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**NOVEMBER
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Chauraha,
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Marg, Lucknow



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Indore,
Madhya Pradesh



Crystal Heights,
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Jindal House,
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National Marine Fisheries Census 2025 Launched

Why in News?

The Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri George Kurian**, launched the **National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025** at **ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)**, Kochi.

- 💡 This marks India's **first fully digitised fisheries census**, representing a major stride towards **data-driven and technology-enabled marine governance**.

Key Points

💡 About:

- ✦ The **National Marine Fisheries Census 2025** is a **45-day nationwide exercise** designed to collect comprehensive data on India's marine fishing sector.
- ✦ It will cover **1.2 million fisher households** across **4,000 marine fishing villages** in **nine coastal States and four Union Territories**.
- ✦ The enumeration will be conducted from **3rd November to 18th December, 2025**.
- ✦ The initiative is coordinated by the **Department of Fisheries (DoF)** under the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, with **CMFRI** as the nodal agency and the **Fishery Survey of India (FSI)** as the operational partner.

💡 Purpose and Objectives:

- ✦ To create a **comprehensive digital database** of marine fishing communities, infrastructure, and socio-economic indicators.
- ✦ To **modernise fisheries management** and improve welfare delivery through verified digital data.
- ✦ To link all fishers with the **National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDPP)** for streamlined access to government schemes.
- ✦ To facilitate better implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

- 💡 **Digitised and Real-Time Data Collection:** For the first time, the Census adopts a fully digital mode, using two dedicated mobile applications developed by CMFRI to ensure accuracy, transparency, and efficiency.

Mobile Application	Core Function	Impact on the Census
VyAS Bharat	Data Capture and Geo-referencing	Used by field staff to collect socio-economic data from 1.2 million fisher households and key statistics. Links each data entry to a specific location through geo-referencing.
VyAS Sutra	Verification and Monitoring	Enables instant validation of field data and provides a centralised platform for live monitoring of the enumeration process across the country.

LVM3-M5 Launch: ISRO Shoots Off India's Heaviest Communication Satellite 'GSAT-7R'

Why in News?

India's space capabilities received a major upgrade on **November 2, 2025**, when the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully deployed **GSAT-7R**, a next-generation communication satellite for the **Indian Navy**, using its **LVM3-M5** heavy-lift rocket popularly known as '**Bahubali**' from **Sriharikota**.

Key Points

About GSAT-7R

- 💡 Designed exclusively for the **Indian Navy** to modernize its maritime communication and command infrastructure.
- 💡 Fully indigenous, equipped with **multi-band transponders** to support **voice, video, and data relay** across surface, sub-surface, and aerial naval assets.

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- Provides uninterrupted, encrypted connectivity across the **entire Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- Enhances **real-time situational awareness**, enabling joint coordination between **ships, submarines, aircraft, and command centres**.
- Acts as a **force multiplier** in India's maritime domain awareness grid, ensuring secure and resilient communication during operations.

About the Launch Vehicle – LVM3-M5 ('Bahubali')

- India's **heaviest operational rocket**, earlier known as **GSLV Mk-III**.
- Payload Capacity:**
 - Up to **4,000 kg** to **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**.
 - Up to **8,000 kg** to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- Configuration:** A **three-stage launch system** comprising:
 - S200** solid strap-on boosters for liftoff thrust.
 - L110** liquid core stage powered by **twin Vikas engines**.
 - C25** cryogenic upper stage — developed entirely in India.
- Serves as the **baseline launcher for the Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission**, where its modified version is called **Human-Rated LVM3 (HRLV)**.
- Nickname 'Bahubali'** reflects its immense lifting strength and consistent reliability across missions.

Development Background

- The M5 mission is the **fifth successful flight** in the LVM3 series, continuing ISRO's flawless streak with this vehicle.
- Follows earlier satellites like **GSAT-7 (Rukmini)** for the Navy and **GSAT-7A** for the Air Force, extending India's defence communication capabilities.

Tri-Services Exercise 'Trishul 2025'

Why in News

The Tri-Services Exercise 'Trishul 2025' will commence on **November 3, 2025**, led by the **Indian Navy**, integrating

Army, Air Force, and maritime elements across the **Sir Creek and desert sectors of Gujarat and Rajasthan**, extending into the **northern Arabian Sea**.

Key Details

- The large-scale exercise is **led by the Indian Navy**, coordinated by the **Western Naval Command**, with active participation from the **Army's Southern Command**, the **Navy's Western Command**, and the **IAF's South Western Command**.
- Aim of the Exercise:**
 - Validate joint operational procedures.
 - Enhance interoperability among the three services.
 - Strengthen networked command integration for multi-domain operations.

Sir Creek

- Location:** Marshy estuarine area between **Kutch (Gujarat, India)** and **Sindh (Pakistan)**, where the **Rann of Kutch** meets the **Arabian Sea**.
- Length:** Approximately **96 km** long tidal creek.
- Dispute:** India–Pakistan boundary dispute — India considers the **mid-channel** as the border, while Pakistan claims the **eastern bank**.
- Strategic Importance:**
 - Serves as a **sensitive coastal security zone** and **strategic maritime boundary**.
 - Crucial for **naval and coastal surveillance**, especially under **Western Naval Command**.
 - Rich in **marine resources**; potential **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** implications.
 - Environmentally significant — part of the **Indus Delta ecosystem**.

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI) 2025

Why in News?

On **2 November 2025**, the annual **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists** is being observed under the auspices of the **UNESCO** with a special

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focus on “**AI-facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women Journalists.**” The campaign this year draws attention to how artificial intelligence enables new forms of harassment and silencing of women in media.

Key Points

- 💡 The Day was established by the **United Nations General Assembly** in **2013** in response to the **killing of French journalists Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon in Mali.**
- 💡 **UNESCO’s Campaign:** The organisation is rolling out its “CTRL + ALT + MUTE” awareness initiative to highlight vulnerabilities faced by women journalists and to mobilise action against impunity and digital violence.
- 💡 **2025 Theme:** The focus on **AI-enabled gender violence** realises the fact that online abuse — including deepfakes, doxxing, and orchestrated trolling has become a significant threat to women journalists’ safety and freedom.
- 💡 **Global Data:** Between 2006 and 2024, more than **1,700 journalists** were killed globally; roughly **nine out of ten** such killings have not resulted in justice.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- 💡 **Founded:** 1945 (Constitution came into force in 1946)
- 💡 **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- 💡 **Mandate:** To promote international cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, and communication in order to foster peace, sustainable development, and human rights worldwide.
- 💡 **Key Functions**
 - ✦ Sets global norms and standards in its fields of expertise.
 - ✦ Develops tools and programmes for international cooperation.
 - ✦ Produces knowledge and supports evidence-based policymaking for member states.
 - ✦ Maintains networks of sites and institutions, such as World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, and Creative Cities.

India Women Win 2025 World Cup

Why in News?

India’s women’s cricket team created history by clinching their **first-ever ICC Women’s ODI World Cup** title after **defeating South Africa** in the final.

Key Details

India’s Journey:

- ✦ India had previously reached the **finals in 2005 and 2017**, losing to Australia and England, respectively.
- ✦ India thus became the **fourth team** to win the Women’s World Cup (under the captaincy of **Harmanpreet Kaur**), after **Australia, England, and New Zealand.**

About the Tournament:

- ✦ The 2025 tournament was the **13th edition** of the Women’s Cricket World Cup. It is held after a gap of 4 years.
- ✦ India and Sri Lanka hosted a total of 8 teams.
- ✦ **Winners of last 4 editions:**
 - 📎 **2013:** Australia
 - 📎 **2017:** England
 - 📎 **2022:** Australia
 - 📎 **2025:** India

Key Highlights of the 2025 Final:

- ✦ **Coach (India):** Amol Muzumdar
- ✦ **Captain (South Africa):** Laura Wolvaardt
- ✦ **Player of the Match:** Shafali Verma
- ✦ **Player of the Tournament:** Deepti Sharma

Awards:

- ✦ **ICC** declared a prize-money kitty of **USD 4.48 million** (≈ ₹ 39 crore) for the champions.
- ✦ **The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced a cash reward of **₹ 51 crore** for the Indian women’s team after their win.

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137 Indian Institutions in QS Rankings Asia 2026

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the record increase in Indian universities in the QS rankings, reiterating the government's commitment to quality education, research, and innovation.

- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) is a London-based global higher education analyst best known for its widely recognised QS World University Rankings.

Key Points

- About:** The QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026 reveals that **no Indian university is in the top 50**, but **India added 137 universities**, marking a 1,125% increase in representation since 2016.
- India now has 294 universities in the QS Asia Rankings, making it the **second highest after China**, which added 261 universities, bringing its total to 395.
- Indian institutions continue to perform strongly in **academic reputation**, **research productivity**, and **employer reputation**, but lag behind in **internationalisation** and **research visibility**.
- Top Performers in Asia:**
 - University of Hong Kong:** Ranked 1st.
 - Peking University:** Ranked 2nd.
 - National University of Singapore (NUS)** and **Nanyang Technological University (NTU):** Ranked 3rd (tied).
- Top Indian Institutions:**
 - IIT Delhi:** 59th (down from 44th in 2025).
 - IIT Bombay:** 71st (down from 48th in 2025).
 - IISc Bengaluru:** 64th (down from 62nd in 2025).
 - IIT Madras:** 70th (down from 56th in 2025).
 - IIT Kanpur:** 77th (down from 67th in 2025).
 - Delhi University:** 95th (down from 81st in 2025).
- Private Institutions' Growth:**
 - Chandigarh University** improved to 109th (from 120th in 2025).

- BITS Pilani, Shoolini University, and O.P. Jindal Global University also achieved their highest-ever rankings.

Amul Ranked 1st Among World's Top Cooperatives

Why in News?

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, congratulated **Amul** and **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** for securing the 1st and 2nd ranks among the top ten cooperatives globally, according to the **ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025** report.

- This milestone was recognized during the **ICA CM50 Conference** held in Doha, Qatar.



Key Points

- The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), in collaboration with the **European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (EURISCE)**, released the **2025 edition of the World Cooperative Monitor (WCM)**, marking the UN International Year of Cooperatives.
- The 13th edition of the WCM provides a comprehensive overview of the global cooperative sector, showcasing cooperatives' contributions to **sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economies** worldwide.

