



SANDPAPER
— ACADEMY FOR CIVIL SERVICES —

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY SPECIALIZED CURRENT AFFAIRS
MAGAZINE FOR APSC CCE

OCTOBER
2025

FEATURES

- Assam Specific News along with National & International News
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ASSAM ESSENTIALS 2.0

THE ASSAM FORMULA — EVOLVED AND ELEVATED

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3RD FLOOR, ROYAL CIRCLE
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APSC CCE 2024

DIRECT HITS

72
100
QUESTIONS

**IN APSC CCE
PRELIMS 2024**

6
8

ESSAYS
QUESTIONS

18
20

GS I
QUESTIONS

19
20

GS II
QUESTIONS

17
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GS III
QUESTIONS

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GS IV
QUESTIONS

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20

GS V
QUESTIONS

**IN APSC CCE
MAINS 2024**

NATIONAL POLITY

1.MHA OKAYS RS 692 CR FOR WETLAND RESERVOIRS



- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sanctioned a first-phase fund of ₹692 crore for constructing wetland reservoirs to divert the overflowing waters of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- The initiative aims to strengthen flood mitigation measures while also promoting aquaculture and other rural livelihood opportunities.
- Currently, 15 reservoirs are planned, but the number is expected to increase as they are not sufficient to fully control floods.
- The long-term goal is to expand the network to 300–400 reservoirs across the State.
- The Water Resources Department has invested nearly ₹2,000 crore annually during Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's tenure under various flood management projects, significantly improving flood control measures.
- Under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiative, the State will invest ₹1,300 crore in flood management projects, with 80% as central loans and 20% as the State's contribution.
- New embankments will be constructed in Dhemaji (32 km), Jorhat (8 km), Golaghat (6 km), and Sivasagar (10 km).
- In the coming year, the Water Resources Department plans to invest around ₹2,200 crore for flood management initiatives.

2.MODI'S ₹20,000 CRORE INITIATIVE AIMS TO REVOLUTIONIZE ASSAM'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a series of development projects worth over ₹20,000 crore in Assam, aimed at transforming the state's economic and social landscape.

- The initiatives cover key sectors such as **agriculture, infrastructure, transport, and education**, reflecting a holistic approach to growth and modernization.
- A major highlight is the **₹12,000 crore Namrup Fertiliser Unit**, with a **production capacity of 12 lakh metric tonnes (LMT)**.
 - It is one of the **largest fertiliser plants in the region** and is expected to **boost agricultural productivity** while reducing dependence on external fertiliser supplies.
- In a major connectivity push, the Prime Minister launched the **₹7,000 crore Guwahati Ring Road and Kuruwa–Narengi Road projects**, which will help **reduce traffic congestion** and **improve intra-city mobility** in Guwahati.
- The government also approved an **express corridor to the Barak Valley** and the construction of the **Kamalabari–Nimati Ghat bridge**, which are expected to **enhance regional connectivity and trade**.
- Assam's transport infrastructure will further improve through the **double-laning of the Lumding–Tinsukia railway line**, facilitating **faster cargo movement** and **better passenger convenience**.
- Balancing development with conservation, Modi announced the **Kaziranga elevated corridor**, designed to **enable smooth travel while safeguarding the park's wildlife and ecosystem**.
- The education sector received a strong push with the **approval of IIM Guwahati**, which will provide **world-class management education** and **create new opportunities** for the state's youth.

3.HISTORY REMADE: BRO BUILDS WORLD'S HIGHEST MOTORABLE ROAD AT MIG LA PASS IN LADAKH



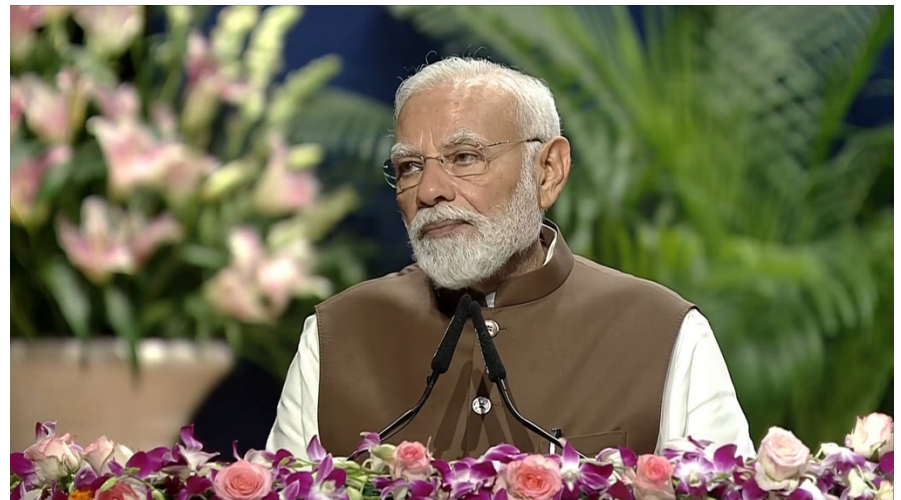
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed the world's highest motorable road at Mig La Pass, Ladakh, at an altitude of 19,400 feet.
- The new Likaru–Mig La–Fukche road surpasses BRO's previous Guinness World Record at Umling La, which stands at 19,024 feet.
- Developed under Project Himank, the route holds significant strategic value as it forms a crucial third axis connecting Hanle to Fukche.
- The road will not only strengthen India's border infrastructure but also boost tourism in Ladakh and aid the development of the region's remote "First Villages."
- BRO officials hailed the project as a reflection of the organisation's engineering excellence, resilience, and dedication to nation-building.
- The achievement reinforces BRO's pivotal role in enhancing connectivity, security, and regional development in India's high-altitude frontier.

4.HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE FORMED UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF UNION HOME MINISTER



- A **High-Level Committee (HLC)** chaired by **Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** has approved **₹707.97 crore** in additional central aid for **Assam and Gujarat**, which were affected by floods and landslides in **2024**.
- The assistance is sourced from the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**, with **50%** to be adjusted against the **opening balance of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**.
- **State-wise allocation:**
 - **Assam:** ₹313.69 crore
 - **Gujarat:** ₹394.28 crore
- Additionally, the HLC sanctioned **₹903.67 crore** under NDRF for the **expansion and modernization of fire services** in **Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan**, including a **central share of ₹676.33 crore**:
 - **Haryana:** ₹117.19 crore
 - **Madhya Pradesh:** ₹397.54 crore
 - **Rajasthan:** ₹388.94 crore
- This aid is **over and above** the regular allocations to states under **SDRF and NDRF**.
- For **FY 2025–26**, the Central Government has already released:
 - **₹13,603.20 crore** under **SDRF** to **27 States**
 - **₹2,024.04 crore** under **NDRF** to **12 States**
 - **₹4,571.30 crore** from the **State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF)** to **21 States**
 - **₹372.09 crore** from the **National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)** to **9 States**
- The **Government of India**, under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, continues to provide **comprehensive support** to states in managing and mitigating the impact of natural disasters.

5.PM TO LAUNCH PULSES MISSION, DHAN DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA TOMORROW



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch two central schemes — **Pulses Mission** and **Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** — in New Delhi on **October 11**, aimed at making India self-reliant and reducing import dependency.
- Both schemes, already approved by the Cabinet, will be implemented from the **upcoming rabi (winter) season** and continue till **2030–31**.
- The launch event will be held at the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa campus**, where Modi will also unveil **projects worth ₹3,681 crore** related to fisheries, livestock, and food processing, and interact with farmers.
- Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** said that while India is self-sufficient in wheat and rice, **pulses and oilseeds remain areas of concern**.
- The **Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses** aims to raise pulses production from **252.38 lakh tonnes** to **350 lakh tonnes** by **2030–31**.
- The scheme has a **financial outlay of ₹11,440 crore** and focuses on distributing **high-yielding and disease-tolerant seed varieties** developed by ICAR in the past five years to boost productivity.
- To motivate farmers to grow more pulses, the government will **procure 100% of the produce at the Minimum Support Price (MSP)** through agencies like **NAFED and NCCF**.
- A detailed strategy has been formulated to increase pulses production by expanding the **area under cultivation** and improving **crop productivity**.
- On the issue of **duty-free imports of yellow peas**, the minister stated that the government will take appropriate decisions at the right time.
- Despite being the **world's largest producer and consumer of pulses**, India still relies on imports to meet domestic demand.
- The **Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana**, with an **outlay of ₹24,000 crore**, aims to **transform 100 low-performing agricultural districts**.
- The scheme's objectives include **enhancing productivity, promoting crop diversification, improving irrigation and storage facilities**, and **ensuring credit access** in selected districts.
- It will focus exclusively on **agriculture and allied sectors** and ensure **saturation-based convergence** of **36 schemes** from **11 ministries**, directly benefiting **1.7 crore farmers**.

6.RS 42,000 CRORE PUSH FOR FARM GROWTH

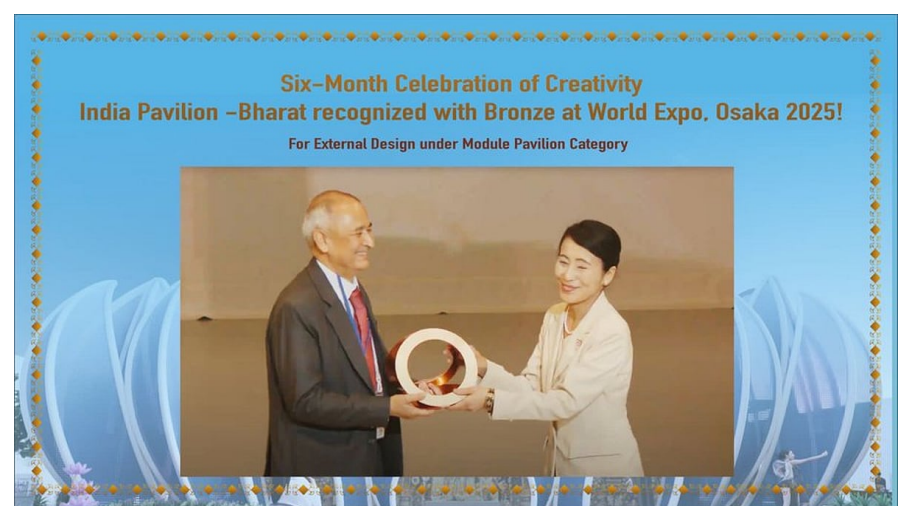


- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth ₹42,000 crore aimed at transforming the **agriculture and allied sectors**.
- Two major schemes were launched — the **PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** and the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses** — with a combined outlay of ₹35,440 crore.
- Additional projects worth over ₹5,450 crore were rolled out in the **agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and food processing sectors**.
- Modi also laid the **foundation stone** for new projects worth around ₹815 crore.
- In his address, the Prime Minister highlighted that **farmers play a crucial role** in building a **developed India**.
- He mentioned that the **recent GST reduction** has provided **maximum benefits to rural India and farmers**.
- Criticising previous governments for **neglecting agriculture**, Modi stated that the sector has witnessed **remarkable growth over the last 11 years**.
- He urged farmers to **diversify crops beyond wheat and rice**, and to focus on **pulses cultivation** to ensure **protein security**.
- The **Pulses Mission** aims to **reduce India's import dependence** by boosting **domestic production**.
- Other inaugurated projects include:
 - **Artificial insemination training centres** in Bengaluru and Jammu & Kashmir.
 - **Centres of excellence** at Amreli and Banas.
 - An **IVF lab** in Assam under the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**.
 - **Milk powder plants** at Mehsana, Indore, and Bhilwara.
 - A **fish feed plant** at Tezpur under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**.
- The event also celebrated major achievements, including **1,100 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)** recording an **annual turnover of over ₹1 crore in 2024–25**.

7.HONOUR FOR INDIA PAVILION AT OSAKA WORLD EXPO A PROUD MOMENT FOR US: PIYUSH GOYAL

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the '**India Pavilion – Bharat**' being honoured at the **World Expo 2025 in Osaka** is "a proud moment for all of us."

- He said '**Bharat at Expo 2025**' celebrates India's **rich heritage, traditions, and diverse cultures**, reflecting how the nation blends **innovation and creativity** while staying rooted in its values.
- The **India Pavilion** received a **Bronze Award** for **external design** in the '**Module Pavilion**' category at the World Expo.
- It has been **ranked among the top five pavilions** at the event, alongside those of the **US, Italy, Japan, and France**.
- The pavilion highlights India's **cultural heritage, innovation, and sustainable development**, featuring exhibits on **heritage, Ayurveda, ISRO, and more**.
- The pavilion has been **curated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**.
- Combining **traditional and modern elements**, it has emerged as a **major attraction**, drawing visitors with **interactive cultural experiences, authentic Indian cuisine, and photo-friendly installations**.
- The **World Expo 2025** will continue until **October 13**.
- The **Bharat Mandap** serves as more than an architectural showcase — it is a **living expression of India's cultural diplomacy**, offering visitors a **deeply immersive experience** through **artistic installations, cultural sessions, and rich exhibits**.



8.PM CELEBRATES DIWALI ONBOARD INS VIKRANT



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the exceptional coordination among the three armed forces – the Navy's fearsome presence, the Air Force's extraordinary skill, and the Army's bravery – forced Pakistan to its knees during Operation Sindoor in no time.

- Addressing Navy personnel onboard INS Vikrant off the Goa coast, he described the indigenously built aircraft carrier as a “powerful symbol” of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and said its handover to the Navy marked the renouncement of a major colonial legacy.
- Modi spent a night on INS Vikrant and witnessed the Navy’s air power at sea, with MiG-27 aircraft showcasing their capabilities on the carrier built at Cochin Shipyard.
- He said that when war is imminent, the side capable of fighting independently holds the advantage.
- Since 2014, Indian shipyards have delivered over 40 indigenous warships and submarines to the Navy, with one being inducted approximately every 40 days.
- India is building capacity to export weapons and equipment for all three armed forces, aiming to be among the world’s top defence exporters.
- Over the past decade, India’s defence exports have increased more than 30-fold, a success Modi credited to defence start-ups and indigenous defence units.
- The Prime Minister praised the Indian Coast Guard for its vital role in national defence and its coordination with the Navy in safeguarding India’s coastline round the clock.
- Recalling the handover of INS Vikrant, he described the warship as grand, immense, panoramic, unique, and exceptional.
- Modi highlighted that the Navy adopted a new flag inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- INS Vikrant, India’s first home-built aircraft carrier commissioned in 2022, strengthens the country’s naval presence.
- Described as a “city on the move,” INS Vikrant is India’s largest indigenously built warship and the second operational aircraft carrier after INS Vikramaditya, which was built on a Russian platform.
- Modi arrived and boarded INS Vikrant off the coast of Goa, visiting the flight deck surrounded by MiG-29K fighter aircraft.
- He witnessed the takeoff and landing of MiG-29 fighter jets on the carrier’s short runway during both day and night operations.
- Modi also attended a vibrant cultural programme featuring patriotic songs sung by Navy officers and sailors, including a song commemorating the success of Operation Sindoor.
- He had dinner with naval personnel and their families during the Bara Khana.
- Modi joined a yoga session on the deck of INS Vikrant and witnessed a spectacular steampast of warships and a flypast by aircraft.
- Warships participating in the steampast included INS Vikrant, INS Vikramaditya, INS Surat, INS Mormugao, INS Chennai, INS Imphal, INS Kolkata, INS Tushil, INS Tabar, INS Teg, INS Betwa, INS Deepak, and INS Aditya.
- The flypast featured Chetak with flag and naval ensign, MH-60R, Seaking, Kamov 31, Dornier, P8I, and MiG-29K aircraft.

9.2026 WILL BE ASEAN-INDIA YEAR OF MARITIME COOPERATION: PM

- The India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership is emerging as a powerful foundation for global stability and growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.
- In a virtual address at the India-ASEAN annual summit, Modi also said that the grouping is a key pillar of New Delhi’s Act East Policy.
- The Prime Minister said India has “stood firmly with its ASEAN friends” in every crisis.

- The two-way cooperation in the spheres of maritime security and the blue economy is growing rapidly.
- ASEAN is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries, including the US, China, Japan, and Australia, are its dialogue partners.
- The ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of a sectoral partnership in 1992.
- This graduated to a full dialogue partnership in December 1995 and a summit-level partnership in 2002.
- The ties were elevated to a strategic partnership in 2012.



10. INDIAN COFFEE BECOMING POPULAR GLOBALLY: MODI



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Indian coffee is gaining global popularity, driven by the diverse varieties grown in states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.
- In his 127th edition of the monthly radio address “Mann ki Baat,” he noted that the Northeast is also progressing in coffee cultivation, further strengthening the identity of Indian coffee worldwide.
- Modi highlighted regions such as Chikmagalur, Coorg, and Hassan in Karnataka; Pulney, Shevaroy, Nilgiri, and Annamalai in Tamil Nadu; the Nilgiri region on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border; and Wayanad, Travancore, and Malabar in Kerala for their remarkable coffee diversity.
- He added that Koraput in Odisha is also gaining popularity for its coffee.
- The Prime Minister mentioned that some people have left lucrative corporate jobs to pursue their passion for coffee cultivation.
- The Koraput region is known for its unique agro-climatic conditions suitable for producing high-quality Arabica coffee, with about 5,000 hectares under cultivation.
- The Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation of Odisha Ltd (TDCCOL) serves as an apex cooperative institution ensuring end-to-end processing — from procurement to drying, grading, and marketing.
- Arabica and Robusta are the two commercially cultivated types of coffee worldwide, including in India.

- Karnataka accounts for about 70% of India's coffee production, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu, while Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are non-traditional coffee-growing regions.
- During April–September of the current fiscal year, India's coffee exports rose by 12.5% to \$1.05 billion.

11.SORTIE IN RAFALE 'UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE', SAYS PRESIDENT MURMU



- President Droupadi Murmu took a sortie in a Rafale fighter jet from the Indian Air Force Station in Ambala.
- She described the experience as “unforgettable” and said it instilled a “renewed sense of pride” in India's defence capabilities.
- Murmu made history as the first President of India to fly in two different fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Earlier, in April 2023, she had undertaken a sortie in a Sukhoi-30 MKI from Tezpur in Assam.
- Wearing a G-suit and sunglasses, the President, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces, posed for pictures and gave a thumbs-up before the flight.
- The Rafale was piloted by Group Captain Amit Gehani, Commanding Officer of the 17 Squadron.

- The aircraft took off at 11:27 a.m. and the sortie lasted approximately 30 minutes.
- The flight covered around 200 kilometres, reaching an altitude of about 15,000 feet and a speed of approximately 700 kilometres per hour.
- Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh also undertook a sortie in a separate aircraft from the same air base.
- President Droupadi Murmu's Rafale flight follows the tradition of former Presidents who have flown in fighter jets.
- The first was Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who flew in a Sukhoi-30 MKI on June 8, 2006.
- Pratibha Patil also flew in a Sukhoi-30 MKI on November 25, 2009.
- The Rafale jets, manufactured by Dassault Aviation, were formally inducted into the Indian Air Force's 17 Squadron, the 'Golden Arrows', in September 2020 at the Ambala Air Force Station.
- The Rafale jets were deployed in *Operation Sindoor*, launched on May 7, to destroy several terror infrastructures located in territories controlled by Pakistan.



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INDIAN ECONOMY

12.CENTRE MULLS RS 20,000 CR RISK GUARANTEE FUND FOR INFRA GROWTH:



- The government is considering a proposal to create a ₹20,000-crore risk guarantee fund for the infrastructure sector to boost private sector investment.
- The fund aims to share project risks, reducing the burden on developers and attracting private investments.
- With an initial corpus of ₹20,000 crore, the fund may be managed by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC).
- It would underwrite development risks of new projects.
- Safeguards may include a minimum stake by developers and charging risk-based premiums.
- The fund would cover losses from policy uncertainty and other non-commercial risks, encouraging lenders to provide larger loans for big projects.
- For success, the guarantee must be bankable, with assured and timely payments.
- India needs to spend USD 4.51 trillion (about ₹390 lakh crore) on infrastructure by 2030 to achieve its USD 5 trillion economy vision by 2025 and sustain growth thereafter, as per the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) report.
- Sustaining high growth depends heavily on infrastructure, which currently lags behind the needs of a growing economy and population.
- A task force led by the then Economic Affairs Secretary highlighted poor infrastructure as a major hurdle for the 'Make in India' programme.
- The report warned that weak infrastructure hampers corporate growth and investment, costing 4–5% of GDP due to inefficiencies.
- Infrastructure development can reduce inefficiencies, drive immediate economic expansion, and support long-term growth.
- Upgrading and creating new infrastructure will be vital to enhance India's competitiveness and the success of 'Make in India', since manufacturing competitiveness depends critically on infrastructure.

13.INDIA, EU TO BEGIN NEXT ROUND OF TALKS FOR TRADE PACT



- Senior officials from India and the 27-member European Union (EU) will begin the next round of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations in Brussels on Monday to resolve outstanding issues for an early conclusion.
- This will be the 14th round of negotiations, scheduled to take place over five days starting October 6.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has recently expressed optimism that the agreement will be signed soon.
- The proposed pact seeks to enhance bilateral trade and investment between India and the EU.
- Goyal is also expected to meet EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic in South Africa later this month to assess progress, as both sides aim to conclude talks by December.
- Last month, Sefcovic and European Commission's Agriculture Commissioner Christophe Hansen visited India to review negotiations with Goyal.
- The India-EU FTA talks, along with discussions on an investment protection pact and a geographical indications agreement, were revived in June 2022 after an eight-year hiatus.
- The earlier negotiations were stalled in 2013 due to disagreements over market access levels.
- The EU has sought significant tariff reductions on automobiles, medical devices, wines, spirits, meats, and poultry, along with a stronger intellectual property framework.
- Successful completion of the pact could make Indian exports—such as garments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery—more competitive in the EU market.
- The negotiations cover 23 policy chapters, including trade in goods and services, investment, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, trade remedies, rules of origin, customs facilitation, competition, government procurement, dispute settlement, intellectual property, geographical indications, and sustainable development.
- Bilateral trade in goods between India and the EU stood at USD 136.53 billion in 2024–25, with India's exports worth USD 75.85 billion and imports worth USD 60.68 billion, making the EU India's largest trading partner in goods.
- The EU accounts for about 17% of India's total exports, while exports from the EU to India make up around 9% of its global shipments.

14.PM MODI, KEIR STARMER ENDORSE PACTS TO DEEPEN INDIA-UK TRADE AND ECONOMIC TIES



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer held talks to further strengthen trade and economic relations, aiming to boost job creation and investment flows between India and the UK.
- Both nations agreed to establish an India-UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre and a Joint Centre for Artificial Intelligence.
- They also decided to form a Critical Minerals Industry Guild to strengthen supply chains and promote green technologies.
- Joint investments were announced for a Climate Technology Startup Fund, along with new collaborations in health, renewable energy, an offshore wind task force, and a health research partnership.
- These agreements are expected to accelerate bilateral trade, facilitate the setting up of UK university campuses in India, and enhance cooperation in frontier technologies to drive inclusive economic growth and national security.
- Both leaders expressed hope for the early ratification of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) to realize its benefits.
- Starmer emphasized that his visit focused on advancing the trade deal, which is expected to come into effect within a year.
- They reaffirmed their commitment to improving connectivity and collaboration in the aviation sector.
- Both sides are also discussing the renewal of the India-UK Air Services Agreement and other aviation-related matters, which will open new avenues for cooperation across the aerospace sector.

