stakeholders affected by the conflict.

- Militant outfit United Kuki National Army (UKNA), a non-signatory to the SoO pact, strongly opposed KZC's move, saying no peace deal should be signed until the demand for separate administration is addressed.
- KZC, however, clarified that the question of "reopening" NH-2 does not arise since the road was never closed, and cautioned against misinterpreting its decision as support for unrestricted movement across Meitei and Kuki areas.
- Imphal Valley-based Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an umbrella body of civil society groups, opposed the Centre's decision to extend the SoO agreement with Kuki-Zo groups, calling it an "anti-people move."
- Officials stated that signing the SoO agreement with the Kuki National Organisation and United People's Front is expected to positively impact peace efforts in Manipur.
- The development comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to Manipur next week, his first since the ethnic clashes between Meiteis and Kukis began in May 2023, which claimed over 260 lives and displaced thousands.

93.TRA TOCKLAI LAUNCHES DECAFFEINATED TEA POWDER



- Tea Research Association (Tocklai) launched a unique decaffeinated green tea powder with the potential to compete with Japanese matcha.
- The product was released by Tea Board Deputy Chairman Arunita Phukan Yadav at the 61st annual general meeting of the TRA in Kolkata.
- Developed from Assam's elite clones TV 9, 11, and 12, the powder contains 75% less caffeine than conventional green tea and is enriched with antioxidants that support cellular health.
- The product was developed by TRA scientists Dr. Padma Pallav and Dr. Himanshu Deka, continuing Tocklai's legacy of product innovation.

94.ASSAM INTRODUCES 'FAMILY FIRST' LEAVE FOR GOVT EMPLOYEES

- Assam government has announced a pioneering two-day special leave in November for state government employees to spend time with their parents-in-law, aimed at promoting family harmony and cultural values.
- The initiative, announced by the Chief Minister, is the first of its kind and seeks to strengthen familial ties beyond the immediate household.
- The special leave will be available once a year in November for both male and female government employees.
- It is designed to encourage visits and interaction with in-laws, a culturally significant but often-overlooked relationship in Indian society.
- The move has been widely praised on social media and by civil society groups, with many describing it as empathetic governance.
- Some have dubbed it the "in-law leave," highlighting its uniqueness in India's administrative framework.
- The state government clarified that the leave is optional and will not be deducted from the employees' regular leave balance.
- Assam's initiative may inspire other states to adopt similar people-centric policies, blending tradition with modern governance.

95.ASSAM IGNITES A NEW ENERGY ERA WITH TOP RANK IN EFFICIENCY INDEX

- Assam has emerged as the top performer in the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024, surpassing traditionally dominant states and becoming a model of sustainable development.
- The SEEI, developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in collaboration with NITI Aayog, evaluates states on their energy efficiency efforts across buildings, industry, municipalities, transport, and agriculture.
- Assam's success is credited to a dynamic policy environment, strong institutional backing, and effective implementation of initiatives.
- Key measures include mandatory energy audits in industries, retrofitting public buildings with energy-efficient technologies, and incentivizing electric mobility.
- The state has effectively used digital tools for energy monitoring and transparent reporting systems, setting itself apart from others.
- Rural electrification and efficient agricultural pump schemes have significantly reduced energy wastage in Assam's agricultural sector.
- This recognition enhances national visibility and boosts investor confidence in Assam's green energy initiatives.
- Assam's achievement highlights that energy efficiency is not limited to metro regions but is a nationwide necessity.

- As India pursues its climate goals, Assam's example demonstrates how local leadership and strategic action can deliver transformative outcomes.

96. RAJ BHAVAN HONOURS 284 SENIOR-MOST RETIRED ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TEACHERS

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, Raj Bhavan Assam, under the leadership of Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, honoured 284 senior-most surviving retired elementary education teachers across Assam on the occasion of Teachers' Day.
- Raj Bhavan, Assam launched the 'Assam Governor Varishtha Shikshak Samman' to recognize and honour the senior-most surviving retired elementary education teachers across the State for their services.
- The initiative was launched as a gesture of deep gratitude to those who dedicated their lives to society and nation-building through imparting education.
- On Teachers' Day, Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya personally felicitated Rajat Chandra Goswami, a 94-year-old retired primary school teacher, by visiting his residence at Adhar Satra, Hatigarh in Jorhat.
- Similar felicitation programmes were simultaneously organized across the State at district, co-district, and block levels to honour 284 senior-most surviving retired elementary education teachers.
- As per Raj Bhavan's directions, senior officials of the Assam government felicitated 35 senior-most surviving retired primary teachers at the district level by visiting their respective homes.
- At the co-district level, 126 retired teachers were honoured by Additional Deputy Commissioners or designated district officers.
- At the Elementary Education Block level, 123 retired teachers received honours from their respective Block Elementary Education Officers (BEOs).
- The veteran teachers were felicitated with a gamosa, fruit basket, and a citation from the Governor.
- In all field-level felicitations, authorized dignitaries personally visited the homes of the teachers to offer their respects, underscoring the State's commitment to the teaching community.

97. DAWN OF A FESTIVAL: ARUNACHAL'S DONG TO HOST 'SUN RISE FESTIVAL' FROM DEC 29 TO JAN 2

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced the launch of the first-ever "Sun Rise Festival," a five-day cultural celebration in Dong, the village that sees the first sunrise in India.
- The festival aims to transform the quiet Himalayan hamlet into a vibrant stage for tribal heritage, sunrise treks, mountain music, and borderland storytelling.



- CM Khandu said the initiative is part of a larger plan to promote border tourism while safeguarding the cultural richness of the region.
- Set against misty peaks and golden dawns, the festival will showcase:
 - Performances by local Mishmi, Monpa, and Digaru tribes
 - Traditional food fairs and handicraft bazaars
 - Camping under starlit skies with tribal folktales
- Strategically located near the India-China-Myanmar trijunction, Dong is being reimagined as India's first light and a new cultural frontier.
- Through the Sun Rise Festival, Arunachal Pradesh invites the nation to experience the dawn, the stories, and the promise of Dong.

98. UNIQUE MUSIC CLASSES AT MODEL SCHOOLS:

- As part of the birth centenary celebrations of 'Sudhakantha' Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, the State government will introduce a unique system of music classes in the Aadarsha Vidyalayas of Assam.
- The cultural affairs department plans to implement the 'Gurusish' programme in the model schools, which provides an online music learning platform.
- The Gurusish music education programme is an online Learning Management System (LMS) that uses the Gamaka Box Notation System (GBNS) to teach various forms of Indian music.
- It is an innovation from Music Temple Private Limited, incubated at IIT Madras Pravartak.
- Gamaka Box Notation System (GBNS) is the first and only patented Indian music notation system, invented by renowned music composer Ramesh Vinayakam.
- GBNS is designed to capture and simplify the complex, nuanced melodic movements known as gamakas.
- The system blends tradition with technological innovation to enhance musical learning and preservation, simplifying the process for Carnatic, Hindustani, film, and folk music.
- This innovative method enables students to learn music in a structured and engaging way, helping them better understand and appreciate the complexities of Indian music.

- It also provides resources for music teachers and aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP), bringing art on par with sciences and offering a complete solution for institutions in Indian music education.
- The Assam government, in its budget, had decided to introduce music classes in 56 Aadarsha Vidyalayas.
- More schools are likely to be covered if the first phase is successful.

99.CM HOLDS TALKS ON NEW MUSEUM FOR VRINDAVANI VASTRA:



- Assam Chief Minister held a detailed discussion with JSW Foundation chairperson Sangita Jindal regarding the construction of a state-of-the-art museum in Guwahati, where the 16th-century silk textile Vrindavani Vastra will be displayed.
- Created by Vaishnav saint Srimanta Sankaradeva, the Vrindavani Vastra is currently housed at the British Museum in London and will be loaned to Assam in 2027 for public display.
- This extraordinary 16th-century textile masterpiece, woven during the time of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva, will come to Assam on loan in 2027.
- To honour its legacy, JSW will build a state-of-the-art museum in Guwahati, designed as per global standards and following specifications of the British Museum.
- On August 30, the Chief Minister announced that the British Museum agreed to loan the Vrindavani Vastra with certain conditions, including a world-class facility for its display in Assam for 18 months.
- The JSW group of companies will set up the museum as part of its CSR initiative.
- In addition to the physical exhibit, the British Museum has agreed to develop a high-quality digital representation of the Vrindavani Vastra, which will be exhibited in February 2026 at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra.
- This digital version will also be made available online, allowing people from across the globe to view it.
- Vrindavani Vastra was created under the guidance of Srimanta Sankaradeva, depicting scenes from the life of Lord Krishna, at the request of Koch king Naranarayan, and also contains a part of a poem written by him.
- The exhibit, acquired in 1904 from Tibet by the British Museum, is nine-and-a-half metres long, made up of several silk drapes, and originally featured 15 separate pieces that were later assembled.

- The textile stands as a testament to Assamese weaving, blending elements from multiple artistic traditions, and travelled from Assam to Tibet before being acquired by the British Museum.

