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NOVEMBER
2025

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**IN APSC CCE
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NATIONAL / POLITY

1. GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES MARINE FISHERIES CENSUS 2025 IN FULLY DIGITAL MODE:



- Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurian, launched the National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 in Kochi on Friday.
- The initiative marks a major shift from paper-based to fully digital household enumeration in the marine fishing sector.
- The minister also launched two mobile applications — VyAS-BHARAT and VyAS-SUTRA — to be used for conducting the census.
- The census aims to digitally enumerate around 1.2 million fisher households in approximately 5,000 marine villages across 13 coastal states and union territories, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- It will cover fishers, fishing crafts, gears, and infrastructure across over 1,200 landing centres, 50 fishing harbours, jetties, markets, and processing plants.
- The entire process will be fully digital and paperless, using multilingual Android apps developed by the ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).
- Core household data collection for the census will take place over 45 days, from November 3 to December 18, 2025.

2. GOVT LAUNCHES EMPLOYEE ENROLLMENT SCHEME 2025 TO BOOST CITIZEN-CENTRIC SERVICE:



- Union Minister of Labour and Employment Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched the Employee Enrollment Scheme 2025 to enhance citizen-centric service delivery.
- The launch took place at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO) 73rd foundation day.
- The scheme, effective November 1, aims to enhance workforce formalisation and promote ease of doing business.
- Employers can avoid remitting the employee's share of contribution if it was not deducted earlier, with only a nominal penalty of Rs 100 applicable.
- Mandaviya emphasised that efficiency, transparency, and empathy should drive EPFO's transformation.
- He praised EPFO's contribution to social security and urged reforms to establish global standards as India works toward Viksit Bharat 2047.
- Ramesh Krishnamurthi, Central Provident Fund Commissioner, announced the upcoming EPFO 3.0 platform to improve efficiency and accessibility.
- New initiatives, including simplified withdrawal categories and the Viswas Scheme, have eased compliance for employers.
- Vandana Gurnani, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, highlighted EPFO's transition to a citizen-centric organisation and its role in the Prime Minister's Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, which aims to create 3.5 crore new jobs.
- EPFO signed MoUs with India Post Payments Bank for digital life certificate submission and with Government e-Marketplace (GeM) for data sharing.

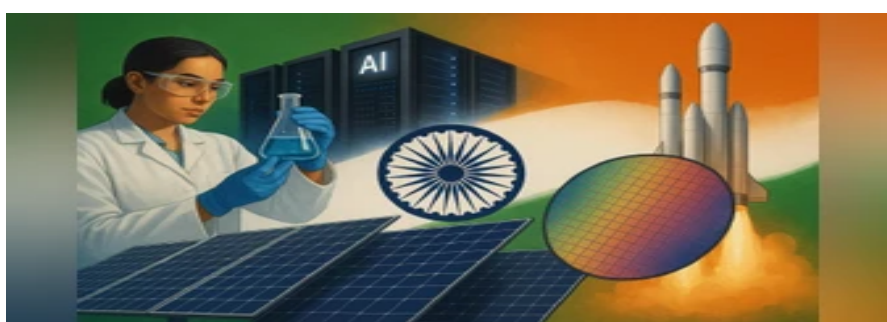
3. SCINDIA LAYS FOUNDATION FOR PROJECTS WORTH RS 635 CR:



- Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya Scindia, inaugurated the North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster at IIT Guwahati.
- He also laid the foundation stone for transformative development projects worth Rs 635 crore across Assam.
- The event was attended by senior officials from the Government of Assam, representatives of educational institutions, and members of the scientific and entrepreneurial community.

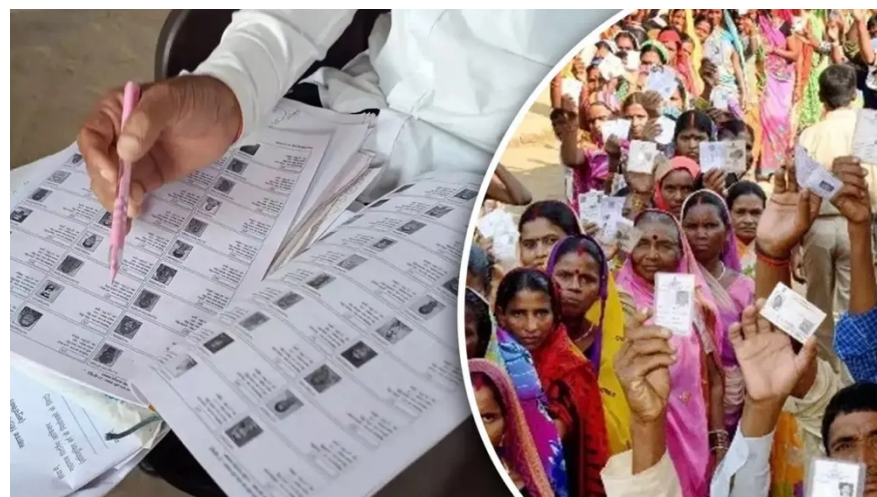
- Scindia described Assam as “the heartbeat of a rising Northeast,” symbolizing continuity, courage, and creativity through the Brahmaputra.
- He emphasized Assam’s emergence as an innovation and connectivity hub in a “Viksit Purvottar.”
- The Rs 635 crore worth of projects aim to catalyse growth, connectivity, and opportunity across Assam, strengthening its role as the gateway to Southeast Asia.
- Key projects include:
 - Infrastructure development of 65 new secondary school buildings (Rs 455 crore)
 - Upgrade of Chayagaon–Ukium Road (Rs 102.69 crore)
 - RCC Bridge at Silonijan–Dhansiri Par Ghat (Rs 20.59 crore)
 - Development of industrial estate at Ramphalbil, Kokrajhar (Rs 14.40 crore)
 - Development of industrial estate at Lakhibazar, Baksa (Rs 18.40 crore)
- Scindia said, “Every brick laid and every classroom built is a promise kept in the service of aspiration.”
- He highlighted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, the Northeast has transformed from landlocked to land-linked and future-ready.
- The Act East Policy has opened new trade frontiers, reducing travel time between Kolkata and Agartala from 31 hours to just 10 through new rail and road links to Bangladesh.
- Scindia recalled that Prime Minister Modi recently launched projects worth Rs 6,500 crore in Darrang and Rs 18,530 crore across Assam, reaffirming the Centre’s commitment to holistic development in health, education, energy, and industry.
- The North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster, established with an investment of Rs 22.98 crore, will act as the nerve centre of the Northeast’s innovation ecosystem.
- It will focus on four verticals:
 - Grassroots Innovation
 - Semiconductors & Artificial Intelligence
 - Bamboo-Based Technologies
 - Biodegradable Plastics
- The NEST Cluster will complement DoNER’s youth-centric programmes such as NE-SPARKS and Ashtalakshmi Darshan, facilitating scientific exposure visits between students from the Northeast and across India.
- During his visit to the IIT Guwahati exhibition, Scindia interacted with students and researchers showcasing innovations in 6G communication, biodegradable polymers, bamboo tissue culture, and low-field MRI systems for accessible healthcare.

4.INDIA BACKING HIGH-RISK, HIGH-IMPACT R&D PROJECTS, SAYS PM MODI:



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a Rs 1 lakh crore fund to boost private sector investment in research and development (R&D).
- The initiative aims to support high-risk and high-impact projects as part of India’s vision to become a global science and technology powerhouse.
- Modi inaugurated the first-ever Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) — an annual flagship event bringing together policymakers, innovators, and global visionaries — in New Delhi.
- He stated that his government has introduced major reforms to create a modern innovation ecosystem in the country.
- The Prime Minister highlighted that the world is undergoing a new shift in the global order, with an exponential pace of change.
- At the conclave, Modi formally launched the Rs 1-lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund to encourage private sector participation in R&D.
- Currently, India spends 0.6% of its GDP on research and development — below the global average.
- Of this R&D spending, the private sector contributes only 36%, compared to countries like China, South Korea, and the United States, where private sector spending accounts for about 75% of total R&D expenditure.

5.DELEGATES FROM 7 NATIONS TO WITNESS BIHAR ELECTIONS:



- Fourteen delegates from seven countries will witness the first phase of the Bihar Assembly polls on Thursday as part of the Election Commission’s International Visitors’ Programme (IEVP).
- Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioner Vivek Joshi interacted with the participants.
- Delegates from France, South Africa, Belgium, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Colombia attended the inaugural session.
- Participants were given a demonstration of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and a presentation by senior Election Commission officials on various aspects of elections.
- The IEVP includes a two-day tour of Bihar from November 5–6, during which delegates will visit EVM dispatch centres and witness polling on November 6.
- The IEVP is a flagship programme of the Election Commission for international cooperation and engagement with election management bodies and organisations worldwide.
- Since 2014, the IEVP has showcased the strengths of India’s electoral system and shared best practices in conducting elections in the world’s largest democracy.

- The Bihar Assembly polls will be held in two phases on November 6 and 11, with counting on November 14.
- In the first phase, 121 constituencies will go to the polls, while voting in 122 constituencies will take place in the second phase, for the 243-member assembly.

6.SC MAKES WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OF ARREST GROUNDS MANDATORY:



- In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court ruled that every arrested person must be furnished with the grounds of arrest in writing and in a language they understand, regardless of the nature of the offence or statute involved.
- The ruling strengthens constitutional protection for personal liberty under Article 22(1) of the Constitution.
- The Court clarified that non-supply of written grounds of arrest at the time of arrest will not invalidate the arrest if the written grounds are provided within a reasonable time and at least two hours before the arrestee is produced before a magistrate for remand.
- The judgment was delivered by a bench comprising Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih in the Mihir Rajesh Shah vs. State of Maharashtra case, arising from the 2024 Mumbai BMW hit-and-run incident.
- Justice Masih, writing the 52-page judgment, stated that the right to be informed of the grounds of arrest is not a procedural formality but a fundamental safeguard of personal liberty.
- The Court held that to fulfil the intent of Article 22(1), the grounds of arrest must be communicated in writing in a language understood by the arrestee, without exception.
- The constitutional mandate applies to all offences under all statutes, including the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, now replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.
- If the arresting officer cannot immediately provide written grounds, they may initially be communicated orally but must be supplied in writing within a reasonable time, and in any case, at least two hours before remand proceedings.
- Failure to comply will render the arrest and subsequent remand illegal, and the arrestee will be entitled to release.
- The Supreme Court directed its registry to send copies of the judgment to Registrars General of all High Courts and Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories.
- The verdict addressed two main issues:
 - Whether furnishing written grounds of arrest is mandatory in all cases, including those under the IPC/BNS 2023.
 - Whether an arrest made without furnishing written grounds immediately would be invalid in exceptional circumstances.
- The Court cited earlier rulings, noting that communicating the grounds in a language not understood by the arrestee violates Article 22 and renders constitutional safeguards ineffective, thereby infringing Articles 21 and 22 protecting personal liberty.
- The purpose of the constitutional requirement, the Court said, is to enable the arrested person to comprehend the basis of the allegations against them.
- The case arose from an appeal by Mihir Rajesh Shah, accused in the 2024 Mumbai BMW hit-and-run case, who challenged his arrest for not being furnished with written reasons as mandated by law.
- Although the Bombay High Court acknowledged a procedural lapse, it upheld the arrest due to the gravity of the offence—a position now overruled by the Supreme Court's detailed constitutional interpretation.

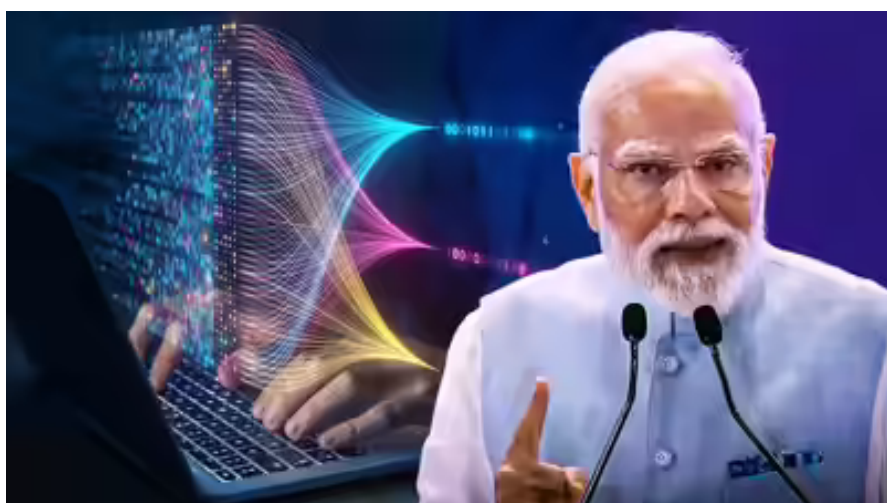
7.SITHARAMAN LAYS BASE OF KANAKLATA UNIVERSITY:



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid the foundation stone for the Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University at Gohpur in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- The upcoming institution will be Assam's first Technology and Vocational Education and Training (T-VET) University, to be developed at a project cost of ₹415 crore.
- The university is envisioned to nurture a skilled, future-ready generation trained in advanced fields such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, drone technology, and quantum computing.
- Sitharaman noted that Gohpur holds a special place in Assam's history as the birthplace of freedom fighter Swahid Kanaklata Barua, who sacrificed her life at 17 for the dignity of the National Flag.
- She said that a university in her name is a fitting tribute to her supreme sacrifice and legacy.
- The Finance Minister expressed confidence that the university would become a hub of academic excellence and skill-based learning aligned with modern industrial needs.
- Highlighting the Central government's initiatives in the education sector of the Northeast, Sitharaman stated that since 2014, about ₹21,000 crore has been invested in the region.
- She mentioned that over 850 new schools have been established in Assam and that the region's first AIIMS became operational in the State.
- Additionally, 15 medical colleges and 200 new skill development institutes have been set up in Assam, while India's first sports university is being developed in the Northeast.
- The Aizawl campus of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) has been established to strengthen media education in the region.

- The government has also approved the establishment of a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Guwahati, the first for Assam and second in the Northeast.
- Sitharaman reiterated the Union government's commitment to the holistic development of the Northeastern region, noting that 10 new greenfield airports have been constructed in the past 11 years, improving connectivity.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma described the university as a landmark project in Assam's education sector and a tribute to the indomitable spirit of Swahid Kanaklata Barua.
- He said her courage and patriotism will continue to inspire generations and serve as a source of strength for the youth.
- Sarma emphasized that the university will equip young minds with technical expertise and contribute to building an Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- He further stated that the State aims to develop infrastructure to accommodate and educate around 10,000 students within the university campus.

8. GOVT SIGNS MOUS WITH OVER 50 FIRMS TO BOOST MANUFACTURING STARTUP ECOSYSTEM:



- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed agreements with over 50 companies to strengthen India's manufacturing and innovation ecosystem for startups.
- The initiative aims to encourage collaboration between large corporations and emerging manufacturing startups to foster innovation, develop new products, and promote sustainable industrial growth.
- DPIIT has been engaging with corporates, industry associations, unicorns, and sector experts to promote manufacturing-focused incubators and highlight the benefits of supporting early-stage enterprises.
- These collaborations are expected to offer critical support for manufacturing startups struggling with infrastructure access, funding, and scaling opportunities.
- Manufacturing-focused incubators play a key role by providing pilot facilities, design centres, prototyping labs, and shared manufacturing spaces — reducing the high capital investment burden faced by startups.
- Such incubators also act as a bridge between startups and established industries, providing access to markets, risk capital, and advanced technologies.
- They can be established by corporations, academic institutions, or research organisations.

- The DPIIT initiative marks a significant step toward building a robust and collaborative manufacturing startup ecosystem, supporting India's goal of becoming a global hub for innovation and industrial growth.
- Last month, DPIIT signed an MoU with Thermo Fisher Scientific (TFS) to accelerate innovation in India's biotechnology sector and develop a strong pipeline of high-growth startups.
- The partnership aims to support over 500 biotech startups in the next three years through strategic advisory, technology access, mentorship, and investor connect.
- Under the MoU, TFS and Startup India (DPIIT's initiative) will launch the Bharat Startup Grand Challenge (BSGC) featuring the *BioVerse Challenge* — a nationwide platform to identify and nurture India's most promising biotech entrepreneurs.
- The BioVerse Mentors Circle will also be launched to provide skill development and technical training across leading bio-incubators.

9. GOVT PROPOSES MANDATORY 'COUNTRY OF ORIGIN' FILTERS:

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has proposed making it mandatory for e-commerce platforms to provide searchable and sortable filters based on 'country of origin' for packaged commodities.
- The move aims to enhance transparency and enable consumers to make informed purchasing decisions by easily identifying the origin of products while shopping online.
- According to the ministry, the Draft Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second) Amendment Rules, 2025, will amend the existing 2011 regulations.
- The amendment requires every e-commerce entity selling imported products to provide a searchable and sortable filter for the country of origin within their product listings.
- This feature will help consumers quickly locate information about the product's origin across vast product listings.
- The draft amendment rules have been published on the department's website for public consultation, with stakeholder comments invited until November 22, 2025.
- The proposal aligns with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Vocal for Local' initiatives by making 'Made in India' products more easily discoverable.
- It is expected to create a level playing field for Indian manufacturers, helping domestic products gain visibility alongside imported goods.
- The measure encourages consumers to opt for locally made alternatives.
- The introduction of country-of-origin filters will also assist authorities in efficiently monitoring compliance, verifying product details, and identifying violations without manual review.
- The proposed amendment marks a major step toward building a transparent, consumer-friendly, and competitive e-commerce ecosystem.
- It supports national priorities and aims to strengthen consumer trust in digital marketplaces.

10. SHAH LAUNCHES DIGITAL APPS FOR URBAN COOP BANKS; SETS TARGET OF ONE UCB PER TOWN:



- Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched two mobile applications – **Sahakar Digi Pay** and **Sahakar Digi Loan** – for urban cooperative banks (UCBs).
- He described digital payment adoption as essential for the survival of UCBs in an increasingly cashless economy.
- The launch took place during a two-day international conference on the urban cooperative credit sector.
- Shah highlighted the government's efforts to professionalise urban cooperative banks and cooperative credit societies, crediting the Reserve Bank of India for enabling their modernisation.
- He noted significant improvements in the sector's health, with non-performing assets (NPAs) declining from 2.8% to 0.6% over the past two years.
- The minister set an ambitious target for NAFCUB to establish at least one additional urban cooperative bank in every town with a population exceeding two lakh within five years.
- He also directed the federation to convert successful cooperative credit societies into UCBs.
- Since the formation of a separate Cooperation Ministry in 2021–22, the Central government has undertaken several policy reforms to modernise the cooperative sector.
- Although cooperation is a State subject, the Centre has provided policy guidance to ensure uniformity across the country.
- Model bylaws for Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) were framed and adopted by all States, including West Bengal, enabling PACS to computerise and expand their services.
- Shah congratulated **Amul** and **IFFCO** for being ranked the world's top two cooperatives by the International Cooperative Alliance.
- He stated that this achievement demonstrates the continued relevance and strength of India's cooperative movement.

11. PM Modi's Bhutan Visit: Rail and Energy Projects to Boost Bilateral Ties:



- During his official visit to Bhutan on November 11–12, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced major initiatives to strengthen India–Bhutan relations.
- Two significant railway projects — the Kokrajhar–Gelephu and Banarhat–Samtse lines — will provide Bhutan its first-ever rail connectivity by linking key Bhutanese towns with India's railway network.
- The projects, fully funded by the Indian government at a cost of ₹4,033 crore, aim to enhance trade, tourism, and ease of movement between the two countries.
- Modi emphasized that improved connectivity brings greater opportunities and prosperity, describing the railway projects as milestones in Bhutan's transport infrastructure.
- The visit included the inauguration of the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project, a joint initiative that will boost Bhutan's hydropower capacity by 40%.
- Modi noted that India–Bhutan energy cooperation extends beyond hydropower to include solar energy, supporting Bhutan's goal of being powered entirely by renewables.
- He participated in the celebrations of the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck and attended the Global Peace Prayer Festival, highlighting the deep cultural and spiritual ties between the nations.
- India committed a concessional credit line of ₹4,000 crore to support Bhutan's energy development initiatives.
- An immigration checkpoint near Gelephu was announced to facilitate trade and investment flows.
- The visit underscored the enduring friendship and mutual respect between India and Bhutan, aligning with India's Neighbourhood First policy and paving the way for enhanced cooperation in infrastructure, energy, and sustainable development.

12. SONOWAL UNVEILS INFRA, CSR PROJECTS WORTH RS 1,500 CR AT NMPA EVENT:



- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said the golden jubilee of the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) is not merely a celebration of an institution but a celebration of a vision.
- The event saw the inauguration, dedication, and foundation stone laying of 16 key infrastructure projects and 113 CSR initiatives worth ₹1,500 crore.
- The celebration highlighted NMPA's remarkable journey and its transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership from a regional gateway into a technologically advanced and globally competitive maritime hub.
- Sonowal also inaugurated the newly renovated campus of Mangalore Marine College and Technology (MMCT), calling it a milestone in India's journey toward becoming a top-three maritime nation.
- Addressing cadets, faculty, and maritime industry representatives, he said India's maritime transformation has been anchored in sustainability, innovation, and global leadership under PM Modi.
- He inaugurated a new ₹9.51-crore office building of the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), Mangalore, built on a plot allotted by NMPA.
- The new MMD facility is intended for conducting competency examinations for seafarers, Sonowal added.

13. SC DEPRECATES PRACTICE ADOPTED UNDER 'TALAQ-E-HASAN':

- The Supreme Court said it may consider referring the challenge to the validity of *Talaq-e-Hasan*, a form of divorce among Muslims, to a five-judge Constitution bench.
- The Court strongly criticised the practice of husbands authorising others—often lawyers—to send divorce notices on their behalf.
- Under *Talaq-e-Hasan*, a man can dissolve a marriage by pronouncing "talaq" once every month over a three-month period.
- In 2017, the Supreme Court struck down *triple talaq* as unconstitutional, calling it arbitrary and violative of Muslim women's fundamental rights.
- A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan, and N. Kotiswar Singh questioned whether a "civilised modern society" should permit husbands to divorce wives through authorised representatives.

- The Court asked all parties to file notes on various types of *talaq* permitted under Islamic practices.
- The bench clarified that the issue is not about striking down a religious practice but about regulating it in accordance with constitutional principles.
- The matter was heard in petitions filed by Muslim women, including journalist Benazeer Heena, challenging *Talaq-e-Hasan*.
- Justice Kant remarked that if such practices are occurring in Delhi and Ghaziabad, the situation in remote areas like Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and rural regions could be worse.
- The Court observed that society at large is affected and remedial measures are necessary.
- It stressed that if *talaq* is to be carried out under religious practice, the procedure must be followed exactly as prescribed.
- The Court directed Shamshad (appearing for a party) to ensure the husband is present at the next hearing.

14. CANNOT IMPOSE TIMELINES: SC:



- The Supreme Court held that courts cannot impose timelines on Governors or the President for granting assent to Bills passed by State Assemblies.
- However, it clarified that Governors do not have "unfettered" power to sit on Bills indefinitely.
- A five-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI B. R. Gavai delivered a unanimous opinion in response to the Presidential Reference.
- The court ruled that "indefinite delay" by Governors can be subjected to "limited judicial scrutiny."
- It also held that the Supreme Court cannot grant deemed assent using its Article 142 powers, as this would amount to taking over the role of another constitutional authority.
- The 111-page judgment may reignite debates around federalism and the Governor's authority over State legislation.
- The court stated that prolonged, unexplained, and indefinite inaction by Governors would invite judicial scrutiny, though courts cannot examine the merits of the Governor's decision under Article 200.
- Several opposition-led states — Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Punjab — have faced delays in gubernatorial assent, prompting them to seek Supreme Court intervention.
- The judgment did not carry the name of its author judge, a rare practice earlier seen in the 2019 Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid ruling; CJI Gavai is set to retire on Sunday.
- The Supreme Court also clarified that the Governor's discretion in dealing with Bills is not dependent on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

- Governors have only three options under Article 200: grant assent, refer the Bill to the President, or withhold assent and return it to the Assembly for reconsideration.
- The bench (Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P. S. Narasimha, and A. S. Chandurkar) held that imposing timelines would contradict the constitutional “elasticity” intended for such authorities.
- Since the Constitution does not prescribe time limits or specific procedures for Governors’ actions on Bills, the Court said it cannot judicially impose such timelines.
- Article 200 empowers Governors to either grant assent, withhold assent, reserve the Bill for the President, or return it with recommendations for reconsideration.

15. SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN KEY PROVISIONS OF TRIBUNAL REFORMS ACT, 2021:



- The Supreme Court invalidated several sections of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, because they simply repeated provisions from the earlier Tribunals Reforms Ordinance, 2021, which had already been struck down in the Madras Bar Association case.
- The struck-down clauses mainly concerned how tribunal members are appointed, the length of their tenure, and their service conditions.
- The Court held that these provisions undermined the separation of powers and compromised the independence of tribunals.
- It stressed that since the executive frequently appears as a party before tribunals, it should not be allowed to exercise excessive control over selecting tribunal members.
- **Key highlights of the Judgement:**
 - Minimum Age of 50: Invalidated as arbitrary and violates Article 14 for excluding younger qualified professionals.
 - Four-Year Tenure of chairpersons and members: Reinstated the 5-year tenure rule to ensure security of service.
- **Reiterated** its earlier direction to the Centre to set up a **National Tribunals Commission (within four months)**
 - The Commission was supposed to act as an independent body to supervise the appointments and functioning of Tribunals.
 - Also, it will take care of the administrative and infrastructural needs of the Tribunals

16. NEW LABOUR CODES MARK TRANSFORMATIVE STEP FOR WELFARE OF WORKERS:



- Establishment of the new Labour Codes marks a major transformation in India’s labour landscape, balancing worker welfare with enterprise efficiency.
- Employment in India increased from 47.5 crore in 2017–18 to 64.33 crore in 2023–24, adding 16.83 crore jobs in six years.
- Unemployment rate declined sharply from 6.0% to 3.2% in the same period.
- 1.56 crore women entered the formal workforce, reflecting inclusive labour empowerment.
- The four Labour Codes are: Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code (2020), Code on Social Security (2020), and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020).
- These reforms streamline compliance, modernise outdated provisions, and create a simplified framework promoting ease of doing business while protecting workers’ rights.

KEY AREAS
Reform: 29 labour laws merged into four Labour Codes.
Goal: Balance worker welfare with business efficiency.
Jobs added: Employment rose by 16.83 crore (2017–24).
Unemployment: Dropped from 6.0% to 3.2%.
Statutory minimum wage: Nationwide floor wage; applies to all sectors.
Contract rules: Time-bound contracts; gratuity after one year; reskilling fund for retrenched workers.
Social security expansion: ESIC pan-India; includes gig/platform workers.
Safety & inclusion: Women allowed night shifts with safeguards; single registration for establishments.

- Labour reforms are an ongoing process; the government aims to modernise laws in line with the evolving economic and industrial landscape.
- Codification merged 29 existing labour laws into four Labour Codes to address long-standing challenges and improve efficiency.
- Codification enhances ease of doing business, supports employment generation, and ensures safety, health, social, and wage security for all workers.
- Simplification, streamlined enforcement, and modernisation of outdated laws are key reasons behind the reform.
- A major objective was simplifying registration and licensing through a Single Registration, Single Licence, and Single Return system to reduce compliance burden and facilitate employment.
- The Code on Wages, 2019 consolidates four laws: Payment of Wages Act (1936), Minimum Wages Act (1948), Payment of Bonus Act (1965), and Equal Remuneration Act (1976).

- It strengthens workers' rights while creating uniform, simple wage-related compliance procedures.
- Provides statutory minimum wages for all employees in organised and unorganised sectors (earlier limited to scheduled employments covering only 30% of workers).
- Introduces a statutory floor wage based on minimum living standards; states cannot set wages below this level.
- Prohibits gender-based discrimination, including against transgender persons, in recruitment, wages, and working conditions.
- Timely payment and rules preventing unauthorised deductions now apply to all employees, removing the earlier Rs 24,000/month wage limit.
- Mandatory overtime wages at least twice the normal rate for work beyond regular hours.
- Employers are liable for paying wages to all employees; failure makes the proprietor or entity accountable.
- The role of "Inspector" is replaced with "Inspector-cum-Facilitator," emphasising guidance, awareness, and advisory functions along with enforcement.
- First-time, non-imprisonable offences can be compounded by paying a penalty; repeat offences within five years cannot be compounded.
- Some first-time offences now carry monetary fines instead of imprisonment, making enforcement more compliance-oriented than punitive.
- The Industrial Relations Code allows direct, time-bound contracts with full parity in wages and benefits and gratuity eligibility after one year.
- This reduces excessive contractualization and improves cost efficiency for employers.
- A Re-skilling Fund has been created, requiring employers to contribute 15 days' wages for every retrenched worker, credited within 45 days.
- Covers sales promotion staff, journalists, and supervisory employees earning up to Rs 18,000 per month.
- Ensures proportional representation of women in grievance committees for gender-sensitive dispute redressal.
- The Code on Social Security, 2020 expands ESIC coverage nationwide, removing the "notified area" requirement.
- Establishments with fewer than 10 employees may voluntarily opt in with mutual consent.
- ESIC coverage becomes mandatory for hazardous occupations and extended to plantation workers.
- A five-year limit is set for initiating EPF inquiries; completion must occur within two years (extendable by one).
- Employers appealing EPFO orders must now deposit only 25% of the assessed amount (earlier 40–70%), easing financial burden.
- New definitions—aggregator, gig worker, platform worker—bring these categories under social security coverage.
- "Wages" include basic pay, DA, and retaining allowance; at least 50% of total remuneration counted for uniform benefit calculation.
- The OSHWC Code, 2020 promotes worker safety and business growth, permits women to work at night with safeguards, and covers digital media journalists and audio-visual workers.