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- 💡 The **2025 report** features the **Top 300 cooperatives**, highlighting their **economic impact** across sectors like **agriculture, finance, health, energy, and education**, with a combined turnover of **USD 2.79 trillion** in 2023.
- ✦ By **turnover relative to GDP per capita**, India's **Amul** and **IFFCO** top the global list, highlighting the strength of cooperatives in **emerging economies**.
- ✦ This ranking underscores the **strength and potential** of India's **cooperative sector** in driving economic empowerment and growth.

About Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd)

- 💡 **Amul** was established in **1946** as the **Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited** in **Anand, Gujarat**, founded by **Tribhuvandas Patel** with support from **Morarji Desai** and **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- 💡 In **1950**, the cooperative launched the **Amul brand**, and it has since grown to become India's largest **food product marketing organisation** with an annual turnover of **USD 7.3 billion** (2023-24).

About IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative)

- 💡 **IFFCO** was founded in **1967** and is headquartered in **New Delhi**. It manufactures and markets **fertilisers** to Indian farmers.
- 💡 As one of the world's largest cooperatives, **IFFCO** operates with **35,000 member cooperatives**, reaching over **50 million farmers** across India.

Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Why in News?

President Droupadi Murmu extended her greetings on the occasion of **Guru Nanak Jayanti**, urging all citizens to embrace **Guru Nanak Dev Ji's** teachings of **truth, justice, compassion**, and human equality to build a better society.

Key Points

- 💡 **About: Guru Nanak (1469-1539)** was born in **1469** in **Talwandi village**, near **Lahore** in **Pakistan**.
 - ✦ He was the **first of the 10 Sikh gurus**.
 - ✦ He worked as a **clerk** in **Sultanpur** in the **Lodi administration**.
- 💡 **Spiritual Revelation:** Around the **age of 30**, **Guru Nanak** had a profound **spiritual experience** and a direct encounter with **God** near a river **Kali Bein**, leading him to declare, "**There is neither Hindu nor Muslim.**"
- 💡 **Philosophy:** He was a proponent of the **Nirguna School** of the **Bhakti movement** and was influenced by **Kabir Das**. He emphasised spiritual practices like "**Nam Japna**" i.e., the repetition of God's name to experience God's presence.
- 💡 **Teachings and Travels:** He travelled extensively across **India and the Middle East**, spreading his message with his Muslim companion, **Mardana**.
 - ✦ The **hymns** composed by him were incorporated in the **Adi Granth** by the **fifth Sikh Guru Arjan** in **1604**.
- 💡 **Community and Legacy:** He settled in **Kartarpur** and established the **first Sikh community** where disciples lived and worshipped together.
 - ✦ He appointed **Guru Angad (Bhai Lehna)** as his **successor** to lead the community.

Sikh Gurus and Their Major Contributions

Guru	Period	Key Contributions
Guru Nanak Dev	1469-1539	Founder of Sikhism; started GURU KA LANGAR ; contemporary of Babur ; 550th birth anniversary commemorated with Kartarpur corridor .
Guru Angad	1504-1552	Invented Guru-Mukhi script ; popularised GURU KA LANGAR .
Guru Amar Das	1479-1574	Introduced Anand Karaj Marriage ; abolished Sati and Purdah ; contemporary of Akbar .

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Guru Ram Das	1534-1581	Founded Amritsar in 1577 ; initiated construction of Golden Temple .
Guru Arjun Dev	1563-1606	Composed Adi Granth in 1604 ; completed Golden Temple ; executed by Jahangir .
Guru Hargobind	1594-1644	Transformed Sikhs into a military community ; established Akal Takht ; waged wars against Jahangir and Shah Jahan .
Guru Har Rai	1630-1661	Promoted peace with Aurangzeb ; focused on missionary work.
Guru Har Krishan	1656-1664	Youngest guru; summoned by Aurangzeb for anti-Islamic blasphemy.
Guru Teg Bahadur	1621-1675	Founded Anandpur Sahib , Beheaded on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1675 .
Guru Gobind Singh	1666-1708	Founded Khalsa in 1699 ; introduced Pahul (Baptism ceremony) ; last guru to pass Guruship to Guru Granth Sahib .

Maldives Enforces World's First Generational Smoking Ban

Why in News?

The **Maldives** has officially become the **first country in the world** to enforce a **generational ban on smoking**, prohibiting anyone **born on or after 1st January 2007** from ever purchasing, possessing, or using tobacco products.

Key Points

- 💡 **The generational Ban:**
 - ✦ Applies to **all tobacco forms**, including cigarettes, cigars, and smokeless tobacco.
 - ✦ **Retailers must verify age** before sale to prevent violations.

✦ Aims to **phase out tobacco use within one generation**.

✦ The Maldives already has a **complete ban on vaping and e-cigarettes**, regardless of age.

💡 **New Zealand** was the first to enact such law (born after 1st January, 2009), but they **repealed it** in 2023 before it took effect.

Health Perspective:

- ✦ Tobacco kills nearly **7 million people annually** (WHO).
- ✦ The move aligns with the **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** to curb youth initiation and protect future generations.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

💡 It is the **world's first global public health treaty**. Over **180 parties** (including **India**) have ratified the convention. It was adopted in 2003 and enforced in 2005.

💡 **Objective:** To protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental, and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke.

Key Provisions:

- ✦ Ban on **tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship**.
- ✦ **Health warnings** covering at least 30–50% of packaging.
- ✦ Measures to **reduce tobacco demand and supply**, including taxation and public smoking bans.
- ✦ **Regulation of illicit trade** and **protection from industry interference** in policy-making.

First Indian Woman to Race a Ferrari Internationally

Why in News?

Diana Pundole has made history by becoming the **first Indian woman** to race a **Ferrari 296 Challenge** car on **international circuits**.

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Key Points

- 💡 Diana Pundole is competing in the **Ferrari 296 Challenge**, a prestigious international one-make racing series featuring the brand's latest high-performance race car.
- 💡 Her participation across **Middle Eastern circuits** — including **Dubai Autodrome** and **Yas Marina, Abu Dhabi** — makes her the **first Indian woman to officially race a Ferrari at the global level**.
- 💡 **About the Ferrari 296 Challenge:**
 - ✦ The Ferrari 296 Challenge is the **latest model in Ferrari's Challenge racing series**, replacing the 488 Challenge Evo.
 - ✦ The series runs under Ferrari's global **one-make championship format**, featuring professional and gentleman racers from around the world.

Indian Navy to Commission 'Ikshak'

Why in News?

The Indian Navy will commission **INS Ikshak**, the third vessel of the **Survey Vessel (Large) [SVL] class**, at **Naval Base Kochi**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Vessel:**
 - ✦ The name **Ikshak** means **"Guide,"** which perfectly matches the ship's job of **accurately mapping and navigating the seas**.
 - ✦ It is the **first SVL-class vessel** to be based at the **Southern Naval Command (Kochi)**.
 - ✦ Built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd., Kolkata**, the vessel features over **80% indigenous content**.
- 💡 **Role and Functions:**
 - ✦ Designed for **coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys** of ports, harbours, and navigational channels.
 - ✦ The vessel's survey data will aid **safe maritime navigation, port management, and marine resource assessment**.

- ✦ It enhances India's capability to produce accurate **nautical charts**, supporting both **civil and military maritime operations**.

Survey Vessel (Large) [SVL] Class

- 💡 The Survey Vessel (Large) [SVL] class project was launched to **modernise India's hydrographic survey fleet** and replace ageing **Sandhayak-class vessels**.
- 💡 A total of **four ships** are part of this class — **INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak, INS Ikshak, and INS Sanshodhak** (under construction).
- 💡 These vessels are being built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata** under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
- 💡 They are designed to **conduct hydrographic, oceanographic, and cartographic surveys** to produce navigational charts and support both civil and defence maritime operations.



150 Years of National Song Vande Mataram

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long commemoration of 150 years of the National Song "Vande Mataram" on 7th November 2025.

Key Points

- 💡 **Historical Background:** Vande Mataram was written by **Bankimchandra Chatterji** on Akshaya Navami, **7th November 1875**.
- ✦ It first appeared in the literary journal **Bangadarshan** as part of his iconic novel **Anandamath**.

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- 💡 **Adoption:** Declared India's National Song; the first two stanzas were adopted by the **Constituent Assembly** on 24th January 1950.
- 💡 **Language:** Originally written in **Sanskritised Bengali**.
- 💡 **Music Composition:** Set to tune by **Rabindra Nath Tagore**, first sung at the 1896 **Indian National Congress session**.
 - ✦ The song invokes **Bharat Mata (Mother India)** as the embodiment of strength, prosperity, and divinity, inspiring generations during India's freedom struggle.

Special Campaign 5.0

Why in News?

The **Department of Health Research (DHR)** and the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** have successfully concluded **Special Campaign 5.0**.

Key Points

- 💡 **Special Campaign 5.0:**
 - ✦ The **Special Campaign 5.0** is a nationwide initiative of the **Government of India** to ensure **cleanliness, efficient records management, and timely resolution of pending matters**, including **PMO and MP references and public grievances**.
 - ✦ The DHR and ICMR, along with 27 institutes across India, actively participated in the campaign.
 - ✦ **Major Achievements:**
 - 📎 **100% target achievement** in resolving **public grievances, PG appeals, and PMO references** during the campaign period.
 - 📎 Conducted **comprehensive cleanliness drives** in all affiliated offices and field institutes.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025

Why in News?

India observes **National Cancer Awareness Day** on **7th November 2025**, focusing on prevention, early detection, and awareness of cancer.

Key Points

- 💡 **Date and Background:**
 - ✦ The day coincides with the **birth anniversary of Marie Curie (7th November 1867)**, whose groundbreaking research on **radioactivity** revolutionized cancer diagnosis and treatment.
 - ✦ It was **first announced in 2014** by the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to promote awareness about cancer prevention and screening.
- 💡 **Purpose and Significance:**
 - ✦ Aims to educate citizens on the **importance of lifestyle modification, regular health check-ups, and timely medical intervention**.
 - ✦ Cancer cases in India are rising, with over **14 lakh new cases reported each year**, many detected at advanced stages.
- 💡 **Theme 2025:** Though India's campaign has a domestic focus, it aligns with the **global World Cancer Day theme (2025–27): "United by Unique"**, highlighting personalized care and inclusivity in cancer treatment.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie (1867–1934)

- 💡 **Nationality:** Polish-born, later became a French citizen
- 💡 **Major Discoveries:**
 - ✦ Discovered the radioactive elements **Radium (Ra) and Polonium (Po)**.
 - ✦ Pioneered the concept and medical use of **radioactivity** in cancer treatment (radiotherapy)
- ✦ **Awards and Honours:**
 - ✦ First woman to win a Nobel Prize
 - ✦ Only person to receive two Nobel Prizes in two different sciences — **Physics (1903)** and **Chemistry (1911)**
- 💡 **Scientific Impact:** Her research laid the foundation for **nuclear medicine** and **radiation therapy** used in cancer diagnosis and treatment today.