100.SUDHAKANTHA BELONGED TO WHOLE WORLD, SAY GUV, CM



- Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma paid tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika at the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Samannay Tirtha, marking the inauguration of the year-long centenary celebrations dedicated to honouring the life and legacy of the music maestro.
- Describing Hazarika as “the soul of Assam and a symbol of India’s cultural consciousness”, the Governor said that the centenary celebration is not merely an event of remembrance, but a festival of inspiration, aimed at igniting the imagination of generations to come.
- Quoting iconic songs like *Manuhe Manuhor Babe*, *Moi Eti Zazabor*, and *Dil Hoom Hoom Kare*, the Governor emphasized how Hazarika’s music resonated with people from all walks of life, articulating the struggles of workers, the hopes of the common man, and the shared humanity that binds all.
- Assam CM said that on September 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would also unveil a “beautifully written book” on Hazarika, whose translated versions in all Indian languages would be sent to libraries of every college and university across the country.
- Synchronizing with the celebration of ‘Year of Books’, the government would also distribute this special book on Hazarika to 20 lakh families in Assam.
- As part of the centenary celebrations, the State government would organize events in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Kolkata, Mumbai, and New Delhi.
- The concluding ceremony would see the presence of the President of India as the chief guest.
- The CM mentioned that the construction of a museum dedicated to Bhupen Hazarika’s dreams would be completed within a year at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati.
- This museum would play a crucial role in preserving Hazarika’s songs and creations.
- The Chief Minister sought public suggestions on how best the centenary celebrations could be commemorated, keeping in view Hazarika’s thoughts, ideals, and philosophy, and projecting them on the world stage.

- As per the recommendation of the core committee of the centenary celebrations, ‘Dr Bhupen Hazarika Samadhi Kshetra’ will henceforth be known as the ‘Dr Bhupen Hazarika Samannay Tirtha’.
- On the occasion, the CM urged everyone that during Bohag Bihu, at least one day should be dedicated to the immortal creations of Sudhakantha across the State.
- Sarma urged the people of Assam to carry forward Hazarika’s ideals to safeguard the cultural, economic, and political identity of the State.
- On this occasion, he also paid tributes to the parents of Hazarika and called upon everybody to preserve his memory along with his rich legacy.

101. ‘BISTIRNA PARORE’ SETS SAIL ON BRAHMAPUTRA

- To commemorate the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a unique cultural initiative titled ‘*Bistirna Parore: A Musical Voyage from Sadiya to Dhubri*’.
- The voyage was flagged off from Guijan ghat, Tinsukia, with a vibrant celebration of art and culture dedicated to the Bard of Brahmaputra.
- The event marked the beginning of a river journey along the Brahmaputra in memory of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, featuring a cultural troupe and a musical band travelling onboard.
- At the Guijan ghat flag-off ceremony, invited dignitaries were felicitated, and the welcome address was delivered by Chitralekha Duwara Sunai.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal sent a video message for the occasion.
- Artistes, including Dulal Manki, Dharmendra Baruah and Kajal Dev, presented musical performances.
- Later in the evening, the voyage entered Bogibeel ghat in Dibrugarh, where the centenary celebration of Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika was marked by a colourful cultural programme.
- The event featured competitions such as quiz and painting, along with video tributes from musicians and distinguished personalities.
- On this proud occasion of his birth centenary, tributes were paid to the cultural icon who gave voice to the joys and sorrows of people along the Brahmaputra.
- The river, which inspired much of his work, comes alive once again through this voyage that celebrates his universal legacy and introduces him to a new generation.
- The musical voyage will span multiple venues across Assam, celebrating Bhupen Hazarika’s timeless contributions.
- Events are slated at Silghat (September 11), Pandu (September 15) and IWAI Jetty, Jogighopa before culminating at Dhubri.

102. WWF SURVEY REVEALS PALLAS’S CAT PRESENCE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH



- A wildlife survey conducted in Arunachal Pradesh has revealed a series of rare and significant discoveries, including the first-ever photographic evidence of the elusive Pallas’s cat in the State.
- The survey also documented five other wild cat species – snow leopard, common leopard, clouded leopard, leopard cat, and marbled cat – at 4,200 metres above sea level.
- WWF-India conducted the survey in 2024, with guidance from local communities and support from the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, under its project “*Reviving Trans-Himalayan Rangelands – A Community-led Vision for People and Nature*”, funded by the UK government.
- The WWF-India team was led by Rohan Pandit, Taku Sai, Nisam Luxom and Pemba Tsering Romo under the guidance of Rishi Kumar Sharma, head of Science and Conservation, Himalayas Programme, WWF-India.
- Between July and September 2024, WWF-India deployed 136 camera traps in 83 locations across 2,000 km² of rugged high-altitude rangelands in West Kameng and Tawang districts, making it one of the most extensive wildlife monitoring exercises.
- The survey involved meticulous planning and days of trekking through remote, high-altitude areas, where extreme weather, rugged terrain, logistical hurdles and limited accessibility made the fieldwork challenging.
- The camera traps were kept active for over eight months, often in extreme weather and remote, hard-to-access terrain.
- The participation and partnership with local guides and community members enabled the team to overcome these challenges.
- The survey documented the highest elevation records for several species:
 - Common leopard (*Panthera pardus*) at 4,600 masl
 - Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) at 4,650 masl
 - Marbled cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*) at 4,326 masl
 - Himalayan wood owl (*Strix nivicolium*) at 4,194 masl
 - Grey-headed flying squirrel (*Petaurista caniceps*) at 4,506 masl
- These elevation records were the highest in India to date and may even exceed previously known global elevation limits.

- The record of Pallas's cat, though slightly lower than the global maximum of 5,050 masl, remains highly significant.
- Globally listed as *Least Concern* on the IUCN Red List, the cold-adapted Pallas's cat is one of the most elusive and least studied feline species, rarely photographed in the wild.
- Its documentation in Arunachal Pradesh significantly extended the known distribution of the species in the eastern Himalaya, adding to earlier confirmed records from Sikkim, Bhutan, and eastern Nepal.
- The discovery of Pallas's cat in Arunachal Pradesh is considered a milestone for wildlife research in the eastern Himalayas.

103. YOUTH URGED TO PROACTIVELY ENGAGE IN TACKLING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya inaugurated the BIMSTEC Youth Leaders Summit 2025 at a city hotel in Guwahati.
- The summit, hosted by the Bharat Scouts and Guides under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, brings together emerging leaders from the Bay of Bengal region.
- Acharya described the summit as a confluence of ideas, a celebration of cultures, and a foundation for future possibilities.
- He highlighted BIMSTEC's unifying role, which connects seven nations — India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand.
- The Governor appreciated the Bharat Scouts and Guides for their pivotal role in organizing the event and upholding values of service, peace, harmony, and inclusivity.
- He underlined the strategic importance of BIMSTEC, noting that the region's real strength lies in its youth.
- Acharya commended the younger generation for rising above borders to become bridges of peace, collaboration, and innovation in trade, technology, tourism, and environmental protection.
- The summit aims to empower youth as catalysts of innovation, development, and social change.
- Acharya said national initiatives like Startup India, Skill India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat will gain renewed momentum through such efforts.
- He called upon youth to engage proactively in tackling global challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, and environmental degradation.
- The Governor reminded participants that leadership is not just a position but a responsibility toward society, the nation, and humanity.
- Bringing together dynamic youth leaders from BIMSTEC countries, the summit serves as a powerful platform for collaboration, policy dialogue, and building a shared vision for the future.

104. THREE-DAY SIRARAKHONG HATHEI FESTIVAL FROM SEPT 16



- The 14th Sirarakhong Hathei (Chilli) Festival will be held from September 16 to 18 at Sirarakhong village in Ukhrul district, Manipur.
- The festival, usually organised in August, aims to promote the unique Hathei chilli variety.
- Around 500 chilli growers will attend the three-day festival under the theme 'A Heritage of Blessing'.
- The festival has put Sirarakhong on the map as a centre for quality chilli cultivation and highlights the contributions of local women.
- In September 2021, Sirarakhong Hathei chilli, along with Tamenglong orange, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- GI status identifies goods as produced from a particular area with special qualities attributable to their geographical origin.

105. HEALING ACROSS MILES: ASSAM LEADS INDIA'S FIRST REMOTE ROBOTIC SURGERY



- Prof. Subhash Khanna of Swagat Super Speciality Hospital, Guwahati, conducted Eastern and Northeastern India's first-ever remote robotic surgery.

- Using the Made-in-India “SSI Mantra” robotic surgical system, Prof. Khanna performed two gallbladder removal surgeries on patients in Guwahati while operating remotely from Gurgaon, about 1,950 km away.
- Both patients recovered safely and are expected to be discharged within 24 hours, showcasing the precision and efficiency of robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery.
- This achievement places Assam and India in rare global company, as remote robotic surgeries have been limited worldwide since the first “Lindbergh Operation” in 2001.
- Even major Indian institutions have yet to attempt what Swagat Hospital and Prof. Khanna have successfully accomplished.
- The success highlights India’s growing strength in indigenous medical technology, with the SSI Mantra system representing affordable innovation tailored to Indian needs.
- The pioneering surgery demonstrates how courage, innovation, and trust can bridge vast distances to deliver healing, hope, and humanity.

106.PLAN FOR STUDENT VISITS TO NE: SCINDIA

- The Government of India is planning an ambitious programme to send students from across the country to the Northeast region to learn about its people and culture.
- During the two-week programme, students will attend classes in colleges and universities of the region for five days a week and spend weekends at a nearby village.
- Scindia revealed that the Prime Minister is passionate about this initiative and believes everyone in India should know about the region.
- The Prime Minister has instructed all Ministers to visit the Northeast, resulting in Union Ministers making over 700 visits so far.
- The student exchange programme is scheduled to be launched in November or December, with 100 students in each batch.
- Around 4,000 students are planned to be sent to the region under the programme this year.
- Before launching, groundwork and tie-ups between colleges and universities need to be completed.
- A batch of 100 students from the Northeast was sent to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to gain first-hand experience of India’s space programme.
- More such batches from the Northeast will be sent to ISRO in the coming days.
- The DoNER Minister asserted that he would like to be the go-to person for all Northeastern States to deal with their problems, even if they are not directly related to his Ministry.