17.MODI PROPOSES G20 INITIATIVE TO COMBAT DRUG-TERROR NEXUS



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a major rethinking of global development parameters and proposed a G20 initiative to counter the drug-terror nexus along with a global healthcare response team.
- Speaking at the opening session of the G20 Leaders' Meeting, he said existing global growth models have deprived large populations of resources and led to over-exploitation of nature, challenges sharply felt in Africa.
- Modi highlighted the principle of Integral Humanism, rooted in India's civilisational values, as a balanced approach to harmonise development with nature.
- He announced four new initiatives: the Global Traditional Knowledge Repository, the G20-Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative, the G20 Global Healthcare Response Team, and the G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus.
- Noting that the G20 Summit was being held in Africa for the first time, he said the continent's history of over-exploitation of natural resources made the theme of balancing development and the environment especially relevant.
- Modi proposed a Global Traditional Knowledge Repository to document and share eco-friendly, culturally rich, and socially cohesive traditional practices, building on India's Indian Knowledge Systems initiative.
- The repository would preserve traditional wisdom and provide sustainable models of living for future generations.
- He proposed the G20-Africa Skills Multiplier, using a train-the-trainers model across sectors, supported and funded by all G20 members.
- Expressing concern over the rise of lethal synthetic drugs like fentanyl, Modi warned about their serious impact on public health, social stability, and global security.
- He called for a dedicated G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus to unify financial, governance, and security tools and disrupt trafficking networks, cut illicit financial flows, and weaken funding sources for terrorism.
- Modi also proposed establishing a G20 Global Healthcare Response Team of trained medical experts ready for rapid deployment during health emergencies and natural disasters.
- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa welcomed Modi with a 'namaste'.
- Modi interacted informally with several global leaders, including UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

18. NITI AAYOG DRAWS UP ROADMAP TO PUSH GROWTH, JOBS:



- The NITI-State Workshop on ‘Urban Data Ecosystems for Growth, Jobs and Service Delivery’ under the State Support Mission (SSM) concluded with discussions on how well-designed urban data systems can help cities use data effectively to drive economic growth.
- The SSM aims to promote structured and institutionalised engagement between NITI Aayog and States/UTs, enabling a bottom-up, evidence-based approach to achieving socioeconomic development goals.
- The workshop was held in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the World Bank, with over 100 participants from the Centre, States, World Bank, academia, and subject experts.
- The event highlighted NITI Aayog’s focus on advancing data-driven governance and saw the launch of the City Data and Analytics Platform (CDAP), a micro-site of the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP).
- CDAP is designed to support evidence-based urban governance by offering cities a unified and user-friendly interface to access, analyse, and visualise high-quality urban datasets.
- The platform will help policymakers, researchers, and practitioners generate insights for improved planning, better service delivery, and more efficient decision-making, strengthening data-driven urban ecosystems.
- The Data Forum centred on four key themes crucial to shaping future-ready urban landscapes.
- It discussed building strong data foundations by improving institutional frameworks, governance mechanisms, and standards to ensure robust and interoperable urban data systems.
- Participants examined how data can position cities as hubs of growth and job creation by informing economic visioning, guiding equitable development, and enabling strategic policy decisions.
- The Forum emphasised the importance of data in participatory urban planning, enhancing service delivery quality and timeliness, and supporting sustainable urban development.
- It also explored frontier technologies, including AI and ML, to enhance real-time city operations, strengthen monitoring capabilities, and support data-driven governance and decision-making.

19. MODI BLESSES DIVINE ‘KALASHA’ FOR ANNAPOORNA DEVI TEMPLE IN DURBAN:



- Chinmaya Mission Worldwide announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi held an exclusive interaction with Swami Abhedananda (In-charge, Chinmaya Mission South Africa) during a G20 Summit session with selected community leaders in Johannesburg.
- Swami Abhedananda briefed the Prime Minister about the 75th-year celebrations of the Chinmaya Movement and CMSA’s tribute to Swami Chinmayananda through the inauguration of the world’s first dedicated Annapoorna Devi Temple outside the Indian subcontinent.
- The temple will be inaugurated on 1 December 2025 in Durban, South Africa.
- The Chinmaya Annapoorna Temple’s “Nourish to Flourish” project provides free meals to over 2,000 underprivileged people daily.
- PM Modi expressed appreciation for Chinmaya Mission South Africa’s spiritual and social initiatives and acknowledged their ongoing service efforts.
- With admiration and respect, the Prime Minister received an ornate Ashtalakshmi Kalasha filled with ‘Shree Anna’ (millets from India and South Africa) and returned it to Swami Abhedananda to be placed in the new temple as a symbol of support and goodwill.
- The release noted that Swami Abhedananda had visited Guwahati in January 2019 for a Jnana Yajna, during which Doordarshan Assam (DD1) interviewed him, and the interview was recorded and telecast at that time.

20. SC ISSUES NOTICE ON PLEA CONCERNING CASH DONATIONS RECEIVED BY POLITICAL PARTIES:

- The Supreme Court has sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea challenging the validity of a provision in the Income Tax Act that allows political parties to receive “anonymous” cash donations below ₹2,000.
- The plea argues that such anonymity undermines electoral transparency and deprives voters of crucial information about the sources and motives behind political funding.
- The petition contends that this lack of disclosure hampers voters’ ability to make rational, informed choices.
- Notices have been issued to the Centre, the Election Commission, and several political parties, including the BJP and Congress.

- The plea also seeks a direction to the EC requiring political parties to be barred from receiving any cash donations as a condition for registration and symbol allocation.
- A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said the matter would be listed for hearing after four weeks.
- At the outset, the bench asked why the petitioners had not approached the high court first but later agreed to hear the plea.
- The petition seeks striking down Clause (d) of Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as unconstitutional.
- It also cites the Supreme Court's 2024 judgment scrapping the electoral bonds scheme.
- The plea seeks a direction to the Election Commission to scrutinise Form 24A contribution reports of all recognised political parties.
- It asks that political parties be required to deposit contributions for which PAN or address details have not been furnished.
- The plea urges the EC to issue notices to defaulting parties under the Election Symbol Order, 1968, asking why their reserved symbols should not be suspended or withdrawn for incomplete Form 24A reporting.
- It also seeks directions to ensure that the accounts of all political parties are maintained in prescribed formats and audited by independent auditors appointed by the EC.
- A direction is sought for the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to scrutinise income tax returns and audit reports of political parties filed over the last five years under Sections 142 and 143 of the IT Act.
- Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act pertains to the declaration of donations received by political parties.
- The plea says the cause of action arose when political parties filed contribution and audit reports in 2024 and 2025 with "incomplete details."

21.GOV'T SEED FARMS CATERED TO ONLY 0.28 PC OF REQUIREMENT IN 6 YRS: CAG:



- Assam Seeds Corporation Ltd. faced major issues such as lack of irrigation, poor drainage, and operational constraints, resulting in its own seed production meeting only 0.28% of the Agriculture Department's requirement between 2018-19 and 2023-24.
- During 2018-24, the company supplied 1.59 lakh MT of seeds, of which only 437.54 MT came from its own production; the rest was sourced from other suppliers.
- Despite having 250.50 hectares of cultivable land each year, unutilized land ranged from 39 ha (15.57%) to 124.50 ha (49.70%).
- The company's average paddy seed yield was 2.38 MT/ha, significantly lower than the State average of 3.49 MT/ha.
- There was a 34.02% overall shortfall in achieving annual paddy seed production targets, ranging from 6.70% (2023-24) to 49.86% (2018-19).

- Production of non-paddy seeds was very low: 35.12 MT produced against a target of 366.75 MT.
- Major constraints included absence of irrigation facilities, making farms monsoon-dependent and vulnerable to crop failures; lack of drainage caused waterlogging during heavy rains, damaging crops and lowering yields.
- The CAG noted the absence of market intelligence, including data on neighbouring States' seed requirements, pricing policies, and varieties offered by competitors.
- The company lacked a brand name to build product identity and attract customers.
- Due to low production, the company was unable to supply farmers with affordable, quality seeds, forcing them to rely on private traders.
- The company attributed the shortfalls to insufficient technical manpower and poor farm infrastructure.
- The audit also flagged issues like uncontrolled cattle grazing, no soil testing system, and poor scientific pest control, all of which could have been addressed with timely action.
- There was no system for periodic performance review or analysis of productivity shortfalls, reflecting weak monitoring mechanisms.
- The company had 12 seed farms covering 383 hectares, of which 131.50 hectares were occupied by buildings, roads, ponds, etc.
- The 12 seed farms recorded a combined loss of ₹43 lakh over the six-year period.

22.PM MODI INAUGURATES SAFRAN'S SAESI AIRCRAFT ENGINE MRO FACILITY IN HYDERABAD:



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) facility in Hyderabad, calling it a major milestone in India's aviation growth.
- He highlighted that India is among the world's fastest-growing domestic aviation markets and continues to attract global investment and technological innovation.
- The Prime Minister stated that policies such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have encouraged many international companies to choose India as a preferred destination.
- He emphasised that investors are regarded not just as financiers but as co-creators and partners in building a *Viksit Bharat*.
- The PM noted that the government has introduced some of the most transformational reforms in the past eight years to enable global industry participation.
- He described the SAESI facility as a major step toward a self-reliant and resilient India, indicating that the aviation sector is entering a new phase of expansion.

- The Safran facility is expected to strengthen India's position as a global Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hub.
- The facility was developed with an investment of over ₹1,300 crore and spans 45,000 square metres in the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park-SEZ.
- It has the capacity to service up to 300 LEAP engines annually.
- By 2035, when fully operational, the facility is expected to provide employment to over 1,000 highly skilled Indian engineers and technicians.
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the M88 Military Engine MRO, which will support the Indian Air Force and Navy and boost defence self-reliance.
- Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who was present at the event, requested the Prime Minister to declare the Hyderabad–Bengaluru belt as a Defence and Aerospace Corridor due to its growing strategic relevance.



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23.CHINA'S SHENZHOU 21 DOCKS WITH SPACE STATION, SETS SPEED RECORD:



- China announced that its Shenzhou 21 spaceship docked with the country's space station with its latest three-astronaut crew at a record speed.
- The docking process lasted around 3.5 hours, three hours shorter than previous missions, according to the China Manned Space Agency.
- Shenzhou 21 launched at 11:44 pm local time on Friday from the Jiuquan launch centre in northwestern China.
- The three astronauts will enter the Tianhe core module of the space station.
- The crew includes pilot and mission commander Zhang Lu, who previously flew on Shenzhou 15 two years ago.
- The other two astronauts, Wu Fei (32, engineer) and Zhang Hongzhang (payload specialist), are on their first spaceflight.
- Wu Fei is China's youngest astronaut to join a spaceflight.
- Zhang Hongzhang previously researched new energy and materials before becoming an astronaut.
- The astronauts plan to create a "utopia" aboard the Tiangong space station by doing tai-chi, gardening, and appreciating poetry.
- They will stay on the station for roughly six months.
- During their stay, they will conduct 27 scientific and applied projects in biotechnology, aerospace medicine, materials science, and other fields.
- For the first time, China is sending four mice (two male, two female) to study the effects of weightlessness and confinement on behavior.
- The "space mice" were selected from 300 candidates after more than 60 days of intensive training and will remain in the station for five to seven days before returning to Earth on Shenzhou 20.
- China's space programme, launched in 2003 with its first crewed mission, is a source of national pride and marks two decades of technological progress.
- Zhang Jingbo, spokesperson for the China Manned Space Agency, confirmed that China aims to land an astronaut on the Moon by 2030.
- The Tiangong ("Heavenly Palace") space station is entirely Chinese-built, following exclusion from the International Space Station due to US national security concerns.
- China's space programme is controlled by the People's Liberation Army, the military branch of the Communist Party.
- In collaboration with Pakistan, China is training two Pakistani astronauts, with plans to send one as a payload expert on a short-term mission, marking the first visit of a foreign astronaut to Tiangong.

24.INDIA, BAHRAIN BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR AMBITIOUS TRADE DEAL:



- India and Bahrain announced the commencement of negotiations for an ambitious trade deal and moved closer to finalising an investment pact.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held extensive talks with his Bahraini counterpart Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani to further strengthen overall bilateral ties.
- Both ministers agreed to develop a common understanding to begin negotiations for a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to eliminate double taxation, provide tax certainty, and promote trade and investment.
- Alzayani arrived in India on a two-day visit to expand cooperation in trade, investment, and defence amid ongoing geopolitical turmoil in West Asia.
- During the meeting, Jaishankar reiterated India's support for the Gaza peace plan, expressing hope for a lasting and durable solution to the conflict.
- The ministers explored avenues to boost cooperation in defence, security, economy, trade, investment, health, fintech, space, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.
- Both sides resolved to further diversify trade in sectors such as electronics, petroleum, processed foods, base metals, and gems and jewellery, according to a joint statement.
- Bahrain is an important partner for India in West Asia, with bilateral relations witnessing significant growth in recent years.
- Two-way trade between the countries reached USD 1.64 billion in 2024–25.
- The Indian community in Bahrain numbers around 332,000, making up nearly one-fourth of the country's 1.5 million population.
- India ranks among the top five trading partners of Bahrain.
- Both sides noted progress toward establishing a joint working group on trade and investment and starting negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- They also expressed optimism for enhanced future collaboration in defence and security, citing the recent visit of three Indian naval ships to Bahrain.

25. INDIA AND NEPAL POWER REGIONAL ENERGY INTEGRATION IN SOUTH ASIA:



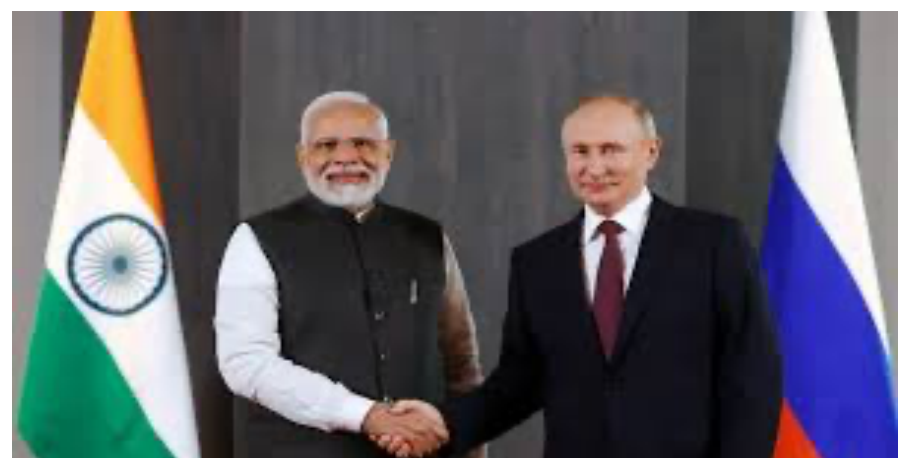
- Officials from Nepal and India have agreed to enhance cross-border electricity exchange and strengthen transmission infrastructure by accelerating work on several ongoing and planned transmission line projects.
- A joint Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared for the proposed Chameliya–Jauljibi 220 kV double-circuit cross-border transmission line by November 2025, with project completion targeted for December 2027.
- The Chameliya–Jauljibi line will connect Nepal’s far-western region with India’s Uttarakhand state.
- Both countries also agreed that the New Butwal–Gorakhpur 400 kV cross-border transmission line will initially be operated at 220 kV once completed.
- A meeting with the Uttar Pradesh Transmission Company will be held within 15 days to finalise the import and export capacity of this line.
- Construction work on both sides of the border has reportedly accelerated in recent months.
- The New Butwal–Gorakhpur project was jointly inaugurated during Nepal’s former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda)’s visit to India in May–June 2023.
- The two sides reassessed the power exchange capacity of the Dhalkebar–Muzaffarpur and Dhalkebar–Sitamarhi cross-border transmission lines.
- It was confirmed that Nepal can export up to 1500 MW and import up to 1400 MW of electricity through each line, both initially designed for 1000 MW capacity.
- The Dhalkebar–Muzaffarpur line remains the only operational 400 kV cross-border transmission link between Nepal and India, though around a dozen smaller links are also functional.
- Construction of the Dhalkebar–Sitamarhi line is nearing completion; it is being developed by SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company, a subsidiary of India’s SJVN Limited, which is also developing the 900 MW Arun-3 Hydropower Project in eastern Nepal.
- Nepal will provide technical details within one month to prepare the DPR of the proposed Nijgadh–Motihari 400 kV transmission line, to be developed jointly by technical teams from both countries.
- A Joint Study Team will determine the termination point of the proposed Lamahi–Lucknow 400 kV line on the Nepali side — either Lamahi (Dang district) or Kohalpur (Banke district) — and prepare its DPR.
- These agreements were reached during the 17th meeting of the Joint Technical Team (JTT) under the energy ministries of Nepal and India, held in Pokhara on Monday and Tuesday.
- Discussions during the meeting covered electricity trade, construction of new transmission lines, and strengthening of existing systems, resulting in several key understandings for future energy cooperation.

26.INDIA, NEW ZEALAND CONCLUDE 4TH ROUND OF FTA NEGOTIATIONS:



- India and New Zealand have successfully concluded the fourth round of negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in Auckland and Rotorua.
- The talks spanned five days of constructive and forward-looking discussions, according to the Ministry of Commerce.
- Both sides agreed to maintain momentum through inter-sessional work and continue detailed discussions across all chapters to move towards an early convergence on the FTA.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand’s Minister for Trade Todd McClay acknowledged the steady progress achieved and reaffirmed their commitment to a modern, comprehensive, and future-ready free trade pact.
- The delegations engaged in detailed discussions across key areas including trade in goods, trade in services, economic and trade cooperation, and rules of origin.
- The negotiations reflected a shared ambition to strengthen economic ties and build a mutually beneficial partnership that promotes resilient, inclusive, and sustainable growth.
- India’s bilateral merchandise trade with New Zealand reached \$1.3 billion in FY 2024–25, recording a year-on-year growth of nearly 49%.
- The proposed FTA is expected to unlock new opportunities in sectors such as agriculture, food processing, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, education, and services, benefiting both businesses and consumers.
- According to the ministry, the ongoing discussions demonstrate the shared resolve of both nations to expedite the negotiation process and achieve an early, balanced, and mutually advantageous agreement.

27.RUSSIA, INDIA TO SIGN LABOUR MOBILITY PACT DURING PUTIN’S VISIT:



- India and Russia are expected to sign a bilateral mobility agreement during President Vladimir Putin’s visit to New Delhi in the first week of December.

- The accord will establish a framework for legal migration, protection of workers' rights, and expansion of skilled Indian manpower in Russia.
- Russia is currently facing an acute shortage of qualified and skilled workers in its expanding economy.
- The agreement aims to ensure legal protection for existing Indian workers and create pathways for new professionals in industries such as construction, textiles, engineering, and electronics.
- By the end of the year, over 70,000 Indian nationals are expected to be officially employed across Russia under quotas managed by the Russian Ministry of Labour.
- The Moscow-based Indian Business Alliance (IBA) has welcomed the forthcoming India-Russia Mobility Agreement, describing it as a strategic milestone in strengthening bilateral relations.
- To prevent violations of immigration laws by Indian nationals recruited by fraudsters, the IBA has offered to collaborate with both governments and business partners.
- The IBA will help organize orientation and language programmes for Indian workers to promote fair recruitment and ethical employment practices.
- It will also coordinate with the Embassy of India in Moscow and regional Russian authorities to ensure smooth integration and welfare of Indian citizens working in Russia.

28.PM MODI, BHUTAN'S 4TH KING DISCUSS SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL BONDS:



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Fourth Druk Gyalpo of Bhutan, in Thimphu and held discussions on a range of bilateral issues.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that the Prime Minister conveyed felicitations to the Fourth King on his 70th birth anniversary and extended best wishes and prayers on behalf of India for his continued good health and well-being.
- Prime Minister Modi thanked His Majesty the Fourth King for his leadership, counsel, and guidance in further strengthening India-Bhutan friendship.
- Both leaders discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, underlining the shared spiritual and cultural bonds that closely connect the peoples of India and Bhutan.
- PM Modi also joined Bhutan's King and the Fourth King during the Kalachakra initiation ceremony at Changlimithang Stadium, part of the ongoing Global Peace Prayer Festival in Thimphu.
- The prayers were presided over by Je Khenpo, the Chief Abbot of Bhutan.
- PM Modi will now depart for New Delhi, concluding his two-day visit aimed at deepening bilateral ties and reaffirming commitment to the Neighbourhood First Policy.
- The Prime Minister also participated in celebrations marking the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's Fourth King, reaffirming the enduring friendship and spiritual connection between India and Bhutan.

- Jigme Singye Wangchuck, born on November 11, 1955, served as Bhutan's Fourth Druk Gyalpo from 1972 to 2006 and is regarded as one of Bhutan's most insightful and cherished kings.

29.TRUMP SIGNS FUNDING BILL TO END US SHUTDOWN:



- President Donald Trump signed a government funding bill on Wednesday night, ending a record 43-day shutdown.
- The shutdown caused financial stress for federal workers who went without pay, stranded travellers at airports, and created long queues at food banks.
- It was the longest shutdown in US history and deepened partisan divisions in Washington.
- Trump took unprecedented unilateral actions, including cancelling projects and attempting to fire federal workers, to pressure Democrats.
- He blamed Democrats for the situation and suggested voters should not reward the party in the next year's midterm elections.
- The bill was signed hours after the House passed it in a mostly party-line vote of 222–209; the Senate had already approved it.
- Democrats pushed to extend an enhanced tax credit that lowers the cost of ACA marketplace health coverage, refusing to support a spending bill without it.
- Republicans argued that the tax credit issue was a separate policy fight to be handled later.
- The House had not been in session since September 19 after passing a short-term funding measure; Speaker Johnson said Republicans had done their job and placed responsibility on the Senate.
- The legislation resulted from a deal reached by eight senators who broke with Democrats, believing Republicans would not agree to extending health care tax credits through a funding bill.
- The compromise funds three annual spending bills and extends the rest of government funding through January 30.
- Republicans pledged to hold a mid-December vote on extending health care subsidies, though success is not guaranteed.
- The bill reverses the firing of federal workers during the shutdown, protects them from further layoffs through January, and guarantees back pay once the shutdown ends.

30. INDIA, NEPAL INK DEAL TO BOOST TRADE THROUGH RAIL CONNECTIVITY:



- India and Nepal signed an agreement to establish direct rail connectivity along the Jogbani–Biratnagar rail link for containerised and bulk cargo.
- The connectivity will facilitate transport from the ports of Kolkata and Visakhapatnam to the Nepal Customs Yard cargo station in Morang district near Biratnagar.
- Both countries exchanged Letters of Exchange (LoE) to amend the protocol to the India–Nepal Treaty of Transit.
- The amendment will allow rail-based freight movement between Jogbani (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal), including an expanded definition of bulk cargo.
- The liberalisation benefits key transit corridors such as Kolkata–Jogbani, Kolkata–Nautanwa (Sunauli), and Visakhapatnam–Nautanwa (Sunauli).
- The move strengthens multimodal trade connectivity between the two countries and enhances Nepal’s access to third-country trade routes.
- The LoE was exchanged during a bilateral meeting between India’s Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Nepal’s Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies Anil Kumar Sinha.
- India continues to be Nepal’s largest trade and investment partner, contributing significantly to Nepal’s external trade.

31. INDIA, CANADA DISCUSS WAYS TO PROMOTE BILATERAL TRADE, INVESTMENTS:



- India and Canada held discussions to boost bilateral trade and investments and enhance cooperation in supply chain resilience and health sectors.
- The meeting took place during the India–Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI), co-chaired by India’s Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Canada’s Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development, Maninder Sidhu.
- Both sides reaffirmed commitment to fostering an open, transparent, and predictable business environment that supports sustainable growth.

- The ministers reviewed recent trade policy developments related to goods and services, and discussed measures to enhance market access, regulatory alignment, and long-term economic resilience.
- Bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Canada reached USD 18.38 billion in 2023.
- Canada hosts around 2.9 million people of Indian origin and more than 427,000 Indian students.
- The two ministers also met in October this year for trade discussions.
- In 2023, Canada paused free trade agreement negotiations with India following strained relations triggered by then PM Justin Trudeau’s allegations linking India to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar—an accusation India rejected as “absurd.”
- Negotiations for the interim Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) were relaunched in March 2022, with over six rounds of talks held so far.
- India’s exports to Canada grew 9.8% to USD 4.22 billion in 2024–25, up from USD 3.84 billion in 2023–24.
- India’s imports from Canada fell 2.33% to USD 4.44 billion in 2024–25, down from USD 4.55 billion in 2023–24.
- Relations saw renewed momentum after PM Narendra Modi met Canadian PM Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Kananaskis, Canada, in June.

32. INDIA, PARAGUAY DISCUSS ENHANCING BILATERAL TIES:



- India and Paraguay held the First Meeting of the Joint Commission Mechanism (JCM) in Asuncion, conducting a comprehensive review of the current state of bilateral relations, the MEA announced.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Paraguay’s Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Victor Verdun, and MEA Secretary (East) Periasamy Kumaran.
- Both sides highlighted renewed dynamism in bilateral ties, especially following the recent State visit of Paraguay’s President Santiago Peña Palacios to India, which strengthened political dialogue and deepened cooperation in key areas.
- India appreciated the establishment of the Parliamentary Friendship Commission for India in the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay’s National Congress.
- The meeting covered a wide range of bilateral issues including political and economic relations, cooperation in technology, infrastructure, energy, education, health, trade and investment, civil aviation, tourism, space, sustainable development and water resources.
- Views were also exchanged on multilateral issues of common interest, including cooperation in international forums and organisations.
- Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in mutually beneficial sectors, promote trade, encourage investment and consolidate the multifaceted partnership, while advancing negotiations on bilateral instruments.

- Priority areas identified include agriculture; renewable energy (especially solar); biofuels; ICT; cybersecurity; public health; education and technical training; civil aviation; infrastructure and railways; water management; sustainable development; and space cooperation.
- Both parties reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations poses a serious threat to international peace and security.

33. INDIA, US DEEPEN NAVAL TIES IN KEY INDO-PACIFIC DISCUSSIONS:



- Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi visited the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Dan iel Inouye, during which he received a briefing about the destroyer's modifications, multi-mission versatility, and advanced maritime surveillance systems.
- Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi held high-level discussions with senior US military leaders to advance maritime cooperation between India and the United States.
- He met Admiral Samuel J. Paparo (Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command), Admiral Stephen T. Koehler (Commander, US Pacific Fleet) and Lieutenant General James F. Glynn (Commander, US Marine Forces Pacific).
- Both sides reviewed key pillars of India-US defence cooperation, focusing on maritime security, interoperability and expanding operational engagements across the Indo-Pacific.
- Discussions included deeper information sharing and enhanced maritime domain awareness through mechanisms such as the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative and linkages with the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region.
- The two nations explored ways to safeguard sea lines of communication and protect critical undersea infrastructure.
- They also discussed improving coordinated responses for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR), counter-piracy missions and other non-traditional security challenges.
- Plans for more complex and regular bilateral and multilateral exercises — including MALABAR, PASSEX, CMF activities and the MILAN series — were reviewed to strengthen joint warfighting, logistics and sustainment capabilities.
- Both navies examined opportunities for cooperation in emerging domains such as unmanned systems, ISR, cyber operations and space-enabled maritime activities to enhance resilience and readiness.
- Admiral Tripathi is visiting the US from November 12–17 to reinforce the strong and enduring maritime partnership between the two navies.
- The visit underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to deepening collaboration with the US Navy toward a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

34. INDIA, 5-NATION GROUP EAEU REVIEW ROADMAP FOR PROPOSED TRADE AGREEMENT:

- India and the Eurasian Economic Commission reviewed the roadmap for their proposed free trade agreement (FTA) in goods to strengthen economic ties.
- On August 20 this year, India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) signed the terms of reference to begin formal negotiations for the FTA.
- The EAEU consists of five members: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.
- The initiative is significant for India as it seeks to diversify its export markets amid high tariffs imposed by the US.
- India and Russia also discussed ways to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030.
- Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal and EEC Minister Andrey Yurin discussed trade diversification, supply chain resilience and cooperation in critical minerals.
- The dialogue covered practical measures related to logistics, payments and standards to enhance predictability and ease of doing business.
- With a combined GDP of about \$6.5 trillion, the proposed FTA is expected to expand market access for Indian exporters, support diversification into new sectors and geographies, boost competitiveness against non-market economies and benefit MSMEs significantly.
- Russia is India's largest trading partner within the bloc, with bilateral trade reaching \$68.72 billion in 2024–25 (exports: \$4.88 billion; imports: \$63.84 billion).
- In 2024–25, India's bilateral trade with other EAEU members stood at: Armenia — \$315.18 million, Belarus — \$106.69 million, Kazakhstan — \$349.48 million, Kyrgyzstan — \$56.78 million.