15.CENTRAL GOVT STEPS UP ANTI-SMUGGLING DRIVE

- **Leading financial, intelligence, and border guarding agencies** met to deliberate on strengthening **India's anti-smuggling efforts**, as per the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.
- The discussions were held during the **second meeting of the National Anti-Smuggling Coordination Centre (S-CORD)** at the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** headquarters.
- Representatives from **21 agencies** participated, including border guarding forces — **SSB, ITBP, BSF, Assam Rifles, CISF, CRPF, and the Indian Coast Guard**.
- Key financial and intelligence agencies present included the **Enforcement Directorate (ED), CEIB, FIU, CBI, IB, and Cabinet Secretariat**, along with officials from **CBDT, DPIIT,**

ASI, WCCB, CDSO, Indian Railways, and the D&ISA Division of MEA.

- **S-CORD** was constituted following directions from **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**, with its **first meeting held in April 2019**.
- It serves as a **unique inter-agency platform** that unites diverse stakeholders to **strengthen anti-smuggling operations** across India.
- The platform promotes **closer monitoring of smuggling trends, real-time information sharing, and coordinated operational responses**, ensuring a **unified approach** to safeguard India's **economic and border security**, according to CBIC.
- Recently, **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** directed the **anti-narcotics task forces (ANTFs)** of states, union territories, and central agencies to **intensify action against drug trafficking**.
- He also launched the **NCB's Online Drug Disposal Campaign**, which **destroyed 1.37 lakh kg of narcotics worth ₹4,800 crore** across **11 locations** nationwide.
- Addressing ANTF chiefs, Shah outlined the government's **three-pronged strategy**:
 - A **ruthless approach** to break supply chains.
 - A **strategic approach** to reduce demand.
 - A **humane approach** to harm reduction.
- He emphasized that the anti-drug campaign must move beyond targeting **small peddlers** to **dismantling major cartels** operating at **entry points, interstate routes, and local distribution networks**.

16.EC REACTIVATES ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE PANEL AFTER 6-YR GAP



- The **Election Commission (EC)** has **reactivated its economic intelligence panel** after six years to curb the use of **money, liquor, and drugs** to influence voters ahead of the **Bihar polls**.
- The **Multi-Departmental Committee on Election Intelligence (MDCEI)** met on **Friday** for the **first time since 2019** to fine-tune strategies of enforcement agencies and Central police forces to prevent the misuse of money power and freebies during elections.
- The **committee was originally formed in 2014** ahead of that year's general elections.
- The **MDCEI comprises 17 departments and agencies**, including:
 - **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**
 - **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**
 - **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**
 - **Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)**
 - **Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)**
 - **Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND)**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - Indian Banks' Association (IBA)
 - Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)
 - Railway Protection Force (RPF)
 - Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
 - Border Security Force (BSF)
 - Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
 - Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
 - Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)
 - Airports Authority of India (AAI)
 - Department of Posts
- During the meeting, various agencies briefed the Commission about their **current preparedness, steps taken, and planned measures** to ensure **inducement-free elections**.
 - The discussions covered a **wide range of issues** related to preventing the use of **money and other inducements** that could **compromise the integrity of elections**.
 - EC officials directed that there must be **strong cooperation and intelligence-sharing** among all **law enforcement and economic agencies** for effective coordinated action.

17.INDIA DIVERSIFIES GLOBAL EXPORT MARKET TO COUNTER US TARIFF HIKE



- India has successfully diversified its export markets, with overseas shipments showing year-on-year growth in over 20 countries across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.
- This diversification has helped offset the negative effects of the US tariff turmoil.
- India's merchandise exports rose by 9% during the July–September quarter of the current financial year.
- Despite a 50% hike in US tariffs, India's exports remained resilient, registering a 6.7% year-on-year rise in September.
- Growth was driven by high-value commodities such as electronics, engineering goods, and marine products.
- The 24 countries that recorded a rise in Indian exports include Germany, Belgium, Italy, Poland, South Korea, the UAE, Oman, Iraq, Egypt, Russia, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka.
- Exports to these countries increased during April–September 2025–26, with turnover reaching \$129.3 billion, constituting 59% of India's total exports, according to Commerce Ministry data.
- India's ongoing free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with the UK and Europe are expected to further boost market diversification.
- In contrast, India's merchandise exports to the US declined by 11.93% to \$5.46 billion in September due to tariff hikes imposed by the Donald Trump administration.
- India and the US are in discussions to sign a bilateral trade agreement to resolve the current tariff dispute.
- Both sides have made progress in trade talks, although India has indicated it will not rush into an agreement.
- A trade delegation led by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal held constructive meetings with US officials in Washington last week.
- The US has taken a tougher stance on India's purchase of Russian oil, but New Delhi has assured Washington that Indian companies will increase imports of American oil and gas.
- Given that India is the world's second-largest consumer of oil and gas, such imports could help reduce the US trade deficit with India—an issue raised repeatedly by Washington.



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18.AFGHANISTAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT DELHI:



- In a major development likely to strengthen India–Taliban relations, Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi will be visiting New Delhi next week, sources told IANS.
- As reported earlier, FM Muttaqi was scheduled to visit New Delhi in the last week of August but was unable to secure a travel ban exemption from the UN Security Council.
- Sources confirmed that the senior Taliban minister, heading the Foreign Affairs Ministry since 2021, will be in New Delhi on October 9–10.
- With Delhi and Kabul witnessing a shift in bilateral relations after the Taliban takeover in 2021, both nations have stepped up diplomatic engagements.
- His visit comes at a time when Kabul and Islamabad are facing strained ties, making the development significant.
- The Durand Line remains tense amidst growing friction between Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Islamabad has accused Kabul of sheltering Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) cadre and recently carried out cross-border air strikes, drawing strong criticism from Taliban leaders.
- In recent months, several senior Taliban officials have visited New Delhi, including Afghanistan's Deputy Minister of Medicine and Food, Hamdullah Zahid, who attended the 11th International Exhibition on Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare in September.

19.INDIA'S COPPER INDUSTRY FLAGS CEPA THREAT AS IMPORTS FROM UAE SURGE



- The Indian Primary Copper Producers Association (IPCPA) has raised concerns over rising copper rod imports from the UAE under the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), warning that this threatens domestic investments in copper refining.
- Since 1996, Indian producers – Hindustan Copper Ltd, Hindalco Industries, Vedanta Ltd, and Kutch Copper Ltd (Adani Group) – have built a domestic refined copper capacity of 1.25 million tonnes, against a projected demand of 0.85 million tonnes for FY25.
- The industry had plans to expand capacity further in the coming decade.
- IPCPA in a letter to the commerce ministry said CEPA poses “a significant obstacle” to these plans, as the UAE, despite having no copper mining, smelting, or refining infrastructure, is exporting copper rods to India with minimal value addition.
- UAE firms merely convert imported copper cathodes into rods, a process that changes tariff classification but adds negligible real value, according to IPCPA.
- Imports remained low in FY23 and FY24 due to phased tariff reductions under CEPA.
- The duty on copper rods was reduced from 2 per cent to 1 per cent in May 2025 and is scheduled to be fully eliminated by May 2026.
- As a result, copper rod imports from the UAE nearly doubled to 86.06 kilotonnes in FY25 from 43.45 kt in FY24.
- Non-advance authorization imports surged 239 per cent, from 18.82 kt in FY24 to 63.89 kt in FY25.
- In the first four months of FY26 alone, imports hit 42.71 kt, already half of FY25 levels.
- IPCPA also criticized the high tariff rate quota (TRQ) of 85,000 tonnes for copper rods under CEPA, calling it excessive and lacking protective value for domestic producers.
- With Chinese-controlled supply chains dominating the copper flow into UAE and negligible local processing, IPCPA cautioned that the current Product-Specific Rule (PSR) under CEPA is allowing minimally processed goods to enter India duty free – undermining the domestic copper industry's long-term viability.
- In 2022-23 and 2023-24, imports under CEPA were low, largely because duties were being reduced in a phased manner over five years.

20.INDIA, CHINA SET TO RESUME DIRECT PASSENGER FLIGHTS AFTER FIVE-YEAR GAP



- India and China will restore direct passenger flights by the end of October 2025, ending a five-year suspension caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and border tensions.
- The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that civil aviation authorities of both nations have finalised a revised Air Services Agreement to allow airlines to restart operations.
- The resumption aims to facilitate people-to-people contact, ease travel, and revive economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries.
- IndiGo will be the first carrier to resume services, with a daily non-stop Kolkata–Guangzhou flight starting on 26 October 2025.
- IndiGo has also announced plans to launch a Delhi–Guangzhou route in the near future.
- Direct flights between India and China have been suspended since 2020 following the pandemic outbreak and the Galwan Valley clash.
- The move is expected to boost trade, tourism, and business connectivity, strengthening cross-border engagement.
- Officials indicated that additional routes may be opened as demand grows, showing cautious optimism for cooperation in civil aviation despite broader geopolitical challenges.

21.INDIA BECOMES 5TH COUNTRY TO RECEIVE ISSA AWARD



- India has become the fifth country to receive the **International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award** for outstanding achievement in the field of social security, as announced by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- With this recognition, India joins **Brazil, China, Rwanda, and Iceland**—the previous recipients of the award—among the world's leaders in **social protection coverage**.
- The **ISSA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Social Security** is presented every **three years** during the **World Social Security Forum (WSSF)**.
- The award acknowledges the **vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi** focused on **empowering the last person in the line**, driving India's progress toward **inclusive and universal social protection**.
- India's **social security coverage** has significantly increased from **19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025**, according to Labour & Employment Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya**.
- The government is reinforcing social security through **policy, process, and digital reforms**, leveraging **technology** to enhance income opportunities and expand the safety net.

- This holistic approach integrates **financial inclusion, skilling, self-employment, and digital innovation**.
- Introduced in **2013**, the ISSA Award was first received by **Brazil**, followed by **China (2016)**, **Rwanda (2019)**, and **Iceland (2022)**.
- India has transitioned from **fragmented systems** to an **integrated, lifecycle-based safety net**.
- Key welfare schemes include:
 - **PM POSHAN** – ensures nutritious meals for children.
 - **Janani Suraksha Yojana** – supports safe childbirth for mothers.
 - **PM-KISAN** – provides direct income support to farmers.
 - **National Old Age Pension Scheme** – upholds dignity for the elderly.

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



- Assam's cultural pride received another boost as **Dr. Parthasarathi Mahanta's** short film '**Ansuni Cheenkhein**' won **three major awards** at the **North-East India International Film Festival** held in Mumbai.
- In the festival's "**North-East Special Section**," the film bagged **Best Director** and **Best Short Film** awards, while **Seema Biswas** received the **Best Actress** award during the closing ceremony.
- These honours add to the film's impressive list of national and international recognitions.
- '**Ansuni Cheenkhein**' earlier won:
 - **Best Asian Short Film** at the **Kollywood International Film Festival** (Chennai)
 - **Best Short Film** awards at the **Jaipur International Film Festival**, **Delhi Film Festival**, and **Indian Independent Film Festival** (Kolkata)
 - **Best Social Message Film** at the **19th Ayodhya Film Festival**
- It was also screened at the **Asian Talent International Film Festival** and the **Cannes Film Festival's Marché du Film** (online section), where it received **global acclaim**.

- The short film is **directed by Dr. Parthasarathi Mahanta** and **produced by Mina Mahanta and Indrani Baruah**, based on a poem written by Dr. Mahanta himself.
- Featuring a **solo performance by Seema Biswas**, the film narrates the **journey of a young woman** who faces **social discrimination from birth to adulthood**.
- Through Biswas's powerful portrayal, the film sheds light on the **struggles, resilience, and courage of women** confronting societal barriers, making it a **poignant and socially relevant cinematic work**.

23.INDIA, AUSTRALIA TO INK 3 PACTS DURING RAJNATH'S VISIT TO CANBERRA



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will undertake a two-day visit to Australia to explore new and meaningful initiatives for expanding bilateral defence and strategic ties.
- Three agreements are set to be signed during the visit to enhance cooperation in information sharing, maritime security, and joint activities.
- India and Australia are expected to conduct a detailed review of the Indo-Pacific situation amid concerns over China's growing military assertiveness in the region.
- This will be the first-ever visit of a Defence Minister to Australia under the Modi government since 2014.
- The visit coincides with the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP).
- A key highlight will be bilateral discussions between Rajnath Singh and his Australian counterpart.
- Singh will chair a business roundtable in Sydney, attended by industry leaders from both countries.
- He will also meet other national leaders of Australia during the visit.
- India-Australia defence engagements have expanded in recent years, covering capacity-building, training, ship visits, and bilateral exercises.
- The bilateral relationship was elevated from a Strategic Partnership to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2020.
- Both nations share deep ties rooted in common values — pluralistic, Westminster-style democracies, Commonwealth traditions, growing economic engagement, and frequent high-level interactions.

24.MIGRATORY BIRD SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW EXTINCT

- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** has declared the **slender-billed curlew (Numenius tenuirostris)** **extinct**, marking the **first known global extinction of a once**

widespread migratory bird species whose range included **mainland Europe, North Africa, and West Asia**.

- The **last confirmed sighting** of the species occurred at **Merja Zerga, Morocco, on February 25, 1995**.
- The announcement ends decades of **unsuccessful efforts to locate any surviving individuals**, bringing closure to years of exhaustive searches.
- The extinction of the slender-billed curlew is a **tragic reminder of the vulnerability of migratory birds** and highlights the **urgent need for stronger global conservation measures** to protect remaining species.
- The bird was listed under **Appendix I and II** of the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** when the treaty was signed in **1979**.
- In **September 1994**, five months before the last confirmed sighting, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew** was adopted under CMS.
- The MoU aimed to **protect the remaining population**, estimated at **around 50 individuals**, through **international cooperation among 30 range states**.
- These range states stretched from **northwestern Siberia and Kazakhstan** (breeding grounds) to **southeastern Europe, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, and North Africa** (non-breeding sites).
- In **June 1995**, a new treaty — the **Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)** — was established under the CMS framework to prevent further declines of migratory waterbirds.
- The **slender-billed curlew** was included as a **priority species** among **255 waterbird species** listed for conservation under AEWA.

25.'FIRST RESPONDER' INDIA HELPS INDONESIA COUNTER CS-137 CONTAMINATION



- India reaffirmed its commitment to regional cooperation by acting as a first responder and delivering **Prussian Blue (Radiogardase) capsules** to Jakarta to help manage **Cesium-137 (Cs-137) contamination** in Indonesia.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** stated that a consignment containing essential medicines to mitigate radiation exposure after a recent incident was handed over to Indonesia.
- Responding to a request from **Indonesia's Ministry of Health**, the **Indian Embassy in Jakarta**, in coordination with the MEA, swiftly arranged and delivered the required capsules.
- **Indian Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty** handed over the medicines to representatives of the Indonesian Ministry of Health.

- The **Indian Embassy in Jakarta** posted that the donation would aid Indonesia's efforts in managing nuclear or radiological emergencies involving Cesium-137.
- Meanwhile, an **Indian delegation** led by **Raghu Arackal**, Adviser (Ayurveda) and Deputy Director General at the **Ministry of Ayush**, and **Raman Mohan Singh**, Director at the **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)**, is on a **four-day visit to Jakarta** to attend the **16th Annual Meeting of WHO–International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (WHO–IRCH)** from October 14 to 16.
- The delegation met with **Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty** upon arrival to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in **traditional medicine**, following the **MoU on Quality Assurance in Traditional Medicine** between Indonesia's Food and Drug Authority (FDA) and PCIM&H, Ministry of Ayush.
- A meeting between the delegation and the **Indonesian FDA (BPOM)** was also organized by the Indian Embassy in Jakarta.
- Discussions centered on advancing cooperation under the MoU, including **capacity building, exchange of technical expertise, and harmonisation of quality assurance practices** for traditional medicines.
- The **16th WHO–IRCH Annual Meeting** gathered global regulatory authorities and experts to enhance international collaboration and alignment in herbal medicine regulation.
- The Indian delegation actively participated in technical sessions on the second day of the event.
- **Raghu Arackal** presented the **Workshop Report on “Efficacy and Intended Use of Herbal Medicines (Working Group-3)”**, emphasizing India's progressive regulatory framework and **evidence-based policy efforts** in traditional medicine.

26.INDIA, BRAZIL AGREE TO BOLSTER TRADE AND INVESTMENT TIES



- India and Brazil agreed to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties across various sectors such as energy, agriculture, and technology during a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Brazil's Vice President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services, Geraldo Alckmin.
- Goyal stated that on World Food Day, both nations were “celebrating the India-Brazil partnership and the contribution of our farmers that continues to strengthen global food security.”

- The meeting followed recent high-level talks between Indian and Brazilian leaders aimed at boosting trade and investment relations.
- Geraldo Alckmin arrived in India on Wednesday for a two-day visit, accompanied by Cabinet Ministers, senior officials, and a business delegation.
- Upon arrival, he held discussions with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi, which were also attended by Brazilian Defence Minister Jose Mucio Monteiro Filho.
- India and Brazil share a strategic partnership and reviewed the full spectrum of their defence cooperation during the meeting.
- Both sides exchanged views on mutual interests, including military-to-military cooperation, defence industrial collaboration, joint exercises, and training exchanges.

27.LANKAN PM LAUDS PM MODI'S LEADERSHIP



- Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya returned to the city where she studied three decades ago to deliver a keynote address at the NDTV World Summit 2025.
- She praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's “Neighbourhood First” policy as a cornerstone of South Asian solidarity.
- Speaking at Bharat Mandapam under the theme “Edge of the Unknown: Risk, Resolve, Renewal,” her address titled “Steering Change in Uncertain Times” combined gratitude for India's support during Sri Lanka's 2022 economic crisis with a vision for regional rejuvenation.
- Her remarks reflected personal nostalgia and diplomatic depth, highlighting the strong ties between Colombo and New Delhi.
- This marked her first official visit to India since assuming office in September 2024.
- Earlier that day, Amarasuriya met PM Modi at his residence, where discussions covered education, women's empowerment, innovation, development cooperation, and fishermen's welfare — emphasizing the maritime and cultural heritage shared by both nations.
- Her address focused on India's transformative role during Sri Lanka's 2022 economic collapse, when the country faced a 7.8% GDP contraction, 69.8% inflation, and its first sovereign default since 1948.
- The crisis stemmed from ill-judged tax cuts, a flawed organic farming policy, the 2019 Easter bombings, the Covid-19 pandemic, and Ukraine war-induced commodity shocks.
- The United Nations termed the situation a “full-blown emergency,” seeking \$47 million in aid.
- Under PM Modi's leadership, India provided swift and unprecedented support worth over \$4 billion — including a \$500 million currency swap, deferred Asian Clearing Union payments, and credit lines for fuel, fertiliser, rice, and medicines.

- Amarasuriya said this solidarity reflected the summit's theme — with "risk" serving as a precursor to "revival."
- She remarked, "Risk is the first step towards renewal," referencing Sri Lanka's recovery under her leadership.
- Her National People's Power (NPP) coalition, which won a landslide victory in 2024 with 655,289 votes, has overseen a strong economic rebound.
- Inflation has fallen to single digits, GDP grew by 5% in 2024, and foreign reserves reached \$4.5 billion by mid-year.

28.INDIA, AUSTRALIA STRENGTHEN ENERGY TIES

- India and Australia agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in energy efficiency and enabling technologies as part of their joint efforts to combat climate change.
- The discussions took place during the fifth India-Australia Energy Dialogue.
- The dialogue focused on global transition to net zero emissions, practical cooperation, and promoting exchanges on energy efficiency and enabling technologies.
- Both sides recognised the importance of green hydrogen, reaffirmed their commitment to being reliable and trusted partners for energy resources, and emphasised the need for diversified, secure, and resilient supply chains.
- The ministers highlighted that the India-Australia partnership plays a crucial role in advancing secure, robust, and sustainable energy systems in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Indian delegation included officials from the Ministries of Power, New and Renewable Energy, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mines, and Coal, who presented progress updates and future cooperation plans under various Joint Working Groups.
- India's growing share of renewable energy and adoption of clean and efficient technologies have led to a 7% reduction in the average carbon emission intensity of grid electricity — from 0.78 kg/KWh in 2014–15 to 0.72 kg/KWh, as per data tabled in Parliament in August this year.

29.23 INDIANS RESCUED FROM BURNING TANKER OFF YEMEN COAST



- Twenty-three Indian crew members aboard *MV Falcon*, which caught fire and drifted off the Yemen coast after an explosion, have been rescued and safely handed over to the Djiboutian Coast Guard.
- The Cameroon-flagged *MV Falcon* was sailing southeast of the port of Aden, Yemen, bound for Djibouti, when the explosion occurred on Saturday.
- The vessel was fully loaded with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).
- Upon receiving an urgent distress signal from the ship's master, EUNAVFOR ASPIDES — a defensive operation that safeguards

civilian ships and crews in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden — initiated a search and rescue mission.

- "EUNAVFOR ASPIDES, under the coordination of Rear Admiral Andrea Quondamatteo, Force Commander of ASPIDES, has successfully coordinated a SAR (Search and Rescue) operation," a statement from ASPIDES said.
- The vessel *MV MEDA* successfully rescued 24 crew members of *MV Falcon* — 23 Indians and 1 Ukrainian.
- The rescued crew and *MV Falcon* were escorted to the Port of Djibouti, where the seafarers were handed over safely to the Djiboutian Coast Guard.
- Out of the total 26-member crew, two are still reported missing.
- ASPIDES has alerted all competent authorities that vessels in the area should maintain a safe distance due to the explosion risk, as *MV Falcon* is carrying LPG.

30.INDIA UPGRADES KABUL TECHNICAL MISSION TO EMBASSY STATUS



- India announced the upgrading of its technical mission in Kabul to the status of an embassy as part of broader efforts to strengthen bilateral engagement with Afghanistan.
- The decision followed over a week after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Afghan counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi and confirmed plans to enhance India's diplomatic presence in Kabul.
- India had withdrawn its officials from the Kabul embassy after the Taliban took control in August 2021.
- In June 2022, India re-established its diplomatic presence by deploying a "technical team" in the Afghan capital.
- According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the upgraded Indian embassy in Kabul will further boost India's role in Afghanistan's comprehensive development, humanitarian aid, and capacity-building programs.
- The mission will be headed by a diplomat with the rank of chargé d'affaires.
- Muttaqi's recent six-day visit to India marked a shift in New Delhi's approach to Kabul, even though India has not formally recognized the Taliban government.
- During his visit, the Taliban Foreign Minister assured that Afghanistan would not allow its territory to be used by any elements against India's interests.