107.FROM ASSAM TO TRIBECA: RAJDEEP CHOUDHURY’S “A TEACHER’S GIFT” WINS GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

- Rajdeep Choudhury’s journey from the quiet lanes of Assam to the global spotlight of Tribeca is a testament to how personal stories can achieve universal resonance.
- After leaving Assam years ago with a love for stories and quiet resilience, Choudhury’s path has led him to the prestigious Tribeca Festival Lisboa, where his film *A Teacher’s Gift* has secured an official selection.
- The film is a moving exploration of how teachers shape lives in mysterious and unforgettable ways.
- Choudhury, who co-wrote the film, also plays Rohan — a Hindi teacher in London who appears confident in class but carries a complex personal history.
- Rohan’s story takes viewers back to his childhood in India, where he gave temple tours to tourists, spoke fluent English, and found solace in reading borrowed books.
- When asked how he obtained those books, young Rohan replies, “They fell from the sky.”
- *A Teacher’s Gift* is directed by Arthur Ribeiro and produced by Eric Ollerenshaw OBE.
- The film features an international cast including Anthony Calf (*Holby City*), Anjali Patil (*Newton*), Dhruv Sehgal (*Little Things*), and Varun Buddhadev (*RRR*).

108.ASSAM GOVT TO LAUNCH ‘SEWA SAPTAH’ FROM SEPT 17; FOCUS ON HEALTH, GREENERY, LITERATURE & WELFARE



Seva Hi Samarpan
Seva Saptah
17th September – 25th September, 2025

On the auspicious occasion of the 75th Birthday of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of Assam proudly undertakes a series of flagship initiatives of social significance, reaffirming the spirit of service to humanity.

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

17 SEPTEMBER	Voluntary Blood Donation Camps across the State	22 SEPTEMBER	Ni-kshay Mitra assistance to TB patients
18 SEPTEMBER	Mega Health Camps for children in all LACs	23 SEPTEMBER	Distribution of Land Pattas to religious institutions: Restoring Heritage, Returning Rights
19 SEPTEMBER	State-wide plantation of more than 30 lakh saplings in 20,000 educational institutions plus cities, towns, villages and other institutions	25 SEPTEMBER	Launch of Orunodoi 3.0: Flagship DBT scheme for 38 lakh women/households
21 SEPTEMBER	Young writers to be honoured with ₹25,000 each		

Seva for Society, Samarpan for Nation

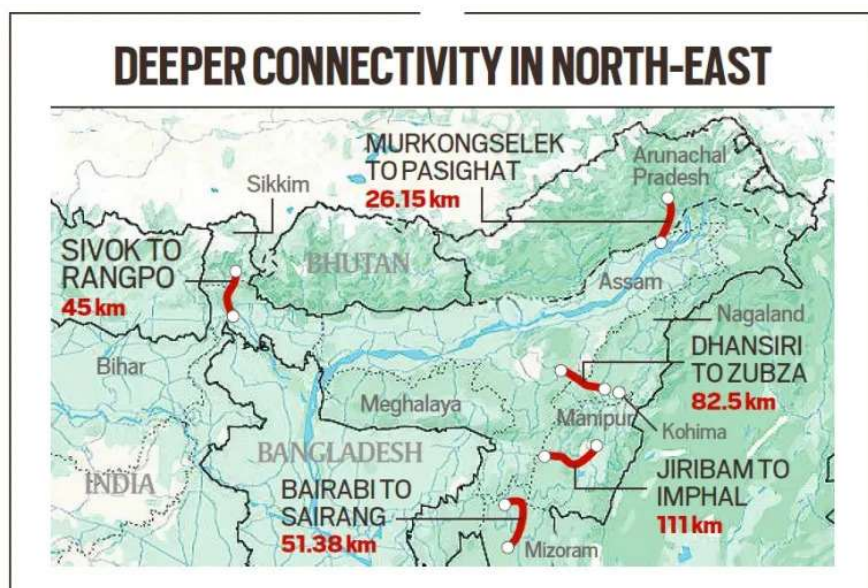
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- Assam Chief Minister chaired a video conference to review preparations for the upcoming ‘Sewa Saptah’, a week-long initiative to be held across the state from September 17 to 23.
- The campaign will feature a series of citizen-centric activities:
 - **Sept 17:** Launch of a mega blood donation drive under the theme ‘Sewa hi Samarpan’, with 75 major camps across Assam.
 - **Sept 18–Oct 31:** Mega health camps to begin in 11 LACs, gradually covering all constituencies.
 - **Sept 19:** Statewide plantation drive targeting over 15 lakh seedlings in schools.

- **Sept 21:** Felicitation of 1,000 young writers for their literary contributions.
- **Sept 22:** Around 7,500 Nikshay Mitras to distribute nutrition baskets to TB patients, extending physical and emotional support.
- **Sept 23:** Distribution of land-related documents, including allotment certificates, pattas, and transfer deeds, to 24,688 government and non-government institutions.
- The Chief Minister also reviewed preparations for the Orunodoi 3.0 beneficiary certificate distribution programme, slated for September 25.
- Sarma instructed officials to ensure smooth execution of every planned initiative, calling Sewa Saptah an opportunity to combine welfare, health, environment, and cultural outreach under one umbrella of service.

109. AIZAWL ENTERS NATIONAL RAIL MAP



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Aizawl's first railway link to the national network and unveiled projects worth nearly Rs 9,000 crore to boost connectivity and economic growth in Mizoram.
- Modi announced that Hmawngbuchhuah on Mizoram's southern border with Myanmar will be added to the railway map as an alternative link to the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP), strengthening the Northeast's gateway to Southeast Asia.
- Modi virtually commissioned the newly completed 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang railway line, connecting Aizawl to the national rail network and making it the fourth state capital in the Northeast to secure a rail link.
- Heavy rain prevented the Prime Minister from inaugurating the Rs 8,071-crore project in person at Aizawl's Lammual ground, compelling him to speak from Lengpui airport instead.
- From the airport lounge, he dedicated the Bairabi-Sairang line to the nation and flagged off three new services: the Sairang-Delhi Rajdhani Express (tri-weekly), the Sairang-Kolkata Express (tri-weekly), and the Sairang-Guwahati Express (daily).
- He launched two other projects and laid foundation stones for six more, together valued at nearly Rs 9,000 crore.
- Modi recalled laying the foundation stone of the Aizawl railway line some years ago and praised the engineers and workers for completing the project despite difficult terrain.

- He said Mizoram's Sairang will now be directly linked with the national capital through a Rajdhani Express, describing it as a "lifeline of transformation."
- Farmers and entrepreneurs will gain easier access to national markets, while students and patients can reach better educational and healthcare facilities.
- Tourism, transport, and hospitality will benefit from the new railway link.
- Modi highlighted the government's commitment to empowering Mizoram's youth, noting 11 Eklavya Residential Schools are already operational in the state with six more planned.
- Across the Northeast, around 4,500 start-ups and 25 incubators are thriving, with Mizo youth actively creating opportunities.
- Improved connectivity will strengthen educational, cultural, and economic ties and open new employment avenues.
- Modi opened a modern residential school at Kawrthah under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, featuring hostels, classrooms, and an artificial football turf to benefit over 10,000 children and youth.
- He inaugurated an Eklavya Model Residential School at Tlangnuam aimed at improving enrolment and reducing dropouts among tribal students.
- He laid the foundation stone for a 45-km Aizawl Bypass Road worth over Rs 500 crore under the PM-DevINE scheme.
- He laid the foundation stone for the Thenzawl-Sialsuk Road under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS).
- He laid the foundation stone for the Khankawn-Rongura Road under NESIDS in Serchhip district.
- He laid the foundation stone for a bridge over the Chhimtuipui river on the Lawngtlai-Siaha Road.
- He laid the foundation stone for a Khelo India multipurpose indoor sports hall at Tuikual in Aizawl.
- He laid the foundation stone for a 30,000-metric-ton-per-annum LPG bottling plant at Mualkhang in Aizawl district.

110. MEGHALAYAN AGE CAVES, NAGA HILLS OPHIOLITE IN TENTATIVE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

- The Meghalayan Age Caves (East Khasi Hills) and Naga Hill



Ophiolite (Kiphire) have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage conventions.

- Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO Vishal V Sharma stated that seven properties of India have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage conventions.
- The other five properties include:
 - Deccan Traps at Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra)
 - Geological Heritage of St Mary's Island Cluster (Karnataka)
 - Natural Heritage of Erra Matti Dibbalu (Andhra Pradesh)
 - Natural Heritage of Tirumala Hills (Andhra Pradesh)
 - Natural Heritage of Varkala (Kerala)
- With these additions, the total number of Indian properties on the tentative list is now 69 (49 under cultural category, three under mixed category, and 17 under natural category).
- This highlights India's commitment to preserving and conserving its rich cultural heritage.
- Inclusion in the tentative list is a mandatory step before any property can be inscribed on the World Heritage List.
- The river island of Majuli in the Brahmaputra River, Assam, has been on the tentative list since 2004 under the cultural property category.
- Iconic sari weaving clusters from Assam have been in the tentative list since 2014 for nomination under the cultural property category.
- The Apatani Cultural Landscape of Arunachal Pradesh has been in the tentative list since 2014 for nomination under the cultural property category.
- The Thembang Fortified Village in Arunachal Pradesh has also been in the tentative list for nomination under the cultural property category.
- The Jingkiengiri: Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscapes of Meghalaya was added to the tentative list in 2022.
- The rock-cut sculptures and reliefs of Unakoti in Unakoti district of Tripura are on the tentative list under the cultural property category.
- Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh is on the tentative list under the natural properties category.
- The Keibul Lamjao Conservation Area of Manipur and the Garo Hills Conservation Area are on the tentative list under the mixed properties category.