35. INDIA-ISRAEL FTA PROGRESS REVIEW MAY FIGURE DURING GOYAL'S VISIT TO TEL AVIV:



- Progress on the proposed India-Israel free trade agreement (FTA) is expected to be reviewed during Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's three-day visit to Tel Aviv.
- The minister is leading a 60-member business delegation to Israel, where he will hold discussions with leaders and businesses to boost bilateral trade, investments, and innovation.
- The visit will conclude on November 22.
- According to the commerce ministry, progress on the proposed India-Israel FTA—under negotiation since May 2010—is expected to be reviewed. Eight rounds have been held so far, and negotiations were resumed in October 2021.
- During 2024–25, India's exports to Israel dipped 52% to USD 2.14 billion from USD 4.52 billion in 2023–24. Imports also fell 26.2% to USD 1.48 billion.
- India is Israel's second-largest trading partner in Asia. Bilateral merchandise trade is mainly dominated by diamonds, petroleum products, and chemicals, though recent years have seen growth in electronic machinery, high-tech products, communication systems, and medical equipment.

- Major Indian exports to Israel include pearls and precious stones, automotive diesel, chemical and mineral products, machinery and electrical equipment, plastics, textiles, apparel, base metals, transport equipment, and agricultural products.
- India's imports from Israel include pearls and precious stones, chemical and mineral/fertiliser products, machinery and electrical equipment, petroleum oils, defence items, machinery, and transport equipment.
- Goyal will hold talks with Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry, Nir Barkat, and may also meet other ministers.
- Discussions are expected to focus on strengthening trade and investment ties and advancing cooperation in agriculture, water, defence, emerging technologies, life sciences, infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and startup collaboration.
- In September, both countries signed a bilateral investment agreement (BIA), under which India reduced the local remedies exhaustion period for Israeli investors from five years to three.
- The India-Israel BIA, which includes portfolio investments, aims to provide greater comfort to investors of both countries. Israel is the first OECD member with which India has signed such an agreement.
- Between April 2000 and June 2025, India received USD 337.77 million in foreign direct investment from Israel.

36.INDIA CALLS FOR OVERHAUL OF UNSC VETO SYSTEM, FLAGS 'DE FACTO VETO' BLOCKING REFORMS:



- India said that while the Security Council's veto monopoly by the five permanent members must change, the *de facto veto* blocking reform should end first.
- India's Permanent Representative P. Harish stated that in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN), the "consensus argument has effectively become a disguised *de facto veto*".
- For 17 years, reforms—such as expanding permanent membership and revising veto powers—have been stalled by a small group using procedural tactics to block the adoption of a negotiating text.
- The Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group, led by Italy and including Pakistan, has opposed adopting a negotiating text unless reforms are agreed upon by consensus.
- Without a negotiating text outlining agenda point, reaching any consensus becomes impossible.
- Harish noted that the resolution establishing the IGN called for "the widest possible political acceptance", not consensus, as the guiding principle.
- On the permanent members' veto, he said the 2022 General Assembly resolution has not stopped them from exercising it and does not comprehensively address the veto issue.
- The resolution requires any permanent member using a veto to appear before the General Assembly within ten days to explain it.
- Due to frequent vetoes, the UN has been unable to act on major crises like the Ukraine war and, until this week, the Gaza conflict for two years.



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37. ISRO TO LAUNCH HEAVIEST COMMUNICATION SATELLITE FROM INDIAN SOIL:



- ISRO is set to launch its communication satellite CMS-03, weighing about 4,410 kg, from its spaceport.
- This will be the heaviest satellite launched from Indian soil into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- The satellite will be carried aboard the LVM3-M5 rocket, nicknamed 'Bahubali' for its heavy-lift capability.
- The 43.5-metre-tall rocket has been fully assembled, integrated with CMS-03, and moved to the second launch pad for pre-launch operations.
- The launch is scheduled for 5:26 pm on November 2.
- LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) is ISRO's new heavy-lift launch vehicle, designed to place 4,000 kg payloads into GTO and 8,000 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) using its powerful cryogenic stage.
- ISRO's previous heaviest satellite launch was GSAT-11 in December 2018 from Kourou, French Guiana, weighing 5,854 kg.
- CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite intended to provide services over a wide oceanic region, including the Indian landmass.
- The previous mission of LVM3 was the Chandrayaan-3 mission, which achieved India's first successful landing near the lunar South Pole in 2023.
- The mission underscores ISRO's capability to launch heavy payloads in a cost-effective and reliable manner.

38. 'BAHUBALI' ROCKET INJECTS HEAVIEST SATELLITE FROM INDIAN SOIL IN ORBIT:



- The heaviest communication satellite to be launched from Indian soil onboard the new-generation, homegrown "Bahubali" rocket was successfully placed into its intended orbit on Sunday, ISRO announced.
- The communication satellite CMS-03, weighing 4,410 kg, was launched aboard the LVM3-M5 rocket, marking a major achievement for India's space program.
- CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite that will provide services over a wide oceanic region, including the Indian landmass.
- The satellite was placed in the desired Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) and serves as a replacement for the GSAT-7 series launched in 2013.
- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed that the LVM3 rocket successfully injected the 4,410 kg satellite precisely into its required orbit.
- Narayanan referred to the LVM3 as "Bahubali," highlighting its heavy-lift capability, and recalled its previous success with the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- He noted that all eight LVM3 launches, including experimental missions, have been successful showing a 100% success rate.
- The satellite is designed to provide communication services for at least 15 years and stands as "another shining example of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."
- Despite unfavourable weather conditions, ISRO scientists worked diligently to ensure mission success.
- Before this launch, ISRO had relied on France-based Arianespace's Ariane rockets from Kourou, French Guiana, to launch heavier satellites.
- On December 5, 2018, ISRO launched its heaviest communication satellite, GSAT-11 (5,854 kg), onboard an Ariane-5 VA-246 rocket from French Guiana.
- The LVM3-M5 is a three-stage launch vehicle with two solid motor strap-ons (S200), a liquid propellant core stage (L110), and a cryogenic stage (C25).
- LVM3 provides ISRO full self-reliance in launching heavier communication satellites weighing up to 4,000 kg into GTO.
- The vehicle is also known as the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) MkIII.
- ISRO classifies its launch vehicles based on mission objectives, target orbit, and altitude.
- The main launchers used by ISRO include the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), GSLV, and LVM3.
- ISRO has been offering satellite launch services for customers since 1999 from Sriharikota.
- PSLV remains ISRO's most reliable and versatile launcher, capable of carrying payloads up to 1,750 kg.
- The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is used for payloads up to 500 kg destined for Low Earth Orbit (~500 km altitude).
- The GSLV, with a cryogenic upper stage, carries heavier satellites of around 2,200 kg, while the LVM3 boosts capacity to over 4,000 kg.
- The LVM3-M5 mission is the vehicle's fifth operational flight.
- The LVM3 was developed entirely with indigenous technology, including the C25 cryogenic stage, and has a flawless track record since its first development flight (LVM3-CARE) in December 2014.
- For the upcoming Gaganyaan Mission, ISRO plans to use the human-rated LVM3 rocket, named HRLV, as the launch vehicle.
- The LVM3 can carry payloads of 4,000 kg to GTO and up to 8,000 kg to Low Earth Orbit, powered by its advanced cryogenic stage.
- The two S200 solid rocket boosters, developed at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, provide the thrust required for liftoff.

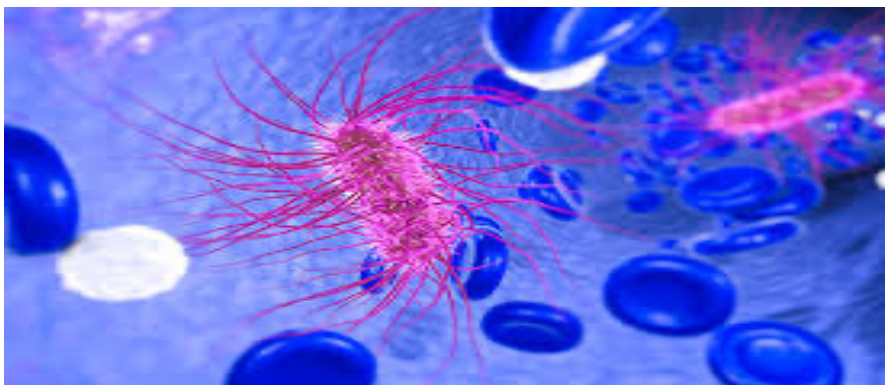
- The third stage (L110 Liquid Stage) is powered by two Vikas engines designed and developed at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
- The previous LVM3 mission successfully launched Chandrayaan-3 in 2023, when India became the first country to land near the lunar South Pole; that satellite weighed 3,841.4 kg.

39. RUSSIA LAUNCHES NEW NUKE SUB CARRIER OF DOOMSDAY DRONE:



- Russia has launched its latest nuclear submarine designed to carry the Poseidon nuclear drone, also known as the “doomsday missile,” reportedly capable of “wiping out” coastal nations.
- The nuclear submarine ‘Khabarovsk’ was launched by Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov at a solemn ceremony in Severodvinsk at the Sevmash shipyards.
- The event was attended by Russian Naval Chief Admiral Alexander Moiseyev and senior shipbuilding officials.
- Sevmash shipyards, where the launch took place, had earlier retrofitted the INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier for India.
- The Russian Defence Minister stated that the submarine, equipped with underwater weapons and robotic systems, will help secure Russia’s maritime borders and protect its national interests across the world’s oceans.
- The Khabarovsk submarine was designed by Rubin, the Central Design Bureau of Marine Engineering.
- It is intended to undertake Navy missions using modern underwater weapons and robotic systems for various purposes.
- The Russian Defence Ministry described it as a strategic asset to strengthen maritime security and safeguard national interests globally.
- Business daily *Kommersant* noted that the launch followed Russia’s recent test of the Poseidon underwater drone, which is equipped with a nuclear propulsion system.

40. SCIENTISTS FIND E. COLI SPREADS AS FAST AS SWINE FLU: STUDY:



- Researchers have, for the first time, estimated how quickly *E. coli* bacteria can spread between people, finding that one strain moves as fast as swine flu.
- Using genomic data from the UK and Norway, scientists modelled bacterial transmission rates and discovered key differences between strains.
- Their work offers a new way to monitor and control antibiotic-resistant bacteria in both communities and hospitals.
- The study revealed that *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), a bacterium that normally lives in the human gut, can spread through populations at a rate comparable to swine flu.
- Researchers from the Wellcome Sanger Institute, the University of Oslo, the University of Helsinki, Aalto University in Finland, and their collaborators estimated how efficiently one person can pass gut bacteria to others.
- Published on November 4 in *Nature Communications*, the study examined three key *E. coli* strains circulating in the UK and Norway.
- Two of these strains were resistant to several common classes of antibiotics and were the most frequent causes of urinary tract and bloodstream infections in both countries.
- The researchers suggested that better monitoring of these strains could guide public health responses and help prevent outbreaks of infections that are difficult to treat.
- In the long term, understanding the genetic factors that help *E. coli* spread could lead to more targeted therapies and reduce reliance on broad-spectrum antibiotics.
- The approach developed in this study could also be adapted to investigate other bacterial pathogens and improve strategies for managing invasive infections.
- *E. coli* is one of the leading causes of infections worldwide; while most strains are harmless and inhabit the gut, they can enter the body through direct contact, such as kissing, or indirect means like shared surfaces, food, or living spaces.
- When *E. coli* moves into areas such as the urinary tract, it can cause serious illness, including sepsis, especially in people with weakened immune systems.
- Scientists use the basic reproduction number, R_0 , to describe how infectious a pathogen is, estimating how many new cases one infected person might cause.
- R_0 is typically applied to viruses and helps predict whether an outbreak will expand or decline.
- Until now, researchers could not assign an R_0 value to bacteria that colonise the gut, since they often live in the body without causing illness.
- To overcome this, the team combined data from the UK Baby Biome Study with genomic information from *E. coli* bloodstream infection surveillance programs in the UK and Norway, compiled by the Wellcome Sanger Institute.
- Using a software platform called ELFI3 (Engine for Likelihood-Free Inference), the researchers built a model capable of estimating R_0 for the three major *E. coli* strains.
- Results showed that one strain, known as ST131-A, can spread between people as rapidly as some viruses that caused global outbreaks, including the swine flu (H1N1).
- This finding is striking because *E. coli* is not spread through airborne droplets like flu viruses.
- The two other strains studied, ST131-C1 and ST131-C2, are resistant to multiple antibiotic classes but spread much more slowly among healthy individuals.
- In hospitals and healthcare settings, where patients are more vulnerable and contact is frequent, these resistant strains could spread much faster.
- Assigning an R_0 value to bacteria enables a clearer understanding of how bacterial infections spread.
- It also helps identify which strains pose the greatest threat and could inform public health strategies to protect people with compromised immune systems.
- The success of this study relied on extensive genomic data from the UK and Norway, sequenced at the Wellcome Sanger Institute.

- This large-scale data made it possible to identify transmission patterns in detail.
- The datasets came from earlier studies published in *The Lancet Microbe*, which laid the groundwork for the modelling breakthrough achieved in this new research.

41. GAGANYAAN MISSION: ISRO CONDUCTS IMPORTANT TEST ON MAIN PARACHUTES:



- ISRO successfully conducted an important test on the main parachutes for the Gaganyaan Crew Module at the Babina Field Firing Range (BFFR) in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, on November 3.
- The test is part of the ongoing series of Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Tests (IMAT) for qualifying the parachute system for the Gaganyaan mission.
- The Gaganyaan mission is India's first human spaceflight programme, aiming to send a three-member crew on a three-day mission to space and return them safely to Earth.
- As part of the mission, ISRO is developing a human-rated launch vehicle, an orbital module, and a crew-escape system.
- The programme includes prior unmanned missions to test critical systems before the first manned flight.
- The parachute system for the Gaganyaan Crew Module consists of a total of 10 parachutes of four types.
- The descent sequence begins with two apex cover separation parachutes that remove the protective cover of the parachute compartment.
- This is followed by two drogue parachutes that stabilise and decelerate the module.
- Upon release of the drogues, three pilot parachutes are deployed to extract three main parachutes, which further slow down the Crew Module to ensure a safe touchdown.
- The system is designed with redundancy — two of the three main parachutes are sufficient to achieve a safe landing.
- The main parachutes deploy in a step-by-step process known as reefed inflation, where the parachute first opens partially (reefing) and then fully opens after a set time (disreefing).
- This process is executed using a pyro device — a mechanism that uses controlled combustion or an explosive reaction to perform specific functions such as generating gas, pressure, heat, light, or motion.
- The successful completion of this test marks another major step toward qualifying the parachute system for human spaceflight.
- The test involved active participation from the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO, Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), DRDO, Indian Air Force, and the Indian Army.

42. IIT BOMBAY DEVELOPS INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS QUANTUM DIAMOND MICROSCOPE:



- A team at IIT Bombay under the National Quantum Mission (NQM) has developed India's first indigenous Quantum Diamond Microscope (QDM) for dynamic magnetic field imaging, marking a major breakthrough in quantum sensing.
- The announcement was made during the Emerging Science Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC 2025).
- QDM can map magnetic fields in 3D layers within an encapsulated semiconductor chip and has earned India its first patent in this domain.
- The microscope was developed by the P-P-P-Quest Group at IIT Bombay under the Department of Science and Technology's (DST) National Quantum Mission.
- Based on nitrogen-vacancy (NV) centres in diamond, QDM serves as a powerful platform for nanoscale, three-dimensional magnetic field imaging.
- NV centres—atomic-scale defects formed by a nitrogen atom adjacent to a vacancy—exhibit strong quantum coherence even at room temperature, making them highly sensitive to magnetic, electric, and thermal variations.
- The Ministry of Science & Technology highlighted QDM's potential for high-resolution 3D magnetic mapping of integrated circuits, batteries, and microelectronic devices.
- QDM also holds promise in neuroscience, materials research, and non-destructive evaluation of semiconductor chips.
- Its operation relies on spin-dependent fluorescence detected via optically detected magnetic resonance (ODMR), enabling optical readout of local magnetic fields.
- By engineering a thin diamond layer with high NV density, QDM achieves widefield imaging of dynamic magnetic activity similar to an optical microscope.
- The IIT Bombay team aims to further develop a quantum imaging platform integrating QDM with AI/ML-based computational imaging for advanced chip diagnostics, biological imaging, and geological magnetisation studies.

43. INDIA'S SPACE PROGRAMME SCALES NEW HEIGHTS, EYES HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT IN 2025: REPORT:

- India has successfully launched a 4,400-kg communication satellite, one of the heaviest the country has ever placed in orbit, marking another milestone in its growing space ambitions.
- Since the launch of Aryabhata in 1975, decades of domestic innovation have strengthened India's standing as a major spacefaring nation.

- ISRO has developed a diverse fleet of satellites and demonstrated strong launch capabilities through vehicles such as the PSLV, GSLV, and LVM3, according to a report by timesofoman.com.
- The upcoming Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is expected to expand India's role in the global small-satellite market.
- ISRO has launched 354 foreign satellites from 34 countries and holds the world record for launching 104 satellites in a single mission, achieved in 2017.
- Chandrayaan-3's historic 2023 landing near the Moon's south pole — the first ever by any country — significantly boosted India's reputation in global space exploration.
- With a mission cost of just \$75 million, Chandrayaan-3 was praised internationally by NASA, ESA, and the Australian Space Agency for its low-cost, high-impact success.
- ISRO's cost-effective excellence was earlier demonstrated through the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan), launched for \$74 million, making India the first Asian nation to reach Martian orbit and the first globally to succeed on its maiden attempt.
- Originally planned for six months, Mangalyaan delivered scientific data for eight years.
- The Aditya-L1 mission, developed for \$46 million, placed a solar observatory in a halo orbit around Lagrange Point 1, enabling continuous observation of the Sun.
- India is preparing for its most ambitious mission yet — Gaganyaan, the country's first human spaceflight — expected in late 2025, with an unmanned test flight scheduled by the end of this year.
- French astronaut Thomas Pesquet has described Gaganyaan as "extremely impressive" and expressed hope of flying with an Indian astronaut in the future.
- Each achievement reinforces India's position as a global leader in affordable, advanced space exploration, inspiring developing nations and reshaping the future of space travel.

44. AI TOOLS TO HELP REJUVENATE GANGA: NATIONAL MISSION D-G RAJEEV KUMAR MITAL:



- The 67th Executive Committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMC-G) focused on using AI and advanced scientific tools to enhance pollution abatement and research-driven rejuvenation of the Ganga.
- Director-General Rajeev Kumar Mital emphasised research-led river management, with the EC approving major scientific projects to improve data-driven planning across the Ganga basin.
- Key initiatives include monitoring Himalayan Ganga headstream glaciers, developing a Digital Twin of the Ganga, conducting high-resolution SONAR-based riverbed surveys, managed aquifer recharge through paleochannels, and creating a historic geospatial river database.
- The EC approved a ₹3.98-crore project on glacier and melt-runoff changes in the Upper Ganga Basin, to be carried out by the National

Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, studying glacier retreat, snow cover changes, and hydrological impacts.

- It also cleared the 'Youth for Ganga, Youth for Yamuna' programme worth ₹39.37 lakh, aiming to sensitise over 2.5 lakh students across 200 schools in Delhi-NCR, form River Youth Clubs, promote responsible water use, and expand Namami Gange outreach.
- The youth initiative, appraised by the Indian Institute of Public Administration, is scheduled for completion in six months.

45. EXPERTS STRESS THE NEED FOR AI-DRIVEN DEFENCE AGAINST CYBER ATTACKS:



- Citing the rapid rise in cyberattacks—many originating from hostile nations—cybersecurity experts stressed the need for a resilient, AI-driven defence and investigation ecosystem along with greater public awareness.
- At the second national conference on 'Cybersecurity, Digital Forensics and Intelligence' organised by NIELIT at Gauhati University, experts highlighted that IT limitations, fragmented systems, selective data extraction, and inadequate remote capabilities continue to slow investigations.
- They emphasised that advanced AI tools and improved user skilling could significantly speed up the process.
- Microsoft's Head of Public Sector, Keshri Kumar Asthana, said India lost ₹22,845 crore to cyber fraud in 2024—a 205.6% increase over the previous year, with more than 36 lakh financial fraud cases reported.
- CERT-In recorded 20.5 lakh cybersecurity incidents in 2024, up from 15.9 lakh in 2023, reflecting the growing threat landscape.
- Asthana added that the average cost of a data breach in India is projected to reach ₹22 crore in 2025, the highest on record, largely due to delayed detection.
- He also noted that 83% of organisations experience more than one data breach in their lifetime.
- Cellebrite's Shreekrishna Ashutosh pointed out operational bottlenecks, stating that 50% of agencies report rising case backlogs annually and 60% of investigators still depend on outdated methods.
- The two-day event was organised by NIELIT Assam and Nagaland under MeitY, in association with Assam Police and Gauhati University, with support from the Assam IT Department and The United Service Institution of India.
- This year's theme is "Cyber Secure Bharat: Fortifying India's Digital Future."
- The conference features over 30 experts from industry, defence, law enforcement, academia, and global technology organisations, along with more than 300 delegates from government bodies, police, judiciary, academic institutions, and private industry, underscoring the region's increasing focus on cybersecurity and digital resilience.
- The inaugural ceremony ended with a vote of thanks by Santanu Borgohain, Additional Director, NIELIT Guwahati.
- The second day will include technical sessions, panel discussions, OEM presentations, and expert talks on emerging threats, cybercrime trends, digital investigation techniques, and national cyber resilience.

46. INDIA FALLS BEHIND IN AI ADOPTION; NEARLY 45 PC ARE STILL IN EARLY STAGE: REPORT:



- AI is a major focus across Indian boardrooms, but true transformation is still evolving, with 45% of Indian firms at the early stage of adoption, according to a report by payroll and HR platform Deel.
- Though most organisations have begun their AI journey, many remain in the early adoption stage compared to global markets, which are further ahead in implementation.
- The report *AI at Work: The Role of AI in the Global Workforce* states that 45% of Indian firms are at the early stage of AI adoption, 38% at the intermediate stage, and only 17% at an advanced stage where AI is embedded in core business processes and innovation.
- The report is based on a September survey of 5,500 business leaders across 22 global markets, including India.
- Despite rising AI adoption, only 54% of Indian organisations have formal reskilling programmes, compared to 67% globally, indicating a widening gap between technological advancements and workforce readiness.
- The report highlights the need for structured, future-focused learning to prepare employees for AI-driven changes.
- In India, AI is most widely used in HR for talent management (66%) and talent acquisition (57%).
- As AI takes over repetitive and knowledge-based tasks, companies face new challenges in talent development, workforce integration, and leadership pipelines.
- Globally, 91% of organisations have seen role changes or displacement due to AI, with 34% undergoing major restructuring to integrate AI.
- In India, 43% of companies report significant or complete redesign of job roles across departments, reflecting shifts in responsibilities, skills, and workflows to accommodate AI.
- Around 70% of Indian organisations expect AI to reduce entry-level hiring within the next 1–3 years.
- When hiring entry-level talent, Indian employers now prioritise technical certifications (66%), problem-solving skills (58%), and communication skills (52%) over academic degrees.
- Only 5% of organisations consider tertiary education a top hiring criterion.
- India lags in reskilling investments, with only 54% reporting steady efforts—the lowest among surveyed countries, compared to Canada (77%), Brazil (76%), and Singapore (74%).
- About 45% of Indian organisations have not yet begun reskilling but plan to start within the next 12 months.
- The reskilling lag is widening India's AI talent gap, with 63% of organisations struggling to hire qualified AI professionals and 61% noting low awareness of AI-related roles.

47. GOOGLE ANNOUNCES ANTI-SCAM TOOLS:



- Google has outlined a broad safety-first AI roadmap for India, with a focus on protecting children, teenagers, and older adults.
- The company introduced on-device real-time anti-scam tools, text watermarking, and digital-literacy programmes to make AI usage safer and more inclusive.
- Scam Detection, powered by Gemini Nano, will be launched on Pixel phones and will analyse calls in real time to flag potential scams.
- The feature works entirely on-device, without recording audio, storing transcripts, or sending any data to Google.
- Scam Detection is off by default, applies only to calls from numbers not saved in contacts, emits a beep to alert participants, and can be turned off by the user.
- Google is expanding access to the SynthID Detector and has open-sourced the SynthID text watermarking tool as part of its Responsible GenAI Toolkit.
- The watermarking technology helps partners identify AI-generated images and audio.
- Google announced a \$200,000 grant to CyberPeace Foundation (India) to support capacity building and AI-driven cyber-defence tools.
- The grant will help fight fraud and scams, create safer digital learning environments for children and teens, and strengthen responsible AI governance under the IndiaAI Mission.
- Google also announced \$1 million in funding to five leading think tanks and universities across the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region to support research and dialogue on AI opportunities and challenges.

48. RESCUE SPACECRAFT LAUNCHED TO FACILITATE RETURN OF CREW:



- China successfully launched a new spacecraft to replace its debris-damaged return vessel attached to the Tiangong space station, marking the first emergency launch of its crewed space programme.
- The newly launched Shenzhou-22 spacecraft docked with the space station and will serve as the return vehicle for the three astronauts currently in orbit, who are scheduled to return in April next year.

- The previous crew returned on November 14 using their own vessel after it was struck by space debris, which damaged its viewing window and rendered it unsafe for further use.
- This incident left the current three-member crew without a safe emergency escape option, prompting the replacement launch.
- China rotates its space-station crew every six months.
- The unmanned Shenzhou-22 carried space food, medical supplies, fresh fruits and vegetables, and equipment needed to repair the cracked window of the Shenzhou-20 spaceship.
- The damaged spacecraft will be repaired and later returned to Earth with cargo only, without any astronauts on board.
- Shenzhou-22 was launched atop a Long March-2F Y22 rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- About 10 minutes after launch, the spacecraft separated from the rocket, entered its designated orbit, and successfully docked with the Tiangong station.
- The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) declared the mission a complete success.
- China built the Tiangong space station after it was reportedly excluded from the International Space Station (ISS) due to concerns about its space programme being under military control.



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DEFENCE

49. INDIA, US INK PACT TO USHER IN 'NEW ERA' IN DEFENCE TIES:



- India and the US signed a 10-year defence pact, marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral strategic ties.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the pact as a “signal” of growing India–US strategic convergence.
- Washington reaffirmed its commitment to work closely with New Delhi to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- The agreement was signed amid efforts to repair relations that had strained due to the US imposing 50% tariffs on Indian goods.
- The new framework pact aims to provide a broader vision and policy direction for deepening bilateral defence cooperation.
- It replaces a similar pact signed in 2015, which was nearing the end of its validity.
- The signing followed a meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his American counterpart, Pete Hegseth.
- This was their first meeting, held shortly after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar’s bilateral talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.
- Rajnath Singh described the talks with Hegseth as “fruitful.”
- He said the framework agreement would usher in “a new era in our already strong defence partnership.”
- The defence framework will guide the entire spectrum of the India–US defence relationship.
- It is seen as a reflection of the growing strategic convergence between the two nations and a foundation for a new decade of partnership.

50. INDIA, AUS FOCUS ON BOOSTING LIAISON IN AMPHIBIOUS OPS:



- India and Australia concluded the Army-to-Army Staff Talks in Canberra, focusing on new areas of cooperation in Amphibious Operations and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).
- Both countries also held the 15th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter-Terrorism in Canberra.
- Discussions centered on enhancing cooperation to counter terrorism, radicalisation, and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.
- Officials from both nations exchanged views on the evolving domestic, regional, and international terrorism landscape.
- The meeting covered areas such as counter-terrorism, law enforcement, judicial cooperation, and maritime security.
- It was co-chaired by MEA Joint Secretary (Counter-Terrorism) Vinod Bahade and Australia’s Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism Gemma Huggins.
- Both sides condemned the heinous terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, in Pahalgam.
- The Australian side reiterated its support and solidarity with India.
- The two nations emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation for effectively addressing terrorism-related challenges.
- They agreed to enhance timely information sharing and coordinated actions to counter the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.
- The discussions also focused on deepening collaboration in countering radicalisation and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.
- On October 10, Australia’s High Commissioner to India, Philip Green, announced the completion of a Cadet Exchange Programme between the Indian Military Academy (IMA) and the Royal Military College, Duntroon.
- The programme aimed to strengthen defence cooperation and foster mutual understanding between the armed forces of India and Australia.
- Cadets from both institutions participated in joint training activities, cultural exchanges, and leadership development exercises.
- The exchange marked another step in enhancing military-to-military engagement under the broader India–Australia defence partnership.

51. TRI-SERVICES DRILL PLANNED NEAR CHINA BORDER IN ARUNACHAL:



- The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force will converge in the rugged mountains of Mechuka this month for Exercise Poorvi Prachand Prahar, a tri-service demonstration of integrated warfighting capability, technological adaptation, and operational synergy in the Eastern theatre.
- Conceived as a forward-looking exercise, it will validate multi-domain integration across land, air, and maritime fronts, reflecting the Indian Armed Forces’ evolving readiness for future conflicts.

- The exercise aims to refine interoperability, enhance situational awareness, and validate command-and-control structures for joint mission execution, according to a defence spokesperson.
- The highlight will be the coordinated employment of special forces, unmanned platforms, precision systems, and networked operations centres operating in unison under realistic high-altitude conditions.
- Revised tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) will be tested and validated to strengthen combat agility and adaptability.
- Exercise Poorvi Prachand Prahar marks the next milestone in India's tri-service integration effort, following the successful conduct of Exercise Bhala Prahar (2023) and Exercise Poorvi Prahar (2024).
- The exercise reinforces the armed forces' collective resolve to maintain mission readiness and joint operational effectiveness in the defence of the nation.