31.INDIA RISES TO 9TH SPOT GLOBALLY IN FOREST AREA, RETAINS 3RD SPOT IN FOREST GAIN: FAO

- India has climbed to the ninth position globally in total forest area and retained its third rank in annual forest area gain, according to a new report released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- The Environment Ministry stated that this achievement reflects the success of India's large-scale afforestation and community-led forest protection efforts under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav called India's rise from the 10th to the 9th position a "major achievement" in sustainable forest management and ecological conservation.
- The minister credited public participation in tree plantation campaigns, especially under the 'Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam' initiative, and large-scale state government drives for contributing to this progress.
- The FAO report noted that the world's total forest area stands at 4.14 billion hectares, covering 32% of the planet's land area.
- Over half (54%) of this forest area is concentrated in five countries – Russia, Brazil, Canada, the USA, and China.
- India follows Australia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Indonesia, ranking it among the world's top 10 forest-rich nations.
- Between 2015 and 2025, China recorded the highest annual net forest gain at 1.69 million hectares per year, followed by the Russian Federation with 9,42,000 hectares and India with 1,91,000 hectares.
- Other countries showing notable forest expansion include Turkiye (1,18,000 ha), Australia (1,05,000 ha), France (95,900 ha), Indonesia (94,100 ha), South Africa (87,600 ha), Canada (82,500 ha), and Vietnam (72,800 ha).
- The assessment revealed that Asia is the only region to record an increase in forest area between 1990 and 2025, primarily due to gains in China and India.
- Globally, the annual rate of net forest loss has reduced by more than half — from 10.7 million hectares in the 1990s to 4.12 million hectares during 2015–2025.
- The FAO highlighted that Asia's forest expansion has been instrumental in slowing global deforestation, which remains highest in South America and Africa.
- According to the report, 20% of the world's forests are now in legally established protected areas, while 55% are managed under long-term forest management plans.

32.INDIGENOUS HOUNDS DEPLOYED ALONG INDIA- BANGLADESH BORDER



- The Border Security Force (BSF) has deployed around two dozen dogs of indigenous breeds, Rampur hound and Mudhol hound, along the India-Bangladesh border to assist personnel in combating infiltration and drug trafficking.

- These two indigenous breeds have also been deployed along the India-Pakistan border and in Naxal-affected areas.
- Known for their agility, endurance, adaptability, and resilience, these breeds are well-suited to India's diverse geo-climatic conditions.
- Their natural disease resistance, hardiness, and low maintenance needs make them particularly effective in demanding field environments.
- The Rampur hound originated in the princely state of Rampur in Uttar Pradesh and was historically bred by the nawabs for hunting jackals and large game.
- The breed is renowned for its speed, stamina, and fearlessness.
- The Mudhol hound, native to the Deccan Plateau, has traditionally been associated with guarding and hunting.
- Local accounts link similar hounds to the Maratha forces, where they were valued for their alertness and loyalty.
- The breed was later revived and refined by Raja Malojirao Ghorpade of Mudhol, who introduced it to the British as the "Caravan hound."
- These indigenous breeds will showcase their skills during the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations on October 31 in Gujarat.
- They have made significant contributions as force multipliers during BSF operations.
- Recently, at the All-India Police Dog Competition, Mudhol hound Riya secured first place and will lead the dog squad in this year's parade.

33.INDUS WATER TREATY FALLOUT: AFGHANISTAN'S DAM MOVES ADD FUEL TO PAKISTAN'S FEARS



- Months after India put the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance following the Pakistan-sponsored terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, Afghanistan has announced plans to construct dams on the Kunar River "as soon as possible," causing unease in Islamabad.
- The Chitral River, known as the Kunar River in Afghanistan, is a 480-kilometre-long river flowing through northern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan.
- It originates from the Chiantar glacier at the border of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral in Pakistan.
- Upon entering Afghanistan at Arandu, it becomes the Kunar River and later merges with the Kabul River in Nangarhar Province.
- The river system is sustained by the melting glaciers and snow of the Hindu Kush mountains.
- Relations between Kabul and Islamabad have been tense, with multiple clashes occurring along the Durand Line in recent weeks.

- Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit to New Delhi beginning October 9 was met with hostility from Pakistan; notably, drone attacks occurred in Kabul on the first day of his visit.
- Pakistan has accused the Taliban leadership of harboring and supporting Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants, who have been responsible for multiple attacks killing Pakistan Army personnel.
- Since assuming power in 2021, the Taliban government has emphasized "water sovereignty" as a national priority.
- There is currently no formal water-sharing agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan, despite nine transboundary rivers flowing between the two nations.
- The International Water Management Institute notes that none of these rivers have a cooperative framework for joint management.
- Pakistan has previously expressed concerns over Afghanistan's water policies, and the issue appears poised to further strain bilateral relations in the near future.

34.CJI GAVAI MEETS BHUTAN KING, REAFFIRMS STRENGTHENING INDIA-BHUTAN TIES



- Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai met the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, to discuss enhancing cooperation between the judiciaries of India and Bhutan.
- The meeting reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening India-Bhutan relations through judicial collaboration.

- During his official visit to Bhutan, the CJI also met Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay on Friday.
- He expressed the Indian judiciary's readiness to assist the Bhutanese judiciary in technology integration, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.
- As part of the growing cooperation, the CJI announced that two positions of law clerks at the Supreme Court of India will be offered annually to law graduates from Bhutan.
- This initiative aims to promote academic engagement and professional collaboration between the two nations' judicial systems.
- The CJI also addressed Bhutan's legal fraternity during the 5th *Wisdom for Future Talk Series* organized by the JSW Law Research Centre.
- His lecture, held at the Royal Institute of Management in Thimphu, was based on the theme "*Courts and Constitutional Governance.*"

35.INDIA-AUS TIES ELEVATE FROM STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT TO OPERATIONAL DEPTH

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent visit to Australia — the first by an Indian Defence Minister in 12 years — has elevated the India-Australia relationship from strategic alignment to operational depth.
- The visit coincided with *Exercise AUSTRALIND*, a bilateral land exercise held in Perth from October 13 to 26, focusing on company-level operations in urban and semi-urban environments.
- The Australian Institute of International Affairs described the October 9–10 visit as a watershed moment in Indo-Australian relations.
- The report noted that the visit produced concrete, forward-looking defence and security cooperation outcomes aligned with both countries' Indo-Pacific strategies.
- A key highlight of the visit was the inaugural *Australia-India Defence Ministers' Dialogue*, which culminated in a detailed joint statement.
- The most significant outcome of the dialogue was the signing of the *Australia-India Implementing Arrangement on Mutual Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation*.



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SCIENCE & TECH

36. GOOGLE TO INVEST \$15 BN ON AI HUB IN BIGGEST INDIA BET; PARTNER ADANI FOR DATA CENTRE



- In its largest investment in India, Google announced a **USD 15 billion** plan to build an **AI infrastructure hub** in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The project includes a **gigawatt-scale data centre** in partnership with the **Adani Group**.
- It is expected to generate **5,000–6,000 direct jobs** and **20,000–30,000 total jobs** in the state.
- The **AI hub in Visakhapatnam** will be Google's **largest facility outside the US**, featuring a data centre powered by **clean energy** and connected through a **fibre-optic network**.
- **AdaniConneX** and **Bharti Airtel** will collaborate with Google on the project's infrastructure.
- The investment will be made over **five years (2026–2030)**.
- The move places Google among several **US tech giants expanding in India** amid the country's rapid **AI growth**.
- **Amazon** has pledged **USD 12.7 billion** for cloud infrastructure by 2030, while **OpenAI** plans a **1-gigawatt data centre** in the region.
- **Microsoft** is also increasing its data centre footprint in India, a key market with nearly **one billion internet users**.
- Indian billionaires **Gautam Adani** and **Mukesh Ambani** have similarly announced major investments to boost the nation's data centre capacity.
- Analysts project **India's data centre market** will surpass **USD 100 billion** by 2027.
- The Visakhapatnam project is among India's **largest infrastructure investments**, nearly matching the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train** project and far exceeding the cost of the **Navi Mumbai airport**.
- The **1 GW facility** will consume electricity equivalent to about **50% of Mumbai's annual power usage**, primarily powered by **renewable energy from Adani**.
- Google's global data centre expansion this year alone involves **USD 85 billion**, with the Visakhapatnam hub being a major component.
- The project will also include a **new international subsea gateway**, enhancing global connectivity.
- The surge in **AI-driven computing demand** is creating the need for such **high-performance data centres**.
- Calling it a "**landmark development**," **Sundar Pichai** said the hub will bring **gigawatt-scale compute capacity**, **new connectivity**,
-

- and **energy infrastructure**, driving AI innovation and growth across India.
- A Google-commissioned analysis estimates the hub could add **USD 15 billion to US GDP** over 2026–2030 through new economic activity tied to **cloud and AI adoption**.

37. FOUR TECHNOLOGIES TO RESHAPE GLOBAL LABOUR MARKETS: WEF



- Four emerging technologies — **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **robotics**, **advanced energy systems**, and **sensor networks** — are set to reshape global labour markets.
- The **greatest impact** will be seen in **seven key sectors** that employ nearly **80% of the global workforce**: agriculture, manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail trade, transport and logistics, business and management, and healthcare.
- According to the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** report "*Jobs of Tomorrow: Technology and the Future of the World's Largest Workforces*", these technologies will create new opportunities to enhance productivity and transform jobs.
- The WEF emphasized that unlocking this potential will require **mobilising investments**, **accelerating global technology diffusion**, and ensuring **inclusive access**.
- The report noted that while global debates often focus on office-based jobs, these technologies are also driving transformation in **real-world, field-based occupations**.
- **Drone technology** is enabling efficient urban deliveries in the **UAE** and transporting **medical supplies** to **rural Ghana**.
- **Rooftop renewable energy systems** in several **African countries** are stabilising working hours for frontline employees and creating demand for **energy system professionals**.
- In countries like **South Africa**, **Nigeria**, and **India**, wholesalers are adopting **solar panels and battery systems** to prevent outages and reduce **diesel dependence**.
- These energy innovations are leading to new roles in **energy monitoring**, **refrigeration management**, and **predictive maintenance**, while stabilising employment for retail staff.
- The integration of **AI in click-and-collect retail systems** is transforming workforces in **Africa**, **India**, and **Latin America**.
- In the **construction sector**, **semi-automated equipment** is reducing physical strain and improving worker safety.

- In **healthcare**, the combination of **robotics and AI data processing** could redesign both **patient care** and the **health workforce structure**.
- The WEF study urged **collaborative efforts** among **governments, employers, and technology developers** to maximise benefits and manage the transition effectively.

38.DIGITAL PAYMENTS ACCOUNTED FOR 99.7% TRANSACTIONS IN 2024: RBI



- Digital payment transactions accounted for 99.7 per cent in terms of volume and 97.5 per cent in value in the payment system during 2024, and the trend continued in the first half of 2025, according to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report.
- The RBI's half-yearly Payment System Report (June 2025) stated that India's payments ecosystem has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years.
- The payments landscape in India includes a mix of payment systems catering to diverse user needs, such as paper-based instruments (cheques) and digital payment systems.
- Digital payment systems include NEFT, IMPS, RTGS, NACH, debit and credit cards, prepaid payment instruments, and UPI.
- The report showed an increasing trend across all categories except paper-based instruments.

- Cheques accounted for only 2.3 per cent of total transactions in terms of value.
- In terms of volume, total payment transactions grew from 3,248 crore in 2019 to 20,849 crore in 2024.
- In terms of value, payments rose from Rs 1,775 lakh crore in 2019 to Rs 2,830 lakh crore in 2024.
- Till June 2025, transaction volume reached 12,549 crore, amounting to Rs 1,572 lakh crore.
- Almost all of this growth is attributed to digital payment transactions.
- In 2019, digital payments accounted for about 96.7 per cent of total transactions by volume and 95.5 per cent by value.
- During the first half of 2025, UPI accounted for the largest share of transactions by volume at 85 per cent and about 9 per cent by value.
- RTGS recorded the highest share in terms of transaction value at 69 per cent but had the lowest volume share of 0.1 per cent.
- RTGS, being a large-value or wholesale payment system with a minimum transaction limit of Rs 2 lakh, contributes higher in terms of transaction value but records fewer transactions.
- UPI, in contrast, handles a large number of small-value transactions, leading to a higher volume share.
- RTGS transactions grew from 14.8 crore in 2019 to 29.5 crore in 2024, while transaction value increased from Rs 1,388.7 lakh crore to Rs 1,938.2 lakh crore.
- In 2025, RTGS recorded 16.1 crore transactions amounting to Rs 1,079.2 lakh crore, showing continued growth and usage.
- NEFT transactions more than tripled in volume from 262.2 crore in 2019 to 926.8 crore in 2024, while transaction value rose from Rs 232.9 lakh crore to Rs 432.8 lakh crore.
- UPI has become the most widely used retail fast payment system (FPS) in India due to its efficiency, 24x7 availability, and ease of use.
- The volume of UPI transactions surged from 1,079 crore in 2019 to 17,221 crore in 2024.
- The total value of UPI transactions increased from Rs 18.4 lakh crore in 2019 to Rs 246.8 lakh crore in 2024.
- Till June 2025, UPI transactions stood at 10,637 crore in volume, amounting to Rs 143.3 lakh crore in value.
- The lower average ticket size of UPI transactions indicates that it is primarily used for small-value payments.

DEFENCE

39.INS TRIKAND MAKES PORT CALL AT ITALY'S TARANTO:



- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trikand, a stealth frigate, called at Italy's Taranto during its ongoing deployment to the Mediterranean Sea on September 28, reflecting the shared commitment of India and Italy to strengthen defence cooperation and maritime partnership.
- Earlier, on September 21, INS Trikand visited Limassol in Cyprus, highlighting shared strategic interests and mutual resolve to promote peace, security, and prosperity across the Mediterranean region.
- Activities during the Cyprus port call included professional interactions, yoga sessions, and cultural exchanges onboard, with the ship also open to visitors on September 23.
- Before reaching Cyprus, INS Trikand had called at Salamis Bay, Greece, on September 13.
- During the Greece visit, the ship took part in the maiden bilateral maritime exercise between India and Greece, aimed at enhancing interoperability, refining tactical skills, and deepening operational synergy.
- The port call at Salamis Bay also included engagements such as interactions with senior military officials, discussions, cross-deck visits, and cultural exchanges to promote people-to-people connect.
- The visit concluded with the sea phase of the bilateral exercise.

40.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.

41.INDIA, UK BEGIN MEGA WARGAME IN INDIAN OCEAN

- The navies of India and the UK have begun an eight-day mega wargame in the Western Indian Ocean to strengthen overall military cooperation.
- The UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG), led by the aircraft carrier HMS *Prince of Wales*, has been deployed for *Exercise Konkan*.
- The exercise reaffirms the shared commitment to maintaining secure, open, and free seas and reflects the "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" outlined in the India-UK Vision 2035.
- The objective is to enhance combined maritime and air capabilities of both navies on the high seas.
- Both countries share a belief in a free and open Indo-Pacific and aim to build a modern defence and security partnership as part of the UK-India Vision 2035.
- Commodore Chris Saunders, Defence Adviser to the British High Commission, stated that *Exercise Konkan* offers an excellent opportunity for the Royal Navy to train in complex multi-domain operations alongside India in the Indo-Pacific.
- The UK and India, both carrier-operating nations, form an exclusive group of blue-water, multi-carrier navies.
- The UK also co-leads the Maritime Security Pillar of India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

42.INDIAN ARMY'S NEW INTEGRATED 'RUDRA BRIGADE' TO TACKLE FUTURE BATTLEFIELDS

- Nearly two months after Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi announced the creation of a new brigade named *Rudra*, the

Northern Command stated that the Indian Army remains focused on capability development and preparedness for future wars.

- *Rudra* represents a unique blend of synergised combat application and seamless inter-arm integration.
- The formation is designed to counter evolving battlefields, emerging technologies, and dynamic challenges, ensuring that India's forces remain future-ready, mission-oriented, and committed to national defence.
- The integrated brigade signifies a major doctrinal shift aimed at enhancing jointness, operational agility, and rapid response capability during high-intensity conflicts.
- Defence experts regard this as part of India's broader push toward military modernisation and integrated theatre planning.
- The inclusion of Special Forces and unmanned systems within the brigade reflects a strategic move to combine traditional combat strength with cutting-edge technologies.
- The new formation is expected to play a crucial role in bolstering India's preparedness for future warfare and projecting a strong message of deterrence along its borders.

43. NAVIES OF INDIA, UK BEGIN EXERCISE KONKAN-25 OFF THE WESTERN COAST



- The **Indian Navy** and the **Royal Navy** commenced **Exercise Konkan-25** off India's western coast to **enhance interoperability and mutual understanding** in maritime operations.
- Both navies have deployed **frontline assets**, including **aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, submarines, and air assets** from both sea and shore bases.
- The exercise reaffirms the nations' **shared commitment to maintaining secure, open, and free seas** and aligns with the **'India-UK Vision 2035' Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- Over the past two decades, **Exercise Konkan** has grown in **scale and complexity**, strengthening coordination and cooperation between the two navies.
- The exercise is being held in **two phases from October 5 to 12**:
 - The **harbour phase** will include **professional interactions, cross-deck visits, sports fixtures, cultural engagements, Joint Working Group meetings, and Subject Matter Expert Exchanges**.
 - The **sea phase** will involve **complex maritime drills** such as **anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine exercises**, along with **flying operations and seamanship evolutions**.
- The **UK Carrier Strike Group (UK CSG 25)**, led by **HMS Prince of Wales**, is participating along with assets from **Norway and Japan**, adding significance to this year's edition.
- The **Indian Navy** is represented by the **carrier battle group of INS Vikrant**, supported by various **surface, sub-surface, and air combatants**.

- After completing **Exercise Konkan 2025**, the **UK CSG 25** will conduct a **one-day exercise with the Indian Air Force** on **October 14** off India's western coast before continuing its deployment.
- **Exercise Konkan 2025** serves as a **strategic platform to strengthen India-UK defence ties**, enhance interoperability, and promote **regional maritime stability**.

44. DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT (ED) INTRODUCES QR CODE SYSTEM FOR SUMMONS TO COMBAT CYBER FRAUD



45. INDIAN NAVY, IIT DELHI INK MOU TO DEVELOP CREW-CENTRIC WARSHIP DESIGNS



- The Indian Navy signed an MoU with IIT Delhi for developing subject matter expertise in crew-centred warship design.
- Signed on October 16, the MoU aims to establish a structured, process-based approach to improving habitability onboard naval vessels.
- The collaboration will help the Navy develop indigenous crew-centric standards and reduce dependence on external benchmarks.
- The MoU was signed by Rear Admiral Arvind Rawal, Assistant Chief of Materiel (Dockyard & Refit), Indian Navy, and Prof Rangan Banerjee, Director of IIT Delhi.
- Under this agreement, researchers from IIT Delhi's Department of Design will study the safety, efficiency, and habitability aspects of current and future ship construction projects and offer design recommendations.

- The Institute will analyse existing Indian Navy ship designs and compare them with international standards, evaluating factors such as safety, user experience, comfort, and design efficiency.
- Rear Admiral Arvind Rawal stated that the partnership is a major step toward making Indian warships not only formidable in combat but also exceptional in terms of crew comfort, efficiency, and living conditions.
- He emphasized that the collaboration with IIT Delhi will help build expertise in crew-centric warship design.
- The initiative introduces a scientific, process-driven approach to improving habitability by integrating ergonomics, human factors, and design optimisation into naval architecture.

46. DEFENCE MINISTRY APPROVES PROCUREMENT PROPOSALS WORTH RS 79,000 CRORE



- The Defence Ministry cleared proposals to procure weapons and military hardware worth **Rs 79,000 crore**, including **Nag missiles**, **amphibious warfare ships**, and **electronic intelligence and surveillance systems**, to boost combat capabilities of the three services.
- The procurement proposals were cleared at a meeting of the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**.
- This is the second major procurement decision following **Operation Sindoor**; procurement projects worth **Rs 67,000 crore** were approved on **August 5**.
- The DAC approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about **Rs 79,000 crore**, the Defence Ministry said.
- For the **Indian Navy**, approval was granted for procurement of: **landing platform docks (LPDs)**, **30 mm naval surface guns (NSGs)**, **advanced lightweight torpedoes (ALWTs)**, the **Electro-Optical Infra-Red Search and Track System**, and **Smart Ammunition** for the **76-mm Super Rapid Gun Mount**.
- The procurement of **LPDs** will help the Navy undertake amphibious operations along with the Army and the Air Force; **LPDs** are amphibious warfare ships capable of carrying helicopters, ground mobility vehicles, tanks and land troops.
- The Indian Navy was looking at procuring at least **four LPDs**; the integrated sea capability provided by LPDs will also assist in peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- The **ALWT**, indigenously developed by **Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (DRDO)**, is capable of targeting conventional, nuclear and midget submarines.
- The procurement of **30 mm NSGs** will enhance the capability of the **Indian Navy** and the **Indian Coast Guard** to conduct low-intensity maritime operations and anti-piracy measures.

- For the **Indian Army**, approval was accorded for procurement of the **Nag missile system (tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS)**, a **ground-based mobile ELINT (electronic intelligence) system**, and **high mobility vehicles (HMs)**.
- The procurement of **NAMIS** will enhance the Army's capability to neutralise enemy combat vehicles, bunkers and other field fortifications.
- The **GBMES** (ground-based mobile ELINT system) will provide round-the-clock electronic intelligence of enemy activities.
- The induction of **HMs** will significantly improve logistics support to the forces across diverse geographical terrains.
- For the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, the DAC approved the procurement of the **Collaborative Long-Range Target Saturation/Destruction System (CLRTS/DS)** and cleared some other IAF procurement proposals.
- The **CLRTS/DS** has capabilities for **autonomous take-off, landing, navigation, detecting, and delivering payloads** in the mission area.

47. INDIA, INDONESIA PUSH FOR STRONG DEFENCE TIES



- Indonesia's **Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin** met with India's **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan** in **Jakarta** to discuss ways to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries.
- According to the **Indian Embassy in Jakarta**, discussions focused on collaboration in **military medicine**, including **specialist training programmes** for Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) doctors.
- The cooperation aims to strengthen **defence capacity** and **human resource development** between India and Indonesia.
- The Indonesian Defence Minister expressed appreciation for the **hospitality extended by the Government of India** during the visit of the Indonesian delegation to **India's Republic Day Parade in January 2025**.
- General Anil Chauhan is on an **official visit to Indonesia from October 26–31**, aimed at deepening and intensifying **defence ties** between the two nations.
- During the visit, General Chauhan will hold a **bilateral meeting** with his Indonesian counterpart, **General Agus Subiyanto**, Commander-in-Chief of Indonesia's Armed Forces.
- He will also meet **senior officials**, including the **Chiefs of Staff of the Indonesian Army, Navy, and Air Force**.
- The CDS will travel to **Bandung** and **Surabaya** to visit **defence industry establishments and shipyards**, exploring opportunities for **industrial cooperation**.
- He will engage in **discussions with senior representatives of Indonesian defence companies** and interact with **defence think tanks** in Indonesia.