111.MODI TO PASS THROUGH 'NEEM CORRIDOR' DURING VISIT TO GOLAGHAT



- A special corridor lined with Neem saplings has been prepared in Numaligarh, Golaghat district, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit.
- Modi will travel through the 2.6-km 'PM Neem Corridor' during his trip to this upper Assam district, where he will visit the Numaligarh Refinery and inaugurate an over Rs 5,000-crore bamboo-based ethanol plant.
- He will also lay the foundation stone for the Petro Fluidised Catalytic Cracker Unit, which has a capacity to produce 360 KTPA propylene.
- The Prime Minister will address a public rally at the Numaligarh Tanker Stand later on Sunday, the second day of his two-day visit to the state.
- The 'PM Neem Corridor' is an initiative led by Khumtai (Golaghat district) MLA Mrinal Saikia, with the Chief Minister also planting a seed during his visit to Numaligarh last week to review preparations for Modi's visit.
- Saikia stated that the initiative aims to spread awareness on environmental conservation and encourage youngsters toward it.

112.PM INAUGURATES WORLD'S FIRST 2ND GEN BIOETHANOL PLANT AT NRL



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's first second-generation bioethanol plant at NRL in Numaligarh, Golaghat district and also laid the foundation stone of a ₹7,230-crore polypropylene project.
- The bioethanol plant, set up by Assam Bio Ethanol Pvt Ltd (ABEPL) at a cost of around ₹5,000 crore with support from the PM Ji-VAN Yojana, is the first in the world to process 5 lakh tonnes of bamboo annually to produce 50,000 tonnes of ethanol.
- The plant is a 'zero-waste' facility, utilising all parts of the bamboo plant, and is expected to boost the rural economy of Assam by ₹200 crore.
- It will also generate high-value industrial byproducts, including furfural, acetic acid, biochar and activated carbon, and produce 25 MW of green electricity, making it a self-sufficient energy facility.
- The plant will reduce crude oil imports by ₹230 crore annually, contribute to India's ethanol blending goals, create over 5,000 jobs, empower more than 50,000 households, and establish bamboo plantations covering 12,500 hectares as a carbon sink.
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of a ₹7,230-crore Petro Fluidised Catalytic Cracker Unit at the NRL site.

- The plant, with a capacity of 60 kilotonnes per annum, will use German Lummus Novolen Technology and be executed with Engineers India Ltd as consultant, scheduled to start production in 2028.
- It will reduce India's polypropylene import dependency by 20 per cent, save USD 85 million annually, and create employment equivalent to 75,000 man-days per year.
- The project is expected to cut nearly one million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.
- Modi greeted the people in Assamese and said that the bioethanol project along with the polypropylene plant will strengthen the Viksit Bharat programme.
- He said the bioethanol plant will help indigenous people earn more by utilising available bamboo resources.
- Modi said that the total schemes dedicated in the two days in Assam were worth over ₹18,000 crore.
- He stated that the tourism sector is being given importance by the 'double engine' government to generate employment for the people of Assam and the Northeast.
- He said that the government was doing its best to ensure proper education and health facilities for tea garden workers and their families.
- He announced that a tunnel from Numaligarh to Gohpur will be built under the Brahmaputra river for better connectivity in the state.
- Modi said that with the setting up of the polypropylene unit, the requirement of simple plastic items like buckets, mugs, and plastic-based textiles will be fulfilled without relying on other countries.
- The polypropylene unit will also help India in manufacturing items for the automobile and space sectors.
- Modi highlighted that the semiconductor unit at Jagiroad in Morigaon district was producing chips important for all kinds of electronic devices like mobile phones, watches and even spacecraft.
- The Chief Minister stated that the bioethanol project will help around 50,000 bamboo farmers of the state.

113.ZUBEEN GARG NO MORE



- For his predecessors like the legendary Dr Bhupen Hazarika, Zubeen Garg was a torchbearer of their legacy.
- To those who entered the fraternity after him, he was the one they all aspired to become.
- To countless music lovers, he was more than an artiste – he was the collective consciousness of a generation, the voice of the common people, the very pulse of Assamese youth, and above all a household name.
- Zubeen captivated hearts across Assam and beyond for over three decades, having rendered his voice to nearly 35,000 songs in over 40 different languages, including Assamese, Hindi and Bengali.
- He passed away under extremely mysterious circumstances in Singapore at the age of 52.
- After releasing his debut music album *Anamika* in 1992, there was no looking back for Zubeen who went on to give one hit after another.
- He later produced movies and scored music for films where he tasted equal success.
- Zubeen was chosen for the National Award in 2019 in the non-feature film music direction category.
- He lent his voice to many Hindi music albums like *Jalwa* and *Yuhi Kabhi* and movies like *Fiza* and *Kaante*.
- He took Bollywood by storm after winning the award for best playback singer for his solo song *Ya Ali* from the movie *Gangster*.
- He subsequently sang many chartbuster tracks in Bollywood under leading music directors.
- He was instrumental in reviving the Assamese film industry by producing highest-grossing movies like *Kanchanjangha* and *Mission China*.
- Born on November 18, 1972 at Tura in Meghalaya to Mohini Mohan Borthakur (Kapil Thakur) and late Ily Borthakur.
- Spent his childhood in different parts of Assam due to his father's transferrable government job.
- Born and brought up in a culturally rich Jorhat-based family, Zubeen's tryst with music began at home with his father being a poet and mother a singer.
- He considered his mother as his first music teacher for giving him hands-on training in music.
- Left B Borooah College without completing his undergraduate degree to start his professional music career.
- Released his first album *Anamika* in 1992 which made him a household name overnight.
- Created a new style of music in Assam blending rock, folk and other genres with Western influence.
- Carved a niche for himself in Bollywood with superhit songs like *Ya Ali*, *Rama Re*, *Jaane Kya*, *Jag Lal Lal Lal*.
- Popularized Bihu songs among all sections of Assam playing a vital role in the growth of Assamese music.
- Bagged the gold medal at the Gauhati University Youth Festival in the western solo song section while studying at B Borooah College.
- Played instruments with other singers before starting his singing career.

- After *Anamika*, released superhit albums like *Maya*, *Asha*, *Sishu*, *Jantra*, *Sabda*, *Pakhi*, *Hiyamon*, *Junaki Mon*, *Banhi*, *Xapunor Xur*, *Sila*.
- Released his first Bihu song album *Ujan Piriti* in 1995 which became a big commercial hit.
- Had an unofficial feat of recording 36 songs in a single night.
- Entered Bollywood in 1995 and later started working in the music industry of West Bengal in 2003.
- Created his own footprint in both industries before returning to Assam.
- *Tumi Mur Mathu Mur* released in 2000 was his first directorial venture where he also played the protagonist and scored the music.
- As a music director, had around 38 Assamese movies and a number of Bengali and Hindi films to his credit including *Hiya Diya Niya*, *Morome Morom Jane*, *Daag*, *Nayak*, *Prem Aru Prem*, *Kanyadaan*, *Jonaki Mon*, *Jibon Nodir Duti Par*, *Agnishakshi*, *Priya Milan*, *Bidhata*, *Barud*, *Rong*, *Dinabandhu*, *Adhinayak*, *Mission China*, *Priyar Priyo*, *The Underworld*, *Kanchanjangha*, *Ratnakar*, *Pratighat*, *Dr Bezbaruah 2*, *Raghav*, *Sikar*, *Bhaimon Da*, *Joddha*, *Homework*, *Roi Roi Binale*, *Sudhu Tumi*, *Mon Niye*, *Kachhe Achho Tumi*, *Samsara*, *Strings – Bound By Faith* and *Dil Toh Deewana Hai*.
- Worked with a number of mobile theatre groups of Assam producing many superhit songs.
- Acted in Assamese movies like *Tumi Mur Mathu Mur*, *Dinabandhu*, *Mon Jai*, *Bhal Pabo Najanilu*, *Rodor Sithi*, *Gaane Ki Aane*, *Xat Nomboror Xondhanot*, *Mission China*, *Tumi Aahibaane*, *Priyar Priyo*, *The Underworld*, *Kanchanjangha*, *Rajneeti*, *Dr Bezbaruah 2*, *Sikar*.
- Acted in Assamese mega television serial *Anuradha*.
- Directed and wrote three films – *Tumi Mur Mathu Mur*, *Mission China* and *Kanchanjangha*. *Roi Roi Binale*, produced and written by him where he also played a blind person, is set to release soon.
- Honoured with the National Film Award for Best Non-Feature Film Music Direction in 2009, 8th Assam State Film Award for Best Playback Singer in 2023, BFJA Award, Prag Cine Award, Global Indian Film Award, Stardust Award, Kalakaar Award, Gup-Shup Music Award, Bhaymaman Mobile Theatre Award, Filmfare Award, among others.
- Sung in many languages and dialects including Bishnupriya Manipuri, Adi, Bodo, English, Goalpariya, Kannada, Karbi, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Mising, Nepali, Odia, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Tiwa.
- A multi-instrumentalist with expertise in anandalahari, dhol, dotara, drums, guitar, harmonica, harmonium, mandolin, keyboard, tabla and various percussion instruments.
- Known for his social activities and nature love, always keen on helping people and animals.
- Played a key role in mobilizing the public during the anti-CAA movement in Assam.