52. ARMY CONDUCTS DRONE EXERCISE IN DESERT SECTOR:



- The Indian Army conducted a drone and counter-drone exercise aimed at developing and testing doctrinal concepts for modern operations and enhancing its response to evolving aerial threats.
- The exercise, titled 'Vayu Sananvay-II', took place on October 28–29 in the forward areas of the desert sector under the Southern Command (Pune-based).
- It was designed to validate the Army's preparedness for next-generation warfare through the integration of aerial and ground assets and the fusion of multi-domain command and control centres in a realistic electronic warfare environment.
- The two-day exercise focused on strengthening the Army's counter-drone capabilities and refining operational doctrines to meet emerging aerial challenges.
- The desert terrain and weather conditions served as an ideal testing ground for the operations.
- The exercise demonstrated joint interoperability among various arms of the Army, reinforcing coordination and technology-enabled operations in sensitive frontier regions.
- Troops experimented with indigenous technologies under operational conditions, highlighting India's growing focus on home-grown defence innovation.
- The exercise marks a significant step in the Army's effort to embrace modern technology within a multi-domain operational environment.
- The Indian Army reiterated its commitment to modernising operational capabilities, fostering innovation, and ensuring readiness to counter emerging threats across all domains.

53. INS SAVITRI HAILS VISITORS ONBOARD, HIGHLIGHTS INDIAN NAVY'S STRENGTH:



- In a move to strengthen people-to-people ties between India and Mauritius, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Savitri hosted visitors during its port call at Port Louis, showcasing the operational capabilities, advanced technology, and maritime heritage of the Indian Navy.
- The initiative provided a unique platform to highlight the Navy's operational strengths, technological advancements, and traditions while promoting mutual understanding and maritime diplomacy.
- The visit aimed to enhance bilateral connections and cooperation between the two nations through cultural and professional engagement.
- Personnel from INS Savitri and the National Coast Guard (NCG) of Mauritius also participated in a friendly football match, fostering camaraderie, competitive spirit, and goodwill both on and off the field.
- INS Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) of the Eastern Fleet, arrived at Port Louis on November 1 as part of a long-range operational deployment to the South West Indian Ocean Region.
- Upon arrival, the ship received a warm and cordial welcome from the Mauritius National Coast Guard.
- During the visit, INS Savitri will conduct joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance with NCG ships and aircraft.
- The joint surveillance aims to ensure maritime security across Mauritian waters while enhancing interoperability and coordination between the Indian Navy and the NCG.
- The ship's crew will also take part in professional exchanges and training sessions for NCG personnel to refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for joint maritime operations.
- The port call of INS Savitri reaffirms the strong defence and maritime cooperation between India and Mauritius — a partnership rooted in mutual trust, shared values, and common maritime interests.

54. AUSTRALIA JOINS INDIA, OTHER PARTNERS FOR EXERCISE MALABAR 2025:

- Australia has joined India, Japan, and the United States for Exercise Malabar 2025, a major Indo-Pacific maritime exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability and strengthening cooperation among regional partners, according to the Australian Ministry of Defence.
- The Royal Australian Navy's Anzac-class frigate HMAS Ballarat is participating in the exercise, which is being held in the West Pacific training area from November 10 to 18.
- A Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft is also taking part, operating from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.
- Vice Admiral Justin Jones AO, CSC, Chief of Joint Operations, RAN, stated that the exercise comes at a crucial time as regional security challenges evolve rapidly.

- Exercise Malabar strengthens Indo-Pacific security by addressing shared challenges, coordinating collective strength, and closing gaps in global engagement.
- The exercise includes complex drills in anti-submarine warfare, air defence, and replenishment at sea, building trust, interoperability, and readiness among participating nations.
- Commander Dean Uren, Commanding Officer of HMAS Ballarat, emphasized that training alongside regional partners ensures personnel and platforms are prepared to respond to challenges and deter coercion in the Indo-Pacific.

55. INDIAN MILITARY SHOWCASES TRI-SERVICES PROWESS, SYNERGY OFF GUJARAT COAST:



- The Army, Navy, and Air Force jointly executed a powerful display of tri-services coordination during an amphibious exercise off the Saurashtra Coast.
- The exercise, codenamed Amphex 2025, showcased beach landings of T-72 tanks, assault troops, and air power demonstrations by Jaguar and Su-30 MKI fighter jets, with multiple naval warships positioned offshore.
- Amphex 2025 marked the culmination of the nearly two-week tri-services Exercise Trishul, led by the Indian Navy.
- Under Exercise Trishul, the forces conducted sub-exercises across regions from the Thar desert to Kutch, focusing on refining procedures and techniques to address emerging threats and future warfare challenges.
- Amphex was conducted at Madhavpur Beach in Gujarat's Porbandar.
- Senior officers who witnessed the exercise included Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, and Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor.
- Vice Admiral Swaminathan stated that about 30,000 Army troops, multiple fighter aircraft, and nearly 25 Navy ships and submarines participated.
- The commanders also observed carrier-borne flying operations and underway replenishment during a nighttime demonstration.
- Four Landing Craft Mechanised (LCM), each carrying a tank and troops, Landing Craft Utility (LCU), and the amphibious platform INS Jalashwa were key assets in Amphex.
- Special forces including MARCOS of the Navy and Garud commandos of the IAF demonstrated integrated land-sea-air combat skills using mock enemy bunkers.
- The Navy's MiG-29K fighter aircraft enhanced the display of air dominance and joint interoperability, while INS Surat and other warships projected maritime strength.
- Drone and counter-drone systems were showcased, highlighting their role in modern combat scenarios.
- The main aim of the exercise was to strengthen synergy among the three services, validate multi-domain integrated operational procedures, and enable joint effect-based operations.

- Key objectives included enhancing platform and infrastructure interoperability, improving network integration across services, and advancing jointness in operations.

56. ARMY DEPLOYS INDIGENOUS HIGH-ALTITUDE MONORAIL SYSTEM IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH:



- The Indian Army's Gajraj Corps has operationalised an indigenous monorail system at 16,000 feet in the Kameng Himalayas of Arunachal Pradesh, marking a major breakthrough in high-altitude logistics.
- The system has been successfully conceptualised, engineered, and deployed to address one of the toughest operational challenges faced by troops in the region.
- It ensures uninterrupted supply to forward posts that are routinely cut off by snow, extreme terrain, and unpredictable weather, according to Defence spokesperson Lt Col Mahendra Rawat.
- Operations in the unforgiving expanse of the Kameng Himalayas, where barren cliffs and extreme altitude often sever vital supply lines, demanded an innovative year-round solution.
- The monorail system can transport over 300 kg of load in a single run, providing a reliable lifeline to remote posts lacking any other mode of communication or supply.
- It facilitates smooth movement of mission-critical stores, ammunition, rations, fuel, engineering equipment, and other heavy or awkward loads across steep, unstable gradients where traditional transport methods often fail.
- The system is operational day and night and functions with or without escort, even during hail or storms, irrespective of weather conditions.
- Beyond logistics, the monorail has shown potential for rapid casualty evacuation, offering a safe alternative in areas where helicopter evacuation may be impossible and foot evacuation is slow and dangerous.

57. IAF'S SU-30MKI FIGHTER JETS TO PARTICIPATE IN AIR EXERCISE IN FRANCE:



- IAF's Su-30MKI jets will operate alongside French multi-role fighters in complex simulated air combat scenarios during a bilateral exercise scheduled from November 16–27.

- The air exercise, *Garuda 25*, will be held at Mont-de-Marsan, France.
- The Indian Air Force is participating in the eighth edition of the bilateral air exercise with the French Air and Space Force (FASF), according to the Defence Ministry.
- The IAF contingent arrived in France on November 10 and is participating with Su-30MKI fighter aircraft.
- Airlift support for induction and de-induction is being provided by the C-17 Globemaster III, while IL-78 air-to-air refuelling tankers are being used to extend the range and endurance of the participating fighters.
- During the exercise, Su-30MKI aircraft will operate alongside French multi-role fighters in simulated air-to-air combat, air defence missions and joint strike operations.
- The exercise aims to refine tactics and procedures in a realistic operational environment, enabling mutual learning and enhancing interoperability between the IAF and the FASF.
- *Garuda 25* also provides a platform for professional interaction, operational knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices between the two air forces.
- Participation in this exercise highlights the IAF's commitment to constructive engagement with friendly foreign air forces through multilateral exercises, promoting cooperation and mutual understanding in air operations.

58. INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTS DRILL TO ASSESS BATTLE READINESS IN THAR DESERT:



- The Ranbankura Division of the Indian Army's Sapta Shakti Command conducted a major validation exercise at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan's Thar Desert to assess battle readiness and operational efficiency.
- Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, Army Commander of Sapta Shakti Command, reviewed the exercise, which aimed to refine tactical procedures, improve inter-arms coordination and test integration of all units in challenging terrain and environmental conditions.
- The exercise evaluated troop endurance, discipline and performance in a realistic high-intensity battlefield scenario.
- Combined arms operations involving infantry, mechanised forces, air defence, artillery support, engineers and logistics were practised with emphasis on precision and agility.
- Command and control procedures, intelligence coordination and the effective use of Ashni Platoons (drones) were key focus areas to boost combat readiness.
- Troops successfully validated operational plans, logistics resilience and communication networks, demonstrating a high level of preparedness and ability to respond to evolving threats.
- By simulating a dynamic and contested battlefield, the exercise tested decision-making, adaptability and rapid response across all command levels.
- The formation showcased professionalism and teamwork through swift, synchronised and coordinated manoeuvres in complex situations.
- Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh praised the troops for their professionalism, innovation and mission-focused approach.

- Their performance exemplified the Indian Army's ethos of commitment, courage and competence, even under the most demanding conditions.

59. IAF AND FRENCH FIGHTER JETS BEGIN COORDINATED MISSIONS:



- Indian Air Force (IAF) Su-30MKI fighter aircraft and French Air and Space Force Rafale jets began coordinated missions on Monday as part of the bilateral air Exercise Garuda.
- The IAF announced that the exercise has officially taken off, with both air forces conducting joint missions that highlight strong interoperability and deep defence cooperation.
- The 8th edition of Exercise Garuda, known as Garuda 25, is being held at Mont-de-Marsan in France from November 16–27.
- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability, facilitate the exchange of best practices, and strengthen defence ties between the IAF and the French Air and Space Force (FASF).
- The IAF contingent is participating with Su-30MKI fighter aircraft.
- During the exercise, the Su-30MKI jets will operate alongside French multirole fighters in complex simulated air combat scenarios, focusing on air-to-air combat, air defence, and joint strike operations.
- The exercise is designed to refine tactics and procedures in a realistic operational environment, promoting mutual learning and improved coordination between the two air forces.
- Exercise Garuda 25 also provides a platform for professional interaction, operational knowledge exchange, and the sharing of best practices.
- The IAF stated that its participation underscores its commitment to constructive engagement with friendly foreign air forces through multilateral exercises, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation in air operations.

60. INDIAN ARMY SECURES IPR FOR NEW COAT COMBAT (DIGITAL PRINT):



- The Indian Army has secured intellectual property rights for its new Coat Combat (digital print), a three-layered garment combining combat functionality with comfort and protection.

- The new Coat Combat was designed and developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi, as a consultancy project under the Army Design Bureau.
- After unveiling the new digital-print combat uniform, the Army introduced the Coat Combat (digital print) in January 2025, marking progress in modernisation, indigenisation, and enhancing soldier comfort.
- The three-layer design incorporates advanced technical textiles and an ergonomic structure to enhance comfort, mobility, and operational efficiency in varied climatic and tactical conditions.
- The Army has registered the design under Design Application No. 449667-001 with the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Kolkata, dated February 27, 2025, and published in the Patent Office Journal on October 7, 2025.
- With this registration, the Army holds exclusive IPR over both the design and camouflage pattern.
- The registration ensures sole ownership and legal protection against unauthorised manufacturing, reproduction, or commercial use by non-authorised entities.
- Any infringement will attract legal consequences, including injunctions and claims for damages, under the Designs Act, 2000; Designs Rules, 2001; and Patents Act, 1970.
- The new combat ensemble includes three layers: an outer layer, an inner jacket, and a thermal layer.
- The outer layer features a digitally printed camouflage coat designed for durability and concealment across diverse terrains.
- The inner jacket is an insulated, lightweight, breathable mid-layer providing warmth without restricting movement.
- The thermal layer functions as a base layer ensuring optimal thermal regulation and moisture control in extreme weather.

61. US CLEARS \$93 MILLION IN ARMS SALES TO INDIA AS DEFENCE TIES DEEPEN:



- The Trump administration approved around \$93 million in military sales to India, highlighting the growing defence partnership between the two nations.
- The US State Department cleared the sale of Javelin anti-tank missile systems and related equipment worth \$45.7 million, and Excalibur projectiles valued at \$47.1 million.
- India's request included 100 FGM-148 Javelin missiles, one fly-to-buy missile, 25 command launch units, and 216 Excalibur tactical projectiles, according to the Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA).
- The DSCA said the proposed sale would strengthen the India-US strategic relationship and enhance the security of a "major defence partner".
- The sale supports US foreign policy and national security objectives by bolstering ties with India, which the US views as an important

contributor to political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia.

- It will also enhance India's capability to address current and emerging threats, strengthen homeland defence, and deter regional challenges.
- The announcement follows the recent unveiling of a 10-year defence cooperation framework between Washington and New Delhi aimed at expanding collaboration in military technology, co-production, and information sharing.
- On October 31, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth in Kuala Lumpur, where both leaders signed a 10-year Framework for the US-India Major Defence Partnership, marking a significant step in deepening defence ties.

62. INDIAN, PAKISTANI NAVAL SHIPS MAKE PORT CALL IN COLOMBO:



- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sukanya arrived in Colombo for an operational turnaround, as stated by the Sri Lankan Navy.
- The ship was received by the Sri Lankan Navy with traditional naval honours.
- INS Sukanya, commanded by Commander Santosh Kumar Verma, is an Offshore Patrol Vessel measuring 101 metres in length.
- The crew will participate in scheduled goodwill activities with the Sri Lanka Navy and visit several tourist attractions across the island.
- INS Sukanya is scheduled to depart Sri Lanka at the end of its visit.
- Meanwhile, Pakistan Naval Ship (PNS) Saif, which also arrived in Sri Lanka the same day for replenishment, has departed.
- The Sri Lanka Navy accorded a customary farewell to PNS Saif at the Port of Colombo.
- PNS Saif is a 123-metre-long frigate, commanded by Captain Asfand Farhan Khan.

63. NAVY DAY 2025 TO FEATURE GRAND OPERATIONAL DISPLAY OF MARITIME POWER:



- The Indian Navy announced that Navy Day 2025 will be marked with a major 'operational demonstration' on December 3 at Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram.
- The celebration, previously scheduled for December 4, has been advanced by one day.
- This continues the Navy's practice of hosting Navy Day events away from major naval bases, following earlier demonstrations in Puri (Odisha) and Sindhudurg (Maharashtra).
- The Navy said the event will offer citizens a rare chance to witness multiple facets of its multi-domain operations.
- The demonstration will highlight state-of-the-art operational platforms and the Navy's role as the 'Preferred Security Partner' in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), aligned with the MAHASAGAR vision (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).
- The display will showcase combat capability, technological advancement, and high operational preparedness, reflecting India's expanding maritime influence and growing self-reliance.
- Coordinated manoeuvres by frontline platforms will symbolise the Navy's ability to project power and precision across diverse maritime spaces.
- Surface, sub-surface, and air assets will operate in seamless coordination, demonstrating readiness to protect India's maritime frontiers.
- In line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, the event will feature indigenously developed platforms that highlight India's defence manufacturing progress.
- The celebrations will also emphasise the Navy's deterrent posture, as seen during 'Operation Sindoor', showcasing its capability to strike swiftly and accurately.
- The demonstration is described as a tribute to the professionalism, discipline, and courage of the men and women of the Indian Navy who safeguard India's sovereignty and maritime interests.

64. INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE VESSEL INS:

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mahe, the first vessel of the Mahe-class anti-submarine warfare shallow-water craft, designed to serve as the first line of coastal defence.
- The ship will integrate seamlessly with larger surface combatants, submarines, and aviation assets to enhance coastal vigilance and operational readiness.

- Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi was the chief guest at the ceremony—marking the first time an Army chief attended a naval ship commissioning.
- Gen Dwivedi said the induction of INS Mahe reaffirms India's capability to design, construct, and field complex indigenous combat platforms.
- He noted that the commissioning strengthens near-seas dominance, reinforces the coastal security grid, and supports India's maritime interests across its littoral waters.
- The event highlights the Navy's transition into a builder's Navy that designs, constructs, and sustains its own combat platforms.
- After the ceremony, Gen Dwivedi awarded the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Commendation to Navy personnel involved in the commissioning—an increasingly common gesture reflecting deepening inter-services synergy.
- INS Mahe is the lead ship of eight vessels in the Mahe-class, designed and constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi.
- The ship represents the cutting-edge of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in indigenous naval ship design and construction.
- Compact yet powerful, it is built for agility, precision, and endurance—qualities essential for littoral dominance.
- With firepower, stealth, and mobility, INS Mahe is designed to hunt submarines, conduct coastal patrols, and secure key maritime approaches.
- The vessel is equipped with advanced weapons, sensors, and communication systems capable of detecting, tracking, and neutralising sub-surface threats.
- It can sustain prolonged operations in shallow waters and features modern machinery and control systems.
- The ship carries torpedoes and anti-submarine rockets; it was delivered to the Navy on October 23.
- The Mahe-class has over 80% indigenous content, showcasing India's growing mastery in warship design, construction, and integration.
- Named after the historic coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar coast (a former French colony), the ship's crest features an 'Urumi'—the flexible Kalaripayattu sword symbolising agility, precision, and lethal grace.

65. AIR FORCES OF INDIA, FRANCE EXECUTE VARIED MISSION PROFILES DURING EXERCISE GARUDA:



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the French Air and Space Force crew are jointly executing varied mission profiles as part of Exercise Garuda 25.
- Both forces are displaying high proficiency, professionalism, precision, and cohesive teamwork, strengthening interoperability and bilateral partnership.
- On November 17, IAF Su-30MKI fighter aircraft and French Rafale aircraft conducted coordinated missions under Exercise Garuda.

- The IAF is participating in the 8th edition of Garuda 25 at Mont-de-Marsan, France, from November 16–27.
- The exercise aims to further enhance interoperability, facilitate exchange of best practices, and boost defence cooperation between the two air forces.
- The IAF contingent is participating with Su-30MKI fighters.
- The Ministry of Defence stated that C-17 Globemaster III aircraft are providing airlift support for induction and de-induction phases.
- IL-78 air-to-air refuelling tankers are being used to extend the range and endurance of participating fighter aircraft.
- During the exercise, Su-30MKI jets will operate with French multirole fighters in complex simulated air combat scenarios.
- The missions focus on air-to-air combat, air defence, and joint strike operations.
- The objective is to refine tactics and procedures in a realistic operational environment, enabling mutual learning and strengthening interoperability.
- Exercise Garuda 25 also offers opportunities for professional interaction, exchange of operational knowledge, and sharing of best practices.
- The IAF stated that participation in such exercises reflects its commitment to constructive engagement with friendly foreign air forces through multilateral exercises.
- These engagements promote mutual understanding and cooperation in air operations.



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SPORTS & AWARDS

66. MANDHANA, JEMIMAH, DEEPTI NAMED:



- Title-winning Indian players dominated the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Team of the Tournament, with Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, and Deepti Sharma making it to the line-up.
- The Indian trio played a key role in India's maiden World Cup triumph, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in the final.
- Runners-up South Africa also had three players in the team, with captain Laura Wolvaardt leading the side after scoring a record 571 runs at an average of 71.37 — the highest in a single edition of the Women's World Cup.
- Australia's Annabel Sutherland, Ash Gardner, and Alana King were included for their performances that helped Australia reach the semifinals.
- Pakistan's wicketkeeper Sidra Nawaz was the only player from a team that did not make it to the semifinals.
- England's Sophie Ecclestone was also named in the team, while compatriot Nat Sciver-Brunt was chosen as the 12th player.
- Opener Smriti Mandhana scored 434 runs at an average of 54.25, including one century and two fifties.
- ICC Women's World Cup Team of the Tournament: Smriti Mandhana (India), Laura Wolvaardt (c) (South Africa), Jemimah Rodrigues (India), Marizanne Kapp (South Africa), Ash Gardner (Australia), Deepti Sharma (India), Annabel Sutherland (Australia), Nadine de Klerk (South Africa), Sidra Nawaz (wk) (Pakistan), Alana King (Australia), Sophie Ecclestone (England); 12th Player: Nat Sciver-Brunt (England).

67. UNION MINISTER SONOWAL PRESENTS 'SON OF THE SOIL AWARDS ASSAM 2025':



- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal attended a special award presentation ceremony organised by 'Care Luit' in Tezpur and presented the fifth biennial **Son of the Soil Awards Assam 2025**.

- The awards recognise distinguished personalities and emerging talents who have contributed significantly across various fields in Assam.
- **Lifetime Achievement Awards** were presented to:
 - Arun Nath (art and culture)
 - Ravi Shankar Ravi (media)
 - Moinuddin Ahmed (sports)
 - Lakhimi Baruah (entrepreneurship)
 - Simanta Das (public service)
- **Emerging Talent Awards** were given to:
 - Sukrita Baruah (media & communication)
 - Sanghamitra Kalita (entrepreneurship)
 - Isharani Baruah (sports)
 - Himjyoti Talukdar (art & culture)
 - Dr. Devajani Bora (conservation)
- Dr. Alka Sharma and the Akshar Foundation received the **Social Sector Development Award** for their work in education and social upliftment.
- Sonowal highlighted Tezpur's rich cultural heritage, calling it the sacred land of Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwala, Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha and Natasurya Phani Sarma, icons who shaped Assamese literature and culture.
- He expressed hope that Tezpur's intellectual and cultural legacy will continue to inspire future generations.
- The Minister emphasised unity, peace and harmony as key to progress and noted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Northeast is witnessing a new era of development.

68. TRYST WITH TEST CRICKET:



- When the ACA Stadium hosts its first Test match on November 22, Guwahati enters a new chapter of its sporting history.
- For cricket lovers across Assam, the moment is deeply emotional, especially for older generations who feel they are witnessing a long-cherished dream come true.
- For younger fans, it is a chance to be part of an experience they have only read or heard about.
- India will play South Africa in the second Test of the two-match series; India lost the opening Test in Kolkata by 30 runs.
- Guwahati becomes India's 30th Test venue, marking the debut of five-day red-ball international cricket for both the city and the entire northeastern region.
- This Test will also be the first to reverse the conventional lunch and tea break timings due to an early start required by local daylight conditions.
- Play will begin at 9 am in Guwahati instead of the usual 9:30 am, compensating for early sunrise and sunset in the Northeast—adjustments otherwise common only in day-night Tests.
- Guwahati has been part of international cricket since 1983, initially hosting ODIs and later T20Is.

- Nehru Stadium was the original venue, welcoming teams from Australia, South Africa, England, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, and New Zealand.
- Since 2017, international matches have shifted to the ACA Stadium at Barsapara.
- Former Assam Ranji player Bimal Bharali recalls the roar of the Nehru Stadium crowd from 1976, when he scored an unbeaten 45 for East Zone against a visiting England side.
- Nearly five decades later, he celebrates a new milestone as his city prepares to host its first-ever Test match.

69. RYAN WILLIAMS GETS FIFA APPROVAL:



- Ryan Williams is now **officially eligible** to play for the Indian national football team after receiving FIFA approval for a change of member association.
- The AIFF confirmed that Williams relinquished his **Australian citizenship** and obtained **Indian citizenship** to qualify.
- FIFA's Players' Status Chamber issued the final decision on **November 19, 2025**, approving his request.
- Williams, 32, is Perth-born and currently plays for **Bengaluru FC** in the Indian Super League.
- He previously represented **Australia's U-20 and U-23 teams**, and made one senior appearance as a substitute in a 2019 friendly against South Korea.
- At the club level, he has played for **Fulham** and **Portsmouth** before joining Bengaluru FC in 2023.
- Before Williams, **Japan-born Izumi Arata** also took Indian citizenship and represented India in 2013–14, playing nine matches.
- Williams travelled with the Indian squad to Dhaka for the **2027 Asian Cup qualifying match** against Bangladesh (which India lost 0–1), but could not be included in the matchday squad as FIFA clearance was still pending then, though he had already received the NOC from Australia.

70. ITALY WIN DAVIS CUP FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR BY BEATING SPAIN IN FINAL:



- Italy secured yet another Davis Cup title — its fourth overall and third consecutive.
- The team triumphed even without star player Jannik Sinner.
- Matteo Berrettini and Flavio Cobolli delivered strong performances, each winning their singles matches to give Italy an unassailable 2–0 lead over Spain in the final.
- Italy becomes the first nation since the United States (which won five consecutive titles from 1968–72) to win three Davis Cups in a row.

71. HISTORY MADE AS INDIA CLAIM INAUGURAL BLIND WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP:



- India won the first-ever Blind Women's T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka, defeating Nepal by seven wickets in the final.
- The final was held at the P Sara Oval in Colombo, where India restricted Nepal to 114/5 and chased the target in 12.1 overs.
- India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, beating Sri Lanka, Australia, Nepal, USA, and Pakistan in the league stage.
- They secured another victory over Australia in the semi-final to reach the final.
- The event was co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, with matches played in Delhi, Bengaluru, and Colombo.
- Blind cricket teams have 11 players and use a white plastic ball filled with ball bearings, enabling players to track it by sound.
- The tournament was organised by the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), the cricketing wing of the Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled.
- Six nations took part, making history as participants in the first-ever Women's Blind Cricket World Cup.

ASSAM & NORTH-EAST

72. DTE SIGNS MOU WITH LAGHU UDYOG BHARATI TO BOOST INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION:



- The Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Government of Assam, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) – Purvottar Prant.
- The signing took place on Thursday during the inauguration of the 13th India Industrial Fair (IIF 2025 – Udyam) at the Veterinary College Ground in Khanapara, Guwahati.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and Bimal Borah, Minister of Industries & Commerce, Assam.
- Senior officials, industry representatives, and academicians also attended the event.
- The agreement aims to enhance collaboration between industry and academia.
- It will provide engineering and technical students with real-world industrial exposure through internships, live projects, industrial visits, and start-up mentorship programs.
- The initiative seeks to align technical education with the evolving needs of the industrial sector.
- The goal is to improve employability, innovation, and skill development among students.

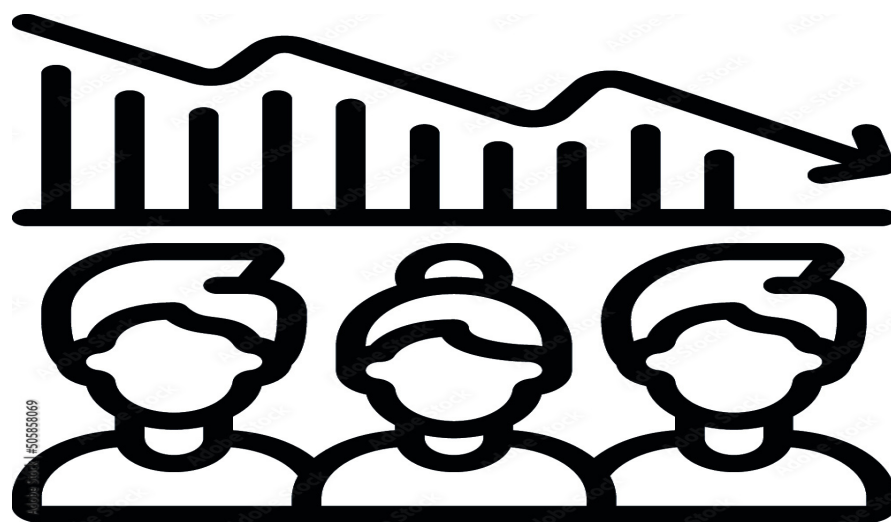
73. AAU SCIENTISTS DEVELOP INFANT FOOD FROM GRAND NAIN BANANAS:



- A team of scientists from the Department of Food and Nutrition, College of Community Science, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), developed a nutrient-rich complementary food formulation from Grand Naine bananas, one of Assam's most widely cultivated fruit crops.

- The research was led by Dr. Mamoni Das and Dr. Manisha Choudhury.
- The study was published in the Royal Society of Chemistry's journal *Sustainable Food Technology*.
- It demonstrated that green Grand Naine banana flour can be converted into a low-cost, energy-dense food for infants.
- The formulation helps reduce post-harvest losses faced by banana farmers.
- The developed product contained 15% protein, an energy value of 401 kcal, and 47.9% antioxidant capacity.
- The complementary food showed strong potential as a functional and sustainable nutrition source for children.
- The innovation aims to promote child nutrition, minimize food waste, and support rural livelihoods in alignment with global sustainability goals.