- Earlier, **Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto**, on his **first State Visit to India**, attended the **Republic Day** celebrations as **Chief Guest** in 2025.

- The visit coincided with the **75th anniversary of India–Indonesia diplomatic relations**.



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SPORTS & AWARDS

48.NISHAD KUMAR, SIMRAN SHARMA WIN GOLD AS INDIA JUMP TO FOURTH



- Nishad Kumar and Simran Sharma won their **first-ever World Para Athletics Championships gold medals** in the **high jump** and **100m race**, respectively, marking a historic day for India in New Delhi.
- **Preethi Pal** (200m) and **Pardeep Kumar** (discus throw) secured **bronze medals**, boosting India's total medal count and lifting the host nation from **7th to 4th place** in the standings.
- India's overall tally now stands at **6 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals**. With two days remaining, the team is on track to surpass its **best-ever haul of 17 medals** achieved at **Kobe 2024 (Japan)**.
- **Brazil** continues to lead the table with **12 gold, 18 silver, and 7 bronze**, followed by **China (9-16-13)** and **Poland (8-2-5)**.
- **Simran Sharma**, a Delhi athlete, clinched India's first gold of the day in the **women's 100m T12 final**, clocking a **personal best of 11.95 seconds**.
- This was Simran's **maiden world title** in the 100m event; she had earlier won **gold in the 200m** at the previous edition in Japan and **bronze at the 2024 Paralympics**.
- The **T12 category** is designated for athletes with **visual impairment**.
- **Nishad Kumar**, celebrating his **26th birthday**, achieved a **double delight** by winning the **men's high jump T47 event** with an **Asian record jump of 2.14m**.
- This victory marks Nishad's **first gold** in either the **Paralympics** or **World Para Championships**.
- His past achievements include **silver medals** at the **Tokyo and Paris Paralympics**, a **bronze** at the **2019 World Championships**, and a **silver** in the **2023 edition**.

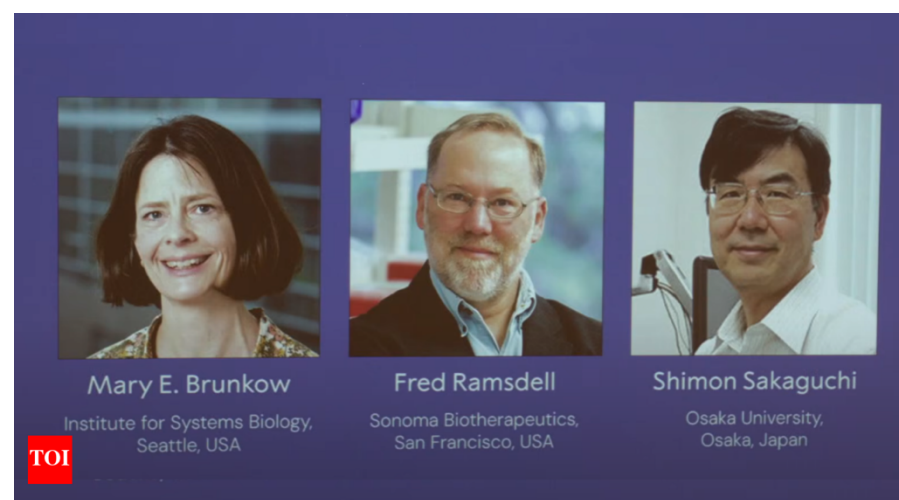
49.ASSAM BOXERS SHINE BRIGHT, CLINCHING GOLD AND BRONZE AT NATIONAL BFI CUP 2025

- Assam's boxing contingent delivered an outstanding performance at the **Boxing Federation of India (BFI) Cup 2025**, held from **September 30 to October 7** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Ankushita Boro** led the contingent, winning the **gold medal in the 65 kg category** after a commanding victory over Rajasthan's Parthivi.

- Her triumph marked a significant **personal achievement** and elevated **Assam's presence on the national boxing stage**.
- **Saraswati Boro** secured a **bronze medal in the 51 kg division**, showcasing exceptional skill and determination throughout the competition.
- **Bhupali Hazarika** also added to the medal tally by winning **bronze in the 54 kg category**, reinforcing Assam's strong performance.
- The **BFI Cup** featured top-level boxers from across India, making Assam's multiple podium finishes particularly noteworthy.
- The success of these athletes highlights the **rising boxing talent in Assam** and serves as **motivation for emerging sportspersons** in the state.



50.NOBEL MEDICINE PRIZE 2025: BRUNKOW, RAMSDELL, SAKAGUCHI HONORED FOR IMMUNE RESEARCH



- The **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2025** was jointly awarded to **Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi** for their **groundbreaking discoveries on how the immune system prevents attacks on the body's own organs**.
- Their pioneering research unveiled the mechanism of **peripheral immune tolerance**, highlighting the crucial role of **regulatory T cells** as protectors against autoimmune diseases.
- **Mary E. Brunkow** earned her **Ph.D. from Princeton University, USA**, and currently serves as **Senior Program Manager at the Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle**.
- **Fred Ramsdell** obtained his **Ph.D. in 1987 from the University of California, Los Angeles**, and is now a **Scientific Advisor at Sonoma Biotherapeutics, San Francisco**.

- **Shimon Sakaguchi** received his **M.D. in 1976 and Ph.D. in 1983 from Kyoto University, Japan**, and is **Distinguished Professor at the Immunology Frontier Research Center, Osaka University**.
- Their collective work has provided **vital insights into immune regulation**, offering new directions for **treating autoimmune and inflammatory diseases**.

51. PHYSICS NOBEL TO TRIO FOR WORK ON ADVANCED QUANTUM TECH



- John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret, and John M. Martinis won the Nobel Prize in Physics for their research on quantum tunnelling that is advancing digital technology.
- Clarke, 83, conducted his research at the University of California, Berkeley; Martinis at the University of California, Santa Barbara; and Devoret at Yale University and the University of California, Santa Barbara.
- The Nobel Committee stated that their work in the 1980s continues to open avenues for developing the next generation of quantum technology, including quantum cryptography, quantum computers, and quantum sensors.
- Quantum mechanics, a 100-year-old field, explores the subatomic world where switches can be on and off simultaneously and particles can tunnel through seemingly impenetrable barriers.
- The trio's pioneering research helped translate these quantum phenomena into practical applications, with potential to revolutionize computing and communication technologies.
- This marks the 119th time the Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded.
- Last year, AI pioneers John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton won the Physics Prize for laying the foundations of machine learning.

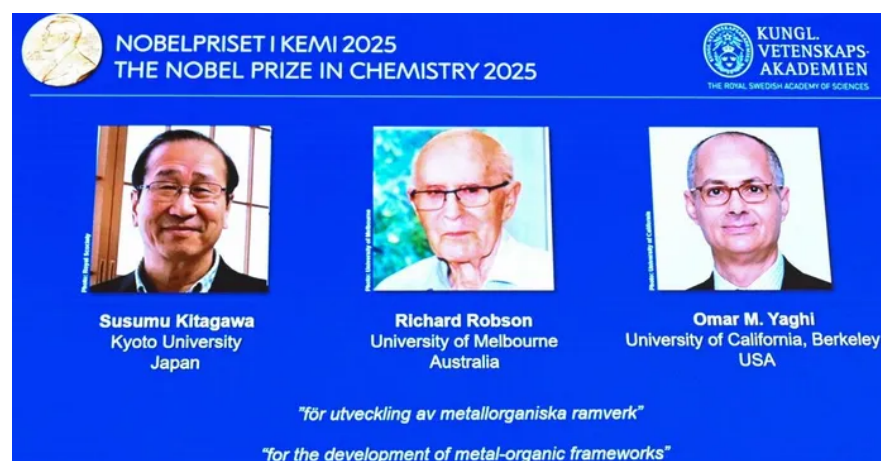
52. DU STUDENT BRINGS LAURELS WITH 'MY BHARAT-NSS AWARD'

- In a proud moment for **Dibrugarh University**, **Priyanuz Hazarika**, an **NSS volunteer** and student of the **Department of Chemistry**, received the '**My Bharat-NSS Award 2020-23**' from **President Droupadi Murmu** at a formal ceremony held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
- Hazarika has actively participated in **disaster preparedness and civil safety training**, **women's rights awareness initiatives**, and **street plays against child marriage**, creating a strong **grassroots impact**.
- During **festivals and large public gatherings**, he contributed to **sanitation drives**, **crowd management**, and **patient support services**, embodying the **core values of NSS** and inspiring others through his service.
- He has also been instrumental in **spreading awareness** about major **government initiatives**, including:

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**
- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**
- **Digital India Campaign**
- **Ujjwala Yojana**
- **Ayushman Bharat**
- **Jal Jeevan Mission**

- His contributions included **information dissemination**, **micro-campaigns**, and **outreach programs** in rural communities.
- According to university sources, this **prestigious recognition** highlights **Hazarika's sustained dedication to public welfare**, his **active engagement in community development**, and his **notable contributions to society** through the **NSS platform**.

53. CHEMISTRY NOBEL TO TRIO FOR MOLECULAR WORK



- Scientists **Susumu Kitagawa**, **Richard Robson**, and **Omar M. Yaghi** won the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** for their work on the development of **metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)** dating back to 1989.
- The Nobel Committee stated that the laureates "developed a new form of molecular architecture," creating structures with large internal spaces that allow gases and chemicals to flow through.
- **Hans Ellegren**, secretary-general of the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**, announced the chemistry prize — the third Nobel announcement of the week after medicine and physics.
- The Committee highlighted that MOFs can be used to **harvest water from desert air**, **capture carbon dioxide**, **store toxic gases**, and **catalyse chemical reactions**.
- **Richard Robson (88)** is affiliated with the **University of Melbourne**, **Susumu Kitagawa (74)** with **Kyoto University, Japan**, and **Omar M. Yaghi (60)** with the **University of California, Berkeley**.
- Working independently yet building on each other's research since 1989, they developed **stable metal-organic frameworks** that resemble the **timber framework of a house**.
- These structures can **absorb and store gases** within their porous frameworks, enabling practical uses such as **carbon capture** and **extracting water from arid air**.
- **Olof Ramström**, member of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, compared their discovery to **Hermione Granger's enchanted handbag** from the *Harry Potter* series — **small on the outside but vast on the inside**.

54.INDIA MAKES HISTORY: FIRST EVER MEDAL IN BWF WORLD JUNIOR MIXED TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP:



- India won its **first-ever medal** in the **Mixed Team event** at the **BWF World Junior Championships**, held at the **National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati**.
- The home team achieved the milestone during a **highly competitive Suhandinata Cup campaign**, bringing widespread joy to badminton fans across the country.
- This achievement marks the **first time India has reached the podium** in the mixed team format of the championship.
- The success follows India being **seeded second for the first time** in the mixed team event, reflecting the **growing strength and depth** of the country's junior badminton squad.
- While India had previously excelled in **individual events**, this medal represents a **historic breakthrough** in team performance on the global stage.

55.INDIA SETTLE FOR BRONZE MEDAL

- India's campaign in the Yonex Sunrise BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships ended with a bronze medal after a spirited effort against defending champions Indonesia in the semifinals at Guwahati.
- The Indian team had earlier secured its first-ever medal in the mixed-team competition by defeating former champions Korea.
- India lost 35-45, 21-45 to pre-tournament favourites Indonesia, who advanced to face the winner between China and Japan in the finals.
- The Indian lineup saw one change from the previous match, with Vishakha Toppo replacing Aanya Bisht in the mixed doubles, while the team began the tie with the boys' doubles event.
- The top doubles pair of Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu gave India an early lead by defeating Indonesia's Muhammad Rizki Mubarrok and Raihan Daffa Pramono 9-5.
- In the girls' singles, Unnati Hooda battled against Thalita Wiryawan, managing to stay ahead at 18-16 in the first set despite not being at her best.
- Indonesia's World Junior No. 1 boys' singles player, Mohd Ubaidillah, shifted momentum by beating Rounak Chouhan 11-5, giving Indonesia a four-point advantage.
- The mixed doubles duo of Lalramsanga and Vishakha Toppo fought back strongly, leveling the score at 28-28 and 9-3, but Indonesia's

Ikhsan Pramudya and Rinjani Nastine edged them out 10-9 to regain control.

- Nastine then paired with Riska Anggraini to defeat Reshika U and Vennala K 9-2, sealing the set 45-35 for Indonesia.
- Riding on their momentum, Indonesia dominated the second set from the start, with Mubarrok and Pramono beating the Indian boys' combination 9-2 to close the tie.

56.NOBEL ECONOMICS PRIZE GOES TO THREE RESEARCHERS



- Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics for their research on the impact of innovation on economic growth and how new technologies replace older ones, a key economic concept known as 'creative destruction'.
- The winners represent contrasting but complementary approaches to economics.
- Mokyr is an economic historian who studied long-term trends using historical sources.
- Howitt and Aghion relied on mathematical models to explain how creative destruction works.
- The winners were recognized for better explaining and quantifying 'creative destruction,' a core economic concept describing the process where beneficial new innovations replace and eliminate older technologies and businesses.
- The idea is commonly associated with economist **Joseph Schumpeter**, who introduced it in his 1942 book *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*.
- The Nobel committee noted that Mokyr "demonstrated that if innovations are to succeed one another in a self-generating process, we not only need to know that something works, but also have scientific explanations for why."
- One-half of the **11 million Swedish kronor** (about USD 1.2 million) prize goes to Mokyr, while the other half is shared by Aghion and Howitt.
- The winners also receive an **18-carat gold medal** and a **diploma**.
- The economics prize is officially called the **Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel**.
- It was established in **1968** by Sweden's central bank to honor **Alfred Nobel**, the 19th-century businessman and chemist who invented dynamite and founded the original five Nobel Prizes.
- Since its inception, the prize has been awarded **57 times** to a total of **99 laureates**, of whom only **three have been women**.

57.INDIA SET TO HOST 2030 CWG



- Ahmedabad has been recommended by the **Commonwealth Sport's Executive Board** as the proposed host city for the **2030 Commonwealth Games**, marking a potential return of the event to India after two decades.
- The final decision will be made on **November 26** during the **General Assembly in Glasgow**, following the recommendation's submission to the full membership of Commonwealth Sport.
- India previously hosted the Commonwealth Games in **2010 in New Delhi**.
- Securing the 2030 Games would be a major step forward in **India's bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games**, which is also proposed to be held in **Ahmedabad**.
- India had been competing with **Abuja (Nigeria)** for the 2030 hosting rights, but Commonwealth Sport has decided to **support and accelerate Nigeria's future hosting aspirations**, possibly for the **2034 Games**.
- Ahmedabad recently hosted the **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships**, showcasing its readiness for large-scale sports events.
- The city's **sports infrastructure is being upgraded** to accommodate and successfully organize major multi-sport competitions in the future.

58.YOUNG TIGRESSES ROAR INTO HISTORY: INDIA'S U-17 WOMEN QUALIFY FOR AFC ASIAN CUP:

- The **Indian U-17 women's football team** has **qualified for the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup** for the **first time**, following a **thrilling 2–1 win over Uzbekistan** at the **Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
- With this victory, **India topped Group G** with a **perfect record — two wins in two matches**, earning **six points** and **direct qualification** for the continental tournament.
- This marks **India's first appearance at this age level in nearly two decades**, with the **last participation in 2005**.
- The **AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup 2026** will be held in **Suzhou, China**, from **30 April to 17 May**, featuring **twelve top teams from across Asia**.

- This qualification is a **landmark achievement** for **Indian women's football**, showcasing the **rising talent, depth, and confidence** of the **next generation of players**.

59.MOHUN BAGAN PIP EAST BENGAL IN SHOOTOUT TO LIFT IFA SHIELD AFTER 22 YEARS



- Mohun Bagan Super Giant ended a 22-year wait for the IFA Shield title, defeating arch-rivals East Bengal 5-4 in a tense penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw in regulation and extra time at the Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata.
- This marked Mohun Bagan's 21st IFA Shield crown and their first since 2003, when they had also beaten East Bengal in a penalty shootout.
- The victory also denied East Bengal a chance to secure a record-extending 29th title.

60.IAF JOINS SPANISH AIR COMBAT TRAINING EXERCISE:

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the multinational air combat exercise Ocean Sky 2025, hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base in the Canary Islands.
- The exercise is being conducted from October 20–31.
- The IAF stated that the exercise aims to boost mutual learning, increase interoperability, sharpen air combat skills, and bolster defence cooperation with friendly nations.
- From October 15 to 31, the skies south of the Canary Islands will serve as a vast operational arena where Spanish and allied units will test their capabilities in a complex and highly demanding environment.
- According to Spain's Ministry of Defence, the Canary Islands provide an optimal training environment due to favourable meteorological conditions and low air traffic density.
- The exercise is directed by the Air Combat Command (MACOM) and has operational leadership from Gando Air Base, with support from Lanzarote Air Base.
- The multinational deployment includes aircraft such as F-18M, Eurofighter, F-16 C/D B50, F-16 Fighting Falcon M, F-15E, and Su-30MKI, along with MRTT, KC-767, KC-30M, A-332, and A400M tanker aircraft.
- In total, more than 50 aircraft are participating, forming a large-scale multinational force aimed at strengthening interoperability and cooperation among allies.

ASSAM & NORTH-EAST

61.KOLA BOU RITUAL MARKS BIJOYA DASHAMI IN SHILLONG LOCALITY



- Durga Puja in the Keating Road area of Shillong, Meghalaya, is not only about festivities but also deeply associated with the ritual of 'Kola Bou' (banana bride).
- This ritual has been observed in the locality for the last 70 years.
- On Bijoya Dashami, the Kola Bou is carried from house to house accompanied by *dhakis* (traditional drummers) before the immersion of Goddess Durga.
- Kola Bou is also called 'Nabapatrika' (Naba means nine and Patrika means message).
- It represents a combination of nine plants:
 - Banana (*kola*) symbolising Brahmani
 - Colocasia (*kochu*) representing Kalika
 - Turmeric (*halud*) symbolising Durga
 - Jayanti (flower) representing Kartikeya
 - Wood apple (*bel*) representing Shiva or Parvati
 - Pomegranate (*dalim*) representing Raktadantika
 - Ashoka symbolising Sokrahita (reliever of sorrow)
 - Arum (*man kochu*) associated with Chamunda
 - Rice (*dhan*) representing Lakshmi
- All nine plants are tied together with a yellow thread, draped in a sari, and shaped like a woman.
- Symbolically, Kola Bou is considered the wife of Lord Ganesha and represents Shakti.
- The ritual integrates goddess worship with nature, blending Shakti Puja with naturalistic traditions.
- During Durga Puja, the Kola Bou is first bathed in rivers or ponds in a ritual known as *Nabapatrika Snan* and worshipped on Maha Saptami.
- Following this, the worship of Goddess Durga and her children—Ganesha, Kartikeya, Lakshmi, and Saraswati—begins.
- This ritual has pre-Vedic roots; earlier, villagers carried the Nabapatrika in a procession during the Snan.
- On Bijoya Dashami, the Kola Bou was traditionally taken in a procession through villages, where people offered a tearful farewell.

62.ASSAM SHARED OVER 1.3 PC OF COUNTRY'S TOTAL CRIMES IN 2023: NCRB

- Over 1.3 per cent of the country's total cognizable crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 2023 took place in Assam, though the State registered a decline in cases compared to the previous year.
-

- Assam reported 49,884 cognizable IPC crimes in 2023, accounting for 1.33 per cent of the 37,63,102 such incidents across India.
- The figure marked a decline from 59,315 cases recorded in Assam in 2022.
- Major IPC crime statistics in Assam for 2023 included:
 - 1,025 cases of murder
 - 72 cases of culpable homicide not amounting to murder
 - 3,191 cases of causing death by negligence
 - 101 dowry deaths
 - 204 abetment to suicides
 - 903 attempts to commit murder
 - 2 attempts to commit culpable homicide
 - 6 cases of miscarriage, infanticide, foeticide and abandonment
 - 5,387 cases of causing hurt (including acid attacks)
- Other registered offences:
 - 116 cases of wrongful restraint or confinement
 - 1,595 of assault on women with intent to outrage modesty
 - 3,563 cases of kidnapping and abduction
 - 96 cases of human trafficking
 - 3 cases of exploitation of trafficked persons
 - 5 cases of selling minors for prostitution
- Sexual crimes:
 - 989 cases of rape 173 attempts to commit rape
- Public order and assembly-related crimes:
 - 4 offences against the State
 - 147 unlawful assemblies
 - 295 incidents of rioting
 - 43 offences promoting enmity between groups
- Property-related crimes:
 - 9,760 cases of theft
 - 3,035 burglaries
 - 507 cases of extortion and blackmail
 - 679 robberies
 - 86 dacoities
 - 1 attempt to commit dacoity/robbery
 - 3 cases of preparation/assembly for dacoity
 - 688 criminal breach of trust
 - 204 of dishonestly dealing in stolen property
 - 81 counterfeiting cases
 - 4,048 cases of forgery, cheating, and fraud
 - 7,915 miscellaneous IPC crimes
 - 4,957 incidents of other IPC crimes
- In addition, 15,075 cases of cognizable crimes were reported under Special and Local Laws (SLL) in Assam in 2023, constituting 0.61 per cent of 24,78,467 such cases across India.
- Break-up of SLL crimes in Assam (2023):

- 201 under Crimes Against Women related Acts
- 8,037 under Children related Acts
- 6 under SC/ST related Acts
- 273 under Offences Against State related Acts
- 193 under Arms and Explosives related Acts
- 896 under IT and Intellectual Property related Acts
- 38 under Finance and Economics Acts
- 3,220 under Liquor and Narcotic Drugs related Acts
- 55 under Environment and Pollution related Acts
- 31 under Foreigners and Passport related Acts
- 7 under Railway related Acts
- 74 under Food, Drugs and Essential Commodities Act
- 822 under other regulatory and enforcement Acts
- 1,222 under other SLL crimes

63. NORTHEAST JOINS MAINSTREAM ON DEVELOPMENT MAP: REPORT

- From being on the periphery, the Northeast region of India has now entered the mainstream with the government's Act East Policy, according to a report.
- Despite its rich culture, the region had long lagged in infrastructure and economic opportunities.
- With the Act East Policy, the Northeast has seen major investments in rail, road, air, and digital connectivity, recasting it as a strategic hub linking India with Southeast Asia and positioning it as a growth front-runner.
- Railway budget allocation to the region has risen fivefold in the past 11 years, totalling ₹62,477 crore, with ₹10,440 crore earmarked this year.
- Improved railway infrastructure is expected to deepen inter-state and strategic connectivity, enhance passenger convenience, and boost local economies, particularly in bamboo, horticulture, handicrafts, and tourism.
- A landmark project is the Bairabi-Sairang railway line in Mizoram, inaugurated at a cost of over ₹8,000 crore.
 - The 51-km line includes 143 bridges and 45 tunnels, and has connected Aizawl to the national railway grid for the first time since independence.
- Under PMGSY, 80,933 km of rural roads and 2,108 bridges have been built, linking villages with cities and improving access to hospitals, schools, and markets.
- Air connectivity has been strengthened through the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme.
- Digital connectivity has been boosted through BharatNet and Digital Bharat Nidhi, preparing Gram Panchayats for digital services.
- The Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025 attracted investment interest worth ₹4.48 lakh crore, positioning the region as an emerging investment hub.
- While achievements are significant, challenges remain, including ecological fragility, social sensitivities, execution gaps, and maintaining strategic balance.