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Google's Project Suncatcher

Why in News?

Tech giant **Google** has announced **Project Suncatcher**, an ambitious research initiative to develop **AI-powered data centres in space**.

Key Points

About Project Suncatcher:

- Project Suncatcher envisions **solar-powered satellites** hosting **AI data centres** in space to reduce Earth's energy and water consumption used for cooling terrestrial facilities.
- These orbiting data centres will use **free-space optical links** to transfer data at speeds of **tens of terabits per second**, forming a **distributed network** similar to satellite internet constellations like *Starlink*.
- Google plans to launch **two prototype satellites by early 2027** to test its space-based TPU (Tensor Processing Unit) hardware.

Rationale for Space-Based AI Centres:

- AI data centres** consume enormous electricity and water for cooling — a growing environmental concern as AI adoption increases globally.
- In **space**, **solar panels are up to 8 times more efficient** than on Earth, providing a continuous and clean energy supply.

How It Works:

- The satellites will rely on **solar energy** and **optical data transmission** to function as a cohesive high-performance computing network.
- TPUs (Trillium v6e)** are being tested for radiation resistance and performance in extreme conditions.

Key Points

Projected Warming Levels:

- Under the current policies, the world is projected to warm by approximately **2.8°C by 2100**.
- If all **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** are fully implemented, the projected warming could be reduced to around **2.3–2.5°C** by the end of the century.
- Only a **marginal improvement** from last year's (2024) estimate of **2.6–2.8°C**, showing limited new ambition.

Influencing Factors:

- Methodological adjustments** improved projections by 0.1°C.
- US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement** expected to offset the same 0.1°C gain.

Reduction Targets by 2035:

- To limit global warming to **2°C**, global greenhouse gas emissions must decline by **35% below 2019 levels by 2035**.
- To achieve the more ambitious **1.5°C target**, emissions need to fall by **55% below 2019 levels** within the same period.
- However, **UNEP warns that a temporary overshoot of the 1.5°C threshold is very likely within the next decade**, underscoring the urgency for deeper and faster emission cuts.

Positive Indicators:

- Projected temperature rise has dropped from **3–3.5°C (2015)** to around **2.5°C (2025)**, reflecting progress since the **Paris Agreement**.
- Solar and wind** technologies are rapidly scaling, cutting deployment costs globally.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Established in **1972**, following the **UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm)**.
- Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya
- Acts as the **leading global environmental authority**, coordinating international environmental efforts and assisting nations in implementing sustainable policies.

Emissions Gap Report 2025

Why in News?

The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** released its **Emissions Gap Report 2025**, titled "*Off Target*", warning that current **climate pledges under the Paris Agreement** are insufficient to meet the **1.5°C target**.

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Flagship Reports:

- ✦ Emissions Gap Report
- ✦ Adaptation Gap Report
- ✦ Global Environment Outlook (GEO)

State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2025 Report

Why in News?

The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** has released the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2025 report titled “**Addressing Land Degradation Across Landholding Scales**”.

Key Points

Key Findings:

- ✦ **Global Cropland Decline:** Around **20% of global croplands** show declining productivity due to soil erosion, nutrient depletion, and loss of organic carbon.
- ✦ **Regional Impact:** Asia and Africa are the **most affected**, with severe yield gaps (up to 70% below potential levels) in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- ✦ **India's Status:** India recorded **one of the highest yield gaps globally**, attributed to land misuse and declining soil fertility.
- ✦ **Key Drivers:** Deforestation (90% of forest loss), monocropping, excessive fertilizer use, unsustainable irrigation, and poor soil management.

Land Degradation:

- ✦ **Land degradation** is defined as the **long-term decline in land's ability to provide essential ecosystem services**, caused by natural processes and human actions like **deforestation**, overgrazing, and unsustainable irrigation.

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN):

- ✦ It refers to a global goal aimed at ensuring that the **amount and quality of land resources remain stable or improve over time**.

- ✦ The concept was adopted under the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** in **2015** as part of the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15.3**.
- ✦ **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Hierarchy:** Avoid > Reduce > Reverse land degradation- a core FAO principle to restore ecological balance.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- 💡 The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** was established in 1945.
- 💡 It is **headquartered in Rome, Italy**.
- 💡 It functions as a **specialized agency of the United Nations**.
- 💡 It has **194 member countries**, including the **European Union**.
- 💡 It aims to **end hunger, improve nutrition, ensure food security, and promote sustainable agriculture**.
- 💡 **Flagship Reports:**
 - ✦ State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)
 - ✦ State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)
 - ✦ State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)
 - ✦ State of the World's Forests (SOFO)
- 💡 **India and FAO:** India is a founding member; FAO supports India's National Food Security Mission, Soil Health Card Scheme, and Sustainable Land Management initiatives.

Exercise Malabar 2025

Why in News?

The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri** has reached **Guam, Northern Pacific**, to participate in the **multilateral naval exercise Malabar 2025**.

Key Points

Exercise Malabar:

- ✦ It is a **multilateral naval drill** involving **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia** under the **QUAD** framework.

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- ✦ Aims to **enhance joint maritime coordination, interoperability, and operational readiness** in the **Indo-Pacific**.
- ✦ Participation of **INS Sahyadri** reflects India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** push and **naval self-reliance**.
- ✦ **2025 Venue-Guam**: The choice of Guam underlines India's growing engagement in the Pacific and alignment with Quad's strategic goals.
 - 📌 **Guam** is an **unincorporated U.S. territory** in the Western Pacific Ocean, located between the **Philippines and Hawaii**.
 - 📌 It hosts key American military bases such as **Andersen Air Force Base** and **Naval Base Guam**, making it a **strategic hub** for Indo-Pacific security operations.



💡 INS Sahyadri:

- ✦ It is a **Shivalik-class (Project 17) guided missile stealth frigate**, commissioned in **2012** as part of India's first stealth frigate series.
- ✦ Built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**, Mumbai, it was designed for **multi-role operations** including **anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare**.

National Legal Services Day 2025

Why in News?

9th November is observed as **National Legal Services Day**, marking the enforcement of the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, which came into effect in **1995** to ensure free and fair access to justice for all citizens, especially the underprivileged.

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Key Points

National Legal Services Day:

- It is celebrated **annually** on 9 November, established by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.
- It is celebrated to **promote awareness of citizens' legal rights**, ensure access to justice for all, and uphold the principle of justice for the weaker sections of society.

Legal Services Framework:

- Established under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, the structure includes:
 - NALSA** (National Legal Services Authority) – headed by the **Chief Justice of India**.
 - SLSAs** (State Legal Services Authorities) – headed by **Chief Justices of High Courts**.
 - DLSAs** (District Legal Services Authorities) – headed by **District Judges**.
- Provides free legal representation, counselling, and aid to the **economically and socially weaker sections**.
- Funding is shared through the **National, State, and District Legal Aid Funds**.
- To strengthen dispute resolution and access mechanisms, several complementary institutions and schemes such as **Lok Adalats**, **Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS)**, **Fast Track and Special Courts**, and **Grassroots Justice Initiatives** like **Gram Nyayalayas** and **Nari Adalats** operate under this framework.

National Urban Conclave 2025

Why in News?

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal inaugurated the **National Urban Conclave 2025 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi** to accelerate India's urban transformation.

- The two-day conclave, themed **"Sustainable Urban Development and Governance"**, aims to **deliberate on urban innovation, investment, and governance**.

Key Initiatives Launched

Mission-Mode Dumpsite Remediation (DRAP):

- DRAP is a **year-long national initiative** to **fast-track the clearance of legacy waste dumpsites** and reclaim valuable urban land by September 2026.
- It focus on **214 high-impact landfill sites across 202 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** containing **8.8 crore tonnes (80%) of India's legacy waste**.
- Its Implementation follows the **5P framework**- Political leadership, Public finance, Public advocacy, Project management, and Partnerships.
- DRAP also includes **real-time monitoring** through a **dedicated national portal** for progress tracking and transparency.

Urban Invest Window (UiWIN):

- UiWIN, anchored by **HUDCO**, is a **one-stop investment facilitation platform** for urban infrastructure.
- It aims to **attract private and multilateral funding** (e.g., World Bank, ADB) for long-term, concessional financing of projects in waste management, mobility, water, sewerage, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

- Swachh Bharat Mission – Knowledge Management Unit (KMU)**: A dedicated knowledge and capacity-building platform hosted by NIUA to strengthen institutional learning under SBM-Urban.

- AMRUT Anthem "Jal Hi Janani"**: Promotes water conservation awareness under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

India Joins Tropical Forests Fund as Observer

Why in News?

India has joined the **Brazil-led Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF)** as an **observer**, reaffirming its commitment to multilateral climate action under the **Paris Agreement**, which marks its **10th anniversary** this year.

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Key Points

- 💡 **About Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF):**
 - ✦ It was **launched by Brazil in November 2025** at **COP30** in Belém, Brazil to **reward countries** for conserving and restoring **tropical forests** through **financial incentives**.
 - ✦ It seeks to **mobilise USD 125 billion** via **public and private investment**, distributing returns to nations based on measurable success in forest protection and expansion.
 - ✦ The initiative aims to build a **results-based global finance model** for forest conservation and **climate resilience**, strengthening the role of tropical nations in the global climate agenda.
- 💡 **COP30 Climate Change Conference:**
 - ✦ COP30, the 30th session of the **UNFCCC** Conference of the Parties, is being held in **Belém, Brazil, from 10th to 21st November, 2025**.
 - ✦ It marks the **10th anniversary** of the Paris Agreement (2015–2025) and focuses on implementing commitments made under it.
 - ✦ The agenda is to **review progress** on Paris goals, push for updated and ambitious NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions), and ensure greater financing and technology transfer for climate adaptation and mitigation.
- ✦ **Six Pillars of Action:**
 - 📌 **Mitigation:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - 📌 **Adaptation:** Building resilience to climate impacts.
 - 📌 **Finance:** Mobilising public and private climate funds.
 - 📌 **Technology:** Innovation and clean tech transfer.
 - 📌 **Capacity-Building:** Empowering local actors and systems.
 - 📌 **Means of Implementation:** Integrating all efforts into practical, on-ground change.