74. SHARE OF WORKFORCE IN SERVICES SECTOR DECLINES IN ASSAM:



- The share of workforce employed in the services sector in Assam declined over the last decade, according to a NITI Aayog report.
- As of 2023–24, 30.1% of Assam's workforce (5.1 million workers) was employed in the services sector, down slightly from 30.7% in 2011–12.
- Despite the decline, Assam's services employment remains marginally above the national average of 29.7%.
- The report is titled "India's Services Sector: Insights from Employment Trends and State-level Dynamics."
- Chandigarh (77.9%), Delhi (71.0%), Goa (59.1%), and Puducherry (59.6%) remain the most service-oriented economies, reflecting their urban nature and dependence on professional services, public administration, and tourism.
- In the Northeast, Mizoram (49.6%) and Nagaland (43.1%) have higher-than-average service sector shares, while Sikkim (43.8%) and Arunachal Pradesh (26.2%) are closer to the national mean.
- The largest portion of Assam's workforce continues to be in agriculture (47.2%), followed by construction (13%) and manufacturing (9.3%).
- In rural Assam, only 25.8% of the workforce is employed in the services sector, while in urban areas, the share is 71%.
- The female workforce in Assam's services sector is just 15.1%.
- Within the services sector, the highest employment share is in wholesale and retail trade (41.7%), followed by transportation and storage (18.8%), education (13%), and accommodation (6.4%).
- The report suggested promoting cultural events and developing creative hubs for arts, crafts, and media to generate jobs in event management, hospitality, and the creative sector.

- It also recommended leveraging tourism and eco-based services in Kaziranga and Majuli to create rural youth employment.
- Expediting the multi-modal logistics park was advised to enhance regional connectivity and reduce logistics costs.
- Across India, services employment varies widely across states and UTs, reflecting differences in economic structure, urbanization, and sectoral diversification.
- Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of service workers (22.1 million in 2023–24) but a relatively low share (22.7%).
- Maharashtra follows with 21.5 million workers (36.2%), supported by a large urban base.
- West Bengal (15.7 million, 32.5%), Tamil Nadu (13.5 million, 37.9%), and Gujarat (10.5 million, 30.2%) also make major contributions.
- Kerala (48.5%, 7.5 million) and Andhra Pradesh (31.8%, 7.8 million) show strong reliance on services, driven by healthcare, education, and trade.

75. NEW DAWN FOR ASSAM'S TEA GARDEN COMMUNITIES: EMPOWERMENT, HERITAGE AND HOPE:



- The Assam government has announced a ₹750 crore initiative to establish 500 Jagannath Community Hall-cum-Skill Centres across tea garden communities.
- The project marks a new era of empowerment and development for Assam's tea garden population.
- These centres will serve as spaces for cultural preservation, community gatherings, and skill development.
- The initiative aims to nurture young talent while honouring Assam's rich tea heritage.
- Beyond infrastructure, it represents trust, inclusion, and opportunity for tea garden workers and their families.
- Each centre will provide skill training, entrepreneurship support, and livelihood opportunities.
- The project aspires to create hubs of transformation and hope within these communities.
- With this step, Assam reaffirms its commitment to equality, inclusive growth, and a self-reliant future for tea garden residents.

76. 'AMAR SAHEED SHRADDHANJALI' INAUGURATED AT ASSAM STATE WAR MEMORIAL:



- The inaugural edition of "Amar Saheed Shraddhanjali", a monthly homage to Assam's martyrs, was held at the Assam State War Memorial, Dighali Pukhuri, on Saturday.
- The ceremony was graced by Governor Laxman Prasad Acharya, who paid tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the nation.
- The initiative was conceptualised by Lt Gen (Retd) Rana Pratap Kalita, former GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, and approved by the Governor during a meeting of the State Management Committee of the Rajya Sainik Board.
- The event was organised by the Directorate of Sainik Welfare, Assam, inspired by the monthly homage ceremony at the National War Memorial, New Delhi.
- Veer Matas and Veer Naris—mothers and wives of martyrs—laid wreaths in memory of their loved ones.
- Participants included Mamoni Sarma (mother of Capt Gautam Sarma), Thageswari Das (mother of Gunner Uddhab Das), and Deepali Deka Barman (wife of Naik Subedar Baikuntha Barman).
- Distinguished dignitaries in attendance included Air Marshal Anjan Gogoi (Retd), Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita (Retd), and Lt Gen Pranab Kumar Bharali (Retd).
- "Amar Saheed Shraddhanjali" will now be observed every month, with Veer Naris and Veer Matas being felicitated and wreaths laid in honour of the martyrs.

77. JONAKI CINEMA HALL: RUPKONWAR'S LEGACY, ZUBEEN'S DREAM:



- Zubeen Garg's dream film *Roi Roi Binale* was released with unmatched enthusiasm and commendations across the State.
- However, his dream of screening the film in the State's first and historic cinema hall, 'Jonaki', remained unfulfilled.
- This has left people across all sections in a state of disappointment.
- The public has expressed annoyance over the matter and the government's alleged failure to revive 'Jonaki'.

- Citizens have demanded immediate government action to restore the historic cinema hall.
- The public has warned that ignoring this demand could trigger a vigorous democratic movement in the coming days.
- 'Jonaki', not merely a movie theatre but a symbol of pride for the region and its residents, has been in a deplorable condition for many decades, languishing under neglect and government indifference.
- Established in 1937, it is the oldest movie theatre in the region and a testament to the visionary spirit of Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, the pioneer of Assamese cinema.
- After completing the first Assamese film *Joymoti* in 1935, Jyoti Prasad realized there was no permanent cinema hall in Assam for regular screenings, prompting him to build Assam's first movie theatre in Tezpur.
- Despite skepticism, Jyoti Prasad Agarwala constructed 'Jonaki' using iron trusses, bricks, lime paste, and wooden balconies.
- The hall was metaphorically named 'Jonaki' for bringing light and entertainment to people and was inaugurated with the British film *Elephant Boy* starring Sabu Dastagir in 1937, which became a crowd-puller and marked the start of cinematic culture in the region.
- Initially successful, Jonaki's fortunes declined due to the limited audience in small-town Tezpur, making it difficult to sustain regular film exhibition.
- As Jyoti Prasad Agarwala focused on other cultural and political activities, 'Jonaki' was leased to local businessman Abdul Hussain, but the business continued to decline.
- The British government eventually cancelled Jonaki's licence due to structural weaknesses.
- Hridayananda Agarwala reopened Jonaki in 1941 after renovations, screening the Laurel and Hardy classic *Block Head*. His dedication kept Jonaki afloat, even during World War II, when Tezpur became a hub for Allied soldiers who frequented the cinema hall.
- By the 1960s, Assamese cinema was thriving, and Jonaki expanded its seating capacity to 1,000.
- With the rise of television and home videos in the 1980s and 1990s, single-screen theatres like Jonaki faced tough competition, though the Agarwala family continued to persevere.
- In 2009, Jonaki embraced the digital era, screening *Slumdog Millionaire* as its first digital presentation, revitalizing the cinema hall and drawing new audiences.
- Despite the dominance of multiplexes, Jonaki's legacy remained a testament to the pioneering spirit of Assamese cinema.
- Unfortunately, the hall now languishes in a decaying state, with only a handful of cine-goers and minimal financial returns.
- The Assam State Film Finance and Development Corporation Limited proposed a Rs 65 lakh renovation package seven years ago, and primary renovation activities began in 2019, but with little concrete change beyond the stage.
- Zubeen Garg had dreamed of seeing Jonaki restored and had offered his assistance, but with his untimely demise, the dream remains unfulfilled.
- Conscious citizens of Tezpur have urged the government to revive Jonaki, preserve Agarwala's legacy, and fulfil Zubeen Garg's dream.

78. ZUBEEN' 'MAYABINI' TO RESONATE ALONG B'PUTRA IN IAF'S AIR SHOW:



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will host a spectacular air show at Lachit Ghat, Guwahati, on November 9 as part of the 93rd Air Force Day celebrations.

- The centrally organized air display will feature more than 75 aircraft with aerial formations and flypasts.
- Aircraft participating in the show will take off from Bagdogra, Hasimara, Guwahati, Tezpur, Jorhat, and Chabua airbases.
- A rehearsal is planned four to five days before the main event to ensure smooth coordination and flawless execution.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will attend the event as the chief guest.
- Around 3,000 guests, including school and college students, have been invited to witness the aerial spectacle.
- Spectators can view the flying displays from Uzanbazar's new park, Bharalumukh, and Fancy Bazar.
- Special viewing arrangements have been made for dignitaries and invitees at the Aswaklanta Temple.
- The air show will remain open for public viewing for five days, allowing citizens to experience the IAF's prowess and precision up close.
- Adding a local cultural touch, the event will feature a highlight on Zubeen Garg's popular composition 'Mayabini' as part of the promotional activities celebrating the spirit of Assam.

79. NCC'S SAILING EXPEDITION 'MENU 2025' REACHES TEZPUR:



- The Brahmaputra River Sailing Expedition 'MENU 2025', conducted under the aegis of the NCC Directorate, North Eastern Region (NER), was flagged off on Saturday from Biswanath Ghat and reached its next destination on Sunday.
- The expedition is organised as part of the Most Enterprising Naval Unit (MENU-2025) national competition for Naval NCC cadets.
- It celebrates the valour and leadership of Ahom general Lachit Barphukan and aims to promote adventure, teamwork, and nation-building among the youth of the region.
- Lt Col Madhab Chandra Boro, administrative officer of NCC's 5th Battalion at Darrang College, Tezpur, stated that 84 Senior Division and Senior Wing Naval NCC cadets from the 48 and 49 Assam Naval Units are participating.
- The cadets will sail 248 kilometres in 10 days, traversing five districts of Assam, before concluding the voyage at Pandu Port, Guwahati, on November 10.
- The team will cover 20–25 kilometres per day, with the first halt at Silghat, Nagaon, after completing approximately 30 kilometres on Day 1.
- The expedition is led by Lt Cdr Manoj Joshi, Commanding Officer, 49 Assam Naval Unit NCC and Expedition Commander, assisted by Lt Cdr Tileswar Nath, Commanding Officer, 48 Assam Naval Unit NCC, who serves as the Safety Officer.
- The fleet comprises four NCC whaler boats, supported by an Inland Water Transport (IWT) vessel of the State government and two rescue boats from both participating Naval NCC units to ensure operational safety and communication support.

- Prior to the sailing phase, cadets underwent intensive training during the Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) organised by the 49 Assam Naval Unit NCC at Gohpur from October 22 to 31.
- The pre-sailing phase included rigorous instruction in river sailing, pulling techniques, navigation, river current analysis, survival skills, and recovery procedures.
- Along the route, cadets will engage in social service and community development activities such as Swachhata Abhiyaan, Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan, awareness drives on government schemes, and anti-drug campaigns.
- At various halts, cadets will stage street plays and performances showcasing the courage and patriotism of Lachit Borphukan, honouring Assam's martial and cultural legacy.
- MENU 2025 stands as a tribute to Assam's riverine heritage and the indomitable spirit of India's youth, reflecting the NCC's motto — 'Unity and Discipline'.

80. BHUPEN HAZARIKA AWARDS PRESENTED TO SIX EMINENT PERSONALITIES OF NE:



- Awards marking Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary were presented to six distinguished personalities from the Northeast working in diverse fields.
- Awardees included:
 - Laishram Mema Devi, renowned classical singer from Manipur
 - L.R. Sailo, veteran Public Relations and media practitioner from Mizoram
 - Yeshe Dorje Thongchi, eminent writer and storyteller from Arunachal Pradesh
 - Prof. David R. Syiemlieh, distinguished historian and former UPSC chairman from Meghalaya
 - Dr. Surjya Kanta Hazarika, author and cultural curator
 - Rajni Basumatary, actress and filmmaker
- The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 51,000, a citation, a memento, a shawl from Maharashtra, and a gamosa.
- It is conferred annually to individuals from the Northeast who have achieved distinction in various fields at the national level.
- The Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award was instituted in 2012 by Sarhad, a Pune-based social, cultural, and educational organisation.
- Sarhad has been working for over three decades in India's border regions, particularly in conflict-affected states like Assam, Manipur, Punjab, and Kashmir.

81. IIMC INNOVATION PARK, ASSAM GOVT STARTUP BODY PARTNER TO BOOST STARTUP IN NE:



- The IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) announced the signing of an MoU with the Assam Innovation and Startup Foundation (AISF) to strengthen the startup and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Assam.
- The MoU was signed by Jeevan Basavaraj, Secretary of the Department of Innovation, Incubation and Startups (DIIS), Government of Assam, and Ajay Jain, Chairman of IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, in the presence of senior officials.
- The collaboration aims to leverage IIMCIP's expertise in mentoring and funding startups to support AISF's mission of building a robust and sustainable startup ecosystem in Assam.
- The partnership aligns with the Assam Startup Policy 2025 and seeks to transform Assam into a leading startup hub promoting innovation-led growth, job creation, and inclusive development.
- IIMCIP, a not-for-profit company under the aegis of the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, has mentored over 2,000 startups and seed-funded 130 ventures.
- These ventures have collectively raised more than Rs 2,000 crore and built a cumulative portfolio valuation of nearly Rs 8,000 crore, according to the statement.
- AISF, a Section 8 company under Assam's DIIS, acts as a platform for supporting, incubating, and promoting startups and entrepreneurial initiatives across the state.
- The partnership will focus on structured mentoring, capacity building, and access to markets and investors for Assamese entrepreneurs.
- Special emphasis will be placed on fostering high-impact collaborations and promoting women's entrepreneurship.

82. BHUPENDA REMEMBERED ON 14TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY:



- "Manuhe Manuhor Babe, Jodihe Okonu Nebhabe..." — the timeless lines preaching compassion and humanity echoed across Assam as the

State paid heartfelt homage to Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika on his 14th death anniversary.

- Collective rendition of the song from the plains to the hills turned the tribute into a symbol of humanity on this revered day.
- People of Assam celebrated the life and message of their *Sudhakantha*, the “Voice of Humanity” — who warned mankind through his lyrics to remain humane at all costs.
- Around two lakh artistes and citizens across the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys participated in the homage programmes.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma led the State in paying tributes at the *Shraddhanjali* programme organised by the Department of Cultural Affairs at Dr Bhupen Hazarika Samannay Kshetra, Jalukbari.
- Sarma announced that the Government of Assam will approach the United Nations to recognise *Manuhe Manuhor Babe* as the “Anthem of Humanity.”
- He unveiled plans to immortalise Dr Hazarika’s legacy, including a 100-foot-tall statue at the Zero Point of the Dhola-Sadiya bridge symbolising cultural unity between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Preliminary work for the statue project has been completed by the Public Works Department.
- Every town in Assam will soon have a road named after Dr Bhupen Hazarika.
- As part of centenary celebrations, grand cultural events will be held in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad, culminating in a closing ceremony in the national capital.
- Sarma stated that Bhupenda belonged to every Indian, and these celebrations aim to spread his message of harmony and humanity across the nation.
- Beginning this year, every Rongali Bihu celebration in the State will dedicate one evening exclusively to the memory of Dr Hazarika, with additional grants provided to Bihu committees.
- Referring to another of Hazarika’s compositions, *Swahid Pranamo Tomak*, Sarma said it will be played during the inauguration of the Martyrs’ Memorial in Guwahati on December 10.
- Across Assam, the day was marked with musical tributes, community singing, and candle-light vigils.
- Coordinated tribute programmes in 35 districts and 27 subdivisions, under the aegis of the State government, drew huge participation from cultural enthusiasts.
- Cultural bodies, clubs, organisations, and individuals across the State paid heartfelt tributes to Bhupenda.
- At Raj Bhavan, Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya offered floral tributes to the maestro, describing Dr Hazarika as “a symbol of Assam’s cultural pride and human values” whose music continues to inspire peace, justice, and universal brotherhood.

83. INDIA’S FIRST RIVER TERMINAL TO BE INAUGURATED IN GUWAHATI ON NOVEMBER 7:



- The **Guwahati Gateway Terminal**, India’s **first modern river terminal**, is set to be inaugurated on **November 7**, bringing major good news for the people of Assam.
- Located on the banks of the Brahmaputra, the terminal is expected to revolutionize passenger and cargo transport and provide a significant boost to tourism in the region.
- The project was launched on May 13, 2022, when the Chief Minister laid its foundation stone.
- Built at an estimated cost of ₹400 crore, the terminal will act as a central hub for all ferry and vessel operations under Assam’s Inland Water Transport Department.
- Officials have described it as a “waterway equivalent of an airport,” representing a new era in Assam’s river-based transport infrastructure.
- The facility includes a 180-metre-long jetty, designed to adapt to changing water levels of the Brahmaputra, ensuring year-round smooth boarding for passengers and vehicles.
- Beyond its transport role, the terminal is expected to become a major tourist attraction, offering a unique river travel experience and modern amenities along a scenic riverfront.
- It aims to enhance connectivity, strengthen regional trade, and contribute to Assam’s economic and cultural development.
- The inauguration of this landmark project underscores Assam’s growing focus on sustainable and integrated transport development, blending tradition with innovation along the lifeline of the state — the mighty Brahmaputra.

84. SIVASAGAR TO CELEBRATE CHANDRAKANTA HANDIQUE HERITAGE BHAVAN CENTENARY:



- The Aham Xahitya Xabha (AXX), in association with the Sivasagar Zilla Xahitya Xabha and with support from various branch units, will

celebrate the centenary of its central office, Chandrakanta Handique Heritage Bhavan, on November 9 at the Bir Lachit Borphukan College Auditorium, Sivasagar.

- The daylong celebration aims to honour the glorious legacy and historical significance of the Chandrakanta Handique Bhavan, a landmark in Assam's cultural and literary heritage.
- The event seeks to rekindle public appreciation for the institution's role in promoting Assamese literature, culture, and identity.
- A commemorative volume titled '*Chandrakanta*' will be unveiled by Padum Rajkhowa, vice-president of AXX.
- The celebration will also include multiple book releases, songs, and dance performances.
- The Chandrakanta Handique Heritage Bhavan, located in Jorhat, serves not only as AXX's central office but also as a symbol of Assamese nationalism, cultural unity, and literary renaissance.
- Established on December 2, 1926, under the supervision of AXX's first General Secretary, Late Sarat Chandra Goswami, the Bhavan was inaugurated by then Governor Sir John Kerr.
- As the Bhavan approaches its 100th anniversary on December 2, the Sivasagar celebration marks the beginning of state-wide events commemorating a century of Assamese literature, thought, and unity.

85. TWO MAJOR INFRA PROJECTS ALONG BRAHMAPUTRA OPENED:

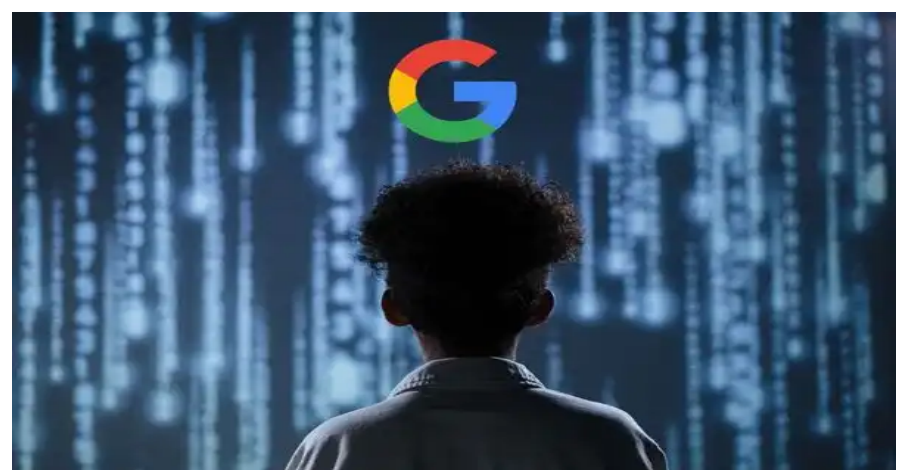


- Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated two major infrastructure projects along the Brahmaputra river in Guwahati — the Sati Radhika Shaanti Udyan and the Gateway of Guwahati Terminal and Jetty at Uzan Bazar.
- The projects mark a significant milestone in the city's beautification and connectivity efforts, with a combined cost of ₹632 crore.
- Sitharaman said the Brahmaputra riverfront projects in Guwahati serve as a benchmark for sustainable and inclusive urban development, blending tradition with urbanisation.
- The riverfront development, spanning 1.2 km from the new DC bungalow to Kacharighat and costing ₹327 crore, includes amenities for senior citizens, women, and children, as well as a gym and landscaped public spaces.
- The ₹305-crore jetty and terminal, part of the World Bank-aided Assam Inland Water Transport Project, features a modern observatory lounge and supports river-based connectivity.
- Sitharaman emphasised the importance of strict protocols for water management and wildlife protection to ensure ecological sustainability.
- The inauguration ceremony, held in the evening at the riverfront, was part of Sitharaman's two-day official visit to Assam.

86. NEW SCHEME TO PROVIDE SUBSIDISED FOOD ITEMS:

- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a new scheme to provide masur dal, sugar, and salt to families covered under the National Food Security Act at prices lower than the market rate.
- The programme was held at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, with simultaneous meetings organized at around 33,000 fair price shops across Assam attended by ministers, MLAs, local dignitaries, and beneficiaries.
- Under the Public Distribution System, nearly 70 lakh families covering around 2.45 crore beneficiaries will benefit from the initiative.
- Each ration card holder family can purchase 1 kg of masur dal at Rs 69, sugar at Rs 38, and salt at Rs 10 per month, totaling Rs 117.
- These rates will remain effective for November and December 2025.
- From January 2026 onwards, the prices will be further reduced to Rs 60 for masur dal, Rs 30 for sugar, and Rs 10 for salt, making the total cost Rs 100.
- The products will be available in specially designed one-kilogram packets.
- Similar to the free rice distribution system, beneficiaries can collect these items during 'Anna Seva Divas' between the 1st and 10th of every month from fair price shops using e-PoS machines.
- For the current month, items will be available from November 10 onwards.
- Beneficiaries can purchase one, two, or all three items, with separate biometric authentication required for each.
- The Chief Minister informed that the widow pension has been raised to Rs 1,250 and that old-age pension will be enhanced soon.
- Families who no longer require Orunodoi benefits can voluntarily opt out through the portal, allowing the benefit to reach those in need.
- Every Orunodoi family will now receive Rs 250 as subsidy per LPG cylinder, and subsidized edible oil will be provided in the future.
- Orunodoi assistance will be increased during Bihu and other festivals to help women buy new clothes for their children.
- The government is considering measures to ensure that domestic workers get at least one day off per week.
- The Chief Minister emphasized that his government prioritizes the welfare and happiness of the poor.
- He stated that when women withdraw Orunodoi assistance from banks, they feel empowered because it is their own money.
- Fair price shop dealers will receive Rs 2 per kilogram for distributing dal, sugar, and salt and are urged not to collect any extra amount from beneficiaries.

87. GOOGLE TO HELP ASSAM BUILD AI CAPABILITIES:



- The Assam government signed an understanding with Google to help the State build AI capabilities.
- The government aims to develop technical capabilities and infrastructure to establish Assam as 'India's AI Hub' in the North East region.

- The initiative seeks to ensure transparency and speedy public services for citizens.
- The State government's Information Technology Department signed an important agreement as a historic step in this direction.
- Through this understanding agreement, Google Cloud will provide technical cooperation to Assam government departments in developing artificial intelligence capabilities.
- The collaboration aims to enhance the performance of officers and make government services smoother and quicker through AI.
- With Google's support, an 'Artificial Intelligence Excellence Centre' (AI Centre of Excellence) will be established in the State.
- The AI Centre of Excellence will help make the Assam government's administration system more public-oriented and effective through artificial intelligence.

88. MIZORAM'S ORDER GETS NATIONAL RECOGNITION: TRAFFIC



- Mizoram's disciplined traffic system, praised by travellers, vloggers, and social media users for its orderliness and civic sense, has earned national recognition.
- The State received a Special Award for Traffic Management at the 18th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2025, held in Gurugram, Haryana, from November 7 to 9.
- The award was presented by Union Minister Manohar Lal and Union Minister of State Tokhan Sahu from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Lalmalsawma Pachua, Secretary of the Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department, Jacob Lalawmpuia, UD&PA Director, and Town and Country Planning officials received the award on behalf of the State Government.
- The UMI Conference is organised annually by the Institute of Urban Transport (India) under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to recognise best practices in urban mobility and transport management across the country.
- Mizoram's entry was submitted by the Town and Country Planning Wing of the UD&PA Department, which made a video and PowerPoint presentation on October 16, as instructed by the Award Selection Committee.
- The presentation highlighted the disciplined and patient adherence to traffic rules in Mizoram, motorists' avoidance of unnecessary honking, and smooth traffic flow even in congested areas.
- It showcased the effective role of the Coordination Committee on Traffic Management, the efforts of the Traffic Police, and the cooperation of the public.
- These combined efforts have earned Aizawl the affectionate nickname 'Silent City' among visitors.
- Aizawl's calm and orderly traffic have been featured in travel blogs, YouTube channels, and national media, with tourists describing it as "uniquely peaceful" and "a model for the rest of India."

- The Award Selection Committee was impressed by Mizoram's model of public discipline and inter-departmental coordination and recommended it for national recognition.

89. ASSAM GOVT LAUNCHES PROJECT TO TRANSLATE ZIKIR AND JARI INTO SEVEN TRIBAL LANGUAGES:



- The Assam government is set to translate Assamese Zikir and Jari into seven major tribal languages — Karbi, Dimasa, Deuri, Bodo, Mising, Tiwa, and Rabha — to promote cultural harmony and preserve the state's linguistic diversity.
- A five-day translation workshop, organised by the Anundoram Borooah Institute of Language, Art and Culture (ABILAC), will begin on November 13.
- The initiative is undertaken under the guidance of the Justice (Retd) Biplab Sarma Committee as part of the government's broader effort to strengthen research in local languages and folk traditions.
- The translation work is expected to be completed by February 2026 and submitted to the Higher Education Department by March.
- The workshop, originally scheduled for September 25–27, was postponed following the untimely demise of Assam's cultural icon Zubeen Garg.
- Zikir and Jari are traditional poetic and musical forms rooted in spiritual devotion, carrying timeless messages of unity, faith, and compassion, and remain integral to Assam's cultural identity.

90. ASSAM'S STATE BIRD DEO HANH MAY SOON BE EXTINCT:



- Assam's State bird, the white-winged wood duck (deo hanh), may be nearing extinction.
- A Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) survey in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh suggests only around 300 individuals remain in Northeast India.

- The survey is part of a WTI project aimed at closing information gaps and creating a long-term recovery plan with forest departments, local communities, and experts.
- Conservationist Anwaruddin Choudhury estimates Assam's population could be fewer than 200 birds.
- The species has shown a sharp decline, dropping from around 350 in 1990 to less than 200 by 2021.
- Most of Assam's surviving population is concentrated in Upper Dihing (west block) Reserve Forest in Tinsukia district.
- Nameri is the only habitat among roughly 13 in Assam that has shown a slight increase in numbers.
- Historically, the bird ranged widely across eastern South Asia, Southeast Asia, and parts of western Indonesia.
- It is now extinct in many of its former range countries; small populations persist in Sumatra, Cambodia, northern Myanmar, and western Thailand.
- The global population has fallen by more than 80% over the last three generations.
- Eastern Assam and Nameri National Park remain strongholds for the species.
- Key habitats include Dihing Patkai National Park, Upper Dihing RF, and smaller populations in Sonai-Rupai WLS, Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, Nambor, Doomdooma, Dangori, Torani, Burhi Dihing, and Luming RFs.
- Due to habitat alteration, the species' presence is now doubtful in several areas with historical records, including the Barak Valley.
- Major causes of decline include destruction, degradation, pollution and disturbance of wetland habitats, deforestation, hunting, and egg collection.
- BirdLife International categorised the species as *critically endangered* in the 2024 IUCN Red List due to its small and fragmented population.
- The Government of Assam declared the white-winged wood duck as the State Bird in 2003 to promote conservation efforts.

91. PACT LIKELY TODAY FOR VRINDAVANI VASTRA DISPLAY IN STATE:



- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is likely to sign an MoU with the British Museum in London on Sunday to bring back the historic textile Vrindabani Vastra for a temporary exhibition in Assam in 2027.
- The century-old silk textile, currently housed in the British Museum, is regarded as one of the finest examples of Assam's cultural heritage.
- It was woven under the guidance of neo-Vaishnavite saint and reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva at the instance of Koch king Naranarayan, depicting episodes from the life of Lord Krishna in Vrindaban.
- The textile reached the British Museum via Tibet in the 20th century.
- Before leaving for London, Sarma announced on social media that the JSW Group facilitated the pact between the Assam government and the British Museum.

- The JSW Group, which has no business interests in Assam, will bear the expenses for building a new museum in Guwahati.
- The ownership of the museum will remain with the State government.
- The museum will be constructed at Khanapara in Guwahati, designed according to the specifications of the British Museum.
- Sarma said this will ensure the priceless textile is displayed in a manner befitting its historical and cultural significance.
- Fragments of the Vrindabani Vastra are also housed in museums in London, Paris, Boston, and Los Angeles.
- This will be the first time in centuries that the people of Assam will have the chance to view the textile closely.
- The 2027 exhibition is expected to be a landmark cultural event for Assam, reconnecting the Assamese people with a treasured part of the State's spiritual and artistic legacy.