64. AIIMS LAUNCHES GUWAHATI SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 5.0



- AIIMS Guwahati has initiated a series of activities under **Special Campaign 5.0**, observed nationwide from **October 2 to October 31**.
- The campaign's objective is to institutionalize **Swachhata (cleanliness)** and reduce **backlogs in government offices**.
- It is being implemented in **two phases** — the **Preparatory Phase** conducted in **September**, and the **Implementation Phase** currently ongoing from **October 2 to October 31**.
- During the Implementation Phase, AIIMS Guwahati is giving **special emphasis to e-waste disposal** in accordance with the **E-Waste Management Rules, 2022**.
- The institute is also focusing on **efficient space utilization, better record management, and maintaining cleanliness** in and around its premises.
- To raise awareness, AIIMS Guwahati will organize **programmes on healthy lifestyle practices and e-waste management** for staff, students, and nearby schools and colleges.
- **Preventive health check-ups** are being conducted for employees and their families.
- Additional measures include **smart scrap handling, expedited file disposal, effective grievance redressal, promotion of digitized records, and cybersecurity awareness campaigns**.
- Through these efforts, AIIMS Guwahati aims to promote a **cleaner and healthier environment**, while spreading the message of **responsible and sustainable practices** within the community.

65. NIMAS TEAM SUMMITS TWIN MOUNT GORICHEN PEAKS IN ARUNACHAL



- A 38-member team from the **National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS)**, Dirang, successfully summited **Mt Gorichen Main (6,488 m)** and **Mt Gorichen East (6,222 m)** — two of the most challenging peaks in the **Eastern Himalayas**, located in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

- **Fourteen mountaineers** reached the summit of **Mt Gorichen** on **September 24 and 26**, while **11 climbers** scaled **Mt Gorichen East** on **September 25**.
- The team faced **harsh terrain, severe snowstorms, and continuous rockfall** between **Camp-I and the Summit Camp**, considered one of the most **dangerous sections** of the route.
- **Arunachal Pradesh**, known as the **Land of the Rising Sun**, remains one of India's most **pristine and unexplored adventure destinations**, with its **snow-capped peaks, deep valleys, tribal heritage, and powerful rivers** offering vast opportunities for **mountaineering, trekking, and adventure tourism**.
- The **successful expedition** reinforces Arunachal Pradesh's potential as a **future hub of mountaineering and adventure tourism**, with **NIMAS** playing a **leading role** in this movement.
- Such initiatives not only **enhance national adventure capabilities** but also **stimulate local economies** and **strengthen regional integration** through exploration.
- This marked the **third consecutive year** that **Colonel Ranveer Singh Jamwal**, Director of NIMAS, led successful expeditions in the **Gorichen range**.
- In **2023**, he summited **Mt Gorichen**, and in **2024**, led the **first successful ascent of Mt Gorichen West (6,383 m)** — a previously **unclimbed and technically difficult peak**.
- **Colonel Jamwal**, an **Indian Army officer**, is a **three-time Everest** and a **Seven Summits completer**. He has also **climbed Mt Kangchenjunga**, the **world's third-highest mountain**.
- He conceptualized the '**Har Shikhar Tiranga**' mission, aimed at **unfurling the National Flag** atop the **highest peak in every Indian state**.
- Functioning under the **Ministry of Defence**, NIMAS is India's **only institute offering certified adventure training** across **land, air, and water** under one roof.
- The institute plays a key role in **training Indian nationals, promoting adventure tourism, and fostering national integration and skill development** through outdoor exploration.

66.A PROMISE OF SUPPORT, A STEP TOWARDS HOPE: ORUNODOI 3.0 LAUNCHED IN ASSAM

- The Assam government launched **#Orunodoi 3.0**, expanding its flagship welfare programme to become the **largest anti-poverty scheme** in the state's history.
- The scheme aims to promote **inclusive growth and poverty alleviation** across Assam.
- Under the enhanced version, **over 38 lakh economically disadvantaged families** will receive **₹1,250 per month** directly in their bank accounts.
- An **additional ₹250** will be provided to assist households in purchasing **LPG**, supporting essential energy needs.
- The scheme continues to prioritise **women-led households**, strengthening the state's focus on **financial empowerment, dignity, and direct benefit transfer**.
- **#Orunodoi 3.0** reaffirms Assam's vision of creating a **just, inclusive society**, ensuring that **no one is left behind** in the path of development.

67.JORHAT BEATS BERLIN, LANGKAWI AS MOST TRENDING DESTINATION FOR INDIANS IN 2026

- Picturesque Jorhat has surpassed global destinations like Berlin, Langkawi, and Phuket to become the top trending destination for Indian travellers in 2026, according to Skyscanner's latest 'Travel Trends Report'.
- The report reveals that 59% of Indians plan to travel more in the coming year.
- The annual report offers insights into the evolving preferences, key motivations, and top trending and best-value destinations for Indian travellers in 2026.
- Other rising hotspots include Queenstown (New Zealand), Mueang Chiang Rai (Thailand), and Al-Ula (Saudi Arabia), showing that Indian travellers increasingly seek destinations offering both authenticity and novelty.
- The report also lists 'best value destinations'—places with the biggest drop in average airfares over the past year.
- Tirupati leads this category with an 18% decrease in airfare, followed by Langkawi (17%) and Berlin (16%).
- A survey of 2,000 Indian travellers shows cost remains a major factor: 63% prioritise food expenses, 60% flight prices, 56% accommodation, and 48% visa requirements when planning trips.
- The 2026 report highlights seven major travel trends expected to shape Indian travel behaviour, including 'Destination Check-In', where travellers choose destinations for unique accommodations rather than famous landmarks—82% of Indians admitted to following this shift.

68.ASSAM STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (ASDMA) LAUNCHES TRAINING ON SBC-DRR

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), in partnership with UNICEF Assam, launched a two-day State-Level Training of Trainers (ToT) on Social and Behaviour Change for Disaster Risk Reduction (SBC-DRR) in Guwahati.
- The programme represents a major milestone in implementing the Assam DRR Roadmap 2030, emphasizing the state's focus on building community resilience through human-centric and behaviour-driven disaster management approaches.
- The training seeks to enhance the capacity of field-level officials to incorporate social and behavioural perspectives into disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Key objectives include creating a pool of master trainers at the district level, promoting people-focused disaster risk reduction, and enabling officials to design and execute effective communication and community engagement strategies for stronger community resilience.
- The ToT will be held in three batches — October 9–10, October 16–17, and November 11–12, 2025 — for District Project Officers (DPOs) and Field Officers (FOs).
- These trained master trainers will later conduct district-level sessions from December 2025, involving officials from various line departments and stakeholders.
- The initiative will gradually expand to localized community programmes on disaster risk reduction across Assam.

69. PRAGYAN BHARATI SCHEME OPENS DOORS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ASSAM'S STUDENTS



- The Government of Assam has reaffirmed its commitment to free higher education through the Pragyan Bharati Scheme, which provides cost-free admission to students in colleges and universities across the state.
- Over ₹1,000 crore has been spent on the programme so far, with an additional ₹126 crore earmarked for the current year.
- The initiative covers admission fees for higher secondary, degree, and postgraduate courses in government institutions.
- It also provides book grants and financial incentives to meritorious students.
- The scheme was launched to remove financial barriers that prevent deserving students from pursuing higher studies.
- It has already enabled thousands of young people, especially from economically weaker and rural families, to continue their education without debt or stress.
- The Pragyan Bharati Scheme has become a symbol of the state's commitment to educational equity.
- It ensures that every talented student in Assam has the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to society.

70. TOP ASIAN PADDLERS TO COMPETE IN MEGHA KAYAK FESTIVAL EVENT



- Top paddlers from across Asia will participate in the **Megha Kayak Festival**, to be held at the **Shillong White Water Village, Umtham, Ri-Bhoi district**, from **October 14**.

- The **seventh edition** of the festival will run for **four days** at the scenic venue.
- The event will host the **inaugural Asian Extreme Kayak Championship**, drawing attention to top Asian kayakers.
- Key highlights include the '**downriver sprint**' and '**canoe slalom cross**' events for both men and women of all ages and skill levels.
- The **downriver sprint** involves individual kayakers racing downstream, where speed and timing are crucial.
- The **canoe slalom cross** features multiple competitors navigating through gates and obstacles in the river.
- The **Asian Extreme Kayak Championship** introduces two new formats — '**extreme sprint**' and '**enduro**' — designed to test athletes on the challenging **Umtrew rapids**.
- The **extreme sprint** is a race with gates and obstacles placed both upstream and downstream.
- The **enduro** event is a long-distance race assessing stamina and kayaking skills.
- Since its beginning, the **Megha Kayak Fest** has attracted top paddlers — both amateurs and professionals — from around the world.
- Over **80 competitors from India, Nepal, and the UK** participated in previous editions.
- The event is organised by the **Ri-Bhoi Water Sports and Tourism Corporation Society Limited**, with support from the **Department of Sports and Youth Affairs** and the **Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association**.
- Participant registration will take place at the **Shillong White Water Village**.
- The organisers emphasised the festival's focus on **gender equality and inclusiveness** in adventure sports.
- **Prize money** will be equal across all categories:
 - ₹30,000 for winners of **downriver sprint, kayak cross race, and kayak cross** events.
 - ₹75,000 for the **overall winner**.
 - ₹30,000 for winners of the **extreme kayak sprint and enduro** events in both male and female categories.
- The festival aims to establish **Meghalaya as a hub for adventure tourism**, according to officials.

71. STATE IRRIGATION DEPT WINS SKOCH AWARD



- The **State Irrigation Department** has received the **prestigious SKOCH Award** for its **innovative mobile lift irrigation scheme**.
- The award was presented at the **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**, during the **102nd SKOCH Summit**.

- The **mobile lift irrigation scheme** was **designed and modified by Akikul Aman**, Executive Engineer (in-charge) of the **Boko-Chhaygaon-Chamaria Division**.
- The scheme aims to provide **affordable and mobile irrigation facilities to marginal and small farmers**.
- It is the **first initiative** from the department to gain recognition on such a **prominent national platform**.
- The scheme functions as a **portable irrigation model** capable of serving **scattered agricultural fields** where traditional infrastructure is not feasible.
- Through **mobility and low-cost operation**, it ensures that **irrigation water reaches remote farms**, thereby improving **crop productivity**.
- The **SKOCH Award** honours **excellence in governance, innovation, and inclusive growth**.

72.MIZORAM SEEKS DISASTER TAG AS RATS DEVOUR CROPS ACROSS STATE



- The Mizoram government has sought urgent intervention to address the large-scale destruction of paddy and other crops caused by a massive surge in rodent populations.
- Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister **PC Vanlalruata** said the department has requested the **State Disaster Management and Rehabilitation (DM&R) Department** to declare the crop devastation a **state disaster**.
- Although the government recently finalised an **insurance provider for crop protection**, farmers affected by the rodent infestation may not be eligible for coverage, as the policy was only formalised last Friday after a long delay.
- The infestation is linked to the **'Thingtam' phenomenon**, a rare ecological event triggered by the **mass flowering of 'bambusa tulda' (rawthing bamboo)**, which leads to a surge in rodent populations.
- Swarms of rats have destroyed paddy fields and other crops across Mizoram.
- While crop insurance may not cover the losses, farmers could still receive **compensation** if the **DM&R Department** declares **'Thingtam' a state-specific disaster**.
- **Rodent control operations** are ongoing, including **mass poisoning drives** in severely affected areas.
- The Agriculture Department has distributed **rodenticides** to farmers to help contain the infestation and prevent further damage.
- Around **4,000 households across 130 villages in all 11 districts** have reported severe crop loss, with **paddy being the most affected**.
- Other affected crops include **maize, sugarcane, cowpea, ginger, eggplant, chili, pumpkin, sesame, and cucumber**.
- So far, **1,737.354 hectares of paddy fields** have been destroyed out of a total **6,869.954 hectares** under cultivation.

- The surge in rodent numbers marks the **return of the 'Thingtam' event**, which occurs roughly **once every 48 years**.
- The last such outbreak occurred in **1977**, causing similar devastation, and the current infestation has revived memories of that crisis across Mizoram.

73.HOGUN MITRA' CAMPAIGN IN SIVASAGAR EDUCATES FUTURE STEWARDS ON VULTURES



- **Aaranyak**, a leading biodiversity conservation organisation, has been conducting awareness programmes under its **Vulture Conservation Initiative** across vulture-inhabited areas of Assam since last year.
- The initiative aims to achieve **zero vulture deaths in Assam** in the coming years.
- Branded as **'Hogun Mitra'**, the campaign seeks to actively involve **students, farmers, village elders, administrative and forest officials, and agricultural officers** in protecting and conserving these vital scavenging birds.
- A recent session of the campaign was held at the **auditorium of Khanamukh Higher Secondary School, Sivasagar**, beginning with an **inspiring audiovisual presentation** by school principal and orator **Anand Kumar Bora**.
- The programme was formally inaugurated by teacher **Bhagyalakshmi Saikia**, who led a **vulture conservation oath** prepared by Aaranyak, emphasizing personal commitment to vulture protection.
- The **'Hogun Mitra' campaign** is spearheaded by **Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar**, Secretary General and Executive Director of Aaranyak, and **Dr. Dipankar Lahkar**, Deputy Director at Aaranyak.
- The initiative is supported by **Aaranyak team members Wasima Begum and Hiren Dutta**.

74.CM-FLIGHT LAUNCHED; 180 TO UNDERGO JAPANESE LANGUAGE TRAINING IN FIRST BATCH

- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the **Chief Minister's Foreign Languages Initiative for Global Human Talent (CM-FLIGHT)** at the North East Skill Centre in Guwahati.
- Under the scheme's first batch, **180 candidates** will undergo **Japanese language training (JFT Basic/JLPT N4)** through three international partners — **ASEAN ONE Co. Ltd., Jaceex Ventures LLP, and Meiko Career Partners Co. Ltd.**
- The initiative aims to equip Assam's youth with **foreign language and workplace readiness skills** to boost employability in global sectors like **construction, nursing care, and food services**.

- The Chief Minister highlighted that in an interconnected world, **linguistic and cross-cultural skills** are essential for accessing global job opportunities.
- The **first phase of CM-FLIGHT** will focus on **Japan** as the primary destination, given its high demand for skilled foreign workers under the **Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) visa programme**.
- Priority sectors include **healthcare, hospitality, manufacturing, and food processing**.
- The government will **closely monitor the migration process** to ensure candidates' **safety, dignity, and fair employment practices**.
- To make the programme **inclusive and affordable**, especially for youth from economically weaker sections, the government has pledged **financial assistance**.
- **₹1,00,000 per candidate** will be provided to training and implementation partners for instruction, orientation, and documentation costs.
- An additional **₹50,000 per candidate** will be offered as **post-placement assistance** to cover relocation, visa processing, and initial settlement expenses abroad.
- This financial support reduces candidates' effective training cost to around **₹30,000**, making the opportunity more **accessible and affordable**.
- The initiative stems from discussions during Sarma's visit to Japan for **Advantage Assam 2.0**, where he met **Fukushiro Nukaga**, Speaker of Japan's House of Representatives.
- Following the meeting, **Nukaga led a business delegation** to Assam, including **Toshiaki Nishikawa**, chairman of ASEAN ONE Co. Ltd., who agreed to **reduce training fees from ₹3.6 lakh to ₹1.8 lakh**.
- There is an understanding between the **Governments of India and Japan** to place **five lakh Indian youth in Japan by 2030**.
- Out of this, **Assam has been assured 50,000 placements**, with the potential to increase to **1 lakh**, depending on the State's proactive engagement.
- The Chief Minister emphasized that **remittances from overseas workers** play a key role in improving **GSDP**, strengthening **household purchasing power**, and stimulating **local economic growth**.
- He cited examples of states like **Kerala and Maharashtra**, where remittances have significantly boosted economic resilience and community upliftment.
- Sarma underlined that CM-FLIGHT can similarly enhance **Assam's remittance inflow** and positively impact the State's **economic development**.
- While Japan is the **pilot phase focus**, the CM-FLIGHT scheme is designed for **future expansion** to include more **foreign languages and partner countries**.
- The long-term vision is to position **Assam as a trusted global source of skilled talent**, rooted in the values of **honesty, hard work, discipline, and humility**.

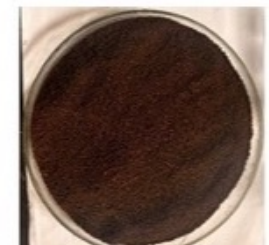
75. DECAFFEINATED BLACK TEA DEVELOPED BY CSIR-NEIST LAUNCHED



Black Tea



Caffeine



Decaffeinated Tea

- Decaffeinated black tea, the first of its kind in India, has been produced using indigenous technology developed by scientists at the CSIR–North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Jorhat.
- The product was launched by Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh, who also serves as the Vice-President of CSIR.
- The launch took place during the 'CSIR Super Model Store' (September 24–26), organized as part of the 84th CSIR Day celebrations at Dilli Haat, Delhi, featuring entrepreneurs and industries utilizing CSIR technologies from across India.
- Caffeine, a natural component of tea, can sometimes lead to sleep disturbances, anxiety, cardiovascular issues, and diuretic effects in consumers.
- Decaffeinated tea removes most of the caffeine without affecting other beneficial polyphenols, offering significant health advantages and growing popularity among health-conscious consumers.
- The CSIR-NEIST-developed technology for decaffeinated tea is crucial to meeting the increasing market demand for caffeine-free tea, according to CSIR-NEIST officials.

76. WILDLIFE RESTORATION: PAINTED STORKS RETURN TO KAZIRANGA AFTER FOUR-YEAR ABSENCE:

- After a four-year gap, Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has once again welcomed the Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), a familiar winter migrant to Assam's wetlands.
- The return of these large migratory birds is seen as a key indicator of ecological revival in one of Assam's most sensitive ecosystems.
- Their elegant presence across the park's marshes and water bodies highlights the success of ongoing conservation initiatives.
- The Painted Stork, native to South and Southeast Asia, is noted for its vibrant plumage and distinctive yellow beak.
- Its absence in recent years had sparked concerns among conservationists regarding the park's ecological health.
- Experts believe the birds' comeback signals recovery from challenges such as climate change, recurring floods, and human disturbances.
- Kaziranga, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is renowned for its one-horned rhinoceros and serves as a vital refuge for numerous migratory bird species.
- The reappearance of the Painted Stork has renewed hope among conservationists and wildlife enthusiasts, reaffirming Kaziranga's role as a thriving sanctuary for both resident and migratory fauna.

77. ASSAM UNVEILS ₹4,287 CR ASTHA PLAN TO REVOLUTIONIZE TERTIARY HEALTHCARE



- In a major move to transform Assam's healthcare sector, the **state government approved a ₹4,287 crore outlay** under the **Assam State Health and Technical Advancement (ASTHA) Plan** to upgrade tertiary healthcare facilities across the state.
- The centerpiece of this initiative is the **complete redevelopment of Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH)** — Assam's premier medical institution — into a **world-class healthcare and research hub** featuring advanced infrastructure, modern medical technology, and improved patient care systems.
- The **ASTHA Plan** aims to **modernize major hospitals, expand specialized treatment centers, and strengthen critical care capacity** to meet increasing healthcare demands across Assam.
- The project seeks to **position Assam as a regional leader** in medical innovation and healthcare excellence.
- Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** stated that the ASTHA Plan demonstrates the government's dedication to providing **accessible, high-quality healthcare** for all citizens.
- Once completed, the upgraded healthcare facilities are expected to **set new benchmarks for healthcare delivery** across the entire Northeast region.
- Assam's **healthcare revolution** has begun, with **GMCH leading the way** toward a healthier and stronger future.

78. CABINET APPROVES BILL ON SATTRA LAND PROTECTION

- The Cabinet approved a bill to set up a Sattra Commission in the State with quasi-judicial powers for the protection of Sattras and their land, as recommended by the Justice (Retd.) Biplab Kumar Sharma Committee on Implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.
- The Commission will focus on the preservation and development of Sattras in Assam, and the State Government will move the bill in the next session of the Assam Legislative Assembly.
- The Commission will be headed by a retired High Court Justice.
- The State Government will appoint a retired government officer, who earlier served at the secretary level and has in-depth knowledge of revenue laws, as a member of the Commission.
- Two Sattradhikars will also be included as members of the Commission.

- The Chief Minister stated that the Commission will have the authority to protect Sattra lands across the State.
- The State Cabinet approved a proposal to invest ₹4,000 crore in an ammonia production plant under the Assam Valley Fertilizer Corporation, Namrup.
- The plant will have a capacity of 12.7 lakh metric tonnes, with a total project investment of ₹10,601 crore.
- The Assam Government holds a 40% share in the new company, which will generate 460 permanent jobs and 1,500 related jobs.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to lay the foundation stone for the plant in December.
- Other stakeholders in the company include Oil India, National Fertilizer Limited, Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited, and BVFCL.
- The Cabinet approved the proposal to raise the dearness allowance (DA) for State Government employees from 55% to 58%.
- A fund of ₹125 crore has been sanctioned for implementing the Nijut Moina Scheme.
- The State Government plans to introduce two new bills to safeguard the rights and interests of the indigenous people of Assam.
- The two bills will be tabled in the Assam Legislative Assembly soon and are expected to be approved in the next Cabinet meeting.

79. HFMD OUTBREAK SUSPECTED IN STATE



- A surge in cases of **Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)** — a viral infection common among children — has been reported in the State, raising concern among parents.
- The **exact number of cases** is still uncertain due to lack of laboratory testing, but doctors, especially in **Guwahati**, have confirmed a rise in HFMD cases based on **clinical diagnosis**.
- **Paediatricians in Dibrugarh** have also reported multiple recent cases.
- The disease, **caused by the Coxsackie virus**, is **highly contagious** and spreads through direct contact with **saliva, mucus, blister fluid, stool, or airborne droplets** from coughing or sneezing.
- **Infected children need isolation** for a few days, and **medication may be required** in some cases.
- An earlier study by the **Regional Virus Research Diagnostic Laboratory** of the **ICMR–Regional Medical Research Centre** and the **Paediatrics Department of Assam Medical College and Hospital** noted that the **first HFMD outbreak in India** was reported in **Calicut in 2004**.
- The **first large-scale outbreak** occurred in **Kolkata and nearby areas of West Bengal in 2007**, followed by **several small-scale outbreaks** across different regions based on clinical descriptions.