114.AS BAMBOO FLOWERS BLOOM, MIZORAM BRACES FOR ‘THINGTAM’



- A sudden rodent outbreak has struck 15 villages in north-western Mizoram’s Mamit district, a border region adjoining Bangladesh and Tripura.
- Officials warn the invasion is tied to the cyclical ‘Thingtam’ famine phenomenon, triggered by the mass flowering of rawthing bamboo (*Bambusa tulda*), which unleashes a population explosion of rats.
- The Mamit outbreak comes just days after similar reports from south Mizoram’s Lunglei district, where swarms of rats devastated paddy and soybean fields in Mamte and Lungrang South villages.
- Agricultural scientists have long cautioned that the mass flowering of bamboo species, locally called ‘rawthing’, triggers rat infestations that culminate in ‘Thingtam,’ a famine-like situation when rodents sweep through ripening crops.
- With fresh outbreaks emerging from both northern and southern Mizoram, officials now fear severe crop losses unless the menace is contained quickly.

115.ADB, CENTRE SIGN RS. 1,103 CR LOAN DEAL TO BOOST ASSAM’S URBAN RESILIENCE

- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a Rs 1,103 crore (\$125 million) loan agreement to enhance urban liveability and bolster climate resilience in six district headquarters and Guwahati, Assam.
- The project will benefit 3,60,000 residents of Assam by delivering continuous metered water supply and upgrading stormwater management systems.
- A strong emphasis is placed on supporting women and girls, with training for women self-help groups in water operations, internships for college-age women, and school outreach programmes to promote awareness of water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- The signatories to the loan agreement for the Assam Urban Sector Development Project were Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Mio Oka, Country Director, India Resident Mission, ADB.

- The project also seeks to strengthen urban governance through institutional reforms and capacity building.
- Key infrastructure investments include the construction of six water treatment plants with a combined capacity of 72 million litres per day and 800 km of distribution pipelines in Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Goalpara, Golaghat, and Nalbari.
- The project will deploy a real-time monitoring system, aiming to maintain nonrevenue water below 20%.
- In Guwahati, the project will enhance stormwater management in the Bahini Basin with flood diversion channels, upgraded drainage systems, and a nature-based retention pond to reduce flood discharge and improve groundwater recharge.
- The project will establish the Assam State Institute for Urban Development in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati.
- It will roll out a GIS-based property tax database, digital water billing systems, and a volumetric water tariff structure across project towns to improve financial sustainability and service delivery.
- Social inclusion measures include training women self-help groups in water operations, establishing internships for college-age women, and conducting school outreach programmes on water, sanitation, and hygiene.

116.PANEL SET UP TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF 'PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE'

- In a progressive move aimed at transforming higher education in Assam, Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, in his capacity as Chancellor of State Universities, constituted an expert committee to facilitate the implementation of the "Professor of Practice" (PoP) across universities in the State.
- The committee convened its first meeting at the Raj Bhavan.
- The "Professor of Practice" initiative, introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) as part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, seeks to bring distinguished professionals with proven expertise into academic institutions, bridging the gap between theoretical learning and real-world application.
- This reform allows professionals from varied sectors to contribute to academia, even without conventional academic qualifications.
- The Governor recognized the need for a structured approach and proactively established a high-level committee to guide the rollout of this framework.
- Professor Amit Patra, Director of IIT (BHU), Varanasi, chairs the committee.
- Other members include Prof TN Singh, Director of IIT Patna, and Prof Nani Gopal Mahanta, Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University.

- SS Meenakshi Sundaram, Commissioner and Secretary to the Governor of Assam, and Secretary of Higher Education Narayan Konwar are also members.
- The expert committee was tasked with conducting a thorough evaluation of UGC's guidelines and formulating actionable recommendations tailored to the unique academic landscape of Assam.
- Its mandate includes ensuring that the integration of professionals into teaching roles enhances the quality of instruction while aligning with both national standards and regional aspirations.

117.JYOTI BISHNU AUDITORIUM SET TO BECOME LARGEST IN THE EASTERN REGION



- The upcoming Jyoti-Bishnu Auditorium is set to become the largest and most advanced auditorium in Eastern India, giving a major boost to the cultural landscape of the Northeast.
- Named in honour of Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Bishnu Rabha, the auditorium aims to be a landmark space for artistic expression, community engagement, and world-class performances.
- Designed with state-of-the-art acoustics, lighting, and seating, the facility will cater to music concerts, theatre festivals, academic seminars, and cultural conventions.
- With a seating capacity surpassing existing venues in the region, it will enhance Assam's ability to host national and international events.
- The government has officially entrusted the operational responsibility to the Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Society, known for its cultural expertise and institutional credibility.
- Set against the backdrop of Assam's cultural resurgence, the Jyoti-Bishnu Auditorium is expected to become a hub for talent, tradition, and technology, making it a proud symbol of the region's evolving artistic identity.



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118.ASSAM'S UMA CHETRY NAMED IN INDIA SQUAD FOR ODIS, WORLD CUP



- Assam's **Uma Chetry** has been named as a replacement for **Yastika Bhatia** in the Indian women's squad for the upcoming **three-match ODI series against Australia** and the **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025**.
- This presents a significant opportunity for the wicketkeeper-batter from **Golaghat** to showcase her talent on the international stage.
- Uma made her **international debut against South Africa in Chennai on July 7, 2024**, and has so far represented India in **seven T20 Internationals**.
- The **Women's World Cup 2025** will begin on **September 30**, with the **inaugural match scheduled in Guwahati**.
- Ahead of the tournament, the Indian women's team will play a **three-match ODI series against Australia starting September 14**.

119.AGONY RELIEVED: DIPANKAR ON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Former Olympian and national badminton champion **Dipankar Bhattacharjee** said the long-standing pain of not receiving an **Arjuna Award** was eased to a large extent after being honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement (Assam)** at the **Bhogeswar Baruah National Sports Awards**.
- The **Bhogeswar Baruah National Sports Award** was instituted by the **Assam Olympic Association (AOA)** in honour of Assam's first Asian Games gold medallist.
- Bhogeswar Baruah** remains one of the state's most celebrated sporting icons, remembered for winning the **800 metres gold medal at the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok** – a feat still unmatched by any other Assamese athlete at the Asiad.
- The inaugural awards were presented on **September 3**, Baruah's birthday.
- Born on **February 1, 1972, in Assam**, Dipankar Bhattacharjee represented India at the **1992 Barcelona** and **1996 Atlanta Olympics**.

- A **three-time national champion** and **two-time runner-up**, he advanced to the **pre-quarterfinals at Barcelona**.
- He retired in **2004**, after playing in the **National Championships in Guwahati**.

120.NCC CADET ABHIJIT DAS CONFERRED 'BIR CHILARAI AWARD' BY CM HIMANTA BISWA SARMA



- CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma presented NCC Cadet Abhijit Das, a Class X student from Emmanuel High School in Pailapool, Cachar district, from 3 Assam Battalion NCC Silchar, with *The Bir Chilarai Award* at the Arjun Bhogerwar Baruah Sports Complex in Guwahati.
- This is the **fourth time** an Emmanuel English Higher Secondary School student has received this prestigious prize.
- Abhijit Das has participated in various NCC Camps and was part of the **Republic Day Contingent** of NCC Directorate North Eastern Region (NER) in January 2025.
- He has shown **exceptional skill, maturity, and leadership qualities** during two years of rigorous NCC training.
- His achievements extend to **academics and co-curricular activities** in the school.

121.PAK, CHINA LAUNCH 2ND PHASE OF CPEC, INK USD 8.5-BN DEALS

- Pakistan and China have formally launched the second phase of the controversial CPEC project and signed 21 agreements and joint ventures worth about USD 8.5 billion.
- According to *Dawn* newspaper, the agreements covered cooperation in the development of CPEC 2.0, as well as in areas like science and technology, information technology, media, investment, and agriculture.
- The total worth of the MoUs and joint ventures is about USD 8.5 billion.
- India opposes the CPEC, which will link Xinjiang in China and the Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan, as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- The CPEC is the flagship project of China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

- The BRI is seen as an attempt by Beijing to expand its influence abroad through infrastructure projects funded by Chinese investments worldwide.

**122.SABALENKA DEFENDS
CROWN**



- Aryna Sabalenka successfully defended her US Open title by defeating Amanda Anisimova 6-3, 7-6 (3) in the final, lifting her fourth Grand Slam trophy.
- With this victory, Sabalenka became the first woman since Serena Williams (2012–2014) to win back-to-back titles at Flushing Meadows.
- The No. 1 seed from Belarus faced tense moments, including a missed overhead smash when she was just two points away from victory, but she quickly regained her composure to seal the win.