92. HORNBILL FESTIVAL 2025 SET FOR GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT WITH UK AND AIR INDIA EXPRESS COLLABORATION:



- Nagaland has entered a significant partnership with the British Council, designating the United Kingdom as the official country partner for the Hornbill Festival 2025.
- The agreement was signed in New Delhi by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and British Council India Director Alison Barrett, in the presence of British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron.
- The collaboration aims to expand international engagement and strengthen cultural, tourism, and educational ties between Nagaland and the UK.
- The British Council will curate several cultural programmes during the festival, including a special performance on 2 December by Scottish artist Ruairidh Maclean (RuMac).
- This partnership is expected to boost the festival's global appeal and highlight Nagaland's rich cultural heritage.
- Air India Express has been named the official travel partner for the event.
- The airline has unveiled a Boeing 737-8 aircraft featuring artwork inspired by Ao Naga traditions.
- It will offer a 15% discount on fares for travel to and from Dimapur between 20 and 30 November.
- Air India Express will also provide dedicated assistance for artists and set up a Hornbill Festival counter at Dimapur Airport to enhance visitor convenience.
- Held annually from 1 to 10 December at Kisama, the Hornbill Festival celebrates Nagaland's diverse tribal culture and attracts visitors from across India and abroad.
- With the strengthened UK partnership and improved travel arrangements, organisers expect increased international interest and a more enriching experience for attendees.

93. PACT SIGNED FOR VRINDAVANI VASTRA'S DISPLAY IN STATE:

- The Assam government has signed a loan agreement with the British Museum, London, to display the 16th-century silk textile *Vrindavani Vastra* in the State in 2027, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced.
- The *Vrindavani Vastra* was created under the guidance of Srimanta Sankardeva at the request of Koch king Nara Narayan and includes part of a poem written by Sankardeva.
- Acquired by the British Museum in 1904 from Tibet, the exhibit is nine-and-a-half metres long and composed of several pieces of silk drapes; it originally consisted of 15 pieces later assembled together.
- The MoU was signed in London in the presence of Chief Minister Sarma, marking the first time in over a century that a portion of the textile will be displayed in Assam after fragments were dispersed across museums worldwide.
- Before leaving for London, the Chief Minister had said that the JSW Group played a key role in facilitating the “homecoming” of the tapestry, which illustrates tales from Lord Krishna’s life in hand-woven silk.
- The JSW Group connected the Assam government with the British Museum and is also taking responsibility for building a world-class museum in Guwahati to display the *Vrindavani Vastra*.
- The textile left Assam through Tibet, with major fragments now housed in museums in London, Paris, Boston, and Los Angeles.
- Sarma said this would be the first opportunity in more than a century for the people of Assam to view the *Vrindavani Vastra* first-hand, after many generations missed the chance to see it within the State.

94. SANGAI FESTIVAL 2025: A CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AND HOPE IN MANIPUR:



- The Manipur Government has urged all residents, especially Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), to participate actively in the Sangai Festival from 21–30 November 2025 as part of efforts to revive community spirit and cultural unity.
- Officials stated that the festival aims to rebuild public confidence, strengthen harmony among Manipur’s diverse communities, and create opportunities for youth, artisans, and entrepreneurs through greater visibility and market access.
- Acknowledging the difficulties faced by displaced families, the government highlighted ongoing relief efforts, including ₹18 crore in monthly financial assistance and a ₹523-crore Special Relief Package for rehabilitation, home restoration, and rebuilding key infrastructure.
- Named after the state animal, the dancing deer, the Sangai Festival serves as a cultural showcase and an economic engine to promote tourism, expand market linkages, and spotlight both Manipur’s heritage and its growing IT sector.

- The ten-day event will feature traditional performances, indigenous sports, handloom and handicraft displays, and authentic Manipuri cuisine, aimed at inspiring optimism and rejuvenation among the people.
- The government emphasised that the festival symbolises resilience and collective progress, urging citizens—including displaced persons, community groups, and visitors—to support the 2025 edition as an important milestone in Manipur’s recovery and renewed hope.

95. UK, SWITZERLAND, IRELAND NAMED PARTNERS FOR NAGALAND'S HORNBILL FESTIVAL:



- The United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Ireland will be country partners for the Hornbill Festival in Nagaland.
- A Tourism Department official confirmed that the Nagaland government has officially named Switzerland and Ireland as country partners for the Hornbill Festival 2025.
- This marks a major milestone in the festival’s evolution into a global cultural event.
- The announcements followed separate meetings in New Delhi with the envoys of Switzerland and Ireland.
- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Switzerland’s Ambassador to India and Bhutan, Maya Tissafi, formally announced Switzerland as a country partner.
- The Hornbill Festival, known as the “festival of festivals,” continues to emerge as one of India’s most vibrant cultural platforms.
- It brings together communities, artists, visitors, and partners from around the world.
- The inclusion of Switzerland as a country partner is seen as a significant step in strengthening the festival’s global presence and in celebrating culture, friendship, and shared heritage.

96. MOUS WORTH RS 3,000 CR SIGNED FOR PROJECTS IN NE:



- IWAI has entered into agreements worth Rs 3,000 crore with various stakeholders to boost inland waterways and industrial connectivity in the Northeast, during India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai.

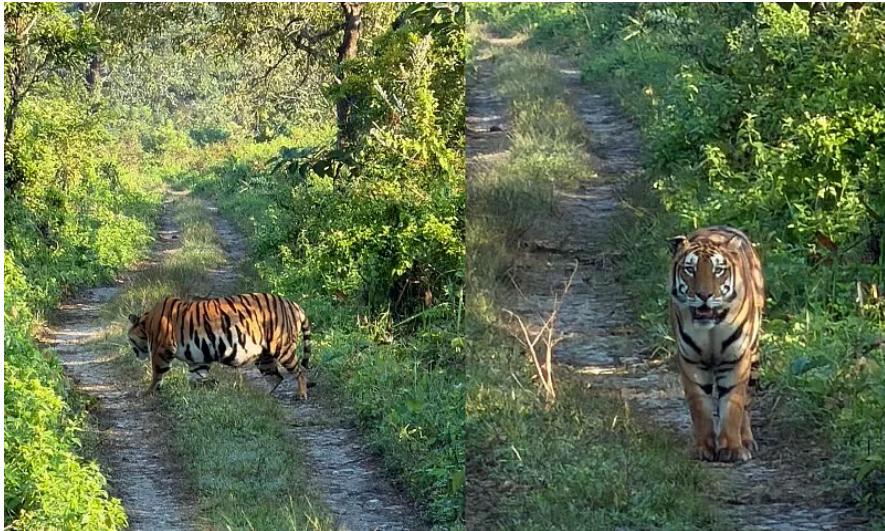
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal chaired a review meeting on projects in Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya, including Central Sector Scheme (CSS) projects.
- The review focused on 15 primary projects and 10 CSS projects, including three in Mizoram, two each in Nagaland and Tripura, and one each in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- Clearance was given for a concept study for an all-weather approach road at Bogibeel for smooth access to the cargo-cum-tourist terminal.
- IWAI signed an MoU worth Rs 500 crore with Heritage River Journeys Pvt Ltd to develop new cruise vessels and expand river cruise tourism on national waterways.
- The partnership aims to boost premium tourism experiences on the Brahmaputra and other major rivers.
- IWAI and DGLL signed an agreement to enhance river navigation safety and promote tourism along NW-2 in Assam.
- An MoU worth Rs 1,000 crore with Rhenus Logistics was signed for inducting modern tug-barges on the Ganga and Brahmaputra to improve multimodal logistics for the Northeast.
- Rs 299 crore has been earmarked for developing cruise terminals at Neamati, Silghat, Biswanath Ghat and Guijan in Assam.
- Rs 188 crore has been allotted for developing the Regional Centre of Excellence in Dibrugarh, along with Rs 55 crore for a key land parcel in Guwahati under two separate MoUs.
- Two MoUs were signed to strengthen Assam's inland water transport network and industrial logistics—one with Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd (APL) and another with the State government.
- The MoU with APL focuses on transporting methanol and formalin via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR) and National Waterways.
- The MoU with the State government aims to develop an Urban Water Transport System (Water Metro) in Tezpur, Guwahati and Dibrugarh.
- In Mizoram, IWAI is conducting studies for IWT infrastructure on the Tlawng and Chhimtuipui rivers.
- Construction has begun on stage-1 of the Rs 9.82 crore Khawthlangtuipui-Tuichawng IWT project in Lunglei district.
- In Nagaland, IWAI is preparing DPRs for IWT facilities at Doyang lake and for water sports/tourism at Nouné and Shilloi lakes under CSS.
- In Manipur, a techno-economic feasibility study and DPR have been proposed for IWT development on the Barak river and its tributaries, and the Imphal and Nambul rivers.
- In Meghalaya, DPRs are under way for IWT infrastructure on Umiam lake and the Umngot river (NW-106).
- In Tripura, work is ongoing on developing the Gomti river for navigational linkage with the Meghna river system in Bangladesh, and a study is under way for introducing cruise services on Dumbur lake in Dhalai district.
- A proposal has been initiated for further inland water transport development.

97. 13 NEW FROG SPECIES DISCOVERED IN NE:



- Study conducted between 2019–2024 with support from the National Geographic Society and Meghalaya Biodiversity Board.
- Research marks a major scientific milestone in uncovering hidden amphibian diversity in Northeast India, part of two global biodiversity hotspots.
- Study integrates acoustics, genetics, and morphology, and also revisits century-old museum specimens from the Indo-Burma region housed in international natural history museums.
- Sampling covered 81 localities across eight states, including 25 Protected Areas.
- Study revises species distributions and synonymises four previously described species.
- Prior to the study, India had 82 known species of bush frogs; with new additions, the number rises to 95.
- Fieldwork (2016–2024) collected multiple populations of bush frogs, focusing on topotypic material.
- Revision reassesses phylogenetic relationships, resolves ambiguous species identifications, and describes 13 new species using molecular data, morphology, and acoustics.
- Findings help resolve long-standing taxonomic issues related to Northeast India's "tik...tik..." bush frogs and shed light on their conservation status and ecology.
- Study underscores the importance of an integrative research approach to document hidden biodiversity.
- Discovery of 13 new frog species validates the exceptional amphibian diversity of Northeast India.
- Work represents the highest number of vertebrate species described in a single publication in India in over a decade.
- Study led by Bitupan Boruah (PhD researcher, WII), Dr Abhijit Das (herpetologist, WII), and Dr Deepak Veerappan (Natural History Museum, London; Newcastle University, UK).
- Of the 13 new species:
 - 6 discovered in Arunachal Pradesh
 - 3 in Meghalaya
 - 1 each in Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur
- Newly described species:—
 - *Raorchestes lawngtlaiensis* — Ngengpui WLS, Mizoram
 - *Raorchestes barakensis* — Lakhicherra, Barail WLS, Assam
 - *Raorchestes eaglenestensis* — Eaglenest WLS, Arunachal Pradesh
 - *Raorchestes magnus* — Tiwari Gaon, Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh
 - *Raorchestes dibangensis* — Abango near Mehao WLS, Arunachal Pradesh
 - *Raorchestes nasuta* — Namdapha TR, Arunachal Pradesh
 - *Raorchestes orientalis* — Namdapha TR, Arunachal Pradesh
 - *Raorchestes arunachalensis* — Rengging, Adi Hills, Arunachal Pradesh
 - *Raorchestes narpuhensis* — Narpuh WLS, Meghalaya
 - *Raorchestes monolithus* — Pumdunlog, Senapati district, Manipur
 - *Raorchestes khonoma* — near Khonoma, Nagaland
 - *Raorchestes boulengeri* — Cherrapunji, Meghalaya
 - *Raorchestes mawsynramensis* — Mawsynram, Meghalaya

98. MANAS PARK TIGER SIGHTING HIGHLIGHTS ASSAM'S CONSERVATION EFFORTS:



- A Royal Bengal Tiger was sighted roaming freely in the Bansbari area of Manas National Park, Assam, drawing attention to significant progress in wildlife conservation.
- The presence of this rare and majestic animal indicates the positive impact of sustained protection measures and habitat restoration initiatives.
- Manas National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, hosts many endangered species, and the tiger's return reflects renewed ecological health and stability.
- The sighting highlights Assam's strong commitment to preserving its natural heritage and biodiversity.
- Thriving wildlife populations in the park show the success of coordinated efforts by forest authorities, wildlife experts, and local communities.
- This event inspires hope for ongoing and future conservation projects, stressing the need to safeguard India's unique ecosystems.
- The Royal Bengal Tiger remains a powerful symbol of conservation, underscoring the importance of continued vigilance and care.
- Manas National Park serves as a vital sanctuary for diverse flora and fauna, supporting environmental balance and scientific research.
- The park promotes eco-tourism, aiding local livelihoods and raising awareness about conservation challenges.
- The sighting encourages broader support for wildlife protection and highlights the crucial role of national parks in preventing habitat loss and species extinction.
- It marks a hopeful chapter in India's conservation journey, reminding us of nature's resilience when given the chance to thrive.
- Ensuring a future where such majestic creatures roam freely is a shared responsibility for all.

99. MONTHLY SPENDING ON FOOD HIGH IN ASSAM:

- Households in Ladakh, Assam and Bihar spent the highest share of their monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) on food.
- In 2011-12, Assam and Bihar spent nearly 60% of MPCE on food, while Punjab and Kerala spent less than 45%.
- Around 15 states — mostly in the eastern and northeastern regions — spent a higher share than the national average on food in 2011-12.
- Though these regions still spend a relatively higher share on food in 2023-24, many rural areas across states show significant reductions in food spending compared to 2011-12.

- In 2011-12, rural Assam spent 61.3% of MPCE on food (national average: 52.9%), the highest in the country; this fell to 53.2% in 2023-24, now the second highest after Ladakh.
- In 2023-24, urban Assam spent 47.4% of MPCE on food, the fourth highest after Lakshadweep, Ladakh and Bihar — a pattern similar to 2011-12.
- Urban households consistently spent a smaller share on food than rural households in both time periods.
- Nationally, average urban food expenditure share reduced from 42.6% in 2011-12 to 39.7% in 2023-24.
- Despite declines, many northern, eastern and northeastern states still spend above the national average share on food.
- Spending on consumables and durables in Assam is among the lowest in India.
- In 2023-24, Assam spent about 11% of MPCE on durables — one of the lowest shares.
- Rural Assam spends ₹447 on durables (national average: ₹540); urban Assam spends ₹772 (national average: ₹877).
- Motor vehicle ownership is low in Assam. Jammu & Kashmir (18.2%) has the lowest, followed by West Bengal (19.1%), Odisha (23.7%), Assam (24%), and Bihar (27.9%) — all with less than one-third of bottom 40% households owning a motor vehicle.

100. STATE CABINET DECIDES TO TABLE TEWARI AND MEHTA COMMISSION REPORTS:



- The state cabinet decided to table both the Tiwari Commission report and the TU Mehta Commission report on the first day of the Winter Session on November 25. These reports relate to the violence during the 1983 Assam Movement. The Tiwari Commission was constituted by the Assam government, while the TU Mehta Commission was formed by the agitators.
- Decisions include allotment of land in tea garden lines to tea workers in possession of such land through an amendment of the Ceiling Act, and a 6% annual salary increment for 3rd and 4th grade employees of provincialized colleges and schools. A special cabinet meeting on ST status for 6 communities will be held on November 26, with the report to be placed in the Assembly on November 27.
- Approval of the Assam Non-Government Educational Institutions (Regulation of Fees) (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to strengthen regulation of fees charged by private educational institutions and ensure transparent registration, fee fixation, and periodic renewal for all non-government institutions, including minority institutions under Article 30(1).
- Approval of the Assam Education (Provincialisation of Services of Non-Teaching Staff of Venture Educational Institutions) (Amendment) Bill, 2025, providing a 6% annual enhancement in fixed monthly salaries of provincialised non-teaching staff in venture institutions, benefiting 3,093 employees.

- Approval of the Assam Elementary and Secondary Schools Teachers' (Regulation of Posting and Transfer) (Amendment) Bill, 2025, relaxing mandatory service periods in remote and difficult border areas. Female teachers with 5 years and male teachers with 7 years of continuous service in districts adjoining Bangladesh (Dhubri, South Salmara, and riverine islands) will now be eligible for transfer to their home or nearby contiguous districts.
- Approval for the establishment of "NERIM University, Assam" under The Assam Private University Act, 2007, as a self-financing private university promoting quality higher education, research, innovation, and professional learning.
- Approval for establishing Azim Premji University, Assam, along with the Azim Premji University Bill, 2025, facilitating the creation of a philanthropic, not-for-profit higher education institution in the state.
- Approval for the introduction of the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to exclude labour lines of tea estates from the definition of "purposes ancillary to special cultivation," enabling secure land rights for tea garden worker families. A total of 2,18,553 bighas of land across 825 tea estates and 3,33,486 worker families will benefit.
- Approval for the introduction of the Karbi Welfare Autonomous Council Bill, 2025, to create a Karbi Welfare Autonomous Council for Karbi people residing outside the KAAC area.
- Approval of the Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) Policy of Assam, 2025, aimed at establishing Assam as the leading aviation MRO hub of Northeast India by 2030, with plans for at least three world-class MRO facilities, attracting around Rs. 1,500 crore investment and generating over 1,000 skilled jobs.
- Approval for the constitution of a High Powered Investment Committee headed by the Chief Minister for high-value investments of Rs 10,000 crore and above, serving as the apex body for policy facilitation, expedited clearances, customised incentives, and continuous support for strategic projects.
- Approval for placing the Mehta (Unofficial) Judicial Commission of Enquiry Report on incidents related to the 1983 Assam Election violence before the Assam Legislative Assembly in the upcoming session.
- Approval for placing the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2025, before the Assembly, allowing the traditional Buffalo fight (Moh Juj) during Magh Bihu celebrations, similar to Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu.

101. ASSAM CABINET NOD TO DIST TRIBUNALS:

- The Assam Cabinet decided to form district land tribunals to look into cases of encroachment in tribal belts and blocks. The tribunals, headed by a retired judge, will have the power to order eviction.
- The Cabinet decided to acquire plots in labour lines of tea gardens under the Ceiling Act and allot them to workers, with the condition that the land cannot be sold for 20 years, and even after that period, it can be sold only within the tea community.
- The decision is expected to benefit 3.33 lakh tea workers, with the Government planning to acquire 2.18 lakh bighas of land.
- The Cabinet decided to bring in a law to legitimise the buffalo fight of Ahatguri, keeping in view the court rulings on it.
- The Cabinet approved fresh rules for provincialisation of educational institutions set up in or before 2006 and approved a six per cent salary increment for staff of provincialised institutions.
- The Cabinet approved a law amendment to make teachers serving in geographically disadvantaged districts eligible for transfer after five years (female) and seven years (male).
- The Cabinet decided to place in the Assembly the report of the Justice Mehta Committee, formed at the behest of AASU to probe the Nellie violence, along with the Government-formed Tiwari Commission report.

- The Cabinet approved the establishment of a private university by NERIM and a philanthropic university to be set up by the Azim Premji Foundation at Palasbari, with an investment of Rs 1,700 crore.

102. COTTON UNIVERSITY DEVELOPS INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY FOR CANCER THERAPY:



- In a groundbreaking scientific achievement, Cotton University has developed India's first indigenous Accelerator-Driven Boron Neutron Capture Therapy (AD-BNCT) technology, a next-generation cancer treatment expected to significantly improve outcomes for aggressive and radio-resistant tumours.
- The Cotton University Particle Accelerator Centre – North East (CUPAC-NE) has designed and built a BNCT-specific Beam Shaping Assembly (BSA) entirely in-house, overcoming global barriers such as restricted special materials and stringent international IPR limitations. This marks a major milestone in India's pursuit of advanced cancer-therapy capabilities.
- The research was published on November 12, 2025, in the journal *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research, B*, under the title "Design and optimisation of a neutron beam shaping assembly for AD-BNCT applications (D3) at Cotton University by CUPAC-NE collaboration."
- The pioneering work was led by research scholar Dimpal Saikia of the Department of Radiation Oncology, State Cancer Institute, GMCH, under the supervision of Prof. J. J. Das of Cotton University. The initiative received strong support from institutions including UGC-DAE, BARC, IUAC, NEHU, Gauhati University, Tezpur University, Bodoland University, and others.
- Prof. Das explained that while India's most advanced radiation therapy currently is Proton therapy, used for tumours near critical organs and for many childhood cancers due to its precision, AD-BNCT offers a non-invasive, highly selective method using boron compounds and neutron beams to destroy cancer cells while sparing healthy tissues, with the added advantage of being potentially more cost-effective.
- CUPAC-NE is developing a cutting-edge accelerator facility equipped with a 5 MV Van de Graaff system to strengthen research in cancer therapy and other scientific areas. The project aligns with India's Mega Science Vision 2035 and has attracted interest from international partners, including the Government of the Novosibirsk region in Russia. Cotton University has also signed an MoU with Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute to advance clinical applications.
- According to researchers, AD-BNCT could significantly reduce treatment costs compared to Proton therapy. Although BNCT exists in a few countries, the required equipment remains extremely expensive and heavily patented.
- Cotton University's achievement, under the Make in India initiative, represents a transformative step by delivering the nation's first fully indigenous BNCT-specific Beam Shaping Assembly.

103. “LACHIT—THE WARRIOR” RELEASED ON THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BIR LACHIT BORPHUKAN:



- On the birth anniversary of Bir Lachit Borphukan, the legendary Assamese military general and symbol of Assamese courage, discipline, and patriotism, the acclaimed animated documentary “Lachit – The Warrior” was formally released on all social media platforms of Pi Media.
- The film has gained extraordinary global recognition, winning Best Documentary, Best Animated Film, and securing screenings at 50 international film festivals, including IFFI Goa, New York Lift-Off Film Festival, Milan Short Film Festival, Newborn Short Film Festival Berlin, and the renowned Cannes – Marché du Film.
- The documentary has earned multiple awards:
 - Best Documentary Award: 19
 - Best Animated Short Film Award: 5
 - Best Short Film: 1
 - Award of Excellence: 1
 - Award of Appreciation: 1
 - Special/Honourable Mentions: 3
 - Screened: 20
- Written and directed by Dr. Parthasarathi Mahanta, the film brings together a distinguished creative team, including producers Mina Mahanta and Indrani Baruah, narration by Dr. Amarjyoti Choudhury, music by Rupam Talukdar, storyboard and illustrations by Hrishikesh Bora, animation by Ratul Dutta and Hrishikesh Bora, VFX and composition by Ratul Dutta, subtitles by Dr. Jovial Kalita, sound design by Devajit Gayan, and creative direction by Anupam Mahanta.
- The release of the film on this auspicious day is a heartfelt tribute to the commander whose immortal words and supreme sacrifice continue to echo through history.
- The creators hope that Lachit – The Warrior will inspire young minds and strengthen cultural pride among all Assamese people.

104. CM INAUGURATES INDO-ISRAEL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR VEGETABLES AT KHETRI:



- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Vegetables under the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project (IIAP) at Khetri in Kamrup (Metro).
- Israeli Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, attended the ceremony, marking a key moment in India-Israel agricultural cooperation in the Northeast.
- The project was approved on February 1, 2021, and established at a cost of ₹583.58 lakh under the Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH).
- The Directorate of Horticulture & Food Processing, Assam, is the implementing agency.
- Spread across 66 bighas, the centre will act as a hub for advanced, climate-smart agricultural technologies to boost protected vegetable cultivation in Assam.
- The facility aims to promote smart irrigation, fertigation, and high-yielding vegetable varieties suited to local conditions, with technical support from MASHAV, Israel’s international development agency.
- A major highlight is a 1200 sq m hi-tech Fan Pad Greenhouse with automatic air and humidity control, boom irrigation, and soil-less seedling production.
- The centre includes seven high-quality polyhouses: three naturally ventilated units, two insect-proof net houses, and two walk-in tunnels for year-round production demonstrations.
- It features a state-of-the-art automatic irrigation and fertigation system, an IoT-enabled mechanism for remote, crop-specific irrigation control with minimal human intervention.
- Residential training facilities for 30 trainees are available, along with technical exposure for school and college students.
- Farmers can raise seedlings using seeds of their choice by paying management and handling charges.
- Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Sarma stressed the strategic importance of the project, noting that technological collaboration has long been central to the India-Israel partnership.
- He stated that Assam’s farmers will benefit greatly from Israel’s advanced agri-technology, helping them maximize returns from the state’s fertile land.

105. ASSAM MOVES TO LEGALIZE TRADITIONAL BUFFALO FIGHT 'MOH JUJ,' AMID CULTURAL PRESERVATION EFFORTS:



- Assam introduced a Bill to exempt the traditional buffalo fight (Moh Juj) from the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
- The Bill seeks to legally permit Moh Juj during Magh Bihu or on other dates notified by the government.
- The government recognises Moh Juj as an important part of Assam’s cultural heritage and valuable for the preservation of native buffalo breeds.

- Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Minister Rishnendu Paul tabled the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2025*.
- The amendment invokes provisions that allow exemptions for cultural practices, aligning Assam with states like Tamil Nadu (Jallikattu), Maharashtra, and Karnataka (bullock-cart races).
- The Bill follows a Gauhati High Court ruling in 2024, which struck down a 2023 guideline permitting buffalo and Bulbul bird fights, citing conflict with a 2014 Supreme Court verdict.
- Earlier, the State had briefly revived these events under guidelines banning intoxicants, sharp objects, and harmful practices.
- Moh Juj is mainly organised in Morigaon and Sivasagar, with Ahatguri (Morigaon) hosting the most prominent events.
- The amendment aims to provide formal legal protection to the tradition while ensuring animal welfare safeguards.
- The move reflects Assam's attempt to preserve cultural heritage while addressing modern concerns for regulated and humane treatment of animals.

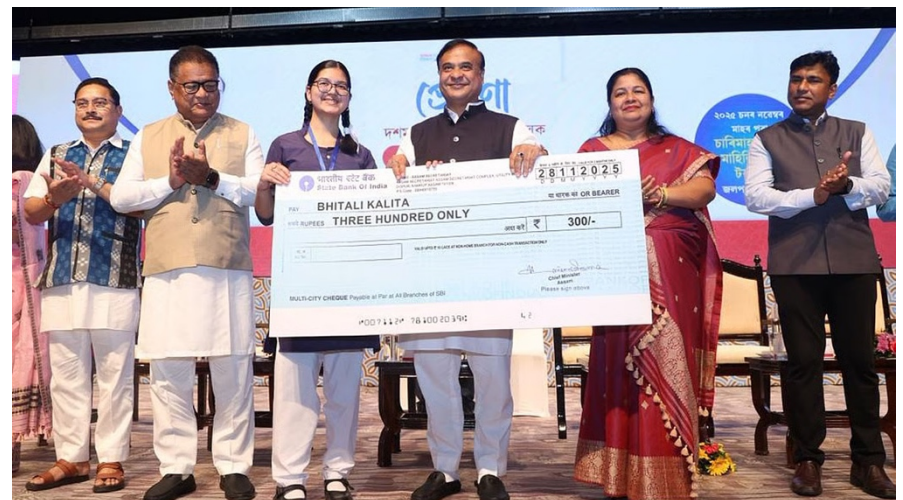
106. ASSAM ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL TO BAN POLYGAMY:



- Assam Legislative Assembly passed the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, making polygamy a punishable offence with imprisonment up to seven years.
- Concealing an existing marriage before entering a new one will attract up to ten years of imprisonment.
- The law provides compensation to women affected by polygamous or deceptive marriages.
- The Chief Minister stated that the move aims at women's empowerment, not religious considerations, and a separate law on deceptive marriages will be introduced in the February session.
- The Bill defines polygamy as marrying or being married to another person while having a subsisting marriage that is not legally dissolved, annulled, or declared void.
- The law applies across Assam except in Sixth Schedule areas like BTR, Karbi Anglong, and Dima Hasao, and excludes Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 whose customs allow multiple marriages.
- The Chief Minister noted that Sixth Schedule areas have their own laws, polygamy is rare among tribal groups, and he hopes the autonomous councils adopt similar provisions.
- A committee formed three years ago found overwhelming public support for banning polygamy, with only two submissions favouring it.
- The Bill includes stringent provisions: seven- and ten-year jail terms for polygamy and concealment, and brings gaonburahs, village heads, qazis, clerics, parents, and legal guardians under its ambit.
- Anyone wilfully hiding or delaying information about such marriages may face punishment under the same sections; repeat offenders and abettors will face enhanced penalties.
- Hiding information from police may lead to up to two years in jail and fines up to ₹1 lakh, while those solemnizing prohibited marriages may face penalties up to ₹1.5 lakh.
- The law applies to people outside Assam who own immovable property in the state or receive government benefits, subsidies, or welfare support.

- A mechanism will be established to process and disburse compensation to women affected by polygamous marriages.

107. PRERONA SCHEME FOR SUPPORT TO CLASS X STUDENTS LAUNCHED:



- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the 'Prerona' scheme to provide holistic support to Class X students appearing for HSLC (ASSEB) and CBSE 10th board exams from Adarsha Vidyalayas.
- The scheme offers assistance for purchasing study materials, books, and nutritious food, while also aiming to boost self-confidence, mental health, and morale of students.
- It seeks to reduce dropout rates among poor and rural students, increase the overall pass percentage in HSLC and Class 10 exams, and promote enrolment in government, provincialized, and Adarsha Vidyalayas.
- Under the scheme, 4.40 lakh students will receive a monthly stipend of ₹300 directly into their bank accounts for four months starting from November.
- At the launch event, the Chief Minister highlighted ongoing government initiatives to inspire youth and prevent negative thinking, noting that Prerona is a major step in that direction.
- He stressed that financial hardship should not hinder education and highlighted new educational institutions and schemes designed to expand opportunities for Assam's youth.
- Sarma stated that Assam's opportunity landscape is rapidly evolving with the appointment of new teachers and the establishment of medical colleges, universities, and engineering colleges.
- The Chief Minister outlined several student welfare initiatives, including bicycles for Class IX girls, free admission in institutions, and monthly financial aid of ₹1,000–₹2,500 under the Nijut Moina scheme for girls pursuing higher education.
- He mentioned that the government is considering providing bicycles to Class V students to support their continued schooling.
- Sarma encouraged HSLC and Class 10 candidates not to panic about exams, calling them a stepping stone to the next stage of life.