- The **first laboratory-confirmed outbreak in Assam** was reported in 2014.
- In the initial years, **no neurological or pulmonary complications** were detected, and **all patients recovered without hospitalization**.
- However, the **wider spread** of the disease across India resembles the **pre-epidemic phases** observed in **China and Taiwan**.
- The study found that the **CV-A6 serotype** identified in **Tezpur district** shares **98–99% nucleotide similarity** with the **CV-A6 strain** responsible for major outbreaks in **China (2012)** and **Finland (2008)**.
- **Awareness among primary healthcare workers** about HFMD remains **low**.
- **Health awareness in schools and daycare centres** about the **disease's contagious nature** is essential to **control and limit outbreaks**, researchers emphasized.

80. BHALLA VISITS RLY PROJECT IN NONEY DIST



- **Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla** inspected the **world's highest railway pier bridge** under construction over the **Ijei River** in **Noney district**.
- **Railway engineers** briefed the Governor about the **progress of the Jiribam–Imphal railway line project**.
- The bridge is **expected to be completed within the current financial year**.
- It is part of the **111-km-long Jiribam–Imphal railway line**, a **key connectivity project** in **North East India**.
- The bridge, located at **Khumji village in Noney district**, about **70 km west of Imphal**, will be **141 metres high**, making it the **highest railway pier bridge in the world**.
- Once completed, it will **surpass the Mala–Rijeka viaduct in Montenegro**, which stands at **139 metres**.
- The bridge will be **555 metres long** and is one of **11 major bridges** and **137 minor bridges** being built along the route.
- So far, **five major bridges** and **101 minor bridges** have been completed.
- The **Imphal–Jiribam railway line** was declared a **national project** in 2008.

81. 146 BIRD SPECIES RECORDED IN KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK AND TIGER RESERVE

- **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR)**, India's seventh **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, recorded a total of **146 bird species** and **1,919 individual birds** in its latest bird survey.

- The **'Kati Bihu Bird Count 2025'** was successfully organized on Saturday by the **Assam Bird Monitoring Network (ABMN)** in collaboration with **KNPTR authorities**.
- Bird surveys were conducted across **five key locations** — **Panbari Range**, **Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Panpur**, **Gamiri Range** (under **Biswanath Wildlife Division**), and **Agoratoli Range**.
- The collective survey recorded **146 species** and **1,919 birds**, with **Agoratoli Range** showing the highest diversity (**89 species**), followed by **Gamiri and Panbari (59 each)**, **Panpur (55)**, and **Laokhowa (37)**.
- Among the recorded species:
 - **2 were endangered** — **Swamp Grass Babbler** and **Pallas's Fish Eagle**.
 - **6 were vulnerable** — **River Tern**, **Greater Spotted Eagle**, **Slender-billed Babbler**, **Lesser Adjutant**, **Great Hornbill**, and **Swamp Francolin**.
 - **6 were near threatened** — **Woolly-necked Stork**, **Northern Lapwing**, **Blossom-headed Parakeet**, **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, **Spot-billed Pelican**, and **River Lapwing**.
 - **132 species** were of least concern.
- The survey documented several important resident and migratory birds such as **Blue-eared Barbet**, **Bluethroat**, **Grey-headed Lapwing**, **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**, and **Indian Spot-billed Duck**.
- Other notable records included **Jerdon's Baza**, **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird**, **Swamp Francolin**, **Taiga Flycatcher**, **Chestnut-capped Babbler**, **Greater Spotted Eagle**, and **Blue-naped Pitta**.
- The **Kati Bihu Bird Count 2025** was highlighted as a **citizen science initiative**, encouraging **community-based conservation** and participation from students, youth, birders, and women forest staff.
- The findings will aid in **long-term bird population monitoring** and enhance understanding of **habitat health in the Kaziranga landscape**.
- The **ABMN** expressed gratitude to all participants, coordinators, and especially to **Kaziranga National Park Director Sonali Ghosh** for her encouragement and support.
- A total of **63 participants**, including bird enthusiasts, students, researchers, and forest officials, took part in the count.
- The event aimed to **promote bird monitoring**, **raise conservation awareness**, and **encourage participation** among local communities, with a focus on engaging **women forest staff and youth**.



82.MIZORAM'S 'PROJECT BRAHMARASTRA': A NEW HOPE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE THROUGH SPORTS



- Narcotics have become one of the most serious challenges confronting the youth in the North-East, threatening their health, potential, and future prospects.
- In a proactive effort to curb rising drug abuse, the Assam Rifles has partnered with Pune-based WATO Trust, led by Dr. Yogita Karache, to launch *Project Brahmastra* in Mizoram.
- The initiative is the first of its kind, using basketball as a tool for rehabilitation and empowerment of youth affected by drug abuse.
- The project was launched on October 14 in collaboration with the Mizoram Basketball Association (MBA), beginning with a talent hunt at Rajeev Gandhi Stadium.
- The five-day event witnessed record participation, with 94 teams and SAI officials registering — the highest ever for a basketball tournament in Mizoram, surpassing the previous record of 74 teams.
- The final match, held on October 18, was attended by Mizoram Governor Gen. VK Singh (Retd.), senior Assam Rifles officials, and state dignitaries.
- Winners and runners-up received cash prizes, while outstanding players were awarded year-long sports scholarships to support long-term development.
- Alongside this community initiative, Assam Rifles continues its strong enforcement actions against drug trafficking.
- Recently, the force seized 90,000 bottles of codeine phosphate and triprolidine-based syrups worth ₹4.5 crore from a cargo train at Jirania station in West Tripura.
- The operation highlights Assam Rifles' twin approach — empowerment through community engagement and enforcement through anti-narcotics operations.
- *Project Brahmastra* exemplifies a model collaboration between security forces, civil society, and sports organisations in combating drug abuse across Mizoram and the wider North-East region.

83.IIM GUWAHATI TO BOOST NE AS INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL, ENCOURAGE LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, enabling the establishment of the 22nd Indian Institute of Management (IIM).
- With an investment of ₹555 crore, IIM Guwahati will be the second IIM in the Northeast after Shillong.

- Establishing a new IIM follows a defined procedure—first, the Ministry of Education identifies regions with strong demand for management education.
- A proposal is then submitted to Parliament for approval, after which the State government allocates land and necessary resources.
- IIM Ahmedabad will mentor IIM Guwahati to help maintain high academic standards.
- The institute is expected to offer a variety of programs tailored to the evolving demands of the business world.
- Given the unique economic features of the Northeast, the curriculum will likely emphasize agribusiness, tourism management, and sustainable development.
- Specialized courses may also be introduced on digital transformation, entrepreneurship, and leadership to align with global business trends.
- As part of its global outreach, IIM Guwahati plans to collaborate with leading management schools worldwide through exchange programs and joint research.
- Such international partnerships will prepare students to address global challenges effectively.
- The focus on sustainability and agribusiness aligns with the Northeast's natural resources and agricultural strengths.
- The institute aims to produce leaders capable of balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility, supporting sustainable progress in Assam and neighboring states.
- IIMs are renowned for strong placement records, and IIM Guwahati is expected to uphold this tradition.
- Top IIMs like Ahmedabad, Bangalore, and Calcutta report high median salaries, while newer IIMs such as Indore and Udaipur have shown excellent placement performance.
- IIM Guwahati's proximity to Southeast Asia provides additional scope for international placements and collaborations with global firms.
- The institute's emphasis on technology, innovation, and sustainability will make it an attractive destination for recruiters seeking future-ready leaders.
- Beyond academics, IIM Guwahati is expected to strengthen the Northeast's intellectual capital and foster local entrepreneurship.
- By delivering high-quality management education with a regional focus, it will play a transformative role in shaping the future of Assam and the entire Northeast.
- The institute aims to nurture the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals who will drive sustainable and inclusive growth in the years ahead.



84.INDIAN OIL LAUNCHES 'GREEN BUD' WILDLIFE RESCUE PROJECT IN DIGBOI :



- In a landmark move to enhance wildlife conservation and promote community-led ecological restoration in Upper Assam, the **"IndianOil – Green Bud Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Project"** was inaugurated at the Lakhpathar Forest Range Office under the Digboi Forest Division, Tinsukia District.
- The initiative is being implemented under the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** programme of **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Assam Oil Division Unit, Digboi Refinery)** in collaboration with the **Assam Forest Department** and the environmental NGO **We For You**.
- The inauguration ceremony was attended by **Amar Borgohain**, GM (HR), IOCL – AOD Unit; **Montu Chetia**, Range Officer, Lakhpathar Range; representatives from the **Indian Oil Officers' Association (IOOA)** and **Assam Oil Corporation Labour Union (AOCLU)**; officials from Digboi Refinery; members of **We For You**; local forest staff; and community members from the **Dihing Patkai Landscape**, often known as the *"Amazon of the East."*
- The event began with the **lighting of the ceremonial lamp**, followed by a **plantation drive in memory of Late Zubeen Garg**, celebrating his passion for nature and environmental awareness.
- A key highlight was the **flagging off of a fully equipped Wildlife Rescue Vehicle** under the Green Bud project to strengthen rapid wildlife response and rehabilitation efforts in the Digboi Forest Division.
- Additionally, a **comprehensive set of wildlife rescue and safety equipment**—including snake-handling kits, stretchers, protective gear, and first-aid supplies—was handed over to the Forest Department and trained community volunteers.
- Speaking on the occasion, **Amar Borgohain** reaffirmed IndianOil's commitment to sustainable development, stating that the Green Bud project reflects the company's belief that **industrial growth and ecological preservation must progress together**.

85.ASSAM GOVERNOR ADOPTS 100 TB PATIENTS UNDER NIKSHAY MITRA INITIATIVE

- Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya adopted 100 tuberculosis (TB) patients from Kamrup Metro and Nagaon districts under the Nikshay Mitra initiative of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) during a programme held at Raj Bhavan.
- During the event, the Governor distributed food baskets to five TB patients and felicitated five Ni-kshay Mitras and five TB Champions for their contributions to TB eradication.

- Governor Acharya emphasized that eliminating TB requires not only medical treatment but also social and emotional support, describing the adoption as both a personal responsibility and commitment.
- He highlighted Assam's progress in TB control, noting that testing rates have increased from 842 per lakh population in 2022 to 2,915 per lakh population, while treatment success rates have reached 90 per cent.
- The Governor acknowledged the integration of AI-based tools such as Prediction of Adverse TB Outcomes (PATO), which are improving early detection and patient outcomes.
- The TB mortality rate in the state has declined from 3.1 per cent to 2.4 per cent.
- Governor Acharya commended initiatives such as the '100-Day TB-Free India Campaign' and other awareness and support programmes.
- He stressed the importance of community participation, noting that over 21,600 Ni-kshay Mitras have registered in Assam since the initiative's launch in September 2022.

86.SUBANSIRI LOWER HYDROPOWER PROJECT ACHIEVES MILESTONE WITH FIRST 250MW UNIT WET- COMMISSIONED



- A moment of collective pride for Northeast India as the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project reaches a remarkable milestone.
- It is India's largest hydropower undertaking, now entering the wet-commissioning phase for its first 250 MW unit.
- Located at Gerukamukh on the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border, the project marks a major step toward full operationalisation.
- Initially launched in 2005, the project faced an eight-year suspension (2011–2019) due to protests in Assam and legal issues related to downstream environmental impacts.
- Its resumption highlights India's growing strength in world-class infrastructure development.
- The wet-commissioning phase involves introducing water into the system and running operational checks on the first powerhouse unit.
- This phase moves the project closer to full commissioning by 2026, when all eight 250 MW units are expected to become functional.
- As the turbines begin to spin and illuminate Assam, the project showcases the power of ambition combined with effective execution.
- Once fully operational, the Subansiri Lower HEP will be India's largest hydroelectric facility.
- It will light millions of homes and significantly strengthen India's energy security.

87. ASSAM OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL GIBBON DAY, URGES PROTECTION OF WESTERN HOOLOCK GIBBON:



- Assam joined the global celebration of International Gibbon Day on 24th October, focusing on the protection of the Western Hoolock Gibbon.
- The Western Hoolock Gibbon is India's only ape and an important symbol of Northeast India's rich biodiversity.
- Environmental organisation Aaranyak led the awareness campaign, urging immediate action to conserve the species' rapidly shrinking habitats.
- The gibbon is found only in the northeastern states, thriving in the forest canopies along the Dibang-Brahmaputra river system.
- Assam's Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Jorhat serves as the most secure and significant habitat for the species.
- Smaller gibbon populations also survive in Dehing Patkai, Dibru-Saikhowa, Kakoijana, and Nameri.
- Community-led conservation initiatives in Kakoijana and Hoollongapar continue to inspire hope for the survival of Assam's "singing apes."

88. GOVT PLANNING 7-YR JAIL IN NEW POLYGAMY BILL

- The proposed law against polygamy will have a punishment of at least seven years, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday.
- The bill will be introduced in the Assembly on November 25, the first day of the winter session, he announced at the launch of the second phase of the 'Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina' scheme.
- If a person marries another woman without legally divorcing his wife, then there will be provision of seven years or more imprisonment irrespective of his religion- he told the beneficiary girls attending the programme.
- The accused may say that his religion permits it, but the BJP government will never allow polygamy, he added.
- The government last year launched the 'Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina' scheme to support girl education by providing monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 for Class 11 students, Rs 1,250 for first-year undergraduates, and Rs 2,500 for first-year postgraduates and BEd students for 10 months.
- Last week, the Chief Minister had said the State government will introduce several bills in the upcoming Assembly session on issues like 'love-jihad' and polygamy.

89. DIKRONG GRASSLAND READY TO WELCOME ENDANGERED BUNTING SPECIES



- A grassland on the banks of the **river Dikrong** in **Lakhimpur district, Assam**, is ready to welcome winter migratory birds, including some **rare and endangered species**.
- Located in **Pokadol**, about **7 km from Bihpuria**, the grassland attracts a large number of **migratory birds** and **birdwatchers** from across India during winter.
- **Arpan Partha**, a birdwatcher from Bihpuria, reported that four species of buntings are found here — **yellow-breasted bunting**, **chestnut-eared bunting**, **black-faced bunting**, and **little bunting**.
- The **yellow-breasted bunting (Emberiza aureola)** is an **IUCN Critically Endangered** species that migrates from the **Scandinavian region** to the **eastern Himalayas** in winter.
- The presence of buntings in Dikrong grassland was first discovered by **Sutirtha Lahiri**, a PhD scholar from the **University of Minnesota**, during his 2023–24 bioacoustics study on bird communities.
- Continuous **research and documentation** of these rare species are being carried out by birdwatchers and conservationists such as **Jugal Borah**.
- The grassland also hosts **IUCN-listed vulnerable species** like **swamp francolin (Ortygornis gularis)**, **peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus)**, and **hen harrier (Circus cyaneus)**.
- Other **migratory species** recorded include **Baikal bush warbler (Locustella davidi)**, **thick-billed warbler (Arundinax aedon)**, and **Chinese rubythroat (Calliope tschebaiewi)**.
- **Resident species** found in the grassland include **chestnut munia**, **scaly-breasted munia**, **black-breasted weaver**, and **streaked weaver**.
- The Dikrong grassland has become a **popular destination** for birdwatchers; over **150 visitors** from across India have come through arrangements made by **Tesia Camp**, a birdwatching homestay in **Harmutty, Lakhimpur**.
- In previous years, the grassland faced threats from **poachers** who burned dry reeds and hunted birds.
- **Local vigilantes led by Arpan Partha**, with help from the **forest department**, identified the culprits and stopped these activities.
- The area is now under the **protection of Krishna Rajkhowa**, a local horticulturist cultivating **apple ber (jujube)** near the grassland.
- Rajkhowa has been **guarding the site**, preventing hunting and burning during the migratory season.
- He has also **installed signboards** prohibiting hunting and burning, earning appreciation from **Assam's Education Minister Dr. Ranoj Pegu**.

- A major current threat to the grassland is **riverbank erosion** caused by the **river Dikrong**, which has been **devouring hundreds of acres** of land over the years.
- The ongoing erosion poses a **serious threat to the existence** of this newly emerging **grassland bird sanctuary**.

90. ARUNACHAL'S 700-YEAR-OLD CHAKZAM BRIDGE ENDURES, MLA TSERING ADVOCATES HERITAGE TOURISM BOOST



- The **historic Chakzam Bridge**, also known as the **Shaking Bridge**, stands as a symbol of **ancient craftsmanship and spiritual legacy** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Constructed nearly **700 years ago** by the revered Buddhist saint and engineer **Thangtong Gyalpo (Dupthop Thangtong Gyalpo)**, the **iron-chain suspension bridge** spans the **Tawang Chu River**, connecting communities for centuries.
- **MLA Tawang Namgye Tsering**, along with government officials, recently **visited Shernup Village and the Chakzam Bridge** to assess its condition and explore possibilities for **community-based tourism**.
- The delegation included **Neil Law of Himalayan Footprints** and other **heritage preservation and sustainable tourism experts**.
- The visit was part of **preparations for the upcoming Losar festival**, the **Buddhist New Year** celebrated by the **Monpa community**.
- **MLA Tsering** emphasized that promoting **responsible rural tourism** in areas like **Shernup and Chakzam** would help **preserve living traditions, create livelihoods, and showcase the Mon region's rich culture, spirituality, and natural beauty** to the world.

91. CM LAUNCHES CASHLESS TREATMENT FACILITY UNDER AYUSHMAN ASOM MMLSAY

- Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the cashless treatment facility under the Ayushman Asom Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana (AA-MMLSAY) at Janata Bhawan.
- The initiative will benefit State Government employees, pensioners, and their dependents by allowing them to access medical care without upfront expenses.

- With the launch, beneficiaries became eligible for cashless medical services at empanelled hospitals within Assam and leading corporate hospitals across India.
- Dr. Sarma distributed health cards under the scheme and unveiled its digital newsletter.
- The Chief Minister said the scheme, launched on 2 October 2023, aimed to eliminate delays and hardships caused by the old reimbursement process.
- Over 2.23 lakh employees and 6,172 pensioners have registered for the scheme so far.
- In the first phase, cashless service covered government medical colleges and major hospitals, including those under the Assam Cancer Care Foundation, GNRC, Downtown, Max Healthcare, and Medanta.
- Discussions are underway to include more hospitals such as AIIMS Guwahati and the Fortis Group.
- The reimbursement option will continue for hospitals not yet covered under the cashless system.

92. CASHLESS TREATMENT SCHEME LAUNCHED FOR STATE GOVT EMPLOYEES

- Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the cashless treatment facility under the Ayushman Asom Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana (AA-MMLSAY) at Janata Bhawan.
- The initiative will benefit State Government employees, pensioners, and their dependents by allowing them to access medical care without upfront expenses.
- Beneficiaries can now avail cashless medical services at select empanelled hospitals within Assam and leading corporate hospitals across India.
- Dr. Sarma distributed health cards under the scheme and unveiled its digital newsletter.
- The health card will serve as a gateway for both cashless treatment and reimbursement benefits.
- The scheme, launched on 2 October 2023, aims to eliminate delays and corruption in the old reimbursement process.
- Previously, employees and pensioners had to pay medical expenses themselves and wait years for reimbursement due to bureaucratic delays.
- The new system allows beneficiaries to receive treatment first, without worrying about funds.
- The government decided to continue the old reimbursement system simultaneously to ensure a smooth transition.
- So far, 2,23,826 employees and 6,172 pensioners have registered under the scheme.
- Registration can be done anytime under the scheme.
- Reimbursements are made as per Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) rates, and Assam adopts revised rates as soon as they are updated by the Central Government.
- In the first phase, cashless service is available at all government medical colleges and hospitals in Assam and several private hospitals.
- Empanelled hospitals include Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute, CN Centre (GMCH Annex), Assam Cancer Care Foundation hospitals, Medanta (Gurgaon), GNRC, Downtown Hospital, Max Healthcare, and Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Guwahati.
- Discussions are underway with AIIMS Guwahati, Fortis Group, Narayana Group, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (New

Delhi), and other leading hospitals for inclusion under the cashless module.

- Employees and pensioners can still seek treatment and apply for reimbursement at hospitals not covered under the cashless system.
- Unlike Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, MMLSAY is self-sustaining and funded through contributions made by employees.
- Since the scheme's launch, Rs 65 crore has been reimbursed to employees and pensioners, compared to Rs 17–18 crore annually earlier.
- The increased expenditure reflects expanded coverage and improved efficiency.
- The scheme also covers employees under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, National Health Mission, State power companies, and other State Government entities.
- The total number of beneficiaries is expected to reach 7–8 lakh in the future.
- The Government will continue to strengthen and upgrade the scheme to better serve employees.
- Dr. Sarma announced that the Assam Government will soon constitute its own Pay Commission so that State employees can avail benefits simultaneously with Central Government employees.

PERSON IN NEWS

93.MIRABAI CHANU WINS SILVER AT WORLD WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS



- Olympic medallist and former world champion Mirabai Chanu won a silver medal in the women's 48kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships.
- The 2017 world champion and 2022 silver medallist registered a total lift of 199kg (84kg snatch + 115kg clean and jerk).
- She struggled in the snatch, failing twice at 87kg, but displayed her trademark strength in clean and jerk, successfully lifting 109kg, 112kg, and 115kg.
- This was her first successful 115kg lift since the Tokyo Olympics 2021, where she had also won silver.
- North Korea's Ri Song Gum won gold with a record-breaking 213kg (91kg + 122kg), setting new world records in both total and clean and jerk.
- Thailand's Thanyathon Sukcharoen took bronze with 198kg (88kg + 110kg).
- This medal is Chanu's third at the World Championships, reaffirming her as one of India's most consistent global performers.
- Chief coach Vijay Sharma stated the focus is now on crossing the 200kg mark as Chanu prepares to regain form in the 49kg Olympic category.
- Her achievement brought pride and joy to the entire Northeast region.

94.RENOWNED CLASSICAL VOCALIST PANDIT CHHANNULAL MISHRA PASSES AWAY



- India mourns the loss of Pandit Chhannulal Mishra, a revered Hindustani classical vocalist and exponent of the Banaras Gharana, who passed away on October 2.
- Recipient of the Padma Bhushan, he was celebrated for his expertise in khayal, thumri, dadra, and devotional music.
- His soulful renditions reflected India's spiritual and cultural essence, earning him a special place among classical music lovers.
- Through decades of dedication, he enriched the nation's cultural heritage and inspired countless disciples and admirers.
- Leaders, artistes, and admirers across the country expressed deep sorrow and extended condolences to his family and followers.
- With his demise, India bids farewell to a maestro whose legacy will endure through his recordings and disciples.