India's Climate Progress

- 💡 India achieved a **36% reduction in emission intensity** between **2005 and 2020**, surpassing its initial **NDC goals**.
- 💡 It has installed over **200 GW of renewable energy capacity**, ranking **third globally**, with **non-fossil fuel sources exceeding 50%** of total power capacity.
- 💡 India's **forest and tree cover** now spans **25.17%** of its area, creating an **additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent** between **2005 and 2021**.
- 💡 Globally, India leads key green initiatives such as the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** with France (2015), and domestic efforts like the **National Hydrogen Mission** and **Biofuel Programme**, advancing its clean energy transition.

18th Urban Mobility India (UMI)

Why in News?

The 18th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2025 concluded in **Gurugram, Haryana**, highlighting innovations in sustainable urban transport.

Key Points

- 💡 **Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference:**
 - ✦ It has been organised annually since **2008** under the National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
 - ✦ It aims to **promote sustainable urban mobility** through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy dialogue.
- 💡 **About the 18th Edition:**
 - ✦ It was organised in **Gurugram, Haryana** with the theme of **"Urban Development and Mobility Nexus"** focusing on cleaner transport, innovative financing, and inclusivity in public transit.

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✦ Award Winners:

Category	Winner	Organisation
Best Public Transport System	Chennai	Metropolitan Transport Corporation (Chennai) Ltd.
Best Non-Motorized Transport System	Udaipur	Udaipur Smart City Ltd.
Most Innovative Financing Mechanism	Pimpri Chinchwad	Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Best Green Transport Initiative	Hyderabad	Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation Ltd.
Best Multimodal Integration (Metro Rail)	Chennai	Chennai Metro Rail Ltd.
Best Passenger Services (Metro Rail)	Delhi	Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
Special Award – Traffic Management System	Aizawl	Town & Country Planning Dept., Mizoram

National Education Day 2025

Why in News?

India celebrates **National Education Day** on **11th November**, to mark the **137th birth anniversary** of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, the first Education Minister of independent India and a key architect of the nation's modern education system.

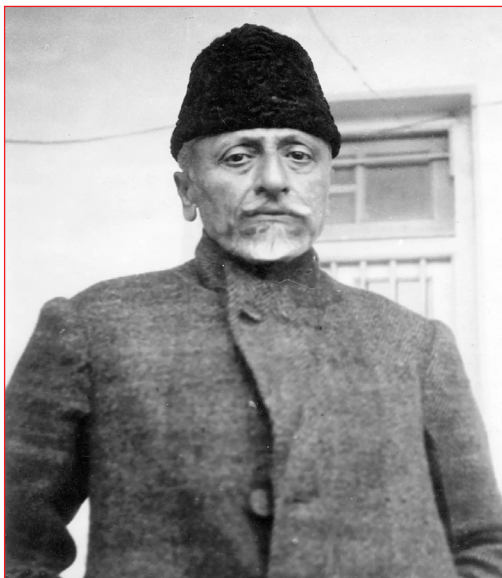
Key Points

💡 National Education Day:

- ✦ It is observed every year on **11th November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (1888–1958)**
- ✦ The observance was first announced in **2008** by the then **Ministry of Human Resource Development** (now the **Ministry of Education**).

💡 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

- ✦ He was born on **11th November 1888**, in **Mecca** and later settled in **Calcutta (Kolkata)**, where he emerged as a leading scholar and nationalist.



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- ✦ He served as **India's first Minister of Education (1947–1958)** and introduced major reforms to strengthen scientific, technical, and cultural education.
- ✦ He was instrumental in establishing the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**, and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, as well as cultural bodies like the **Sahitya Akademi**, **Lalit Kala Akademi**, and **Sangeet Natak Akademi**.
- ✦ In recognition of his immense contributions, he was **posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna** in 1992.

India's First MWh-Scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB)

Why in News?

Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs inaugurated **India's first megawatt-hour (MWh) scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB)** in Greater Noida.

Key Points

About:

- ✦ The **3 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB)** is developed by **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)**'s **NETRA (National Energy Technology Research Alliance)**
- ✦ It aims to demonstrate **Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)** technology for large-scale renewable energy integration and grid stability.
- ✦ **Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB):**
 - ✦ It uses **vanadium ions in different oxidation states** to store and discharge electricity efficiently.
 - ✦ The system offers **long operational life**, and **excellent scalability** compared to lithium-ion batteries.

- ✦ **Non-flammable electrolytes** make it safer for large-scale energy storage applications.
- ✦ It is well-suited for **grid-scale renewable energy storage**, **microgrids**, and **peak-load management**.
- ✦ VRFBs are increasingly viewed as a **sustainable alternative** for integrating intermittent renewable sources like solar and wind into the grid.

'Maru Jwala' Drills in Rajasthan

Why in News?

The Indian Armed Forces conducted the **'Maru Jwala'** phase of **Operation Trishul** on **11th November, 2025**, in the **Thar Desert of Rajasthan**, as part of the country's largest tri-services exercise.

Key Points

Maru Jwala Exercise:

- ✦ The exercise featured **T-90 Bhishma tanks**, **precision missile launches**, **UAV surveillance**, and **live-fire drills**, testing the Army–Air Force joint combat strategy for desert operations.
- ✦ It demonstrated **real-time coordination** between land and air forces, validating the integrated theatre command approach.

Agadawa Air Strip:

- ✦ The **3 km long Agadawa Air Strip**, located on **National Highway 925A** in **Barmer district**, about **40 km from the Pakistan border**, hosted **emergency landing and take-off drills** in this exercise involving **Rafale**, **Tejas**, and **Sukhoi-30MKI** fighter jets.
- ✦ Originally inaugurated in **September 2021**, the strip is India's **first national highway-based emergency landing facility**, built jointly by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**.

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Rajasthan Launches “Khushi Shala” Programme

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan State Council of Educational Research and Training (RSCERT)** has launched a pioneering mental health and well-being initiative, **Khushi Shala**, aimed at students in classes 1-5.

- 💡 **Rajasthan** is the **first state in India** to introduce such a programme in primary education.

Key Features

- 💡 **Objective:** The programme seeks to **promote mental well-being** among young students by teaching them how to handle both **success and failure**.
 - ✦ It encourages children to embrace their learning journey without getting demotivated by setbacks.
- 💡 **Core Components:**
 - ✦ **Mindfulness Exercises:** Activities to **foster awareness** of the connection between body and mind.
 - ✦ **Compassion Development:** Activities designed to **nurture compassion** among students.
 - ✦ **Self-Discovery Guidance:** Helping students identify their personal values and pursue what matters to them.
- 💡 **Pilot Project (2024):** Conducted in **30 schools** each in the **Sirohi** and **Banswara districts**, training **120 teachers** to observe changes in students.
- 💡 **Teacher Training:**
 - ✦ After the pilot project, **165 teachers** were trained to form a **State Resource Group**. These teachers are now training additional educators at the district level.
 - ✦ By **December 2025**, the department plans to have **40 trained teachers in every district**, with an eventual target of training approximately **12,000 teachers** statewide.
 - ✦ The goal is to ensure at least one trained teacher in every **panchayat**.

Teacher Handbooks:

- ✦ Specialized handbooks for **classes 1-5** have been developed in partnership with **Kshamtalaya Foundation** and **Brio**, a US-based non-profit organization.
- ✦ These handbooks have been **designed, reviewed, approved, and printed** for **master trainers**.
- ✦ **Mobile-friendly versions** of the handbooks will be available to all primary school teachers starting **December**.

Launch of Adarsh Veda Vidyalayas in Rajasthan

Why in News?

In a bid to promote and expand **Sanskrit education** across the state, Rajasthan's **Sanskrit Education Minister Madan Dilawar** announced the launch of **Adarsh Veda Vidyalayas** at all divisional headquarters starting from **1st April 2026**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The initiative aims to promote Sanskrit education at the divisional level across Rajasthan.
 - ✦ In the first phase, **four Adarsh Veda Vidyalayas** have been established, currently functioning from **temporary campuses** in Sanskrit Education Department buildings or other government structures.
 - ✦ The current centres are in **Hathoj (Jaipur)**, **Taratara Math (Barmer)**, **Pushkar (Ajmer)**, and **Pili Village (Bharatpur)**.
- 💡 **Infrastructure Development:**
 - ✦ Each Veda Vidyalaya will have **four expert teachers** in Vedic education and can deploy **five departmental personnel** for administrative support.
 - ✦ Land has been allocated for the construction of permanent campuses for the Adarsh Veda Vidyalayas **across all seven divisions**, including locations in Hathoj (Jaipur), Pushkar (Ajmer), Pili (Bharatpur), Chechat (Kota), Gomrakh (Jodhpur), Bhatewar (Udaipur), and Nalbari (Bikaner).

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💡 Vedic Traditions:

- ✦ **Vedic Gurukuls** and **Vedic Tourism Centers** must operate in full accordance with traditional Vedic practices.
- ✦ **Trained personnel** with knowledge of **Vedic traditions** and the **Vedas** will be appointed to these centers.

- 💡 **Formation of the Vedic Sanskar and Education Board:** In April 2025, the Rajasthan government established the **Vedic Sanskar and Education Board** to oversee the operation of all Vedic schools, including newly established Vedic schools at the divisional level and **three Vedic Gurukuls**.

Kusum Scheme Saves Over Rs 282 Crore

Why in News?

Rajasthan power distribution companies (**Discoms**) have saved **over Rs 282 crore** in the last 18 months through the **Kusum scheme**, which focuses on solarising agricultural connections and enabling farmers to generate income from barren and semi-barren land.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** Rajasthan is leading the country in **Component-A** of the scheme, which allows farmers to set up plants with capacities up to **2 MW**. The state also ranks **third in Component-C**.
- 💡 **Infrastructure:** The state has accelerated the implementation of the scheme, with **942 solar plants** installed, having a combined capacity of **2,100 MW** in just **20 months**.
 - ✦ To date, **1.36 lakh solar pumps** are operational across **41 districts**, powered by **1,034 solar plants**. In **22 districts**, these pumps operate in **two shifts**.
 - ✦ Rajasthan targets **11,632 MW** of solar capacity by **March 2026**, which is expected to further reduce power purchase costs.

PM-KUSUM Scheme

💡 About:

- ✦ **Launched in 2019**, the **PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan)** scheme is a flagship initiative by the Government of India, aimed at transforming the agricultural sector through solar energy solutions.
- ✦ The scheme **promotes the use of solar energy** in farming and seeks to increase farmers' income by **reducing irrigation costs** and enabling them to sell surplus solar power to the grid.