KEY POINTS

Aryna Sabalenka became the first woman to win back-to-back singles titles at the **US Open** since Serena Williams. **Sabalenka** notched her **100th career Grand Slam** main-draw match victory with her win over **Amanda Anisimova**. **Sabalenka's** win marked her first major trophy of 2025 and the fourth of her career. **Anisimova** has now come up short in

consecutive **Grand Slam** finals, having earlier fallen to **Iga Swiatek** at Wimbledon. Despite the loss, **Anisimova** is projected to make her Top-5 debut in the **WTA Rankings**. **Sabalenka's** victory came after she learned from disappointing **Grand Slam** finals losses in **Melbourne** and **Paris**, making her a more complete player.

**123.NAKUL DAS TO RECEIVE
BHUPEN HAZARIKA
CULTURAL AWARD 2025–26**

- The Rotary Club of Guwahati (RCG), the oldest Rotary Club in the North-East, will confer the prestigious Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Award 2025–26 on renowned folk artiste Nakul Das.
- Nakul Das is celebrated for his mastery of traditional Boat Race Songs from Barpeta.
- The award ceremony will be held on September 8 at 6:00 pm at the NEZCC Auditorium, Guwahati.
- The event is being organised in collaboration with the North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- It is also supported by Gunjan, an amateur artists' forum, and Brahmaputra Mandolins, a group of distinguished instrumentalists.

**124.ALCARAZ BEATS RIVAL
SINNER FOR 6TH SLAM TITLE
AND NO. 1 RANKING**



- Carlos Alcaraz has conquered New York once again, toppling Jannik Sinner to claim the US Open men's singles crown and stamp his authority on tennis's new era.
- The victory gives Alcaraz his sixth Grand Slam overall and second of 2025, adding to his French Open triumph earlier this year.

**125.RADHAKRISHNAN
ELECTED NEXT VICE
PRESIDENT**

- NDA candidate C. P. Radhakrishnan was elected as the next Vice President of India.
- He secured 452 votes against Opposition candidate B. Sudershan Reddy's 300 votes.

**126.SUSHILA KARKI SWORN IN
AS NEPAL'S INTERIM PM**



- Nepal's former Chief Justice Sushila Karki was sworn in as the interim Prime Minister of Nepal.
- Respected for her tenure as Nepal's first woman Chief Justice, Karki, 73, scripted history by becoming the country's first woman Prime Minister.
- Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting among President Ram Chandra Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and representatives of youth protesters.

127. ACTOR-DIRECTOR ROBERT REDFORD PASSES AWAY

- Robert Redford, the Hollywood golden boy who became an Oscar-winning director, liberal activist, and godfather for independent cinema under the name of one of his best-loved characters, has died.
- After rising to stardom in the 1960s, Redford was one of the biggest stars of the 1970s with such films as *The Candidate*, *All the President's Men* and *The Way We Were*, capping that decade with the Best Director Oscar for 1980's *Ordinary People*, which also won Best Picture.
- His roles ranged from Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward to a mountain man in *Jeremiah Johnson* to a double agent in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and his co-stars included Jane Fonda, Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise.
- His most famous screen partner was his old friend and fellow activist and practical joker Paul Newman, their films reflecting their warm, teasing relationship off screen.
- Redford played the wily outlaw opposite Newman in 1969's *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, a box-office smash from which Redford's Sundance Institute and festival got its name.

128. ANNA HALL JOINS JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE AS A US HEPTATHLON WORLD CHAMPION



- Anna Hall became America's second winner of the world heptathlon title, joining Jackie Joyner-Kersey.
- She wrapped up a wire-to-wire endurance test and cruised into the finish line on Saturday to celebrate her biggest victory.
- This is Hall's first major title after years of close calls and disappointments.
- She scored 6,888 points in the seven-part event.
- Jackie Joyner-Kersey is the only U.S. athlete to win the heptathlon at the Olympics (1988, 1992).
- Joyner-Kersey holds both the world record from 1988 and the world championship record from her victory in Rome in 1987.

129. UMPIRING GREAT DICKIE BIRD DIES, AGED 92:



- Legendary umpire Harold 'Dickie' Bird of England passed away in Barnsley, South Yorkshire.
- Widely regarded as the most loved umpire in the history of the game, he was known for his fine decisions and unique quirks.
- Dickie Bird was famous for arriving early for matches he officiated and for his reluctance to give players out leg before wicket (LBW).

130. DEMBELE WINS BALLON D'OR:



- France forward Ousmane Dembele capped a remarkable season by winning the men's Ballon d'Or on Monday, football's most prestigious individual award, after spearheading Paris Saint-Germain to their first-ever Champions League triumph.
- In the women's category, Barcelona and Spain playmaker Aitana Bonmati lifted the Women's Ballon d'Or for the third year running.
- The 27-year-old edged compatriot Mariona Caldentey, who starred for Arsenal and scored in the Women's Champions League final.

131. VAIBHAV SURYAVANSHI BREAKS WORLD RECORD FOR MOST SIXES IN YOUTH ODIS

- Indian teenage prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi broke the record for the most career sixes in Youth ODI cricket during his 70-run knock off 68 balls in the second India U-19 vs Australia U-19 50-over match at the Ian Healy Oval.

- Suryavanshi's innings included five fours and six sixes.
- His fourth six of the day took him past former India U-19 skipper Unmukt Chand's tally of 38 sixes from 21 matches.
- The 14-year-old achieved the milestone in just 10 innings, extending his tally to 41 sixes.
- India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal holds the third-most sixes in Youth ODIs with 30 sixes in 27 matches.

132.SMALL TOWN , BIG DREAMS: HARBIA TANA TARA SHINE ON NATIONAL STAGE



- Harbia Tana Tara from Palin village in Pakke Kessang district, Arunachal Pradesh, clinched the gold medal in the 63 kg category at the prestigious WAKO Junior National Kickboxing Championship 2025.

- The national-level tournament was held in Solan, Himachal Pradesh from September 22 to 26, bringing together top young talents from across the country.
- Harbia stood out with his exceptional skill, focus, and determination, dominating his category and securing a decisive win in the finals.

133.SHEETAL DEVI BECOMES PARA WORLD ARCHERY CHAMPION AT 18:



- Eighteen-year-old Indian armless archer Sheetal Devi made history by defeating Turkiye's world No.1 Oznur Cure Girdi 146-143 to win the women's compound individual gold at the Para World Archery Championship in Gwangju, South Korea.
- Sheetal is the only armless archer in the competition, shooting using her feet and chin.
- This was her third medal of the championships.

NEWS IN SHORTS

134.TIANJIN SCO SUMMIT GETS UNDER WAY GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRE



- The 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit formally began in Tianjin, China, with a grand banquet hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin were among the notable attendees.
- Xi Jinping, accompanied by his wife Peng Liyuan, welcomed guests at the banquet in the port city of Tianjin.
- This year's summit is the largest, with China holding the presidency and inviting 20 foreign leaders and 10 heads of international organisations, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
- The main summit meeting is scheduled for Monday at a specially designated convention centre where SCO leaders and invited dignitaries will deliver speeches.
- Established in Shanghai in June 2001, the SCO has grown from six founding members to a 26-nation grouping, comprising 10 members, 2 observers, and 14 dialogue partners spanning Asia, Europe, and Africa.

135.BN BHATTACHARYA TO RECEIVE JAGANNATH THAKUR AWARD

- The **fifth Jagannath Thakur Sahitya Sanman-2025**, a literary award in the genre of Assamese short story, will be conferred on eminent writer **Bhupendra Narayan Bhattacharya**.
- The award ceremony will take place in **Guwahati on November 8** and is organised by the **Jagannath Thakur Memorial Trust**.
- The award includes a **citation, a trophy, and ₹50,000 in cash**.
- Bhattacharya is renowned for his brilliant portrayal of society, offering deep insights into social crises and the erosion of values through his poignant storytelling.
- He was the **first Assamese short story writer to receive the national Katha Award**.
- His notable short story collections include:
 - *Chorus* (1980)

- *Dalal* (1983)
- *Ghorapak* (1992)
- *Brahmaputrar Bukut Surjyasta* (2003)
- *Athaista Suti Galpa* (2007)
- *Panbazarot Eta Bagh* (2008)
- *Garam Botah* (2009)

136.PM MODI- PRESIDENT XI'S MEETING REFLECTS PRAGMATIC APPROACH



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in China's Tianjin, reflecting a pragmatic approach from both nations towards dialogue, confidence-building measures, and regional engagement.
- The leaders agreed that "mutual trust, respect, and sensitivity" should form the foundation of future bilateral ties, as reported by India Narrative.
- Discussions included measures to maintain stability along the disputed borders.
- Both sides announced that direct flights between India and China would soon resume.
- PM Modi highlighted the need for India and China to work together to stabilise the global economic order.

137.INDIAN ARMY HANDS OVER 6 TARGET PRACTICE DRONES TO NEPAL COUNTERPART

- Indian Army handed over six indigenous target practice drones and ground support equipment to its Nepalese counterpart at a special ceremony conducted at an integrated check post.
- The Army described it as "India-Nepal Friendship, Brotherhood Beyond Borders".

- The handover took place at the integrated check post in Sonauli.
- The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the capability enhancement of the Nepal Army and strengthening bilateral defence cooperation.

138.MIZORAM CM INAUGURATES THENZAWL PEACE CITY CELEBRATION, UNVEILS VISION FOR STATE'S FIRST PLANNED MODERN TOWN



- Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma inaugurated the Thenzawl Peace Celebration at Thenzawl Bazar Veng.
- He emphasised the importance of creating modern, well-planned towns to meet people's aspirations.
- The programme was jointly organised by the Thenzawl Joint Village Council, local NGOs, and community members.
- Lalduhoma highlighted that Thenzawl, with its balanced environment and strategic location, has the potential to become Mizoram's first modern planned city.
- He clarified that "Thenzawl Planned City" is not meant to compete with Aizawl but to provide a peaceful, well-organised, and future-ready modern city.