95.SANAE TAKAICHI LIKELY TO BECOME FIRST FEMALE PM OF JAPAN



- Japan's ruling party has elected former Economic Security Minister **Sanae Takaichi**, a hard-line ultra-conservative and China hawk, as its new leader, making her likely to become the country's **first female Prime Minister**.
- In a nation that ranks poorly in terms of **gender equality**, the 64-year-old Takaichi creates history as the **first woman to lead** Japan's long-ruling conservative **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**.
- Takaichi is considered **one of the most conservative members** of the male-dominated LDP.
- She defeated **Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi**, son of popular former Prime Minister **Junichiro Koizumi**, in a **runoff vote** within the party.
- Takaichi succeeds **Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba** as the LDP seeks to **restore public trust** and **retain power** following significant election setbacks.
- She is **expected to become Japan's next Prime Minister** since the LDP remains **the dominant force in the Lower House**, which selects the national leader, and the **opposition remains fragmented**.

96.OLYMPIC GOLD WINNER PRAVEEN SETTLES FOR HIGH JUMP BRONZE AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS



- Olympic gold medallist **Praveen Kumar** won the **bronze medal** in men's T64 high jump at the **World Para Athletics Championships**.
- With this, **India's medal tally** rose to **18 (6 gold, 7 silver, 5 bronze)** — their **best-ever performance** at the World Championships, surpassing the **17 medals (6-5-6)** won at **Kobe, Japan, in 2024**.
- **Brazil** continued to lead the medals table with **37 medals (12 gold, 18 silver, 7 bronze)**.
- **India's third medal of the day** came from **Soman Rana**, a **42-year-old Army man**, who won **bronze in the men's F57 shot put** with a **season's best throw of 14.69m**, achieved on his **fourth attempt**.
- **Praveen**, the **Paris Paralympic gold medallist** and favourite for the top spot, cleared **2.00 metres**, a **season's best**, but finished behind **Uzbekistan's Temurbek Giyazov**, who set a **personal best of 2.03m** to win gold.
- **Jonathan Broom-Edwards** of **Great Britain** won **silver**, also clearing **2.00m**, but ranked higher as he achieved it **on his first attempt**, while **Praveen** cleared it on his second.

97.FICCI EVENT HONOURS SONITPUR SSP AS 'BEST PERFORMING OFFICER'

- **Barun Purakayastha**, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Sonitpur district, received the **Best Performing Officer 2024-25** award from the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** at its **CASCADE at MASCRAGE 2025** event held in New Delhi.
- **CASCADE** stands for *Committee Against Smuggling & Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy*, an initiative of FICCI.
- The **11th edition** of FICCI's annual flagship conference, **MASCRAGE 2025**, was held on **September 18-19** with the theme *"Growing Illicit Trade: Destabilising Economic Welfare."*
- The event focused on developing effective strategies to combat illicit trade and its impact on the economy.
- The award recognizes **Purakayastha's exemplary leadership** and the **dedicated efforts of the Sonitpur police** in tackling cybercrime and dismantling mule account networks—an increasing threat in the digital ecosystem.

98.RIFLEWOMAN LAXMI WINS BRONZE AT BFI ELITE WOMEN'S BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP 2025



- Riflewoman **Laxmi** of the **Assam Rifles** won the **bronze medal** in the **48 kg category** at the **1st BFI Cup Elite Women's Boxing Championship 2025**, held in **Chennai** from **October 1 to 7**.
- Her impressive performance shone through in a highly competitive field, showcasing **extraordinary skill, discipline, and resilience**.
- Laxmi's achievement reflects the **spirit of sportsmanship and military excellence**, bringing pride to the **Assam Rifles**.

99.ASSAM YOUTH LEADER TANUJ SAMADDAR SELECTED FOR IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2025

- In a proud moment for **Assam**, young environmentalist and youth leader **Tanuj Samaddar** has been selected by the **UNFCCC** to participate in the **IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025**, to be held in **Abu Dhabi** from **October 9 to 15**.
- The **IUCN Congress**, held every four years, serves as a **global platform** bringing together conservationists, scientists, policymakers, and youth leaders to develop **actionable solutions** for biodiversity and climate challenges.
- The **2025 theme**, *"Power of Transformative Change"*, emphasizes **urgent and scalable strategies** to protect the planet.

- At the Congress, **Tanuj** will participate in **thematic sessions and global pavilions**, where he will highlight the **conservation needs of Assam's wetlands**, which face growing threats from **rapid urbanisation and climate change**.



100. NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE TO HUNGARIAN



- Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai, known for his philosophical and darkly humorous novels often written in single sentences, won the Nobel Prize in Literature for his “compelling and visionary oeuvre.”
- He joins the ranks of literary legends such as Ernest Hemingway, Albert Camus, and Toni Morrison in receiving this prestigious honour.
- Krasznahorkai is considered a great epic writer in the Central European tradition, following the lineage of Kafka and Thomas Bernhard, marked by absurdism and grotesque excess.
- His works also draw inspiration from Eastern philosophy, adopting a contemplative and finely balanced tone.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded 117 times to 121 winners by the Swedish Academy's Nobel Committee.
- Last year's prize went to South Korean author Han Kang for her works that “confront historical traumas and expose the fragility of human life.”

- The Literature Prize is the fourth Nobel announced this week, after those in medicine, physics, and chemistry.
- The final award, the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, will be announced shortly.
- Nobel Prize award ceremonies take place on December 10, marking the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death in 1896.
- Alfred Nobel, a wealthy Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite, founded the prizes.
- Each Nobel Prize includes an award of 11 million Swedish kronor (around USD 1.2 million), an 18-carat gold medal, and a diploma.

101. VENEZUELAN OPP LEADER WINS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE:

- Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- She was recognized as a woman “who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness.”
- The former opposition presidential candidate was praised for being a “key, unifying figure” in the previously divided opposition to President Nicolas Maduro's government.

102. BIBHASH TALUKDAR NAMED IN BCCI NEUTRAL CURATORS PANEL.

- Bibhash Talukdar**, Chief Curator of the **Assam Cricket Association (ACA)**, has been included in the **BCCI's neutral curators panel** for the upcoming **Ranji Trophy 2025–26 season**.
- Talukdar is a **qualified BCCI curator** from the **2018 batch**.
- He has been serving as the **Chief Curator of the Assam Cricket Association** since **2020**.

103. NATURE LOVER MANOJ GOGOI HONOURED WITH 'GUARDIAN OF THE WILDLIFE AWARD'

- Nature lover from Kaziranga, Manoj Gogoi, has been honoured with the *Guardian of the Wildlife Award*.
- The award was presented by the *Emerging North-East Eco Forum* in recognition of his outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation.
- The felicitation took place during the *North-East India Tourism Awards 2025* ceremony held at a hotel in Guwahati.
- Manoj Gogoi has been actively engaged in wildlife conservation for several years.
- He has rescued snakes, birds, and other wild animals from disaster-affected or critical situations and, with the assistance of the Forest Department, safely released them back into their natural habitats.
- Over the years, he has received numerous national and international awards for his conservation efforts.
- He has also been bestowed with the honorary title of '*Professor*' for his exceptional dedication to wildlife protection.

104.FIRST VC OF ASSAM VETERINARY AND FISHERY UNIVERSITY



- Dr. Niranjana Kalita has been appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of Assam Veterinary and Fishery University.
- The oath of office was administered by the Governor of Assam during a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan on Monday.
- Dr. Kalita has over three decades of experience in teaching and research at the College of Veterinary Science, Khanapara.
- Before this appointment, he served as the Director of Research (Veterinary) at Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara.
- He is nationally recognized for his research contributions in veterinary science, particularly in poultry science.
- Dr. Kalita is the key scientist behind the poultry variety “Kampura”, which has demonstrated excellent results under field conditions.

105.LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF FIRST TEAM TO CLIMB MT EVEREST PASSES AWAY:

- Kanchha Sherpa, the last surviving member of the first successful summit of Mount Everest in 1953, passed away at the age of 89.

106.TANVI FIRST INDIAN FEMALE IN 17 YRS TO SECURE A MEDAL



- Tanvi Sharma became the first Indian female player in 17 years to be assured of a medal at the BWF World Junior Championships

after defeating Japan’s Saki Matsumoto to reach the girls’ singles semifinals at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.

- The 16-year-old showed remarkable composure under pressure, using precise cross-court slice shots to secure a 13-15, 15-9, 15-10 victory in a thrilling 47-minute quarterfinal match.
- The last Indian female to win a world junior medal was Saina Nehwal, who clinched gold in 2008 in Pune.
- Saina, along with her 2006 silver and Aparna Popat’s 1996 silver, are the only other Indian women to have medaled in the tournament’s history.
- Top-seeded Tanvi, who also won a bronze at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships earlier this year, started aggressively and built a 10-6 lead.
- However, a series of errors allowed Matsumoto to mount a comeback, winning seven consecutive points to take the lead.
- Though Tanvi halted the momentum briefly, she couldn’t prevent losing the opening game before recovering strongly in the next two.

107.JYOTHI SCRIPTS HISTORY, WINS WORLD CUP FINAL BRONZE MEDAL

- **Jyothi Surekha Vennam**, a decorated Indian archer, became the **first Indian woman compound archer to win a medal at the World Cup Final**, clinching **bronze** with a **flawless performance** in **Nanjing, China**.
- The **reigning Asian Games champion** defeated **world No. 2 Ella Gibson of Great Britain**, shooting **15 perfect arrows** to secure a **150–145 victory** and earn her **maiden World Cup Final podium finish**.
- In the **eight-archer season finale**, the **29-year-old** began strongly, defeating **Alexis Ruiz (USA) 143–140** in the **quarterfinals**.
- This marked **Jyothi’s third appearance** at the **World Cup Final**, following her earlier participations in **Tlaxcala (2022)** and **Hermosillo (2023)**, where she had **exited in the opening rounds**.
- Another Indian in the **women’s compound category**, **Madhura Dhamangaonkar**, was **eliminated in the opening round**, losing **142–145** to **Mariana Bernal** of Mexico.
- In the **men’s compound section**, **Rishabh Yadav**, India’s **top-ranked archer**, **narrowly missed the bronze medal**, losing to **former world champion Mike Schloesser** of the Netherlands in a **shoot-off**.
- Both archers scored **147 points each** across the **five regular ends**, leading to a **tie-breaker**.
- The **shoot-off** was **thrilling**, with both archers hitting **perfect 10s**, but **Schloesser’s arrow** was **closer to the centre**, denying **Yadav a World Cup Final medal** by the **slimmest of margins**.

108.VETERAN ACTOR ASRANI PASSES AWAY

- Veteran actor Asrani, best known for his comic roles and his iconic portrayal of the eccentric jailer in *Sholay*, passed away today in a hospital, his manager confirmed.
- He was 84 years old.
- Govardhan Asrani, popularly known simply as Asrani, had a film career spanning over five decades.
- He appeared in more than 300 films and was celebrated for his remarkable comic timing and versatility in character roles.
- His famous dialogue, “Hum Angrezon ke zamane ke jailor hai,” from *Sholay* has achieved cult status.

- The jailer character he played in *Sholay* was inspired by Charlie Chaplin's role in *The Great Dictator*.
- Asrani was fondly remembered for his performances in classics like *Sholay*, *Namak Haram*, and *Guddi*.
- Some of his other popular films include *Bawarchi*, *Golmaal*, *Hera Pheri*, *Chup Chup Ke*, *Hulchul*, *Deewane Huye Pagal*, and *Welcome*.

109.NIPON DAS TO OFFICIATE AT SOUTH ASIAN ATHLETICS MEET

- The 4th South Asian (SAF) Senior Athletics Championship will be held from October 24 to 26 in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Nipon Das from Assam, the only World Athletics Bronze Level Referee from the Northeast, has been invited to serve as a Technical Official at the championship, according to a press release.
- He will leave Guwahati for Ranchi on October 21 to take part in the conduct of the event.
- Das has been nominated for the assignment by the Athletics Federation of India.

110.TAKAICHI ELECTED AS JAPAN'S FIRST FEMALE PM

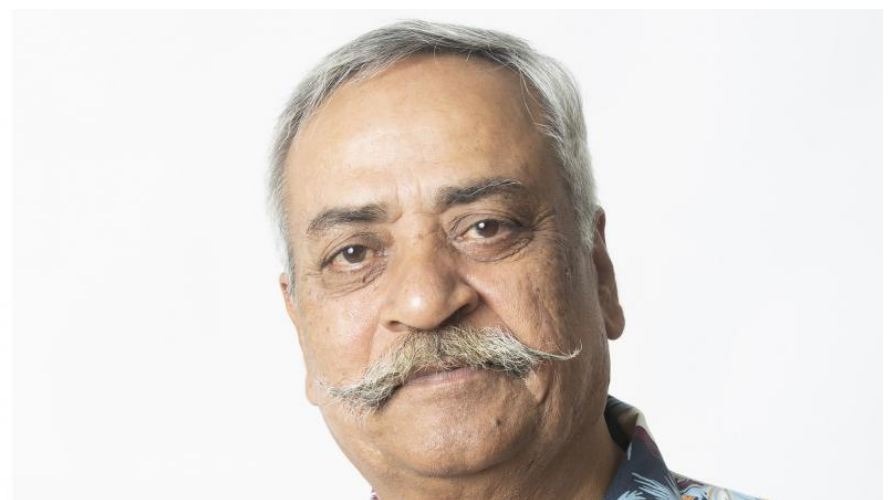


- Japan's parliament elected ultraconservative Sanae Takaichi as the country's first female Prime Minister.
- The election came a day after her struggling party formed a coalition with a new partner expected to shift the governing bloc further to the right.
- Takaichi succeeds Shigeru Ishiba, ending a three-month political vacuum following the Liberal Democratic Party's major election defeat in July.
- Ishiba, who served only one year as Prime Minister, resigned along with his Cabinet earlier in the day, clearing the way for Takaichi's appointment.
- In the parliamentary vote, Takaichi secured 237 votes—four more than the required majority—while opposition leader Yoshikoko Noda of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan received 149 votes.

111.INDIA RISES TO 9TH SPOT GLOBALLY IN FOREST AREA, RETAINS 3RD SPOT IN FOREST GAIN: FAO

- India has climbed to the ninth position globally in total forest area and retained its third rank in annual forest area gain, according to a new report released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- The Environment Ministry stated that this achievement reflects the success of India's large-scale afforestation and community-led forest protection efforts under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav called India's rise from the 10th to the 9th position a "major achievement" in sustainable forest management and ecological conservation.
- The minister credited public participation in tree plantation campaigns, especially under the 'Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam' initiative, and large-scale state government drives for contributing to this progress.
- The FAO report noted that the world's total forest area stands at 4.14 billion hectares, covering 32% of the planet's land area.
- Over half (54%) of this forest area is concentrated in five countries – Russia, Brazil, Canada, the USA, and China.
- India follows Australia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Indonesia, ranking it among the world's top 10 forest-rich nations.
- Between 2015 and 2025, China recorded the highest annual net forest gain at 1.69 million hectares per year, followed by the Russian Federation with 9,42,000 hectares and India with 1,91,000 hectares.
- Other countries showing notable forest expansion include Turkiye (1,18,000 ha), Australia (1,05,000 ha), France (95,900 ha), Indonesia (94,100 ha), South Africa (87,600 ha), Canada (82,500 ha), and Vietnam (72,800 ha).
- The assessment revealed that Asia is the only region to record an increase in forest area between 1990 and 2025, primarily due to gains in China and India.
- Globally, the annual rate of net forest loss has reduced by more than half — from 10.7 million hectares in the 1990s to 4.12 million hectares during 2015–2025.
- The FAO highlighted that Asia's forest expansion has been instrumental in slowing global deforestation, which remains highest in South America and Africa.
- According to the report, 20% of the world's forests are now in legally established protected areas, while 55% are managed under long-term forest management plans.

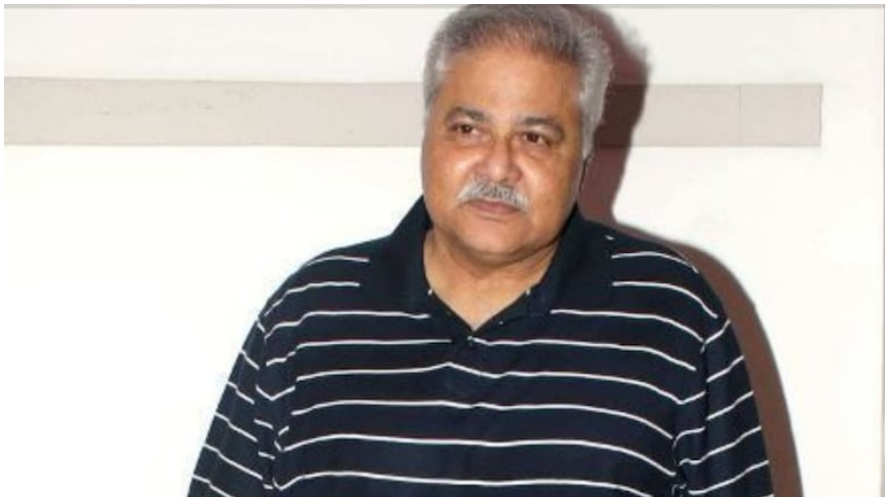
112.INDIA'S ADMAN' PIYUSH PANDEY NO MORE



- Piyush Pandey, widely known as 'India's Adman', passed away. He revolutionised Indian advertising by bringing Hindi into the mainstream, infusing humour, and breaking away from the dominance of English-led campaigns.
- Pandey joined Ogilvy India in the early 1980s and remained with the company for over four decades, becoming almost synonymous with the brand.

- His iconic works for Fevicol, Cadbury, and Asian Paints continue to be regarded as masterpieces in Indian advertising.
- In 2023, he stepped down as Executive Chairman of Ogilvy India and transitioned into an advisory role.

113.VETERAN ACTOR SATISH SHAH PASSES AWAY AT 74, LEAVING A LEGACY OF LAUGHTER AND LIGHT



- A moment of deep sorrow for Indian cinema and television as the legendary Satish Shah passes away at the age of 74.
- Shah died on October 25, leaving behind a remarkable legacy that spanned both film and television.
- From the silver screen to television sets, his career was defined by versatility and excellence.
- He delivered memorable performances in cult classics like *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro*.
- Shah became a household name through the iconic sitcom *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai*.
- His effortless style, timeless humour, and impeccable comic timing made him one of India's most beloved actors.
- Known for his versatility and warmth, Satish Shah's passing marks the end of an era in Indian entertainment.

114.UMA CHETRY FIRST FROM ASSAM TO PLAY IN ICC WORLD CUP



- An emotional Uma Chetry received her ODI cap from India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana ahead of the India vs Bangladesh match in Navi Mumbai on Sunday.

- The wicketkeeper-batter from Bokakhat became the first player from Assam and the Northeast to appear in an ICC World Cup match.
- Receiving Cap No. 157 for India, Uma was visibly moved as she was hugged by teammates Smriti Mandhana and Sneha Rana.
- Uma Chetry made her international debut on July 7, 2024, in the second T20 International against South Africa in Chennai.
- She was first named to the national team in July 2023 but did not get an opportunity to play at that time.
- She later toured Bangladesh and was part of the Indian team that won gold at the Asian Games.
- In the domestic circuit, Uma represents UP Warriorz in the Women's Premier League.

115.JUSTICE SURYA KANT SET TO BECOME 53RD CJI

- Chief Justice of India Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai has recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Surya Kant as the next CJI.
- Justice Surya Kant, the second seniormost Supreme Court judge after incumbent CJI Gavai, is set to become the 53rd CJI on November 24 after CJI Gavai's retirement on November 23.
- CJI Gavai, who was sworn in on May 14 this year, recommended to the Union Law Ministry to appoint Justice Surya Kant as the next CJI.
- Justice Surya Kant, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019, would have a tenure of nearly 15 months as the CJI.
- He is due to retire on February 9, 2027.

NEWS IN SHORTS

116.MOS MARGHERITA PAYS HOMAGE TO MAHATMA GANDHI IN MOSCOW:



- Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, on Thursday paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi by offering floral tributes at his statue in Ramenki Rayon Park, Moscow, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- The event was attended by local authorities and members of the Indian community, celebrating Gandhi's universal message of truth, peace, and non-violence.
- Later, Margherita joined students and the Indian diaspora in celebrating the 156th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the Embassy of India School (Kendriya Vidyalaya) in Moscow.
- Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the significance and relevance of Gandhian principles of self-reliance, truth, and non-violence in the 21st century.
- He also emphasised Government initiatives such as Swachh Bharat, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Viksit Bharat, stating that they are rooted in Gandhian principles and play a key role in India's growth story.

117.ISRAELI POLICE PLAY INDIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM ON HAIFA DAY, VIDEO GOES VIRAL



- A video showing Israeli police playing the Indian National Anthem on Haifa Day has gone viral on social media, reflecting the strong friendship between India and Israel.

- The video was shared by Anat Bernstein Reich, Chairperson of the Israel-India Chamber of Commerce, on her social media platforms.
- The Israeli police played the anthem during an event commemorating the 107th anniversary of the Battle of Haifa.
- The ceremony was attended by India's Ambassador to Israel, J.P. Singh, Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav, and several other dignitaries.
- Representatives from the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), and members of the Indian community in Israel were also present.
- The gesture highlighted the deep historical and cultural connection between the two nations and honored the valour of Indian soldiers who fought in the Battle of Haifa in 1918.

118.FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER: GUWAHATI TO HOST WORLD BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP FROM OCTOBER 6



- For the first time in history, the World Badminton Championship will be hosted in Guwahati, marking a landmark moment in Assam and the Northeast's sporting evolution.
- The championship is set to begin on October 6, 2025, with participation from top badminton players worldwide.
- The Indian team has already started intensive practice sessions to ensure a strong performance on home turf.
- Sports enthusiasts and officials have welcomed the event as a golden opportunity to highlight Assam's rising stature in international sports.
- The championship is expected to inspire young athletes across the region and further strengthen the sports culture of the Northeast.

119.CM INAUGURATES 5TH ASSAM POLICE COMMANDO BATTALION AT BISWANATH

- Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the headquarters of the 5th Assam Police Commando Battalion at Pabhoi in Biswanath district, aimed at enhancing the manpower and operational strength of the Assam Police.

- The battalion, spread over **218 bighas**, is equipped with **state-of-the-art infrastructure** designed for an **elite commando force**.
- The decision to establish **five Assam Police Commando Battalions** in **Biswanath, Hailakandi, Karbi Anglong, Sivasagar, and Tinsukia** was taken in a **Cabinet meeting on July 18, 2022**.
- The **foundation stone** for the **Pabhoi battalion** was laid by **Dr. Sarma on December 10, 2022**, and the **infrastructure** was **completed within three years** before being dedicated to public service.
- The battalion complex includes **residential facilities for 400 commandos**, **advanced security with boundary fencing**, **nine watchtowers**, and **underground bunkers with magazine vaults**.
- It also houses **barracks for 256 commandos**, **144 residential quarters** for officers and staff, and **comprehensive training and operational facilities** such as **obstacle courses**, **shooting ranges**, and **computer-equipped classrooms**.
- With these modern amenities, the **Pabhoi Commando Battalion** is expected to emerge as a **centre of excellence for commando training and operations** in Assam.