💡 Components:

- ✦ **Component-A:** Installation of **10,000 MW decentralized solar power plants** on barren, fallow, pasture, marshy, and cultivable lands of farmers.
- ✦ **Component-B:** Installation of **20 lakh stand-alone solar pumps** in off-grid areas for irrigation.
- ✦ **Component-C:** Solarisation of **15 lakh grid-connected agricultural pumps**, which includes both **individual pump solarisation** and **feeder-level solarisation**.

💡 Objectives:

- ✦ **Reduce Dependence on Diesel:** The scheme encourages the use of **solar-powered pumps** for irrigation, reducing reliance on costly diesel-powered pumps.
- ✦ **Increase Farmers' Income:** By enabling farmers to sell excess solar energy to the grid, the scheme enhances their financial stability.
- ✦ **Enhance Water and Energy Security:** Solar pumps and community irrigation projects improve water and energy security for farmers.
- ✦ **Environmental Impact:** By replacing conventional energy sources with solar energy, the scheme reduces environmental pollution and promotes clean energy.

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Booker Prize 2025

Why in News?

Author **David Szalay** has won the **2025 Booker Prize** for his fictional novel **Flesh**.

Key Points

🔦 About the Winner:

- ✦ **David Szalay** is a **Hungarian-British** novelist known for his **precise, economical prose** and deep exploration of masculinity, identity, and contemporary European life.
- ✦ With **Flesh**, he reinforces his reputation as a writer who **captures the inner lives of ordinary men with unusual clarity**, situating their personal struggles against broader social and economic landscapes.

🔦 About Booker Prize:

- ✦ The **Booker Prize** (formerly the Man Booker Prize) is one of the world's most prestigious literary awards. It was **established in 1969** and is run by the **Booker Prize Foundation**.
- ✦ It honours the **best original full-length novel written in English** and published in the **UK or Ireland**. Writers of any nationality have been eligible to compete **since 2014**.
- ✦ The award aims to promote **excellence in English-language fiction** and encourage wider readership.
- ✦ Indian winners include **Arundhati Roy (1997)**, **Kiran Desai (2006)**, and **Aravind Adiga (2008)**.

Difference Between Booker Prize & International Booker Prize

- 🔦 The **Booker Prize** was first awarded in **1969** and is for the best **single work of fiction originally written in English**.
- 🔦 The **International Booker Prize** was established later in **2005** and is for the best single work of **fiction translated into English** from any other language.
 - ✦ It recognizes the achievement of both the author and the translator.

Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary Expansion

Why in News?

The **Government of Rajasthan** has expanded the **Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary's buffer zone** by more than **44,000 hectares**, following regulatory review and approval.

Key Points

🔦 About The Expansion:

- ✦ This expanded area is designated as the **buffer zone**, integrating **forest land and revenue land surrounding the core area**.
- ✦ The expansion follows a **Supreme Court** order that mandated a review of the **sanctuary's Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)** boundaries and connectivity.

🔦 About Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary:

- ✦ It is located in **Alwar district** of Rajasthan, forming part of the Aravalli ranges with dry deciduous forests and rocky terrain.
- ✦ It was notified as a **Wildlife Sanctuary** in **1955** and later declared a **Tiger Reserve** in **1978** under Project Tiger.
- ✦ It is known for the **successful tiger reintroduction programme** after local extinction in **2004**, with tigers translocated from Ranthambore. It forms a crucial **wildlife corridor linking the Sariska–Ranthambore landscape**, aiding long-term tiger conservation.
- ✦ Key wildlife include **Bengal tiger, leopard, striped hyena, caracal, sambar, chital, nilgai, wild boar, langur, and rich birdlife**.
- ✦ It also contains ecological features such as valleys, plateaus, and seasonal streams ('nalas'), along with **Siliserh Lake** and **Mansarovar Lake** supporting the habitat.
- ✦ It houses heritage structures like **Kankwari Fort**, adding cultural significance.

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Ammonium Nitrate

Why in News?

A blast near **Delhi's Red Fort** has put "**Ammonium Nitrate**" in the spotlight, as investigators suspect the chemical may have been used in the explosion.

Key Points

About:

- ✦ Pure ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3) is a **white, crystalline, water-soluble, nitrogen-rich compound** made by reacting ammonia with nitric acid, and it melts at **about 170°C**.
- ✦ The substance is classified as an oxidising agent. It is one of the **base ingredients** used in the manufacture of commercial explosives.
- ✦ It is classified as a **dual-use substance**, meaning it has legitimate industrial uses but can also be weaponised.

Uses:

- ✦ In **agriculture**, it is widely used as a **nitrogen fertilizer** due to its high nutrient content.
- ✦ It is used for controlled blasting in **quarries and excavation projects**, and also forms a key component of various emulsions and gels used in **mining-grade explosives**.

Weaponization of Ammonium Nitrate:

- ✦ Pure ammonium nitrate is **not explosive by itself** and is classified as an **oxidiser** under **United Nations classification of dangerous goods**.

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- ✦ It becomes **volatile** when combined with **fuel oil, potassium chlorate, sulphur or other accelerants**. This mixture creates **ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil)**, a commonly used explosive.
- ✍ However, ANFO cannot detonate on its own; it requires a **trigger such as a detonator**, often initiated with primary explosives like **RDX or TNT**.

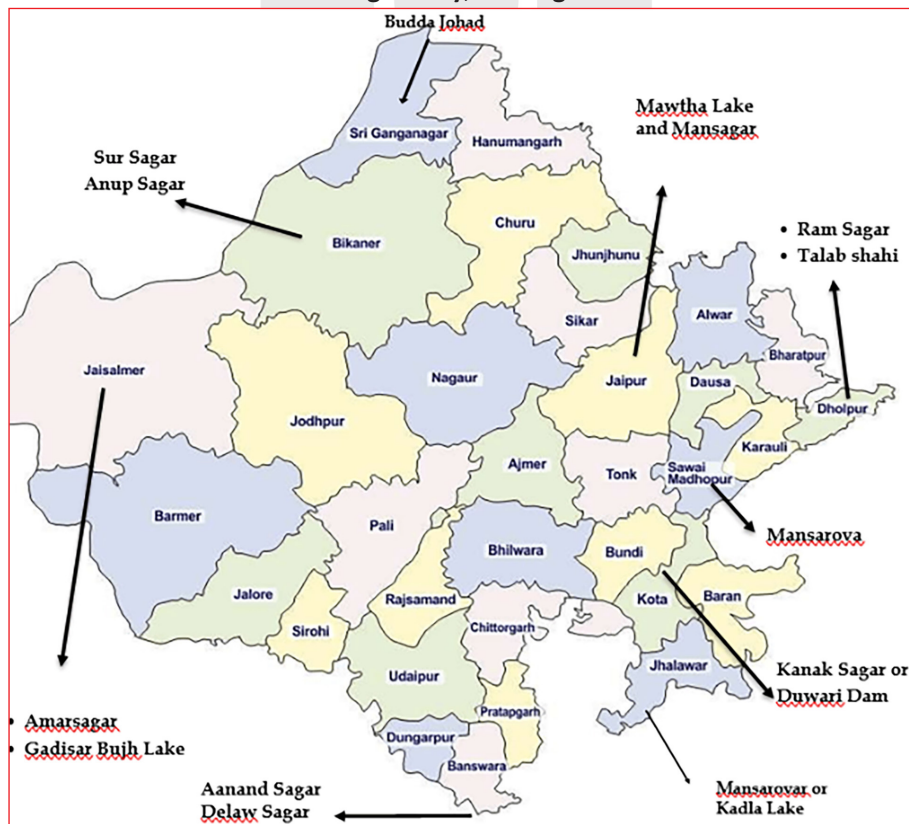
Gadisar Lake

Why in News?

The Gadisar Lake in **Jaisalmer** is facing **conservation issues**, prompting the **Rajasthan High Court** to direct the state government to **submit a detailed response** on its plans to conserve the lake.

Key Points

- ✦ Gadisar Lake is a 14th-century **artificial water reservoir** located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ✦ It was originally built by **Raja Rawal Jaisal**, and later renovated by **Maharawal Gadsingh**, from whom it derives its present name.
- ✦ The lake was historically the **primary water source** for Jaisalmer, functioning as a crucial **rainwater harvesting and conservation** system in the desert region.
- ✦ The lake's **catchment area has shrunk** due to **encroachment, urban pressure, siltation, and pollution**, threatening its ecological balance.
- ✦ Gadisar Lake supports local **biodiversity**, including **migratory birds** in winter, making it an important **urban-wetland ecosystem**.
- ✦ It is surrounded by **ghats, temples and chhatris** that create a rich **cultural-architectural heritage zone**, and it continues to draw visitors for its **Tilon-ki-Pol gateway, boating activities** and **scenic vistas**.



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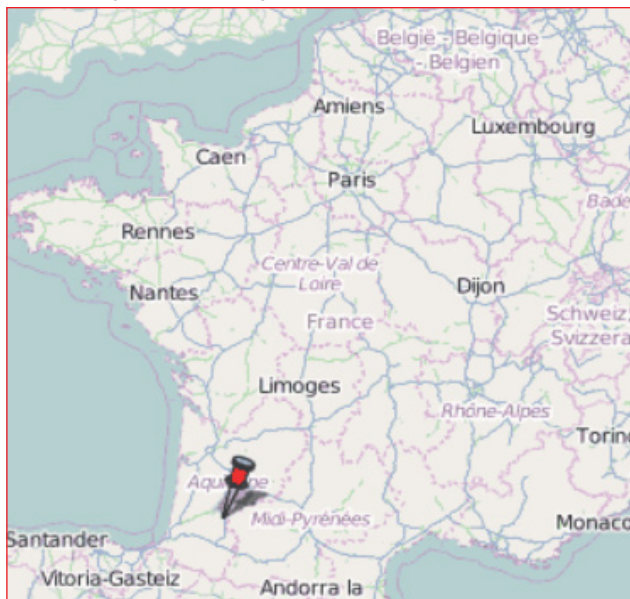
Garuda Exercise 2025

Why in News?