108. ASSAM BECOMES FIRST STATE TO ROLL OUT MEASUREMENT COLLECTION UNIT (MCU) SYSTEM FOR CRIMINAL TRACKING:

- Assam has become the first state in India to implement the Measurement Collection Unit (MCU) system under the Criminal Procedure Identification Act, 2022, marking a significant advancement in forensic integration and scientific policing.
- The MCU mechanism expands police biometric records beyond digitized fingerprints to include DNA profiles, retina scans, full-body measurements, and other advanced identifiers in a unified digital format.

- The data collected through the MCU system will be accessible to police forces across the country, strengthening inter-state crime detection and investigative coordination.
- The initiative represents a major shift toward technology-driven policing, ensuring habitual offenders and repeat criminals cannot evade identification.
- MCU units have already been established in all district headquarters, making Assam a leader in digital and forensic policing infrastructure.
- Officials noted that the system will greatly assist investigations, especially in cases involving women and children, as DNA profiles of accused individuals will also be systematically stored.

109. GOM RECOMMENDS THREE-TIER CLASSIFICATION OF STS IN ASSAM:



- A Group of Ministers (GoM) has proposed a three-fold classification of Scheduled Tribes in Assam—ST (Plains), ST (Hills) and ST (Valley)—to protect the rights and interests of existing ST communities while accommodating six communities seeking ST status.
- Moran, Matak and Koch Rajbongshi of undivided Goalpara have been suggested for ST (Plains), while Ahoms, Chutia, Tea Tribes & Adivasi, and Koch Rajbongshi (outside undivided Goalpara) have been proposed for ST (Valley).
- The reclassification will allow reservation in Parliament, Assembly and local bodies to be reorganised without reducing current entitlements of ST (P) and ST (H).
- Parliament must enact special legislation for statutory endorsement of the three-fold system, as recommended by the GoM headed by Ranaj Pegu, with Pijush Hazarika and Keshab Mahanta as members.
- ST (Valley) will have a separate reservation quota, distinct rosters and vacancy registers for State government recruitment and educational institutions, while existing ST quotas will remain protected.
- Assam will request the Centre to grant statutory recognition to this three-tier classification, ensuring that the rights of present ST communities remain unaffected.
- The GoM observed that Assam would benefit if the six demanding communities also compete in the national ST pool for Central institutions.
- It recommended that Lok Sabha constituencies covering Sixth Schedule areas be permanently reserved for existing STs through a Constitutional amendment.
- Until ST status is granted to the six communities, the current OBC reservation should be divided into seven categories—Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Matak, Koch Rajbongshi, Tea Garden & Adivasi, and remaining OBCs—with reservation provided on a pro-rata basis according to population.
- A comprehensive enumeration and socio-economic survey has been suggested for effective sub-categorisation within the 27% OBC quota, especially to benefit tea garden and Adivasi groups and reduce internal disparities.

The GoM also recommended that 35 tea garden communities not yet in the State OBC list be immediately included, enabling future consideration for ST or SC status.

110. POLYGAMY REPORTED ACROSS RELIGIONS IN ASSAM, BUT ON DECLINE: STUDY:



- Polygynous marriages exist not only among Muslims but are also reported among Hindus and other communities in Assam, though the practice is declining.
- A 2022 IIPS study using NFHS-3, NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 data shows Assam's polygyny rate fell from 3.3% (2005-06) to 2.4% (2019-21).
- In NFHS-5, polygyny was 3.6% among Muslims, 1.8% among Hindus and 1.8% among other religions; prevalence among "others" increased from 0.9% in NFHS-4.
- In NFHS-3, rates were 2.1% (Hindus), 6.9% (Muslims) and 1.3% (others), which dropped in NFHS-4 to 1.8%, 3.6% and 0.9% respectively.
- Biswanath and Karimganj districts had the highest prevalence in Assam at 4.2% and were among India's top 40 districts for polygynous marriages; East Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya) topped nationally with 20%.
- Among Muslims, Odisha (3.9%) and Assam (3.6%) had the highest polygyny prevalence in NFHS-5.
- Nationally, polygyny is most prevalent among Scheduled Tribes and has declined across all caste groups over time (ST women: 3.1% in NFHS-3 → 2.4% in NFHS-5; SC women: 2.2% → 1.5%).
- In NFHS-3, polygyny was more common among Buddhists (3.8%) and Muslims (2.6%); in NFHS-5, it was higher among other religions (2.5%), followed by Christians (2.1%) and Muslims (1.9%).
- Polygyny is more common in rural areas than urban areas; more women from Northeast and South India report being in polygynous marriages.
- Women with no formal education show higher prevalence compared to highly educated women.
- Assam Assembly has passed the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Act, 2025, to prohibit polygamy in the state, with Sixth Schedule tribal areas exempted.

PERSON IN NEWS

111. CHINA ACCELERATES CREWED MOON LANDING MISSION TARGETED FOR 2030:



- China is advancing its plan to land astronauts on the moon by 2030, with an intensive schedule of development and testing under the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).
- Upcoming major tests include:
 - Integrated testing for the Lanyue lunar lander.
 - Thermal and maximum dynamic pressure escape tests for the Mengzhou manned spacecraft.
 - Low-altitude and technology verification flights for the Long March-10 carrier rocket.
- At a press conference at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, CMSA spokesperson Zhang Jingbo announced that the Mengzhou-1 spacecraft mission will be part of the public logo solicitation campaign, alongside China's space station missions.
- The Mengzhou spacecraft is designed primarily for lunar missions but can also support low-Earth orbit operations.
- Preliminary prototyping has been completed for key mission hardware, including the Long March-10 rocket, Mengzhou spacecraft, Lanyue lander, Wangyu lunar extravehicular suit, and Tansuo crewed lunar rover.
- Payload designs for scientific research and applications have been finalised.
- Ground infrastructure such as the launch site, tracking network, and Earth landing site is under accelerated development.
- Successful tests conducted this year include:
 - Second-stage propulsion system test and captive firing test for the Long March-10 rocket.
 - Zero-altitude escape test for the Mengzhou spacecraft.
 - Comprehensive landing and takeoff verification test for the Lanyue lander.
- Zhang emphasized that many new technologies still need validation, with a heavy workload ahead due to high standards and tight timelines for flight testing.

112. SAHITYA SABHA CONFERS 'SADASYA VARENYA' ON DR NAGEN SAIKIA:



- The Asam Sahitya Sabha conferred its highest honour, 'Sadasya Varenya', on Dr Nagen Saikia, former president of the Sabha and a distinguished literary figure of Assam.
- The award recognized his outstanding contributions to Assamese literature, culture, and intellectual life.
- The 86-year-old doyen of Assamese letters received the honour from Dr Basanta Kumar Goswami, president of the Asam Sahitya Sabha, at a solemn function at Rameshwar Lal Saharia Sanghati Bhawan.
- The honour comprised a Phulam gamosa, Seleng Chadar, Japi, citation, and memento.
- The event was jointly organised by the Sabha's Dibrugarh regional office, Dibrugarh District Sahitya Sabha, and Dibrugarh Sahitya Sabha.
- Several leading organisations and institutions from across the State participated in felicitating Dr Saikia.

113. FLAUTIST DIPAK SARMA PASSES AWAY:



- Assam woke up to a heartbreaking note of silence on Monday as the flute of Dipak Sarma, known for his soulful music, has fallen still.
- The 57-year-old internationally acclaimed flautist passed away in Chennai this morning after a prolonged illness, leaving behind a void word can barely fill.
- Known for transforming the humble flute into a bridge of harmony and emotion, Dipak Sarma redefined Assamese music with his fusion of classical purity and local essence.
- His mastery over the instrument earned him accolades from across the region and beyond.
- His flute compositions, blending classical sensibilities with folk nuances, often became the defining element of several Assamese musical productions.
- Sarma was the music director of Assamese films *Jonky Panei* and *Jatinga Ityadi*, and was working on another project *Luitok Bhetibo Kone*.
- He also composed music for several national and regional TV serials.
- However, Sarma's final days were marred by financial hardship.

- The acclaimed flautist faced severe monetary constraints while undergoing treatment.
- In October, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had extended financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to support his medical expenses.

114. PRABHATI THAOSEN NEW APSC CHAIRPERSON:



- Retired IAS officer Prabhati Thaosen has been appointed as the chairperson of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC).
- She had been serving as a member of the commission since her appointment in June this year.

115. PATRIARCH OF NAGARA NAAM RAM CHARAN BHARALI NO MORE:



- Assam's cultural fraternity is mourning the loss of veteran Nagara Naam artiste Ram Charan Bharali.
- His stage journey began in 1958 when he joined the 'Pragati Jatra Party', marking the start of an eleven-year association with folk theatre.
- In 1967, he founded the 'Dehar Kalakuchi Yuvak Naam Party', which redefined Nagara Naam in Assam.
- Through his group, he transformed village gatherings into profound experiences of rhythm, devotion, and worship.
- His powerful voice, rhythmic mastery, and poetic verses became symbols of the devotional spirit of lower Assam.
- A landmark moment came in 1979 during the Assam Agitation when his patriotic and spiritual composition resonated deeply across the state.
- The performance earned widespread admiration and was restaged numerous times by popular demand.
- Over the years, Bharali became a symbol of artistic devotion, turning his performances into spiritual rituals expressed through percussion.
- The Assam Government recognised his contribution with a state artiste pension in 1998, making him the first Nagara Naam pathak to receive this honour.

- He had earlier received a one-time assistance grant in 1994, followed by many other accolades throughout his career.
- His major awards included:
 - 'Nagara Surya' title from Asom Natya Sanmilen (2002)
 - 'Nibaran Bora Award' from Purvanchal Lok Parishad (2008)
 - 'Jeevan Jora Sanskriti Sadhana Award' (2008 & 2011)
 - 'Dr Ambedkar Kalashree Award' from Bharatiya Dalit Sahitya Akademi (2010)
 - 'National Folklore Support Centre's Tata Fellowship' (2012)
 - 'Enajori Bota' (2015)
 - 'Mohan Baira Bota' (2017)
 - 'Naam Shiromoni Bota' (2022)
- Each award reflected his lifelong dedication to cultural preservation and spiritual art.
- During the Assam Movement of 1979, his devotional songs became anthems blending spirituality with the people's collective spirit of resistance.
- Over his illustrious career, he released more than 100 audio cassettes and 30 video albums, setting a record in Assamese folk culture.

116. 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.

117. HONOUR FOR PURNIMA DEVI BARMAN:



- Pandu College, Guwahati has appointed eminent wildlife biologist and conservationist Dr. Purnima Devi Barman as Professor of Practice (honorary).
- The appointment recognizes her outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation, biodiversity management, and public engagement for sustainable development.
- The position has been made under UGC guidelines for engaging Professors of Practice and is aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- The appointment will be effective for three years, with the provision for extension by mutual consent.
- In her new role, Dr. Barman will deliver lectures, talks, and workshops for students and faculty on key environmental topics such as ecology and conservation.
- She will also mentor students in project work and field-based learning activities, and collaborate with faculty on outreach, research, and awareness programmes aligned with NEP 2020.
- Pandu College extended a warm welcome to Dr. Barman, expressing that it looks forward to her inspiring students and enhancing the college's academic and outreach initiatives.

118. EMINENT ARTIST, SPORTSMAN CHOWKAT ALI DIES AT 102:



- Chowkat Ali, the designer of the ASTC logo, a renowned artist, footballer, hockey player, and actor, passed away on Friday night at his residence in Porowa due to age-related ailments.
- He was 102 years old and would have turned 103 on November 24.
- Ali was closely associated with several socio-cultural and literary organizations in the greater Tezpur area.
- A versatile personality, he excelled as a sportsman, painter, environmentalist, and writer, with several books to his credit.

- Born on November 24, 1924, in Guwahati, he completed his schooling at Sonaram High School.
- As a footballer, he played for the Maharana Club, one of the distinguished sports clubs of Assam.
- He served as the captain of the Maharana hockey team from 1943 to 1949.
- Ali joined the Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) in 1947 and was transferred to Tezpur in 1951, where he later settled.
- He played a significant role as a sports organizer in Tezpur, contributing to the establishment of the Tezpur Hockey Club and Swimming Club, among others.
- Known as a skilled hunter, he reportedly killed more than 30 wild tigers in different areas of Tezpur to protect local people from attacks.
- Ali was associated with Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha and Natasurya Phani Sarma, two towering figures of Assamese art and culture.
- As an actor, he appeared in several films, including Pukar, Matir Swarga, Smritir Parash, Sarapat, and Nimila Anka, among others.

119. RG BARUAH AWARDS PRESENTED TO FOUR EMINENT PERSONALITIES:



- The two-day *Assam Tribune Dialogue*'25 concluded this evening with the formal presentation of the RG Baruah Memorial Awards, 2025.
- Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya presented the awards at Vivanta Guwahati.
- DN Bezboruah received the award for Excellence in Journalism.
- Jahnu Barua received the award for Excellence in Cultural Development.
- Dr Narendra Nath Dutta received the award for Excellence in Business and Entrepreneurship.
- Larsing LD Sawyan received the award for Excellence in Sports.

120. HONOUR FOR CSIR-NEIST SCIENTIST:



- Dr. Binoy Kumar Saikia, senior principal scientist at CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, and professor at the Academy of Scientific and Innovative

Research (AcSIR), Ghaziabad, has been selected for the prestigious CRS Silver Star Medal 2026.

- The award recognizes his outstanding contributions to research and innovation in chemical sciences.
- According to a press release, the award, instituted by the Chirantan Rasayan Sanstha (CRS), Midnapore, will be presented at the Visvesvaraya Technological University, Muddenahalli, Karnataka.
- The award ceremony will take place from January 8 to 10, 2026, where Dr. Saikia will also deliver the award lecture.
- Dr. Saikia is renowned for pioneering coal-to-carbon materials research in Northeast India.
- He has patented carbon quantum dots and graphene technologies in both India and the United States.
- He is a recipient of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (2021).
- He has also received the Assam Saurabh Award from the State government.

121. VETERAN STAR KAMINI KAUSHAL NO MORE:



- Actor Kamini Kaushal, one of Hindi cinema's earliest female stars who began her career in 1946 and continued acting until 2022, has died in her Mumbai home.
- One of her early notable films was *Ziddi* (1948).
- She played the lead in filmmaker Bimal Roy's acclaimed 1954 movie based on renowned author Saratchandra Chattopadhyay's Bengali novel.
- Her portrayal of a devoted wife won her a National Film Award and earned her the Filmfare Award for Best Actress.

122. ESHA CLINCHES BRONZE IN WOMEN'S 25M PISTOL:



- Indian shooter Esha Singh clinched her maiden individual World Championship medal — a bronze — in the women's 25m pistol event in Cairo.

123. MISS MEXICO CLINCHES MISS UNIVERSE CROWN AT BANGKOK PAGEANT:



- Fatima Bosch Fernandez of Mexico was crowned Miss Universe 2025. She was at the centre of the turbulent 74th staging of the popular beauty pageant in Bangkok.

124. MUTHUSAMY BECOMES FIRST TEST CENTURION IN GUWAHATI:



- Senuran Muthusamy walked off the Assam Cricket Association Stadium to a long and heartfelt standing ovation after becoming the first batter to score a Test hundred in Guwahati.
- Known more for discipline than spectacle, his composed innings earned genuine appreciation from the crowd as it played a crucial role in steadying South Africa.
- Resuming on 25, the Durban-born allrounder settled into his patient, familiar rhythm at the crease.
- He reached his maiden Test hundred off 192 balls, striking 10 fours and two sixes.
- His effort helped South Africa cross the 400-run mark.
- He finished with a score of 109.

125. 'HE-MAN' DHARMENDRA DIES AT 89:



- Dharmendra, the original 'He-Man' of Hindi cinema known for his tough persona and gentle charm, died on Monday, according to police.
- He was 89, and there was no confirmation from the family at the time.
- The actor, who would have turned 90 on December 8, had been unwell for some time.
- He had been in and out of a Mumbai hospital, and the family decided earlier this month to continue his treatment at home.
- Born Dharam Singh Deol in Punjab in 1935, Dharmendra had a remarkable six-decade career.
- He featured in over 300 films and headlined classics such as *Sholay*, *Chupke Chupke*, *Satyakam*, *Anupama*, *Seeta Aur Geeta*, and many more.
- He was widely celebrated for his versatility across action, romance, and comedy.

126. JUSTICE SURYA KANT TAKES OATH AS 53RD CJI:



- Justice Surya Kant took oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India, succeeding Justice B.R. Gavai.
- He has been part of several landmark verdicts, including those on the abrogation of Article 370 and the Bihar electoral rolls revision.
- Appointed as the next CJI on October 30, he will serve for nearly 15 months and retire on February 9, 2027, upon turning 65.
- Born on February 10, 1962, in Hisar district of Haryana, he rose from being a small-town lawyer to holding the country's highest judicial office.
- He stood 'first class first' in his master's degree in law from Kurukshetra University.
- Justice Kant served in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, authoring several notable judgments.
- He was appointed Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on October 5, 2018.

- His Supreme Court tenure includes important rulings on Article 370, free speech, and citizenship rights.
- He was part of the recent presidential reference concerning the powers of Governors and the President regarding Bills passed by State Assemblies.
- He also served on the bench that kept the colonial-era sedition law in abeyance, directing that no new FIRs be filed until a government review is completed.

127. INDIAN WOMEN BOXING GETS NEW HEAD COACH:



- Newly appointed Indian women's boxing head coach Santiago Nieva believes the current squad has immense potential.
- He aims to guide the team toward creating history by targeting results "beyond a bronze medal" at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
- Nieva previously served as India's high-performance director from 2017 to 2022, working mainly with the men's team.
- He has now returned to India in a new role to shape and strengthen the future of the women's boxing squad.



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NEWS IN SHORTS

128. PM MODI FLAGS OFF 25 NEW E-BUSES AT STATUE OF UNITY, LAUNCHES GREEN MOBILITY DRIVE FOR TOURISTS:



- The Prime Minister's green transport initiative aims to transform Ekta Nagar into India's first model "E-City," reflecting his vision of clean mobility and sustainable development.
- Newly introduced 9-metre-long, air-conditioned e-buses can travel up to 180 km on a single charge.
- The e-buses are designed with inclusivity in mind, featuring special accessibility systems for differently abled passengers.
- A hydraulic lift is provided for easy boarding and alighting of differently abled passengers.
- Four pink seats have been reserved for women to ensure comfort and safety.
- Under the "India's First E-City" initiative, the Statue of Unity Area Development and Tourism Governance Authority (SOUADTGA) has introduced multiple electric modes of transport, including e-cars, e-rickshaws, and e-buses.
- The initiative promotes carbon-neutral tourism and aims to reduce vehicular emissions in the area.

129. CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL 2025 TO HONOUR ZUBEEN GARG WITH SPECIAL MUSICAL TRIBUTE:



- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma announced the lineup for the Cherry Blossom Festival 2025, to be held on November 14–15 in Shillong.
- A special tribute to the late Assamese legend Zubeen Garg will be performed by musicians who had closely collaborated with him.
- The festival will feature international and Indian stars including The Script, Jason Derulo, Nora Fatehi, Aqua, Tyga, and Diplo.
- Local and national talents like Meba, Ophelia, Dappest X ADL, and Girish and The Chronicles will also perform.
- Activities will include cosplay contests, arm wrestling, fashion shows, and the Mr. and Miss Cherry Blossom pageant.
- Events will take place across multiple zones in Shillong.

130. MOS PABITRA MARGHERITA TO VISIT ECUADOR, BOLIVIA AND CUBA TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA:



- Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, will undertake an official visit to Ecuador, Bolivia, and Cuba from November 4 to 10, 2025.
- The visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations and explore areas of mutual cooperation with the three Latin American and Caribbean nations.

- The Minister will hold meetings with political leaders to discuss progress in trade, technology, tourism, development partnership, and capacity building.
- He will also engage with Indian business leaders and diaspora representatives in each country.
- In Ecuador, Shri Margherita will review preparations for setting up a resident Indian Mission in Quito.
- In Bolivia, he will represent India at the inauguration of the newly elected President on November 8 in La Paz.
- In Cuba, talks will focus on strengthening collaboration in healthcare, digital infrastructure, and education.

131. INDIAN WOMEN CREATE HISTORY:



- A consolidated team effort led India to their maiden Women's World Cup title, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in the final at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai.
- Shafali Verma (IND) was named Player of the Match for her outstanding performance in the final.
- Deepti Sharma (IND) was awarded the Player of the Tournament (Man of the Series) for her consistent contributions throughout the Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.

132. SRI LANKA LAUNCHES TASK FORCE TO STRENGTHEN FOREST, WILDLIFE PROTECTION:



- Sri Lanka launched an integrated operational task force named 'Wana Surakuma' under the Ministry of Environment to protect the country's natural forests and wildlife resources.
- The main objective of *Wana Surakuma* is to make forest and wildlife protection operations more efficient while preventing and suppressing environmental crimes.

- The unit brings together officers from the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Forest Conservation, the Police Special Task Force, and representatives of Sri Lanka's tri-forces.
- It aims to strengthen coordination and ensure rapid response to forest-related crimes across the country, according to Xinhua News Agency.
- The task force will operate a 24-hour hotline (short code 1995), allowing the public to report incidents of forest destruction and environmental harm.
- The initiative comes as Sri Lanka prepares for the implementation of the European Union's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which will take effect on December 30.
- The EUDR requires all commodities entering the EU market to be deforestation-free and legally sourced, as noted in a study by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), a Sri Lanka-based research institute.

The regulation targets seven key commodities: natural rubber, palm oil, soy, cattle, cocoa, coffee, and wood, along with products derived from them such as tires and wooden furniture.

133. PM TO INAUGURATE LGBI TERMINAL, LAY FOUNDATION OF AMMONIA-UREA PLANT:



- The Chief Minister invited the Prime Minister to dedicate to the nation the new terminal of Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport and to lay the foundation stone for the Rs 10,601-crore brownfield Ammonia-Urea complex at Namrup.
- The new terminal at LGBI Airport, described as a state-of-the-art facility, is expected to significantly boost connectivity in the Northeast by transforming Guwahati into a major aviation hub.
- The terminal will be equipped to handle over 1.3 crore passengers annually, substantially easing air traffic in the region.
- The Namrup Ammonia-Urea complex, once completed, will play a key role in ensuring a steady supply of fertilisers to the entire Northeast, thereby supporting the region's agricultural sector.

134. ARMY CHIEF UPENDRA DWIVEDI RELEASES LT GEN K.J. SINGH'S BOOK ON OPERATION SINDOOR:



- Indian Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi released a book titled '*General's Jottings Rearmed*', authored by Lt Gen K.J. Singh (retd), highlighting Operation Sindoor and national security imperatives.
- The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) praised the author for offering deep insights into India's evolving security landscape.
- The book provides a practical toolkit to analyse national and global security issues.

135. INDIA, ISRAEL DISCUSS ANTI-TERROR COOPERATION:



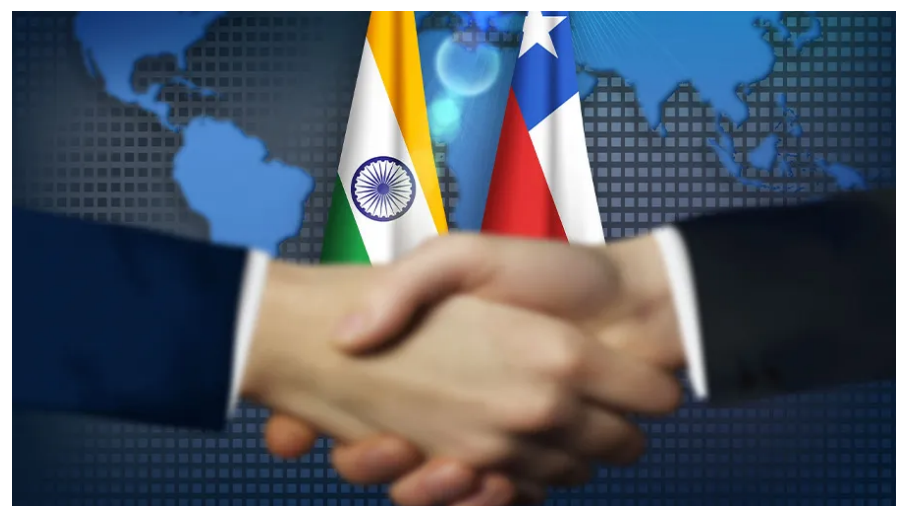
- India and Israel explored ways to build a global "zero-tolerance" approach to combat terrorism and enhance cooperation in trade, infrastructure, and connectivity.
- New Delhi expressed hope that the US-brokered Gaza peace plan would bring durable peace to the region.
- The discussions took place between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar.
- The talks also touched upon the possibility of an upcoming visit to India by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Implementation of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was discussed in the context of strengthening regional connectivity.
- In his opening remarks, Jaishankar noted that both India and Israel are facing the common challenge of terrorism.

136. FM NIRMALA SITHARAMAN ATTENDS 'ENTERPRISE ASSAM-VIKSIT BHARAT 2047' AT JAGIROAD:



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman took part in "Enterprise Assam-Viksit Bharat 2047" at Jagiroad in Assam's Morigaon district on Friday.
- The programme was attended by students, entrepreneurs, and startup founders, aiming to encourage innovation and discuss Assam's role in shaping India's growth journey towards 2047.
- During the event, Nirmala Sitharaman interacted with young entrepreneurs and students, sharing her thoughts on how Assam and the Northeast can contribute to India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.
- She emphasised that the youth of Assam have the talent and energy to lead the state towards new opportunities in technology, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.
- Sitharaman visited the upcoming Tata Electronics Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Jagiroad.
- The project aims to become one of India's leading semiconductor manufacturing sites, contributing to the nation's vision of creating a self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem.
- The Morigaon facility is part of a broader network of government-supported initiatives to strengthen India's semiconductor production capacity and advance the country's position in high-tech manufacturing.
- The event concluded with an assurance that both the Centre and the State will continue working together to promote investment, employment, and innovation across Assam.

137. INDIA DOUBLES DOWN ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PERU, CHILE:



- The government has successfully concluded two key rounds of trade negotiations with partner countries in Latin America, reinforcing its commitment to expanding economic cooperation and deepening trade linkages with the region.

- The ninth round of India–Peru Trade Agreement negotiations was held in Lima, Peru, from November 3–5.
- The discussions saw substantive progress across key chapters of the proposed agreement, including Trade in Goods and Services, Rules of Origin, Technical Barriers to Trade, Customs Procedures, Dispute Settlement, and Critical Minerals.
- Teresa Stella Mera Gomez, Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism of Peru, reaffirmed Peru’s commitment to the timely conclusion of the negotiations.
- She highlighted the complementarity between the two economies and expressed optimism that the agreement would enhance trade and investment flows between India and Peru.

138. JAGANNATH THAKUR SAHITYA SANMAN-2025 PRESENTED:



- The fifth Jagannath Thakur Sahitya Sanman-2025, a literary award in the genre of Assamese short stories, was presented to eminent writer Bhupendra Narayan Bhattacharya.
- The award, organized by the Jagannath Thakur Memorial Trust, includes a citation, a trophy, and ₹50,000 in cash.
- Bhupendra Narayan Bhattacharya is a well-known figure in Assamese literature, celebrated for his brilliant depiction of society through short stories.
- His keen observation and deep insight have enriched his extensive body of work, often portraying a society at a crossroads and the erosion of moral values.
- Bhattacharya was the first Assamese short story writer to win the national Katha Award.
- His notable short story collections include:
 - *Chorus* (1980)
 - *Dalal* (1983)
 - *Ghorapak* (1992)
 - *Brahmaputrar Bukut Suryasta* (2003)
 - *Athaista Suti Galpa* (2007)
 - *Panbazarot Eta Bagh* (2008)
 - *Garam Botah* (2009).

139. STATE CABINET APPROVES BILL TO CHECK POLYGAMY:

- The State Cabinet approved the **Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025**, which provides for **seven years’ imprisonment** for any man marrying more than one woman.
- An amount of **Rs 478.78 crore** was approved for the construction of a **new Gauhati High Court building** at Rangmahal in North Guwahati.
- The Cabinet also approved the establishment of “**SU-KA-PHA University, Assam**”, a teaching, residential, and affiliating university to be set up at **undivided Sivasagar or preferably Charaideo district** for imparting higher education.

140. GU SIGNS MOU WITH OKDISCD:



- Gauhati University and the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD), Guwahati, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in research, teaching, and academic development.
- The agreement focuses on joint research, sharing of academic resources, and organising training programmes, seminars, and workshops.
- It covers disciplines such as Economics, Education, History, Political Science, Geography, Sociology, Social Work, Philosophy, Anthropology, and Environmental Science.
- The MoU aims to enhance knowledge sharing and create more research opportunities for students and teachers.
- Both institutions will explore faculty exchange, joint supervision of research scholars, and projects related to intellectual property.
- The collaboration is expected to strengthen higher education and promote quality research in Assam and the North East.