120.NE'S FIRST PRIVATE COAL MINE IN ARUNACHAL TO BEGIN OPERATION ON OCTOBER 6



- The **Namchik–Namphuk Coal Mine** in **Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh**, is set to become the **first-ever private coal mine** in **Northeast India** to begin operations.
- The **Namchik–Namphuk Coal Mine**, along with **28 other blocks**, was **auctioned in November 2022** as part of **India's largest round of commercial coal block auctions**.
- **M/S Coal Pulz Pvt. Ltd.**, **Guwahati-based company**, won the **30-year mining lease** for the project.

121.FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR 'SAKHI NIWAS' WOMEN'S HOSTEL IN SILCHAR:

- In a major initiative for women's empowerment in Barak Valley, the foundation stone of **Sakhi Niwas**, a working women's hostel, was laid at **Silcoorie, Silchar**.
- The project is being implemented under the **Assam Government's Mission Shakti** programme.

122.SIKKIMESE FILMMAKER'S SHAPE OF MOMO WINS TWO AWARDS

- Sikkimese filmmaker Tribeny Geeta Rai's debut film *Shape of Momo* has won two awards at the recently concluded **Busan International Film Festival**.
- The film explores the experiences of women navigating and negotiating social norms across generations.
- *Shape of Momo*, a Nepali film, received the **Taipei Film Commission Award** and the **Songwon Vision Award** in the **Vision Section** of the festival.

123.HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES COUNTRY'S 1ST CO-OP COMPRESSED BIOGAS PLANT

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated **India's first cooperative compressed biogas plant** in **Kopergaon, Maharashtra**, highlighting the **Modi government's farmer-centric initiatives**.
- The plant represents a **major step toward promoting green energy** and strengthening the **cooperative sector** in India.
- **Amit Shah** emphasized that **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has given the cooperative sector a **new lifeline for the rural economy**, positioning it as a **key pillar of national development**.
- Under **PM Modi's leadership**, **15 cooperative sugar factories** across the country will be selected, with support from the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**, to develop **similar biogas projects**.
- The initiative aims to **boost sustainable rural industries** and contribute to **India's clean energy transition**.

124.ASSAM CABINET BRINGS RELIEF TO WOMEN STAFF IN REMOTE AREAS AFTER 5 YEARS OF SERVICE: BREAKING NEWS

- The **Assam Cabinet** has approved the **transfer of female employees** who have served for over **five years in remote regions** such as **South Salmara, Dhubri, and the Char areas**, allowing them to return to their home districts or nearby locations.
- The move aims to **enhance work-life balance, safety, and mental well-being** of women serving in geographically and logistically challenging areas for extended periods.
- The initiative applies to **women across multiple departments**, including **education, healthcare, and administrative services**, who have completed five years or more in difficult postings.
- The decision is expected to **positively impact hundreds of female employees**, promoting a more inclusive and sensitive governance environment.
- It reflects the **state government's commitment to gender-sensitive policies** and its continued support for **women in the workforce**.

125.ARUNACHAL PRADESH'S FIRST COMMERCIAL COAL MINE INAUGURATED

- **Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy**, along with **Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu**, performed

bhoomi puja and inaugurated the **Namchik-Namphuk Coal Mine** at Longtom under Kharsang sub-division in **Changlang district**.

- This marks **Arunachal Pradesh's first-ever commercial coal mining operation**.
- The **Namchik-Namphuk Opencast Coal Mine**, covering **133.65 hectares**, has been vested in favour of **M/s Coal Pulz Pvt. Ltd.** under the **Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015**.
- The project has an **approved capacity of 0.20 MTPA (normal) and 0.30 MTPA (peak)**, with a coal grade of **G5 (5950 kcal/kg)**.
- It has obtained all necessary **statutory clearances**, including **environmental clearance, forest clearance (Stage II), mining lease, and mine opening permissions**.
- The project will **share 65.50% of its revenue** with the **Government of Arunachal Pradesh**, ensuring significant financial benefits for the state.

126.MLA PADMA HAZARIKA INAUGURATED A HERBAL GARDEN AND MEDICINAL PARK:



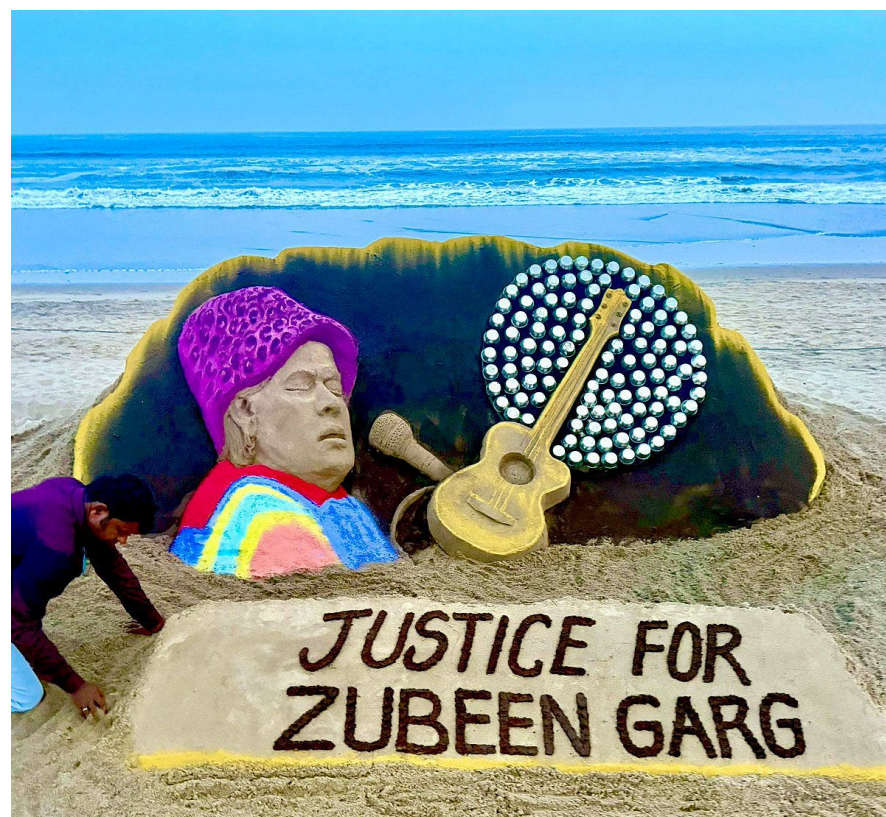
- On the occasion of **Territorial Army Day**, a **Herbal Garden and Medicinal Park** was inaugurated by **Padma Hazarika**, MLA of **Naduar constituency**, near **Nameri Forest**.
- The initiative was developed by the **134 Ecological Task Force (Territorial Army), Assam**, under the **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)** scheme of the **Ministry of Ayush, Government of India**.
- The newly established park features **over 300 species of endemic and medicinally significant plants**, marking a major step towards **environmental conservation** and the **promotion of traditional Indian medicine systems**.
- The event underscored the continued relevance of the **Ecological Task Force's mission**, especially in an era where **climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and medicinal plant conservation** are key national priorities.

127.AIIMS CONDUCTS INDIA'S FIRST ROBOTIC RENAL SURGERY

- Surgeons at **AIIMS, Delhi**, performed **India's first robotic renal transplant** on a **45-year-old man** suffering from **kidney failure**.

- The operation marked the first such procedure in a government hospital.
- The surgery used the **Da Vinci Xi surgical system**, a robotic platform enabling minimally invasive surgery with greater precision, dexterity, and 3D visualization.
- **Dr. Virendra Bansal**, Professor in the Department of Surgery and Chief Transplant Surgeon at **AIIMS, Delhi**, led the operation.
- **Dr. Bansal** explained that the technology allows smaller incisions, reduced blood loss, less pain, faster recovery, and fewer complications, helping patients return home sooner.
- The Department of Surgical Disciplines at **AIIMS, Delhi**, officially launched the advanced **Da Vinci surgical system** a few months ago.

128.WAVES OF TRIBUTE: SUDARSAN PATTNAIK'S SAND ART AT PURI BEACH PAYS TEARFUL TRIBUTE TO ZUBEEN GARG



- Sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** created a heartfelt sand sculpture at **Puri Beach** to pay tribute to the late Assamese music legend **Zubeen Garg**.
- The artwork featured the message **"Justice for Zubeen Garg."**
- **Pattnaik** said the sculpture was made to express his love and respect for **Zubeen** and to support the demand for truth and justice.
- Many people who visited **Puri Beach** stopped to look at the sculpture, take photos, and offer prayers.

129.CHINA BEAT INDONESIA TO CLINCH SUHANDINATA CUP FOR 15TH TIME

- **Badminton powerhouse China** defeated defending champions **Indonesia 2-0** in the finals of the **BWF World Junior Championships 2025** held in **Guwahati**.
- With this victory, **China lifted the Suhandinata Cup for the 15th time**, showcasing their dominance in junior badminton.
- The team displayed **remarkable composure under pressure** to reclaim the championship title.
- **India, Japan** settle for bronze medals.

130. IN VITRO FERTILIZATION (IVF) LAB INAUGURATED AT ASSAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY (AAU, KHANAPARA)



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Laboratory at the College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Khanapara, through virtual mode from New Delhi.
- The event marked a landmark moment in Assam's dairy development sector.
- The laboratory has been established under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) and funded by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India.
- It aims to boost cattle breeding research and enhance the productivity of indigenous breeds through advanced reproductive technologies.

131. INDIA, EGYPT DISCUSS WATER RESILIENCE

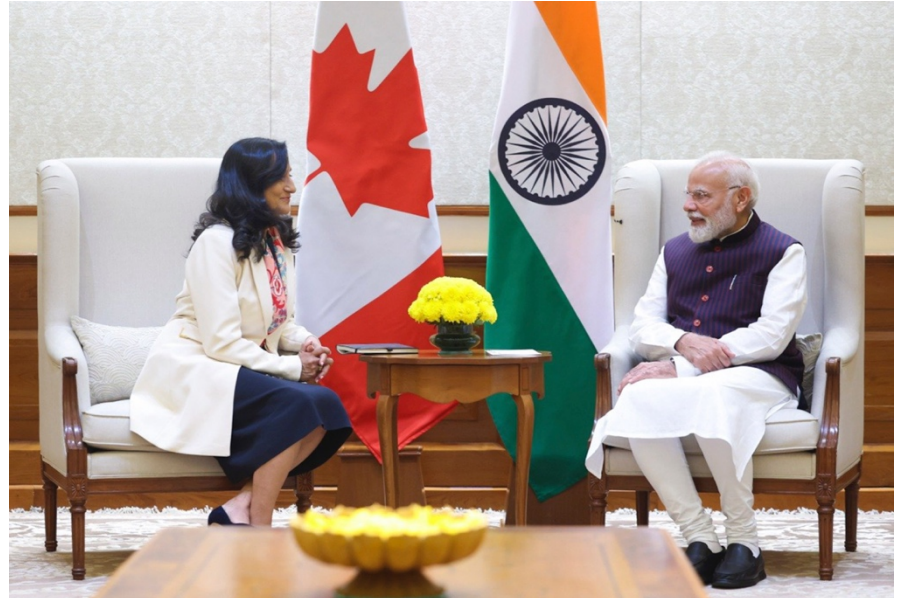
- Kantha Rao, Secretary from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, held a meeting with Hani Atif Sewilam, Egypt's Minister of Water Resources, during the Cairo Water Week 2025 in Egypt.
- Both sides discussed water management practices and explored innovative and sustainable solutions to enhance water resilience.
- The meeting aimed to strengthen cooperation between India and Egypt in the field of water resources management.

132. OIL, NEEPCO INK PACT FOR GAS SUPPLY TO POWER STATION IN ASSAM

- Oil India Ltd (OIL) announced on Monday that it has signed an agreement with North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) to supply natural gas to its power station in Dibrugarh district, Assam.
- The companies entered into a long-term Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) for the continued supply of 1.4 million metric standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas.
- The gas will be supplied to NEEPCO's Assam Gas Based Power Station (AGBPS) at Bokuloni for the next 15 years.
- The collaboration aims to secure Assam and the Northeast's power needs, enhance regional energy security, and promote the vision of affordable and clean energy.
- AGBPS is the largest gas-based power plant in Assam, playing a crucial role in meeting the region's electricity demand.

- The extended-term agreement reflects OIL's confidence in its strong reserve base and its ability to ensure a sustained supply of domestic natural gas.

133. INDIA, CANADA FIRM UP AMBITIOUS ROADMAP TO EXPAND TIES



- India and Canada have developed an ambitious roadmap to strengthen cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, critical minerals, energy, and civil nuclear collaboration.
- Bilateral relations had deteriorated sharply after then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 2023 allegations of a possible Indian link to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
- Efforts to restore and rebuild ties began after Mark Carney of the Liberal Party became Prime Minister following his victory in the April parliamentary elections.
- The renewed momentum in India-Canada relations came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with PM Carney on the sidelines of the G7 summit at Kananaskis, Canada, in June.

134. JORHAT ENGINEERING COLLEGE WINS NATIONAL HONOUR FROM BIS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

- In a proud moment for Assam's academic fraternity, Jorhat Engineering College (JEC) has been recognized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for its exceptional effort in introducing a module on 'Basics of Standardization' into its curriculum.
- The recognition stems from the MoU between JEC and BIS, aimed at fostering awareness about quality, safety, and standardization within engineering education.
- BIS identified JEC's course integration as one of the best among its partner institutions across India, commending its innovative approach in connecting classroom learning with real-world industrial standards.
- To honour this achievement, JEC will receive an Award of Recognition during the World Standards Day 2025 celebrations at the BIS Headquarters in New Delhi on October 14, 2025.

135. EMPOWERING ASSAM'S YOUTH FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW

- The Government of Assam aims to build a confident, capable, and self-reliant young generation through dynamic youth empowerment initiatives.
- Two key meetings were held to strengthen opportunities for young people via skill development and education-based programmes.
- To enhance the Home Guard and Civil Defence network, 5,000 new recruits will be trained at the Lachit Barphukan Academy (LBPA).
- This initiative will generate employment while fostering discipline, courage, and a spirit of service among Assam's youth.
- Nijut Moina 2.0 benefits will be distributed this October, supporting thousands of young girls in their educational journey.
- The scheme reinforces the state's commitment to empowering women and ensuring equal opportunities for all.
- Together, these initiatives mark another step towards an empowered Assam where every young mind is inspired, skilled, and ready to lead the state into a brighter, stronger future.

136. NATIONAL BIOPESTICIDE SUMMIT HELD IN JORHAT, FOCUSES ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- The 1st National Biopesticide Summit and Conference on Emerging Trends in Agriculture for Sustainable Development 2025 was recently held at Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat.
- The event marked a major step in India's progress toward sustainable and eco-friendly agriculture.
- It was jointly organized by AAU, Jorhat, and the Agricultural Microorganisms Manufacturers and Farmers Association (AMMA), Nashik, Maharashtra.
- The conference aimed to accelerate India's shift toward a resilient, green, and bio-innovative agricultural economy in line with the vision of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and *Azadi Ka Amrit Kal*.
- Over 250 delegates from across India participated, including more than 50 industry representatives, eminent scientists, academicians, entrepreneurs, students, and policymakers.
- Discussions focused on the future of biopesticides, biofertilizers, and sustainable farming systems.

137. NEW BALSAM SPECIES DISCOVERED IN WEST KAMENG FORESTS

- In a significant scientific achievement, researchers from the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** have discovered a **new species of balsam plant** named *Impatiens rajibiana* in the natural forests of **Shergaon**, located in **West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The discovery was led by **Dr. Krishna Chowlu**, a senior scientist at BSI, along with her research team.
- This finding further strengthens **Arunachal Pradesh's reputation as a biodiversity hotspot**.
- The newly identified species adds to the **rich floral diversity of the Eastern Himalayas**, a region renowned globally for its **ecological uniqueness and high endemism**.
- *Impatiens rajibiana* belongs to the **family Balsaminaceae**, commonly known as **balsams** or **touch-me-nots**.

- The plant was found thriving in **moist, shaded forest areas** of **Shergaon** at an elevation of **over 2,000 metres**.



138. RESCUED WOOLLY-NECKED STORK RELEASED AT KAZIRANGA BEEL



- An **injured woolly-necked stork**, rescued last month, was released back into the wild on **Saturday** at the **Kaziranga National Park (6th Addition)** under the **Biswanath Wildlife Division**.
- The **Asian woolly-necked stork** is listed as **'Near Threatened'** on the **IUCN Red List**.
- Its global population is estimated between **50,000 and 2,49,999 mature individuals**.
- The species' numbers are **declining rapidly** due to **habitat loss** and other environmental pressures.

139. NEED FOR INTEGRATED HIMALAYAN ACTION PLAN WITH EARLY WARNING SYSTEM: REPORT

- A new report has called for an **integrated Himalayan action plan** with a **multi-hazard early warning system** and **strict land-use regulations** to reduce the impacts of the climate crisis.
- The report warns that the **Himalayas are at a critical juncture**, where **climate change** and **unregulated human development** are combining to create **unprecedented disaster risks**.
- Titled *'Enhancing Multi-hazard Early Warning and Resilient Settlement in the Himalayan Region'*, the report was released during a stakeholder consultation in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- It advocates for **community participation** and replacing **fragmented disaster management** with an **integrated, multi-hazard warning system** linked to enforceable **land-use and livelihood strategies**.

- The report notes that **climatic factors** such as accelerated **glacial retreat**, **cloudbursts**, and **extreme rainfall** are intensifying hazards like **glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)** and **landslides**.
- It also points out that **unregulated construction** and **settlement expansion** in high-risk zones are significantly increasing the population's **exposure and vulnerability**.
- This interaction of natural and human-induced factors is creating a **cycle of escalating risk**, potentially worsening **humanitarian and economic losses** in Himalayan states like **Uttarakhand**.
- Drawing from international examples in **Japan, Switzerland, and Norway**, the report calls for **greater accountability** and a firm **commitment to achieve zero preventable disaster deaths in the Himalayas by 2030**.

140.INDIA SEAL MAIDEN AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP QUALIFICATION



- The Indian football team made a remarkable comeback to defeat Uzbekistan 2-1 and secure their maiden qualification for the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.
- With this victory, India topped Group G with six points.
- The team qualified for the AFC tournament in China next year — marking their first-ever continental qualification at this age group.

141.PEN CULTURE DEMONSTRATION OF FISH AT TAMRANGA BEEL UNDER ICAR-WORLDFISH COLLABORATION

- The **ICAR-CIFRI** successfully conducted a **frontline demonstration** of **Systomus sarana** (commonly known as **Olive barb** or **Cheni Puthi**) in the **CIFRI HDPE pen enclosure** at **Tamranga Beel** in **Bongaigaon district**.
- The initiative was carried out under the **ICAR–WorldFish collaborative project**.
- Following the **successful harvest** of fish reared in pens, a **field day** on "*Harvest of fishes reared in pens*" and an **awareness programme** on "*Pen culture in beels for livelihood*" were **recently organized** at **Tamranga Beel**.
- During the event, **Systomus sarana (Cheni Puthi)** fish reared in pens were **harvested successfully**.

142.GOLAGHAT BRINGS GLORY TO ASSAM : HONoured AMONG THE BEST AT AADI KARMAYOGI ABHIYAN 2025

- Golaghat district has brought immense pride to Assam by being honoured among the best-performing districts of the country at the prestigious Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan 2025 national ceremony held in New Delhi.
- This remarkable recognition celebrates Golaghat's outstanding achievements in advancing tribal excellence, skill development, and inclusive progress.
- The award highlights the district's collective dedication driven by the tireless efforts of officials, employees, district coordinators, trainers, block-level trainers, village coordinators, Aadi Saathis, and Aadi Sahayogis who worked in harmony to empower communities and transform lives at the grassroots level.
- This success story stands as a testament to Golaghat's commitment to building a stronger, self-reliant, and inclusive society, reflecting the true spirit of the Aadi Karmayogi mission.
- The recognition inspires all to continue striving for excellence, innovation, and people-centric governance.

143.BECOME A NIKSHAY MITRA—NUTRITION, CARE, AND HOPE FOR TB PATIENTS:

- To become a **Nikshay Mitra**, an individual, organization, or corporate entity can register on the **Nikshay 2.0 web portal** to provide **nutritional, diagnostic, and vocational support** to tuberculosis (TB) patients.
- The initiative is part of the **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan**, which aims to **eliminate TB by 2025**.
- The primary way to register is through the **official Nikshay portal**.
- Steps to register:
 - Go to the official registration page: **communitysupport.nikshay.in**
 - Click on the '**Nikshay Mitra Registration Form**' link.
 - Fill in and submit the registration form.

144.2 NEW WORLD RECORDS SET AT AYODHYA DEEPOTSAV

- Two **new world records** were set at this year's **Deepotsav** in **Ayodhya**, marking a grand celebration in the temple town.
- A total of **26.17 lakh diya**s were lit at the same location, while **2,128 people performed aarti together**.
- Representatives from the **Guinness Book of World Records** verified the count of diya's using **drones** and officially announced the records.
- **UP Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh** and **Principal Secretary Amrit Abhijat** presented the **Guinness certificates** to **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**.

- The **first Guinness award** was for the **largest display of oil lamps (26,17,215 diyas)**, jointly achieved by the **UP Department of Tourism**, the **Ayodhya administration**, and the **Rammanohar Lohia Avadh University**.
- The **second Guinness award** was for the **most number of people performing aarti simultaneously**, jointly achieved by the **Tourism Department**, the **District Administration**, and the **Saryu Aarti Samiti** in Ayodhya.

145.GTC NAMES NEW PAVILION AFTER ZUBEEN GARG

- Gauhati Town Club (GTC) has dedicated its newly constructed football academy pavilion at Fulung, North Guwahati, to Assam's cultural icon Zubeen Garg.
- The pavilion has been named 'ZG Pavilion' in honour of the late musician's deep love for football and his immense contribution to Assam's cultural landscape.
- GTC officials said the gesture reflects the club's deepest respect for the legendary artist, who was also known for his passion for sports, especially football.
- The GTC Football Academy, established in 2010, has been a major platform for nurturing young football talents from across Assam.
- The academy's permanent site was formally inaugurated by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in August this year.

146.COMMEMORATIVE BOOK 'KANGCHENJUNGA ZUBEEN' BY HIREN GOHAIN UNVEILED

- A large gathering of eminent leaders, intellectuals, and cultural figures from across Assam assembled at Lakhidhar Bora Field, Dighalipukhuri to pay heartfelt tribute to singer and cultural icon Zubeen Garg.
- The event also witnessed the unveiling of *Kangchenjunga Zubeen*, a commemorative book authored by noted intellectual and social activist Dr. Hiren Gohain.
- The book celebrates Zubeen Garg's lasting legacy and profound influence on Assamese society and culture.