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is taking part in the 8th edition of **Exercise Garuda-25**, a bilateral air combat drill conducted with the **French Air and Space Force (FASF)**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About Garuda Exercise:**
 - ✦ “Garuda” is a bilateral **air exercise** between the Indian and **French air forces**, conducted periodically since 2003.
 - ✦ It is among the **highest-level air force exercises** India conducts with a foreign air force and is held alternately in India and France.
 - ✦ Its key objectives include **enhancing mutual operational capabilities**, **sharing tactics**, **building log-operational familiarity** and **forging strategic ties**.
- 💡 **About 2025 Edition:**
 - ✦ The 8th edition of Garuda (Garuda-25) is being held from **16th to 27th November, 2025** at **Mont-de-Marsan Air Base in France**.
 - ✦ The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent, featuring **Su-30MKI fighter aircraft** supported by **IL-78 refuellers** and **C-17 Globemaster III air-lift assets**, will operate alongside **French multirole fighters** in complex simulated missions involving **air-to-air combat**, **air defence**, and **joint strike operations**.



Operation Muskaan

Why in News?

A **17-year-old girl** missing from **Madhya Pradesh**, was located and rescued near the **Pakistan border** in **Rajasthan**, through coordinated efforts under **Operation Muskaan**.

Key Points

- 💡 Operation Muskaan was launched by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to rescue **missing children**, **prevent child trafficking** and ensure safe repatriation.
 - ✦ It is also commonly referred to as **Operation Smile**. It originated as a pilot project by the **Ghaziabad Police** in 2014, which, after massive success, was adopted and scaled up nationwide by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** in **July 2015**.
- 💡 It involves **police**, **Child Welfare Committees**, **labour** and **social welfare departments**, and uses tools like the national database of missing children, citizen tip-lines, and **inter-state coordination**.
- 💡 The teams use the MHA's **TrackChild** portal and often employ **Face-Recognition Software** (like Darpan) to match rescued children with the national database of missing children.
- 💡 Key activities include **registration of missing children**, **mapping vulnerable spots**, **rescue operations**, **rehabilitation**, and **prosecution of traffickers or exploiters**.

Exercise Ajeya Warrior-25

Why in News?

India and the **United Kingdom** have begun the 8th edition of **Exercise Ajeya Warrior-25**, a bilateral military training exercise between the **Indian Army** and the **British Army**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About Ajeya Warrior Exercise:**
 - ✦ **Ajeya Warrior** is a bilateral military exercise between the **Indian Army** and the **British Army**, held **biennially** since 2011.

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- ✦ It focuses on enhancing **interoperability**, improving **tactical coordination**, and sharing **best practices** in counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations.
- ✦ It is conducted under a **United Nations mandate**, specifically aligned with Chapter VII of the **UN Charter**, which deals with **peacekeeping** duties related to threats to peace, breaches of peace, and **counter-terrorism** scenarios.

💡 About the 2025 Edition:

- ✦ The 8th edition is being held from 17th to 30th November, 2025, at the Foreign Training Node, **Mahajan Field Firing Ranges**, Rajasthan.
- ✦ A total of **240 personnel** are participating, with **equal representation** from both armies. The Indian Army is represented by the **Sikh Regiment**.
- ✦ Training includes **simulation-based scenarios**, **Brigade-level** mission planning, and field exercises resembling real-life counter-terror contingencies.

services, **mobile/IoT**, and solutions for local challenge categories.

- 💡 Incubation support is provided via **iStart Nest centres** and **Techno Hub Jaipur**, offering free workspaces, internet connectivity, hardware resources and mentorship.
- 💡 Financial incentives include **idea-stage grants**, **seed funding**, **soft loans** and **equity investments**, with additional prioritisation for women-led and rural startups.
- 💡 The ecosystem also includes the **QRATE rating system** to assess **startups' investment readiness**, and provisions for **government procurement** to ensure market entry for early-stage enterprises.
- 💡 The portal has reportedly created **more than 42,500 jobs** in the state through startup activities. Rajasthan

Ana Sagar Lake

Why in News?

The wetland boundary marking near **Ana Sagar Lake** in **Ajmer** has led to **protests**, with locals alleging that the demarcation was biased and carried out without scientific assessment.

Key Points

- 💡 Ana Sagar is a 12th century **artificial lake** in Ajmer, constructed by **Anaji Chauhan**, grandfather of **Prithviraj Chauhan**.
- 💡 Later, the Mughal ruler **Jahangir** built **Daulat Bagh**, also known as **Subhash Udyan**, in the courtyard of the lake.
- 💡 **Shah Jahan** constructed a **marble Baradari (pavilion)** around it in 1637 AD, which further enhances the beauty of the lake.
- 💡 It is a major **urban wetland**, contributing to **groundwater recharge**, **flood control**, and **local microclimate regulation**.

Rajasthan's iStart Portal

Why in News?

The **Government of Rajasthan** announced that the **iStart portal** has emerged as a major driver of the state's startup ecosystem, with **over 7,100 startups** registered and more than **₹1,000 crore** in investments secured.

Key Points

- 💡 iStart is the flagship **startup promotion programme** of the **Government of Rajasthan** through the **Department of Information Technology & Communications (DoIT&C)**.
- 💡 It offers a **single-window online platform** for startup **registration**, **incubation**, **funding**, **mentorship** and **market access**.
- 💡 The programme covers startups across **sectors**, including **green technology**, **manufacturing**,

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RAMSAR CONVENTION

About

- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
- Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- Largest Ramsar Site in World: Pantanal: South America

Montreux Record

- Adopted in Montreux (Switzerland) in 1990.
- Identifies Ramsar sites that need priority conservation attention at national or international level.

Wetlands

- A place in which the land is covered by water – salt, fresh, or somewhere in between – either seasonally or permanently.
- Take many forms including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains.
- World Wetlands Day: 2nd February



India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- Total Number of Ramsar Sites: **75**
 - Chilika Lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Harike Lake (Punjab), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (Jammu and Kashmir), etc.
- Related Framework in India
 - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands.
 - The 2017 Rules decentralise wetlands management and provide for the constitution of the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority.

Key Facts

- Largest Ramsar Site: Sunderbans, West Bengal
- Smallest Ramsar Site: Vembannur Wetland Complex, Tamil Nadu
- State with the maximum number of Ramsar Sites: Tamil Nadu (14)
- Wetlands in Montreux Record:
 - Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
 - Loktak Lake: Manipur



Asian Caracal

Why in News?

A rare **Asian caracal** was recently photographed in **Jaisalmer** district, **Rajasthan**, marking one of the very few confirmed sightings in recent years and raising hope for the survival of the species in India.

Key Points

About:

- ✦ The Asian caracal is a **nocturnal and highly elusive wild cat** that depends on **bush-covered dryland ecosystems** for movement, shelter, and hunting.

Prey:

- ✦ It primarily hunts **rodents, small mammals, and birds**, relying on its agility and preference for **low-disturbance arid and semi-arid landscapes**.

Habitat:

- ✦ It is globally distributed across **Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia**, inhabiting open, dry ecosystems with sparse vegetation.

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- ✦ In India, it survives in Rajasthan, Gujarat, and parts of Madhya Pradesh, especially in semi-arid scrublands, ravine systems, open grasslands, and dry deciduous forest fringes. Its presence in the **Thar Desert region** is particularly significant, as sightings are extremely rare and populations are very thinly spread.

💡 Conservation Status:

- ✦ It is classified as **Least Concern** under the **IUCN Red List**, based on its wider global distribution.
- ✦ The entire **Asian population of the Caracal**, including the one found in India, is listed under **CITES Appendix I**. This classification indicates that the species is threatened with extinction, and **commercial international trade** in specimens is **generally prohibited**.
- ✦ It receives the **highest level of legal protection** under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** – **Schedule I**.



BIRSA 101

Why in News?

The **Minister of Science & Technology** has launched “**BIRSA 101**”, India’s first **indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy** for **Sickle Cell Disease**.

- 💡 Named after **Birsa Munda** on his **150th birth anniversary** (**15th November 2025**), the therapy strengthens India’s push for a “**Sickle-Cell-Free Nation**,” with significant benefits for affected **tribal communities** in central and eastern India.

Key Points

💡 About BIRSA 101:

- ✦ The gene therapy was developed by the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research - Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB)** and transferred to the **Serum Institute of India** through a structured **technology-transfer** agreement, ensuring rapid pathway from lab to market.
- ✦ The **public-private model** is designed to deliver **high-quality, affordable** genomic therapies to underserved communities.

💡 About CRISPR Gene Editing:

- ✦ **CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats)** is a naturally occurring defence mechanism found in bacteria, used to cut viral DNA.
- ✦ Modern gene-editing uses **CRISPR-Cas9**, where **Cas9** functions like molecular scissors to cut DNA at specific target sites.
- ✦ It enables **precise, efficient, and low-cost genome editing**, making it a major breakthrough in biotechnology and medical research.
- ✦ First demonstrated as a gene-editing tool in **2012**, pioneered by **Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier**, who received the **2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry**.

💡 About Sickle Cell Disease (SCD):

- ✦ **Sickle Cell Disease** is an **autosomal recessive genetic blood disorder** caused by an **HBB gene mutation**, producing abnormal **Hemoglobin-S** that makes red blood cells sickle-shaped and rigid. This leads to **anemia, pain crises, infections, and organ complications**.

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- ✦ It is **highly prevalent in tribal communities** of central and eastern India and is a focus area under the **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (2023–2047)**.
- ✦ Conventional treatment includes **hydroxyurea**, **blood transfusions**, and **stem-cell transplant**.

Ghoomar Dance

Why in News?

The city of **Jaipur** launched its first-ever **state-level Ghoomar Festival**, uniting women across the state to celebrate **Rajasthan's iconic folk dance tradition**.

- 💡 It was also organised simultaneously in **all seven divisional headquarters** of Rajasthan, making it a **state-level celebration** of the Ghoomar dance form.

Key Points

- 💡 **Ghoomar** is traditionally performed to **celebrate auspicious occasions**, such as marriages, festivals and the arrival of a new bride.
- 💡 It symbolises **joy, grace and womanhood**, and is considered a **ritual dance** that brings prosperity and good fortune to the household.
- 💡 Ghoomar is recognised as an important part of **Rajasthan's intangible cultural heritage**.
- 💡 There is **no fixed date** — it is performed **year-round** at social, ceremonial and festive events. The dancers wear colourful **ghaghra-cholis** and **odhnis**, and the swirling movement of the skirts is central to its visual identity.
- 💡 Ghoomar originated with the **Bhil tribe**, who performed it as part of their rituals honouring the **Goddess Saraswati** and local deities. Later, it was adopted and refined by the **Rajput royal households**, where it evolved into a graceful, court-like dance form.
- 💡 Traditionally, Ghoomar was performed **in the evening**, where women (especially newlywed brides) danced in circles to mark their acceptance into the family and the community.