141. CM SONOWAL INAUGURATES BHAVAN AT SONAPUR:



- As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the newly constructed Sonowal Bhawan at Patarkuchi, Sonapur.
- The Bhawan has been built by the Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council (SKAC).
- It is intended to serve the welfare of the Sonowal Kachari community and support its students.

142. INDIA, VIETNAM TO UPGRADE DEFENCE SECTOR:



- India and Vietnam discussed ways to enhance defence industry and shipbuilding cooperation during Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh's visit to Hanoi for the 15th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue.
- Defence Secretary Singh visited the Hong Ha Shipyard and held talks with Major General Pham Thanh Khiết, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff of the General Department of Defence Intelligence (GDDI) and Director of the Hong Ha Shipyard.
- Both sides explored opportunities to strengthen collaboration in defence manufacturing and shipbuilding.
- Singh highlighted India's capabilities in world-class defence manufacturing under the 'Make in India, Make for the World' vision.
- The visit underscored India's commitment to deepening defence cooperation with Vietnam as a key partner in the Indo-Pacific region.
- During the visit, Defence Secretary Singh also planted a Bodhi tree sapling at the historic Phap Van Pagoda in the presence of Thich Thanh Nhieu, Standing Vice President of the Executive Council of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS).

143. MEITEI BODY DECLARES COMPLETE BOYCOTT OF SANGAI FESTIVAL:



- The Meitei body, Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), has declared a complete boycott of the upcoming Sangai Festival.
- COCOMI asserts that holding a tourism festival amid the unresolved Manipur crisis and the prolonged suffering of internally displaced persons (IDPs) would be "insensitive and unacceptable."
- Since its inception in 2010, the Sangai Festival has grown into a remarkable platform for Manipur to display its diverse heritage to the world. This festival has earned the title of the grandest celebration in the

state and plays a pivotal role in promoting Manipur as a world-class tourism destination. It is a ten-day extravaganza that immerses visitors into the art, music, handicrafts, indigenous sports, cuisine, and adventure sports of the region.

144. EAST INDIA COMPANY'S LAND PATTA FOUND IN BISWANATH:



- In an unprecedented haul, police seized over two centuries-old British-era bronze plates that once served as land ownership certificates from two men in Biswanath district.
- Police stated that the 207-year-old land patta, made of bronze, was issued by Lavakusha Das, District Collector of Borisail district, on March 27, 1818, under the British East India Company.
- The bronze plates carry patta No. 055, owner No. 041, and serial No. 078 engraved on them.
- Police suspect the plates were being trafficked for illegal sale as antique artifacts.
- The State Directorate of Archaeology had earlier advised police to maintain strict vigil to prevent smuggling of such antique items.
- Further investigation into the matter is currently being carried out by the Biswanath police.

145. ASSAM INTRODUCES SMART AXOM APP FOR BETTER DISASTER SAFETY:



- In a significant step, a new mobile app called **SMART AXOM** is set to be launched to help people stay safe during emergencies.
- The app will give real-time alerts and simple safety information during floods, storms, landslides and other natural disasters that the state often faces.
- the app will help people receive quick warnings directly on their phones. SMART AXOM will share weather updates, important notices from disaster management teams and step-by-step safety tips.
- People can also find information about nearby shelters and emergency helpline numbers in the app.
- The government explained that the app has been made easy to use so that everyone, including elderly people and students, can understand it. They said that getting the right information on time can help families stay prepared and avoid danger. The app will also help disaster response teams connect with the public faster and more effectively.
- Authorities have requested all citizens across Assam to download SMART AXOM and keep it ready on their mobile phones. They added that more awareness programmes will be organised so that people in both towns and villages learn about the app.
- With SMART AXOM, the state hopes that people will get important alerts without delay and stay safe during any emergency. The launch of the app is seen as a helpful step toward making Assam better prepared for disasters.

146. POSTAL STAMP, MILEPOST INSTALLATION MARK 54 YEARS OF ARANYA:

- A 'milepost' was installed to commemorate 54 years since the release of *Aranya*, the Assamese film produced by a local club through public donations.
- A postal stamp was also released in memory of the film's late director, Samarendra Narayan Deb.
- To mark the occasion, the local socio-cultural organisation Gypsy Guild organised a public event titled '*Aranyar Edin*' at the Jayanta Hazarika Memorial Park beside the Borpukhuri.
- Prominent writer Dr. Bipul Jyoti Saikia ceremonially inaugurated the 'milepost'.
- Noted playwright and director Nayan Prasad released the commemorative postal stamp.

147. FINANCE COMMISSION SUBMITS REPORT TO



PRESIDENT MURMU:

- Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, Arvind Panagariya, submitted the panel's report to President Droupadi Murmu on Monday.
- The report will provide the formula for tax devolution between the Centre and the States.
- Although originally mandated to submit the report by October 31, the commission received an extension until November 30.
- In addition to recommending tax devolution and measures for revenue augmentation, the commission also reviewed the existing arrangements for financing disaster management initiatives.
- This review includes an assessment of the funds established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

148. UNSC NOD TO TRUMP'S GAZA PEACE PLAN:



- The UN Security Council adopted a US-drafted resolution endorsing Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan and authorising an international stabilisation force in Gaza.

- The resolution passed with 13 votes in favour, none against, and abstentions from China and Russia.
- It endorses Trump's "Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict," which aims to make Gaza a deradicalised, terror-free zone and redevelop it for the benefit of its population.



- The resolution welcomes the creation of a ‘Board of Peace’ (BoP), a transitional administration with international legal personality to coordinate reconstruction funding for Gaza.
- Trump hailed the adoption as a “moment of true historic proportion,” saying it will be one of the biggest approvals in UN history and announcing that he will chair the BoP with global leaders.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres’s spokesperson called the adoption an important step in consolidating the ceasefire.

149. NAGALAND UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS DEVELOP HIGH-YIELD GINGER VARIETY:

- Nagaland University researchers have developed a new ginger variety, SAS-KEVU, known for superior yield, high dry-matter recovery, and excellent culinary quality, making it valuable for farmers, fresh markets, and the spice-processing industry.
- The variety was developed after nearly a decade of scientific evaluation and multi-location trials conducted across seven AICRP (All India Coordinated Research Project) centres under AICRP on Spices at Nagaland University.
- The research was led by Prof. C. S. Maiti and Dr. Graceli I. Yephthomi from the School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University.
- SAS-KEVU was officially notified by the Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of Varieties (Horticultural Crops), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, and published in the Gazette of India on September 2, 2025.
- The variety has a yield potential of 17.21 tonnes per hectare—over 9% higher than the national check variety—and a dry recovery rate of 21.95%, offering significant advantages for processing industries.
- Its rhizomes are bold, soft-textured, lemon-yellow in colour, and low in fibre, making them ideal for pickles, beverages, culinary use, and value-added products.
- Nagaland University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jagadish K. Patnaik congratulated the research team and highlighted the significance of SAS-KEVU’s national notification.

150. INDIA, SLOVENIA EYE DEEPER ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN KEY SECTORS: ENVOY:

- India and Slovenia are set to deepen economic cooperation through an upcoming free trade agreement (FTA) and new sectoral collaborations.
- Both nations have already agreed to work together on the production of medical instruments, strengthening ties in the healthcare and pharma sectors.
- The planned FTA is expected to boost bilateral trade and investment, with the Indian Embassy actively working to expand areas of cooperation.
- Slovenia’s envoy highlighted major sectors with high potential for partnership, including green technology, logistics and transport, pharmaceuticals, and information technology.
- Slovenia, with a population of about 2 million and a per capita income of €35,000, has low-income inequality and a strong economy as a member of the European Union, offering a stable environment for business and investment.

151. FIFA WORLD CUP TROPHY TO VISIT GUWAHATI FOR THE FIRST TIME:



- The original FIFA World Cup trophy will arrive in Guwahati on January 13 for a one-day tour, marking the first time the iconic trophy visits the city.
- The event will combine the excitement of world football with cultural performances under the Coke Studio banner, creating a festive atmosphere.
- Representatives from the Coca-Cola Company, the CEO of NorthEast United FC, senior State and Central Government officials, and GIAL members participated in a coordination meeting.
- The collaboration aims to ensure seamless planning and execution of the event.
- The visit is expected to offer an unforgettable experience for football fans, music enthusiasts, and people across the Northeast as Guwahati prepares for a major celebration.

152. EAM S JAISHANKAR LAUNCHES TWO INDIAN CONSULATES IN RUSSIA:



- External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar emphasised that the opening of two new Indian Consulates General at Yekaterinburg and Kazan in Russia would deepen bilateral engagement and mark a new phase in India–Russia relations.
- The event was attended by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar, representatives from the Governor’s offices in Kazan and Yekaterinburg, officials of the Russian government, and members of the Indian community.
- EAM Jaishankar expressed gratitude for the support extended by the Russian government, thanking Deputy Foreign Minister Rudenko and the regional governments of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Sverdlovsk Oblast region.
- He noted that the region is often referred to as the third capital of Russia due to its industrial significance.

- He highlighted that the region—considered a gateway to Siberia—is a major hub for heavy engineering, gem cutting, defence manufacturing, metallurgy, nuclear fuel, chemicals, and medical equipment.
- The region also hosts INNOPROM, one of Russia’s most prominent international economic forums.
- The opening of the consulate is expected to give impetus to technological, scientific, economic, and trade collaboration between Indian and Russian industries.

153. LAI-KHUTA OF CHANDUBI FESTIVAL ERECTED:



- The lai-khuta of the 16th annual Chandubi Festival 2026 was ceremonially erected on 19/11/2025 amid the lush green surroundings of Chandubi Lake.
- As in previous years, the festival will feature a series of vibrant cultural events and activities.
- The five-day celebration is scheduled to take place from January 1.

154. ‘ZUBEEN GARG NATIONAL AWARD’ FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING ANNOUNCED:

- The South Asia Climate Change Journalists’ Forum announced a new annual national award on November 18 in New Delhi to recognise outstanding journalism on environmental and nature-related issues.
- The award, named the **Zubeen Garg National Award for Environmental Reporting**, commemorates the singer’s commitment to environmental protection.
- The honour carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh and will be awarded to one journalist from anywhere in India.
- Forum president Ashish Gupta said there would be no application process; recipients will be selected by an independent jury evaluating impactful environmental stories.
- The announcement was made at a press conference at the Assam Media Centre.
- Journalists across print, digital, television, radio, and multimedia platforms will be eligible for the award.
- Forum member Kallol Bhowmik stated that the award aims to encourage meaningful reporting on pressing environmental challenges.
- The first award will be presented in New Delhi in 2026 on Zubeen Garg’s birth anniversary.
- The Forum reaffirmed its commitment to supporting environmental journalism.

155. ASSAMESE EDITING, PUBLISHING HOUSE INAUGURATED:



- *Matribhasa*, the first professional text editing and publishing house dedicated to serving the mother tongue, was recently inaugurated.
- The inauguration was carried out by four students of Assam Jatiya Vidyalaya — Devangana, Aakash, Prapti and Udataditya — symbolising the aspirations of the new generation.
- Former UK chapter president of Asam Sahitya Sabha and noted educator-singer Manjira Choudhury attended the event, expressing hope that *Matribhasa* would help preserve the sanctity of a language honoured with classical status.
- Eminent personalities such as artist Munindra Narayan Bhattacharya, writer-administrator Dipanka Hazarika, and writer-translator-engineer Bibekananda Choudhury also addressed the gathering.
- Editor-in-chief and poet Kushal Dutta



emphasised the need for a professional editing platform due to widespread issues in language use, structure and presentation in Assamese writing.

- He stated that *Matribhasa* aims to offer precise language, correct construction and refined presentation through expert editors and subject specialists.



156. NORTH EAST RENEWABLE ENERGY & EV EXPO KICKS OFF IN GUWAHATI:

- The 2nd edition of the North East Renewable Energy & Electric Vehicle Expo (NEREVE 2025) was inaugurated at Sarusajai Stadium.
- The event was organised by FINER (Federation of Industry & Commerce of North Eastern Region) in association with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).
- The three-day expo brings together leading companies, innovators, policymakers, and startups to accelerate clean energy adoption in the Northeast.
- Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary inaugurated the event and praised FINER for creating a platform aligned with India's green growth agenda.
- He highlighted the Northeast's strategic importance in renewable energy development and encouraged entrepreneurs to explore opportunities in solar, wind, hydro, and electric mobility.
- FINER president Bajrang Lohia spoke about India's renewable energy achievements, including total installed RE capacity surpassing 505 GW.
- He noted rapid EV adoption, with passenger EV sales doubling in 2025.
- Lohia said NEREVE 2025 aims to enhance collaboration, showcase innovations, and promote sustainable industrial growth in the region.
- NEREVE is FINER's flagship initiative to promote renewable energy, electric vehicles, and sustainable technologies in Northeast India.
- The expo features product showcases, technical sessions, demonstrations, and industry networking opportunities from November 21–23, from 11 am to 8 pm.

157. G20 LEADERS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES FROM DIGITALISATION OF ECONOMY:

- G20 leaders committed to engaging constructively to address concerns regarding the global minimum tax and the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy, while ensuring the preservation of the tax sovereignty of all countries.
- In a declaration issued after the G20 Summit in South Africa, leaders of 20 developing and developed nations called for a new OECD framework that would enable interested jurisdictions to enhance international tax transparency on immovable property on a voluntary basis.
- The OECD's Pillar 2 initiative sets a minimum corporate tax rate of 15% for all signatory countries. Concerns have been raised that US domestic tax rules may conflict with this global minimum tax.
- On January 20, US President Donald Trump stated in a Presidential memorandum that the "Global Tax Deal has no force or effect within the United States," prompting countries to reassess the benefits of joining the tax deal when the US is not participating.
- The G20 declaration stated that a solution must include a commitment to address substantial risks related to maintaining a level playing field and should support progress towards stabilising the international tax system, including constructive dialogue on tax challenges arising from the digitalised economy.
- The declaration noted that the OECD/G20 BEPS Project has an opportunity to develop a new OECD framework allowing interested jurisdictions to strengthen international tax transparency on immovable property voluntarily.
- G20 leaders agreed that domestic resource mobilisation is the most effective form of funding and that a structured reform approach that is

"country-owned, country-led," while upholding the social contract with taxpayers, would be valuable.

158. FESTIVE BORJHORA BECOMES A SYMBOL OF BORDER HARMONY:



- The Assam–Meghalaya border region of Borjhora, located about 45–50 km from Goalpara district headquarters, witnessed a remarkable celebration of unity and peace through a grand 'Border Sports and Cultural Festival' organised by the Goalpara district administration with support from the border protection and development department.
- The festival began with various sports competitions, including athletics under different age and gender categories, and tug-of-war.
- Vibrant cultural presentations followed, featuring Rabha dance, Garo Wangala, Goalpariya folk dance, Bihu, and a soulful musical performance by Maulik Rabha that captivated the audience.
- A major highlight was the women's football match between Assam and Meghalaya, which drew an enthusiastic crowd and showcased exceptional talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship.
- The closely contested match, cheered loudly by spectators, symbolised the strength, determination, and rising sporting spirit of young women in the border regions.
- The match concluded with loud applause as players from both states embraced each other, displaying fraternity and goodwill.
- Around 500 attendees from bordering villages of both states later gathered for a community lunch, turning the festival into a true celebration of unity beyond boundaries.
- The lunch featured traditional tribal delicacies of both Assam and Meghalaya, including seasonal organic dishes prepared by local communities.
- The shared meal delighted participants and reflected the deep cultural bonds and food heritage of the region.
- Organised by the festival committee, the meal served as a meaningful symbol of brotherhood and hospitality.



159. INDONESIA DECLARED POLIO-FREE BY WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION:

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially declared the end of Indonesia's poliovirus type-2 outbreak, marking a major milestone in the nation's public health journey after years of low vaccination coverage.
- The declaration was made on 19 November, following the absence of poliovirus detection in children or environmental samples since June 2024.
- Indonesia's Ministry of Health, supported by WHO, reported that nearly 60 million additional doses of the polio vaccine were administered across the country as part of the emergency response.

160. CHALO LOKU FESTIVAL CELEBRATED WITH GRAND FERVOUR IN ARUNACHAL'S KHONSA:



- The town of Khonsa in Arunachal Pradesh's Tirap district celebrated the Chalo Loku festival with great enthusiasm at the scenic Loku ground.
- Chalo Loku is one of Arunachal Pradesh's most vibrant harvest festivals, marking the end of the paddy harvesting season and the beginning of new Jhum cultivation.
- The three-day festival featured participation from tribal cultural troupes of Kheti, Hukan, and Chasa villages.
- Performers, dressed in traditional attire, presented lively folk dances depicting the rich cultural rituals, customs, and heritage of the Nocte community.
- The festival attracted over 100 foreign tourists, showcasing the cultural diversity of northeast India to a global audience.

161. INDIA, CANADA RELAUNCH 'HIGH-AMBITION' CEPA TRADE TALKS AT G20 SUMMIT:



- Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand joined Prime Minister Mark Carney at the G20 Summit for discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar as both countries launched negotiations toward a comprehensive Canada-India trade agreement.
- Prime Minister Modi also held a bilateral meeting with PM Carney on the sidelines of the summit, where both leaders agreed to expand cooperation in defence, space, trade, technology, and energy.
- The meeting reflects improving ties between India and Canada since their interaction at the G7 Summit in June, with several dialogue mechanisms being revived.
- This was their second meeting in 2025, following talks at the G7 Summit in Kananaskis.
- Modi underscored the potential for deeper economic partnership and noted that both sides aim to raise bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030. Bilateral trade exceeded USD 30 billion in 2024, making India Canada's seventh-largest trading partner.
- The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the launch of the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership, which will advance collaboration in critical technologies, nuclear energy, AI, and supply chain resilience.
- PM Carney expressed support for India's upcoming AI Summit in February 2026.

162. INDIA-OMAN STRENGTHEN MILITARY PARTNERSHIP AT 13TH JOINT MILITARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING:

- Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Oman's Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence, Mohammed Bin Naseer Bin Ali Al Zaabi, co-chaired the meeting.
- A Ministry of Defence statement noted that both sides reviewed and appreciated the robust defence cooperation between India and Oman.
- They discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral engagements across various sectors.
- Officials exchanged views on regional and international security developments, particularly concerning the Indian Ocean Region.
- Discussions centred on creating long-term frameworks for co-development of advanced platforms, boosting indigenous manufacturing, and improving strategic resilience.

- Both sides agreed that deeper defence industrial collaboration is vital for regional stability, mutual security interests, and sustainable defence modernisation.

163. CABINET NOD TO GOM REPORT ON ST STATUS FOR SIX COMMUNITIES:



- The State Cabinet approved the report of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six major communities of Assam: Tai Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Motok, Koch-Rajbongshi, and Tea Tribes (Adivasis).
- The report will be placed before the Assam Legislative Assembly and subsequently sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The three-member GoM is headed by Dr. Ranoj Pegu, with Pijush Hazarika and Keshab Mahanta as members.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated that the Cabinet also approved modification and transfer of three bighas of land at the Government Muga Farm, Reshom Nagar, Khanapara, under the Handloom, Textiles and Sericulture Department, to the Cultural Affairs Department.
- The land will be used to establish a state-of-the-art museum focused on preserving and showcasing the Vrindavani Vastra, with support from JSW I&P Holdings Pvt. Ltd.
- The British Museum has agreed to lend the Vrindavani Vastra for display in the State.
- The Cabinet additionally approved the Assam Survey and Settlement Training Centre Teachers' Service Rules, 2025, for regulating recruitment, service conditions, and career progression of teachers at the Assam Survey and Settlement Training Centre (ASSTC), Dakhingaon, Guwahati.

164. SEVERAL BILLS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE:

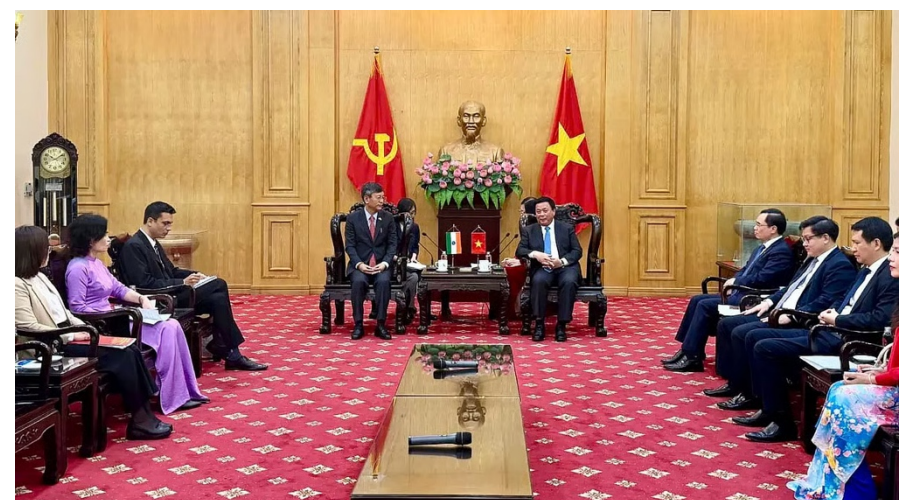
- The State government on Wednesday introduced several Bills in the Assam Legislative Assembly.
- These include:
 - The North Eastern Regional Institute of Management (NERIM) University Bill, 2025
 - Azim Premji University Bill, 2025
 - The Mising Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
 - The Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
 - The Tiwa Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
 - The Deori Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
 - The Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
 - The Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
 - The Bodo Kachari Welfare Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
 - The Assam Non-Governmental Educational Institutions (Regulation of Fees) (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- The Karbi Welfare Autonomous Council Bill, 2025
- Assam Elementary and Secondary School Teachers (Regulation of Posting and Transfer) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- Assam Education (Provincialisation of Services of Teachers and Re-Organisation of Educational Institutions) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- Assam Education (Provincialisation of Services of Non-Teaching Staff of Venture Educational Institutions) (Amendment) Bill, 2025

165. SHAH LAUDS LAUNCH OF CONSTITUTION IN BODO, KASHMIRI LANGUAGES:



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the launch of the Constitution in Kashmiri and Bodo by the President will help people of these regions imbibe constitutional values and make them central to national life.
- On the 76th Constitution Day, the government released the Constitution in Kashmiri and Bodo for the first time.
- Shah congratulated the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the Bodoland Territorial Region, stating that from Kashmir to Bodoland, the Constitution grows stronger.
- He said the milestone created on Constitution Day will enable people in these regions to adopt and internalize constitutional values.
- Shah added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought peace and progress to these regions by effectively implementing the Constitution on the ground.
- He said the new translations will further strengthen these efforts.
- On Constitution Day, President Droupadi Murmu also released digital versions of the Constitution in nine languages: Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Telugu, Odia, Assamese, Bodo, and Kashmiri.
- The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on November 26, 1949.
- The



Constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950.

166. UNION CABINET OKAYS SCHEME FOR MANUFACTURING REPM:



- Here is the text converted into clear bullet points without any heading:
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a scheme to promote the manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) in India with an investment of ₹7,280 crore.
- This first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 metric tons per annum of integrated REPM manufacturing capacity in the country.
- The move is intended to enhance self-reliance and position India as a major player in the global REPM market.
- REPMs are among the strongest permanent magnets and are essential for electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, electronics, aerospace, and defence applications.
- The scheme will support the creation of integrated facilities covering all stages: converting rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs.
- India's consumption of REPMs is expected to double between 2025 and 2030 due to rising demand from EVs, renewable energy, industrial uses, and consumer electronics.
- Currently, India relies heavily on imports to meet its demand for these magnets.
- The initiative will help establish India's first integrated REPM manufacturing facilities, generate employment, boost self-reliance, and support the nation's goal of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070.

167. INDIA, VIETNAM TO INTENSIFY COLLABORATION IN CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH:

- India's Ambassador-designate Tshering Wangchuk Sherpa met Vietnam's Politburo member and HCMNAP President Nguyen Xuan Thang, along with other senior officials in Hanoi.
- Ambassador Sherpa, a 2002 batch IFS officer, was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Vietnam in September and previously served as Joint Secretary in the MEA.
- Both sides reaffirmed strengthening cooperation, including collaboration in critical and emerging technologies.
- Emphasising strong people-to-people ties, the Indian Embassy and the Indian community in Hanoi showcased Indian cuisine, traditional handicrafts and henna art at the International Culinary Cultural Festival.
- Members of the Indian community also performed classical Indian dances at the festival.

168. BILL FOR PRESERVATION OF SATRAS PASSED:

- The Assam Legislative Assembly passed 10 Bills on the third day of the winter session.
- The Assam Satra Preservation and Development Commission Bill, 2025, was passed to strengthen institutional mechanisms for conserving and developing satras in the State.
- Major Bills cleared include the Assam Police (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Assam Fire and Emergency Services Bill, 2025.
- In the education sector, the Rabindranath Tagore University (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Su-Ka-Pha University Bill, 2025, were passed.
- Two taxation-related Bills—the Assam GST (Second



Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Assam Taxation (Liquidation of Arrear Dues) (Amendment) Bill, 2025—were approved.

- The Assembly passed amendments to the Assam Co-operative Societies Act.
- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2025, was passed after discussion.
- The Assam Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025, was also passed, concluding the day's legislative agenda.

169. 297 MOUS SIGNED WITH STATE GOVT DEPARTMENTS:

- A total of 297 MoUs worth Rs 2,77,438.97 crore were signed by various State government departments during the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment & Infrastructure Summit 2025.
- Of these, 70 MoUs involving Rs 1,20,958.93 crore have already been implemented.
- Additionally, 2,678 agreements valued at Rs 7,122.24 crore were signed at District Industries and Commercial Centres; 494 have been grounded and 1,174 are in process.
- Assam's FDI equity inflow stood at USD 11.19 million in 2020-21, USD 4.4 million in 2021-22, USD 2.09 million in 2022-23, USD 0.23 million in 2023-24, USD 2.36 million in 2024-25, and USD 16.81 million so far in 2025-26, showing a recent increase.

170. INDIA, UAE TO BOOST ECONOMIC TIES:



- India and the UAE agreed to further boost trade facilitation, regulatory cooperation, and data sharing during the third meeting of the Joint Committee under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- The meeting was co-chaired by Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, and Juma Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for International Trade Affairs, UAE.
- Both sides welcomed strong bilateral trade growth, which crossed \$100.06 billion in FY 2024-25—a 19.6% rise—reaffirming the UAE’s role as one of India’s key trading partners.
- The UAE delegation also met Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal to discuss ways to maximise CEPA utilisation by both countries.
- A comprehensive review of CEPA progress was undertaken, covering market access issues, data sharing, Gold TRQ allocation, anti-dumping matters, services, Rules of Origin, BIS licensing, and other regulatory areas.

171. IIT-G DEVELOPS ECO-FRIENDLY SOLUTION FOR LEAD REMOVAL USING MICROORGANISMS:

- IIT Guwahati researchers have developed a natural, sustainable, and low-cost method to remove lead from contaminated water using cyanobacteria capable of photosynthesis.
- The findings, published in the *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, were co-authored by Prof. Debasish Das, post-doctoral fellow Abhijeet Mahana, and Prof. Tapas K. Mandal.
- Lead is a highly toxic pollutant affecting over 800 million children globally, including 275 million in India, entering water through industrial discharge, agricultural runoff, and old pipelines, and causing serious health issues.
- Existing lead-removal methods like chemical treatments and synthetic adsorbents are expensive and often generate secondary pollutants.
- The IIT Guwahati team used bioremediation, a natural process where microorganisms clean contaminated environments, to tackle these challenges.
- They employed a light-dependent, lead-binding cyanobacterial species *Phormidium corium* NRMC-50 to determine which cellular components best absorbed lead.
- The study found that exopolysaccharides (EPS) of the cyanobacterium had the highest lead removal efficiency at 92.5%.
- Cyanobacteria also help absorb pesticides, herbicides, hydrocarbons, synthetic dyes, and industrial chemicals, and absorbed metals can be recovered to produce biochar, bioplastics, or biofuels.
- Since these microorganisms are self-replicating and require only sunlight, CO₂, and minimal nutrients, they offer a sustainable alternative to synthetic adsorbents used worldwide.

- The research team is now working on scaling the process from laboratory level to a pilot-scale treatment system for real wastewater applications.

172. ASSAM RENAMES RAJ BHAVAN AS LOK BHAVAN FOLLOWING MHA DIRECTIVE:



- Assam has officially renamed “Raj Bhavan, Assam” to “Lok Bhavan, Assam”.
- The change follows a directive issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- The directive aims to bring uniformity to the titles of Governors’ offices across the country.

173. INS VIKRANT TO BE STAR ATTRACTION OF NAVY DAY CELEBRATIONS:



- INS Vikrant will be the main attraction at the Indian Navy Operational Demonstration for Navy Day celebrations at Shangumugham on December 3.
- President Droupadi Murmu will attend the event as the chief guest.
- The aircraft carrier is currently near Sri Lanka and will arrive in Thiruvananthapuram in the next few days.
- The demonstration will showcase India’s full air and naval power.
- Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi will host the event.
- The celebrations will include various naval exercise demonstrations highlighting the Navy’s combat strength and capabilities.



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