139.ARUNACHAL RESEARCHERS DISCOVER RARE ORCHID IN CHANGLANG DIST



- Researchers from the Society for Education and Environmental Development (SEED), Changlang, Arunachal

Pradesh, have documented the orchid **Gastrochilus pechei (Rchb f) Kuntze** for the first time in India.

- The rare species was earlier recorded only in Myanmar's Kachin state.
- It was discovered during a recent field survey at Vijoynagar in Changlang district.
- The orchid is noted for its vibrant yellow sepals, a white labellum with purple spots, and a distinctive floral structure.
- It grows as an epiphyte in moisture-rich, evergreen rainforests near riverbanks at an elevation of around 1,200 metres.
- The species blooms from September to October.
- With this discovery, India now hosts **23 species of Gastrochilus**, of which 16 are found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- This further reinforces Arunachal Pradesh's reputation as the "Orchid Paradise of India."

140.ASSAM-MADE SEMICONDUCTOR CHIPS SHINE AT SEMICON INDIA 2025

- Assam marked a milestone in India's semiconductor journey as two chips developed in the state were showcased at **Semicon India 2025**.
- The featured innovations were the **Tata OSAT Chip** and the **Neural Amplifier Frontend Integrated Circuit (IC)**, designed by researchers at **NIT Silchar**.
- Their display highlighted Assam's emerging role in India's high-tech ecosystem and contribution to advanced chip design and manufacturing.
- Recognition of Assam-based innovations at a global platform like Semicon India reflects the state's growing alignment with the **National Semiconductor Mission**, which aims to reduce import dependence and establish India as a global hub for chip manufacturing.
- Industry experts believe Assam's entry into advanced chip design could foster **research collaborations, investment opportunities, and skilled manpower development** in the Northeast.

141.SARUSAJAI COMPLEX RENAMED AFTER BHOGESWAR BARUAH

- Like previous years, the 42nd Abhiruchi Sports Day was celebrated across Assam on 3rd September to mark the birth anniversary of Bhogeswar Baruah.
- In Guwahati, the central event was organised where Bhogeswar Baruah himself, Assam sports minister Nandita Gorlosa, former athlete Tayabun Nessa, and actor Barasha Rani Bishoya participated.
- They led a mass rally that started from Sarusajai Sports Complex at 6:15 am.
- Bhogeswar Baruah remains one of Assam's most celebrated sporting icons, best remembered for winning gold in the 800 metres at the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok — the first and only Assamese athlete to win an Asiad gold.

- His achievement not only placed Assam on the continental sporting map but also inspired generations of athletes from the region.
- Balendra Mohan Chakravarty, chairman of the organising committee, praised the State government's recent decision to rename the Sarusajai Sports Complex after Bhogeswar Baruah, noting that it gave this year's celebration a special significance.

142. UNGA MARKS INT'L DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS

- The UN General Assembly (UNGA) met on 29th August to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests.
- Robert Floyd, executive secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Organization, noted that 80 years after the first nuclear test and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II, not even one nuclear weapon has exploded in war around the world.
- He highlighted that in the following 50 years, around 2,000 nuclear explosions scarred the planet, averaging "one test every week" during the Cold War.
- Since the opening of the CTBT in 1996, "fewer than a dozen tests" have taken place, making the treaty "a triumph for science, for multilateralism, for humanity," said Floyd.

143. PRESIDENT MURMU HONOURS 45 EDUCATORS WITH NAT'L TEACHER AWARDS



- President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Teacher Awards to 45 teachers from across the country for their exemplary contributions to teaching and learning.
- The awardees were recognised for their novel teaching methods, dedication to students' growth, and efforts to enhance learning achievements in challenging environments.
- Their contributions ranged from innovative pedagogy to inspiring first-generation learners, playing a vital role in shaping young minds across India.
- Among the awardees is M. Devananda Kumar, faculty of Telugu at Dr. Lakireddy Hanimireddy Government Degree College, Mylavaram, Andhra Pradesh, honoured for his innovative teaching practices.
- Another recipient is Aha, faculty of Psychology at Rajiv Gandhi Central University, Arunachal Pradesh, recognised for

his expertise in forensic psychology and neuropsychology, with over 14 years of academic service.

144. NEPAL-CHINA JOINT MILITARY DRILL

- The fifth edition of Sagarmatha Friendship, a joint military exercise between the Nepal Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, began in Kathmandu.
- The 10-day exercise will involve knowledge exchange between the two armies on disaster management, United Nations Peace Mission, and counter-terrorism, among other areas, according to a Nepal Army press release.
- The joint exercise has been organised alternately in Nepal and China since 2017.

145. ASSAM CM LAUNCHES GREEN INITIATIVE, PLANTS NEEM SAPLING AHEAD OF PM'S VISIT

- Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the 'PM Neem Corridor,' a green initiative to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the state.



- Neem trees are being planted along a 2.2 km stretch leading to the rally venue in Numaligarh, symbolizing a natural and memorable welcome for the Prime Minister.
- To inaugurate the initiative, Sarma planted a neem sapling himself.
- The programme is being carried out in collaboration with Khumtai MLA Mrinal Saikia.
- The Chief Minister said the initiative not only honours the Prime Minister's visit but also contributes to Assam's long-term environmental goals.

146. FIRST REMOTE ROBOTIC GALLBLADDER REMOVAL SURGERY IN NORTH EAST PERFORMED

- Swagat Super Speciality Hospital, Guwahati, under the leadership of Prof Subhash Khanna, performed the first remote robotic gallbladder removal surgery in eastern and north-eastern India.

- The operations were conducted on two patients using the made-in-India SSI Mantra robotic system.
- Prof Khanna controlled the robot from Gurgaon, nearly 1,950 km away, to perform the surgeries.
- Remote robotic surgery is not entirely new; the first such procedure, the “Lindbergh Operation,” was performed in 2001 when a surgeon in New York removed a patient’s gallbladder in Strasbourg, France.
- Progress in this field has been slow due to high costs and connectivity challenges.
- With advancements in robotics, secure networks, and high-speed data transmission, there has been a resurgence of global interest in remote robotic surgery.

147. NEWLY DISCOVERED GECKO NAMED AFTER STATE FOREST DEPT



- A bent-toed gecko, *Cyrtodactylus vanarakshaka*, was recently discovered in Dima Hasao district and named after the Assam Forest Department.
- The discovery coincided with #ForestMartyrsDay on 11th September, marking a tribute to the brave forest staff.
- The scientific epithet *vanarakshaka* is derived from the Sanskrit words *vana* (forest) and *rakshaka* (protector), honouring the Assam Forest Department.
- The gecko was discovered in the forests of the hill district, recognizing the department’s crucial role in protecting forests and conserving biodiversity across the state.
- The naming also acknowledges the dedication and sacrifice of Assam’s forest frontline staff, many of whom have lost their lives in the line of duty.

148. TCS LAUNCHES CHIPLET-BASED SYSTEM ENGINEERING SERVICES

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country’s largest IT services firm, announced the launch of its chiplet-based system engineering services to accelerate semiconductor innovation and support India’s goal of becoming a global semiconductor hub.
- The new services aim to help semiconductor companies develop faster and more powerful chips while democratizing the design of next-generation chips for customers.

- India’s semiconductor market is projected to grow from an estimated USD 45–50 billion in 2024-2025 to USD 100–110 billion by 2030.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore to boost fabrication, design, and manufacturing.
- TCS also provides advanced package design services, including 2.5D and 3D interposers and multi-layer organic substrates, which connect and support multi-chip packages.
- These services help semiconductor clients deliver next-generation multi-chip products with superior signal integrity, lower latency, and a compact form factor.

149. INDIA, NORWAY HOLD TALKS ON MARITIME SECURITY, DISARMAMENT



- India and Norway held the inaugural Maritime Security, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Dialogue in Oslo, discussing ways to sustain a secure and safe maritime environment in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), conducive to economic growth, peace and progress in maritime matters.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs) Muanpui Saiawi led the Indian delegation at the dialogue while the Norwegian side was led by Jon Elvedal Fredriksen, Director General, Department for Security Policy and the High North, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The two sides conferred on ways to sustain a secure and safe maritime environment in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS, conducive to economic growth, peace and progress in maritime matters.
- They reviewed ongoing cooperation initiatives in the maritime domain and avenues of reinforcing international and regional mechanisms for comprehensive maritime security.
- They agreed to strengthen their shared efforts in areas such as countering illicit maritime activities and protection of critical maritime infrastructure.

150.MOS PABITRA MARGHERITA TO REPRESENT PM MODI AT PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S 50TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

- Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita will visit Papua New Guinea (PNG) on September 16 to represent Prime Minister Narendra Modi at events marking the island nation's 50th Independence anniversary, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced.
- During his visit, Margherita is expected to hold bilateral meetings with PNG's political leadership and engage with the Indian diaspora and business community.
- The visit follows the historic 3rd Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) chaired by PM Modi in Port Moresby in May 2023 and will help continue India's outreach to Pacific Island Countries (PICs).
- The commemorations come against the backdrop of growing India-PNG ties under New Delhi's Act East Policy.
- Earlier this month, the Indian Navy's indigenous ASW Corvette INS Kadmat arrived in Port Moresby to participate in PNG's official Independence Day celebrations.
- The Navy band also performed in a military tattoo event as part of the festivities.
- According to the Ministry of Defence, INS Kadmat's goodwill visit underscores India's commitment to strengthening maritime partnership and promoting peace, stability, and inclusive growth in the Indo-Pacific.
- The ship's participation in PNG's Independence Day Parade and cultural events highlights the shared democratic values and heritage between the two nations.