World Fisheries Day 2025

Why in News?

India marked **World Fisheries Day 2025** on **21st November**, celebrating sustainability, blue-economy growth, and improved livelihoods for fishers.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** **World Fisheries Day**, observed annually on **21st November**, traces its origin to the formation of the **World Fisheries Forum** in **1997**, when delegates from **18 countries** met in **New Delhi** to promote sustainable fishing and safeguard fisher communities, making India the birthplace of this global observance.
- 💡 **Theme:** The theme for 2025 is **"India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports."**
- 💡 **Ranking:** India is the **second-largest fish-producing country** and among the **world's top shrimp producers**.
 - ✦ Total fish production more than **doubled from 96 lakh tonnes (2013–14) to 195 lakh tonnes (2024–25)**.
 - ✦ **Marine product exports** rose by **11.08%**, from **US\$ 0.81 billion (October 2024) to US\$ 0.90 billion (October 2025)**.
- 💡 **Major Initiatives:**
 - ✦ The government launched the **National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries & Aquaculture** to ensure **safe, transparent**, and **globally compliant seafood supply chains**.

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- ✦ The **Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the EEZ Rules** promote **environmentally responsible deep-sea fishing**, giving **priority access to Fishermen Cooperatives and FFPOs**, enhancing **income opportunities** for small-scale fishers.
- ✦ ReALCRaft is a **digital platform** enabling **online registration, licensing, e-payments**, and **vessel data updates**, with integrated inspections for **paperless fisheries governance**.
- ✦ NABHMITRA, a **two-way satellite communication system** for small vessels (<20 m), provides **real-time tracking, SOS alerts**, and **weather updates**, improving **fisher safety** and **coordination with coastal authorities**.

Rajasthan–Arabian Sea Connectivity Project

Why in News?

The Government of India has initiated preliminary planning for a **new transport connectivity project** aimed at linking **landlocked Rajasthan** directly with the **Arabian Sea**, improving logistics efficiency, trade access, and industrial growth in the state.

Key Points

- 💡 The proposed connectivity project aims to provide landlocked Rajasthan with a direct **multimodal transport link** to the Arabian Sea region, **primarily through an Inland Waterway and Port**, reducing dependency on distant ports and improving access to global trade routes.
- 💡 The plan is being examined under the broader **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan**, and involves utilizing the **National Waterway-48 (NW-48)** to connect to the Arabian Sea.
- 💡 Rajasthan currently depends heavily on ports in **Gujarat, especially Deendayal Port, Mundra, and Pipavav**, with long transport distances raising costs for exporters and industries.
- 💡 The proposal involves the construction of an **Inland Port near Jalore** and the development of a

navigable waterway connecting key industrial districts in **Western Rajasthan (such as Jalore and Barmer)** to the **Gulf of Kutch** via Deendayal Port.

- 💡 The connectivity plan is expected to support sectors such as **textiles, ceramics, marble, minerals, engineering goods, and handicrafts**, all of which form major export components of Rajasthan's economy.

Bhamashah Policy

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government has approved the **Bhamashah Policy 2025**, aimed at improving school infrastructure through philanthropic and corporate donations.

Key Points

About the Policy:

- ✦ The policy encourages **individual donors, NRIs, corporate entities**, trusts, and alumni groups to contribute towards strengthening government school infrastructure.
- ✦ Contributions can support facilities such as **classrooms, laboratories, libraries, smart classes, sports areas, drinking water units, boundary walls**, and overall campus improvement.
- ✦ Donors will receive **official recognition**, including plaques, certificates, and digital acknowledgement through a state portal.
- ✦ The Education Department will ensure **timely execution, transparency, and monitoring** of donor-funded projects.

About Bhamashah:

- ✦ **Bhamashah (1547–1600)** was a noted **treasurer, general, and philanthropist** in the court of **Mewar's Maharana Pratap**.
- ✦ He is celebrated for donating his entire wealth to support Maharana Pratap's struggle against Mughal rule.
- ✦ His legacy symbolizes **selfless public service and community-driven support**, often invoked in Rajasthan's governance and welfare initiatives.

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RSCERT Launches Career Education Programme

Why in News?

The Rajasthan State Council of Educational Research and Training (RSCERT) has launched a new **Career Education Programme** aimed at strengthening the career-counselling capacities of government school teachers across the state.

Key Points

- 💡 **Objective:**
 - ✦ The Career Education Programme aims to train government teachers to guide students on academic choices, vocational pathways, skill development options, and emerging career trends..
 - ✦ It will help teachers provide structured career counselling, especially to students from rural and disadvantaged areas who lack access to professional guidance.
- 💡 **Key Components:** The initiative covers modules on career mapping, aptitude understanding, NEP-2020-aligned pathways, vocational education, digital learning opportunities, and scholarship awareness..
- 💡 **Implementation & Institutional Role:**
 - ✦ RSCERT plans to create a **statewide pool of certified teacher-counsellors** to support schools in academic planning and student mentoring.
 - ✦ The programme supports the state's broader goal of **improving student preparedness for higher education, competitive exams, and employment opportunities**.

RSCERT

- 💡 **Rajasthan State Council of Educational Research and Training (RSCERT)** is the apex academic authority for **school curriculum development, teacher training, textbook preparation, and educational research** in Rajasthan.

- 💡 It works under the **Department of School Education**, aligning state curriculum with National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and **National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) 2020** guidelines.
- 💡 RSCERT also coordinates with State Institute of Educational Research and Training (SIERT), district resource groups, and SCERT-level institutions to strengthen teacher capacity and learning outcomes in government schools.

Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom Day

Why in News?

The President of India paid tribute to Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji on the occasion of his **350th Martyrdom Day** on **24th November 2025**.

- 💡 He was executed by Aurangzeb on **24th November 1675**, for defending **Kashmiri Pandits** against forced religious conversion, and the **Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib in Delhi's Chandni Chowk** marks the site of his execution.

Key Points

- 💡 **Early Life:** Born in the year **1621** in Amritsar, Guru Tegh Bahadur was initially known as **Tyagmal** due to his **ascetic nature**. Trained in religious philosophy and martial skills, he was awarded the title "**Tegh Bahadur**" for his **bravery** in battle.
- 💡 **Contribution:** He became the **9th Sikh Guru** in **1664** after **Guru Harkishan**. In **1665**, he founded Anandpur Sahib and contributed more than **700 hymns** to the Guru Granth Sahib, focusing on equality, justice, and devotion.
- 💡 **Legacy:** He **opposed forced religious conversions** during **Aurangzeb's reign** and encouraged **fearlessness (Nirbhau)** and **compassion (Nirvair)** among his followers.
 - ✦ He is revered for defending freedom of religion and conscience earning him the title "**Hind-di Chadar**" (Shield of India).

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Ten Gurus of Sikhism

Guru Nanak Dev (1469–1539)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Sikh Guru and founder of Sikhism Initiated 'Guru ka Langar' Contemporary of Babur Kartarpur Corridor was inaugurated on his 550th birth anniversary
Guru Angad (1504–1552)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invented the Gurmukhi script Popularized the practice of 'Guru ka Langar'
Guru Amar Das (1479–1574)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the Anand Karaj marriage ceremony Abolished sati and purdah practices among Sikhs Contemporary of Akbar
Guru Ram Das (1534–1581)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded Amritsar in 1577 Began the extraction and construction of the Holy Tank (Sarovar) at the site of the Golden Temple.

Guru Arjan Dev (1563–1606)

- Compiled the **Adi Granth** in 1604
- Completed the Golden Temple's construction
- Known as '**Shaheeden-de-Sartaj**'
- Executed by Jahangir for helping **Prince Khusrau**

Guru Hargobind (1594–1644)

- Transformed Sikhs into a **martial community**
- Known as the "**Soldier Saint**"
- Established the **Akal Takht** in Amritsar

Guru Har Rai (1630–1661)

- Peace-loving Guru**
 - Dedicated his life to missionary work and maintaining the Sikh army.
- Met with **Dara Shikoh** (Aurangzeb's brother).

Guru Harkishan (1656–1664)

- Youngest Sikh Guru**, became Guru at age 5
- Summoned by **Aurangzeb**

Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621–1675)

- Founded **Anandpur Sahib**
- Opposed forced conversions** under Aurangzeb
- Martyred in 1675 for defending Kashmiri Pandits

Guru Gobind Singh (1666–1708)

- Founded the **Khalsa** in 1699
- Introduced the initiation ceremony "**Pahul**"
- Last human Sikh Guru** and the **Five Ks**
- Declared **Guru Granth Sahib** as the **eternal Guru**

Hayli Gubbi Volcano

Why in News?

The Hayli Gubbi **volcano** in **Ethiopia** has erupted explosively, sending high-altitude ash plumes thousands of metres up, some of which have drifted into **Indian airspace**, triggering **aviation advisories**.

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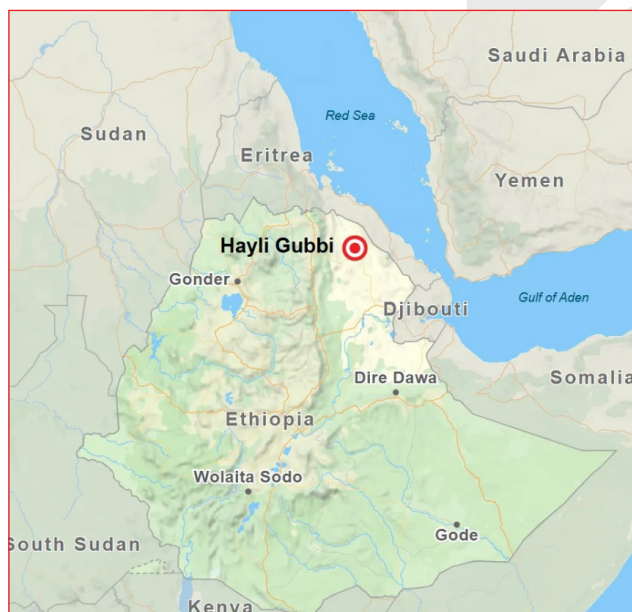


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Key Points

- Hayli Gubbi volcano is located in **Afar, northeastern Ethiopia**, within the **Danakil Depression** - one of the **hottest and lowest places** on Earth.
- The current eruption is significant because the volcano is believed to have **erupted after nearly 12,000 years**, based on geological evidence from the Afar Rift.
- The Hayli Gubbi eruption highlights the **geological volatility** of the **East African Rift System (EARS)** where active volcanism, fissure eruptions, and **spreading ridges** are common.
 - It is one of the world's most tectonically active rift systems where the **Arabian, Nubian, and Somali plates** are diverging.
- The region is characterised by **basaltic lava**, fissure systems, and frequent **seismic activity** linked to the continental rifting process.



Volcanic Ash & Aviation Risks

- Volcanic ash** is made of tiny, abrasive particles of rock and glass that can melt inside **jet engines** and cause serious damage.
- Jet engines can **stall** when ash **melts and re-solidifies** on turbine blades.

Exercise SURYAKIRAN (2025)

Why in News?

The **19th edition** of India–Nepal Joint Military Exercise **SURYAKIRAN-XIX** began on **25th November 2025** at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.

Key Points

About Exercise SURYAKIRAN:

- Exercise **SURYAKIRAN** is a **bilateral military exercise** between the Indian Army and the Nepal Army, held **annually**, with hosting duties alternating between the two countries.
- It aims to **enhance interoperability**, strengthen **military diplomacy**, and deepen **India–Nepal defence cooperation**.
- The exercise primarily focuses on **counter-insurgency**, **counter-terrorism**, and **jungle/mountain warfare** terrain common to both armies.
- It is conducted under **Chapter VII of the UN Charter**, which deals with **peacekeeping** duties related to threats to **peace**, **breaches of peace**, and **counter-terrorism** scenarios.

About the 2025 Edition:

- The 2025 edition of the exercise is being hosted at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**, from **25th November to 08th December, 2025**.
- The **Indian contingent** comprises **334 personnel**, mainly from the **Assam Regiment** while the **Nepalese contingent** also includes **334 personnel**, primarily from the **Devi Datta Regiment**.
- The 2025 edition highlights incorporation of **niche and emerging military technologies**, such as:

- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**
- Drone-based ISR** (Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance)
- AI-enabled** decision-support tools
- Unmanned logistics vehicles**
- Armoured protection platforms**

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Nayi Chetna 4.0 Campaign

Why in News?

The Union Minister for Rural Development, alongside the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, launched 'Nayi Chetna 4.0', a national campaign under the **DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission)**.

Key Points

- The fourth edition of **Nayi Chetna – Initiative for Change** focuses on **strengthening women's safety, mobility, dignity, and socio-economic participation**, especially in rural India.
- The campaign will run nationwide from **25th November to 23rd December 2025**, led by the extensive network of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** under DAY-NRLM.
- Emphasis given on elimination of **substance abuse**, which was termed a major cause of **domestic violence**, and village-level campaigns for **violence-free communities**.
- The initiative stresses **women's voices in governance**, safe public spaces, **shared domestic responsibilities**, and recognition of women's economic roles.

DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission)

- The DAY-NRLM was launched in **2011** and later **restructured in 2015** to strengthen its implementation framework and outreach. The mission is implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- The scheme aims to **reduce rural poverty** by promoting **self-employment, skill development, and sustainable livelihoods** through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- It primarily focuses on mobilizing **rural women** into SHGs, providing them with **credit linkages, capacity-building support, and enhanced access to markets**.
- It includes key components such as **financial inclusion, digital literacy, and the diversification of livelihood activities** to improve and stabilize **household incomes** in rural areas.

India to Host Commonwealth Games 2030

Why in News?

Prime Minister congratulated the nation as India has officially won the bid to host the **Centenary Commonwealth Games 2030**, a historic sporting milestone marking 100 years of the Games.

Key Points

About the Commonwealth Bid:

- ✦ India will host the **Centenary Commonwealth Games 2030** in **Ahmedabad**.
- ✦ This achievement represents a major **diplomatic and sporting milestone**, significantly enhancing **India's visibility and credibility** in **global sports governance**.
- ✦ Hosting the 2030 Games aligns with **India's long-term sporting vision**, particularly its efforts to upgrade **sports infrastructure**, strengthen **global event hosting capacity**, and enhance athlete support through programmes such as **Khelo India** and the **Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme**.
- ✦ India last hosted the **Commonwealth Games in 2010**, when the event was held in **New Delhi**.

About Commonwealth Games:

- ✦ The **Commonwealth Games (CWG)** is an international multi-sport event held every four years, bringing together athletes from all 56 Commonwealth nations.
- ✦ It was first conducted in **1930 at Hamilton, Canada** as the **British Empire Games**. India first participated in the **1934 London Games**.
- ✦ The event is governed by the **Commonwealth Sport** (earlier known as **Commonwealth Games Federation**), headquartered in **London (England)**, which ensures that the Games uphold the core values of **humanity, equality, and destiny**.
- ✦ The **2026 Commonwealth Games** are scheduled to take place in **Glasgow, Scotland**.

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Jaipur's Walled City

Why in News?

UNESCO has asked Rajasthan's Department of Archaeology & Museums to submit a **detailed status report** on the conservation and management of the **Jaipur Walled City**, following concerns over urban pressures, unregulated construction.

Key Points

- The **Jaipur Walled City** was inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site (2019)** for being an exceptional example of **18th-century planned urban architecture**.
- Founded in **1727** by **Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II**, it is based on **Vedic principles** and a **gridiron plan** with broad streets, chowkris, and uniform bazaars. Unlike other cities in the region located in **hilly terrain**, Jaipur was established on the **plain**.
- It is known for its **living culture**, crafts, gemstone trade, handlooms, and vibrant bazaar ecosystem. Key features include **City Palace**, **Hawa Mahal**, **Govind Dev Ji Temple**, **Jantar Mantar**, traditional pink façades, city gates, and interconnected markets.
- It is managed under frameworks like the **Conservation Management Plan (CMP)**, **Integrated Management Plan**, and **State-level Heritage Regulations** governing façade control, building height, colour uniformity, and signage norms.
- Threats include **urban congestion**, **encroachments**, **structural strain**, **unregulated commercialisation**, and loss of traditional architectural character.

IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN

Jaipur's Walled City has added a new feather in its royal cap by making it to the exclusive league of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**. What makes it different from other historical and cultural sites are its monuments, bazaars and festivals which have evolved over the last 400 years



Photo: Arvind Sharma

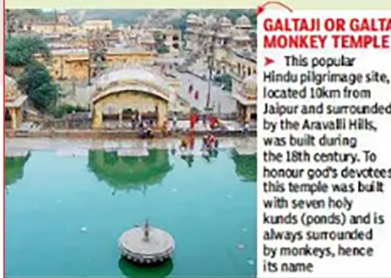


AMBER FORT AND PALACE

> Nestled in the Aravalli Hills, the fort houses some of the most ornate murals and picturesque sites. The piece de resistance, Sheesh Mahal or Palace of Mirrors, is a must-visit for tourists

ELEPHANT SAFARI IN AMBER FORT

> The Amer Fort in Jaipur consists of an elephant safari which takes tourists on a tour of the famous fort and its surroundings. Post safari, tourists can indulge in colouring, feeding and washing the elephant



GALTAJI OR GALTIA MONKEY TEMPLE

> This popular Hindu pilgrimage site, located 10km from Jaipur and surrounded by the Aravalli Hills, was built during the 18th century. To honour god's devotees, this temple was built with seven holy kunds (ponds) and is always surrounded by monkeys, hence its name

BAZAARS OF JAIPUR

> Local markets like Johri Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar give tourists an authentic experience of Pink city. Known for the finest leather goods, the bazaars are enriched with the city's glorious legacy

NAHARGARH FORT

> Get a bird's-eye view of the city from the fort. It is one of the most mesmerising locations Jaipur has to offer. The view of the sparkling city underneath makes it a surreal picnic spot

HAWA MAHAL

> The Palace of the Winds with its five-storey extension in the form of a honeycomb was a favourite among the royals and remains a prime tourist spot. The palace's windows with their intricate lattice work allowed royals to see, but prevented outsiders from catching a glimpse



GOVIND DEVJI TEMPLE

> This Vaishnava temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, located near Jainawas Gardens, is considered one of the seven major temples of Thakur of Vrindavan. It hosts aartis and bhogs seven times a day for people and hosts mega Janmasthmi celebrations



CITY PALACE

> A fusion of Rajput and Mughal architectures, City Palace is one of the most astounding monuments in Jaipur. Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Maharani Palace, and its museums are sure to charm the tourists

Rajasthan to Conduct Its First Tiger Translocation

Why in News?

Rajasthan is planning for its **first-ever interstate tiger translocation**, which will also be **India's second** such translocation of a wild tiger from one landscape to another.

- The first inter-state translocation involved **two tigers**: a **male from Kanha Tiger Reserve** and a **female from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** (both **Madhya Pradesh**) to **Satkosia Tiger Reserve** (Odisha) in 2018 but it failed.

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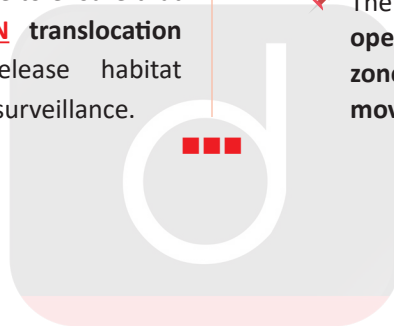
Key Points

About the Translocation:

- ✦ A tigress from **Pench Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh)** will be airlifted to the **Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR)** in Bundi, after obtaining final approvals from the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
- ✦ The translocation aims to introduce **genetic diversity** and establish a viable breeding population in RVTR.
- ✦ The tigress will be fitted with a **GPS radio-collar** to enable real-time monitoring, movement analysis, and early detection of potential conflict or stress.
- ✦ Rajasthan's Forest Department is coordinating with experts in wildlife science to ensure that the operation follows **IUCN translocation protocols**, including pre-release habitat assessment and post-release surveillance.

About Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR):

- ✦ Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve is located in the **Bundi district of Rajasthan**, with its landscape extending toward Kota and Bhilwara regions.
- ✦ The reserve lies within the **ancient Aravalli hill ranges**, featuring seasonal rivers such as **Mej, Ramgarh, and Khari**, which support its semi-arid forest ecosystem.
- ✦ It was notified as **Rajasthan's fourth Tiger Reserve in 2022**, after **Ranthambore, Sariska, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve**.
- ✦ RVTR was created from the **Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary** along with adjoining forest blocks and corridors that connect it to the **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve**, forming an important tiger dispersal route.
- ✦ The habitat consists of **dry deciduous forests, open scrublands, grass patches, and riverine zones**, making it a suitable landscape for **tiger movement and prey base recovery**.



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Summary

Key Points

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Summary

Summary