151.NEW FRESHWATER FISH SPECIES LOCATED IN KAMJONG DIST



- A new freshwater fish species has been identified in Manipur, according to a study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Zootaxa*.
- The species, named **Garra nambashiensis**, is a new type of Labeonine fish.

- It was discovered by a research team led by Dr. Bungdon Shangningam of Dhanamanjuri University (DMU), Imphal.
- The fish was found in Taretlok, a tributary of the Chindwin river, near the Nambashi Valley at Kasom Khullen in Kamjong district.

1582.US, KOREA, JAPAN OPEN JOINT AIR, NAVAL EXERCISE:

- The United States, South Korea, and Japan opened an air and naval exercise off a South Korean island in their latest joint drill condemned by North Korea as a "reckless show of strength."
- The exercise called "Freedom Edge" is aimed at strengthening the countries' combined operational capabilities in the sea, air, and cyberspace and is necessary to counter North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats, South Korea's Defence Ministry said.
- The US Indo-Pacific Command said the exercise will include US Marine and Air Force aerial assets and feature enhanced ballistic-missile and air-defence drills, medical evacuations, and maritime operations training, making it "the most advanced demonstration of trilateral defense cooperation to date."

153.FROM ASSAM TO GUJARAT: VKV BORGOLAI'S KHO KHO TEAM MAKES HISTORY ON NATIONAL GROUNDS



- In a spectacular display of grit, teamwork, and speed, the Kho Kho team of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya (VKV), Borgolai, Tinsukia (Assam) achieved remarkable success at the CBSE National Kho Kho Tournament 2025, held in Gujarat.
- Competing against some of the country's top CBSE-affiliated schools, the VKV Borgolai team surged through the tournament rounds with unwavering focus and athletic excellence.
- The team reached the semifinals, making it one of the top four teams in the nation, a first in the school's history at this prestigious level.
- Led by captain Parag Changmai and coached by Mrs. Aburi the team showcased strategic play, lightning-fast reflexes, and extraordinary stamina.
- Their victories over powerhouse schools from Maharashtra and Delhi caught the attention of national-level scouts and sports authorities.

154.AUSTRALIA BANS SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UNDER-16S

- Social media companies will be required to detect and deactivate accounts held by underage children when Australia's world-first under-16 ban comes into effect in December.
- The federal government released regulatory guidance for technology companies to comply with the under-16 social media ban ahead of it coming into effect on December 10.
- The guidance says that social media platforms will be expected to initially focus on the detection and deactivation of existing accounts held by children younger than 16, and on taking reasonable steps to prevent those whose accounts have been removed from immediately creating a new account.
- Platforms will not be required to test the age of every user and will not be told by the government which technology to use for age assurance, but will need to provide transparent and accessible information about how they are enforcing the ban as well as a process for disputes.
- Under the legislation for the ban, which passed the federal parliament in December 2024, companies that fail to take "reasonable steps" to enforce the ban will face fines worth up to 49.5 million Australian dollars (\$33 million).

155.E-AUCTION OF OVER 1,300 ITEMS GIFTED TO PM MODI BEGINS TODAY



- More than 1,300 items, including a Tanjore painting of Ram Durbar, a metallic Nataraja statue, a handwoven Naga shawl and a set of sporting memorabilia from the Paralympic Games 2024, gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi are part of an e-auction beginning on September 17.
- The start of the seventh edition of the online auction will coincide with the birthday of Modi, who turns 75.
- Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced the launch of the latest edition of the Prime Minister's mementoes e-auction at a press interaction hosted at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA).
- The first edition of the e-auctions was held in January 2019.
- Since then, thousands of unique gifts presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been auctioned, raising more than Rs 50 crore in support of the Namami Gange project, according to the Culture Ministry.
- Shekhawat said more than 1,300 gifts received by the Prime Minister will be auctioned online.

- These items include paintings, artefacts, sculptures, idols of gods and goddesses and sports items.
- Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to dedicate all mementoes he receives towards this noble cause, the statement said.
- The items that will be part of the e-auction also include an intricately embroidered pashmina shawl from Jammu & Kashmir, a Tanjore painting of Ram Durbar, a metallic Nataraja statue, a Rogan Art from Gujarat depicting the Tree of Life and a handwoven Naga shawl.
- A special highlight of this edition is the sports memorabilia gifted by India's para-athletes who participated in the Paris Paralympics 2024, symbolising their resilience, excellence and indomitable spirit.
- The collection reflects the cultural diversity of India, ranging from traditional art, paintings, sculptures, handicrafts and tribal artefacts to ceremonial gifts of honour and respect.

156.COMMITMENT FOR THE EARTH: ASSAM OBSERVES WORLD OZONE DAY 2025

- "Commitment for the Environment, Commitment for the Earth" — Chandra Mohan Patowary, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, Government of Assam, urged students to take responsibility for Mother Earth in a State-level programme on World Ozone Day 2025.
- The programme, held under the theme "From Science to Global Action," was organized by the Assam Climate Change Management Society (ACCMS), Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, Government of Assam, in collaboration with Centre for Clouds and Climate Change Research, Cotton University at the Department of Zoology, Cotton University.
- The event saw enthusiastic participation of around 100 students from different colleges.
- Joining as Chief Guest, the Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister spoke at length about the importance of World Ozone Day and the international treaties that facilitated global action to phase out ozone-depleting substances.
- He appealed to the students to be environmentally conscious and think about how they could meaningfully contribute to sustaining the earth.
- The Minister remarked that such awareness programmes will inspire the youth to become committed environment warriors.
- Highlighting the role of trees in mitigating climate change, Patowary spoke about the success of the Amrit Brikshya Andolan, a massive community-led plantation drive that has brought people together to contribute to forest conservation as well as increase the forest area of the state.

157. ASSAM GOVERNOR LP ACHARYA CONFERS 'VISHWAKARMA SAMMAN'



- On the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti, Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya presented the 'Governor Assam Vishwakarma Samman' to six divyangjan for their outstanding contributions in various fields.
- The ceremony was held at the Brahmaputra Wing of Raj Bhavan, marking a significant step towards inclusivity and societal empowerment.
- The Governor extended warm congratulations to all the awardees and highlighted the cultural and symbolic significance of the day, which also coincides with the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- He emphasized that this philosophy inspired the transformation of the term 'Viklang' to 'Divyangjan', reshaping societal perceptions of disability.
- Maulik Rabha from Goalpara, a visually impaired teacher, was honoured in the field of art and culture for preserving Assamese musical traditions through his music school.
- In literature and education, Nibedita Ghosh from Karbi Anglong, who is 100% visually impaired, was recognised for her work as an inspiring educator and motivational speaker.
- Dharani Kalita from Bajali received the award in the field of science, engineering, medicine and environment for innovatively converting manual tricycles into electric ones, benefiting many differently-abled individuals.
- Rakesh Banik from Nagaon was honoured in the category of social work and public affairs for his efforts, including a 2500-kilometre journey to raise awareness and support for Assam's flood victims.
- Abhishek Gogoi from Kamrup Metro was recognised in the field of sports for his achievements as a para-athlete, including medals at the Special Olympics and national-level competitions.
- In trade, industry and commerce, Akoni Baruah from Jorhat was awarded for his entrepreneurship in traditional handicrafts, which has also generated employment for local youth.

158. ICG LAUNCHES FAST PATROL VESSEL 'ADAMYA' ON ODISHA COAST:

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned fast patrol vessel 'Adamyia' on the Odisha coast, strengthening security in the Bay of Bengal.
- This vessel is one of eight fast patrol vessels being built by Goa Shipyard Ltd for the ICG.
- The FPV will be deployed at Paradip.
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is advancing towards the vision of a "Sashakt Bharat."
- Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi stated that Odisha is playing a pivotal role in strengthening India's maritime security architecture.
- The FPV, with a speed of 50 kmph or 27 knots, will ensure proper patrolling, check infiltration and piracy, and rescue those stranded in deep seas.

159. MAMMOOTTY, AMITABH BACHCHAN, OTHERS HAIL MOHANLAL ON BEING NAMED FOR DADASAHEB PHALKE HONOUR



- Celebrities Mammootty, Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar and Prithviraj Sukumaran, among others, have extended their wishes to the Malayalam superstar Mohanlal on being honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- Mohanlal, 65, who has been in the industry for over four decades and has notable projects to his credit such as *Iruvar*, *Vanaprastham* and *Drishyam*.
- He will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2023, the country's highest recognition in the field of cinema.

160.ZUBEEN GARG'S FAREWELL BECOMES FOURTH LARGEST GATHERING, ENTERS LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS



- The world bid farewell to Assamese music legend Zubeen Garg as lakhs of fans from across Assam and beyond travelled to see a final glimpse of the heartthrob.
- Recognizing the massive public turnout, the Limca Book of Records has listed Zubeen Garg's funeral among the fourth-largest gatherings globally, following Michael Jackson, Pope Francis, and Queen Elizabeth.
- This recognition cements his legacy as a true people's superstar.