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UTTARAKHAND



**OCTOBER
2025**



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New Delhi



21,
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Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh



Crystal Heights,
Circular Road, Lalpur
Chowk, Ranchi,
Jharkhand

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International Day of Non-Violence

Why in News?

In India, **2nd October** is celebrated as **Gandhi Jayanti**, honouring Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.

- 💡 The day is also observed worldwide as the **International Day of Non-Violence**, following a 2007 UN resolution supported by over 140 countries, giving it universal significance.

Key Facts About Mahatma Gandhi

- ✦ **Birth:** 2nd October 1869 in Porbandar (Gujarat).
- ✦ **Brief Profile:** Lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer who became the leader of the nationalist movement against the British rule of India.
- ✦ **Books:** Hind Swaraj, My Experiments with Truth (Autobiography)
- ✦ **Death:** He was shot dead by Nathuram Godse on 30th January 1948.
 - 📎 30th January is observed as **Martyrs' Day**.
- 💡 **Role in India's Freedom Struggle**
 - ✦ **Leadership of the Indian National Congress (INC):** Mahatma Gandhi emerged as a prominent leader of the INC in the early 20th century, advocating for non-violent resistance and mass mobilisation to challenge British rule.
 - 📎 The **Belgaum session in 1924** was the only Congress session that was presided over by Gandhi Ji.
 - ✦ **Non-Cooperation Movement (NCM) (1920-1922):** Gandhi launched the NCM in response to the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** and the repressive **Rowlatt Act**.
 - 📎 He urged Indians to boycott British institutions, goods, and honours, leading to widespread participation across the country.
 - 📎 Gandhi Ji was awarded the **Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal in 1915** for his service in the **Boer War**, but returned it in 1920 to protest the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

- ✦ **Salt March (1930):** Gandhi led the Salt March to the Gujarati coastal town of Dandi, protesting the British salt tax. This marked the beginning of the **Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- ✦ **Quit India Movement (QIM) (1942):** Gandhi called for the QIM, demanding an end to British rule in India.
 - 📎 His slogan, **"Do or Die,"** inspired millions to participate in protests, strikes, and acts of civil disobedience, marking a significant escalation in the freedom struggle.
- ✦ **Philosophy of Non-Violence:** Throughout his activism, Gandhi emphasised the principles of **Satyagraha (truth force) and Ahimsa (non-violence)**, advocating for peaceful protests and moral integrity.
 - 📎 His approach not only influenced the Indian independence movement but also inspired civil rights movements worldwide, such as **Nelson Mandela** and **Martin Luther King Jr.**

National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards 2025

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Ayush** announced the **National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards 2025**, recognising outstanding contributions to Ayurveda by **Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur, Vaidya Neelakandhan Mooss E.T., and Vaidya Bhavana Prasher**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Awards:**
 - ✦ Instituted by the **Ministry of Ayush**.
 - ✦ Among the **highest honours** in traditional Indian medicine.
 - ✦ Recognises excellence in **promotion, preservation, and innovation** in Ayurveda.
 - ✦ The 2025 awardees represent three vital dimensions of Ayurveda: **scholarship, traditional practice, and scientific innovation**.

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AYUSH Systems of Medicine

AYUSH encompasses Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Homeopathy, with Ayurveda having a documented history of 5000+ years.

Ayurveda

- ➔ **Samhita Period (1000 BC):**
Emerged as mature medical system
 - ➔ **Charaka Samhita:** Oldest and most authoritative text
 - ➔ **Sushruta Samhita:** Gives fundamental principles and therapeutic methods in eight specialties
- ➔ **Main Schools:**
 - ➔ **Punarvasu Atreya** - School of physicians
 - ➔ **Divodasa Dhanvantari** - School of surgeons

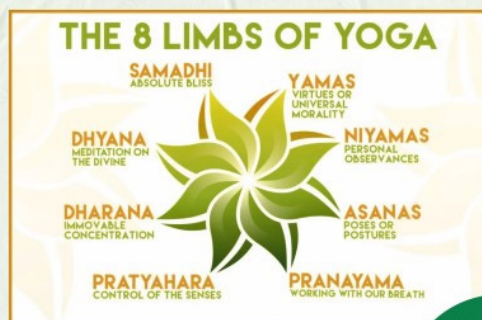
Lord Brahma is believed to be the 1st proponent of Ayurveda

Branches of Ayurveda:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Kayachikitsa (internal medicine) | ■ Agada Tantra (toxicology) |
| ■ Shalya Tantra (surgery) | ■ Bhootavidya (psychiatry) |
| ■ Shalakya Tantra (disease of supra-clavicular origin) | ■ Rasayana Tantra (rejuvenation and geriatrics) |
| ■ Kaumarabhritya (paediatrics) | ■ Vajikarana (eugenics & science of aphrodisiac) |



Yoga & Naturopathy



- ➔ **Naturopathy:** Healing with help of 5 natural elements - Earth, Water, Air, Fire and Ether
 - ➔ Based on theories of self-healing capacity of body and principles of healthy living
 - ➔ Encourages a **person-centred approach** rather than disease-centred

Yoga first propounded by Maharishi Patanjali in systematic form Yogsutra

Unani

Pioneered in Greece, developed by Arabs as 7 principles (Umoor-e-Tabbiya)

- ➔ Based on the framework of teachings of **Buqrat** (Hippocrates) and **Jalinoos** (Galen)
 - ➔ Hippocratic theory of **four humors** viz. blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile
- ➔ **Recognised by WHO** and granted official status by India as an alternative health system

Siddha

Dates back to 10000 – 4000 BC; Siddhar Agasthiyar - Father of Siddha Medicine

- ➔ Preventive, promotive, curative, rejuvenative, and rehabilitative health care
- ➔ **4 Components:** Latro-chemistry, Medical practice, Yogic practice & Wisdom
- ➔ Diagnosis based on 3 humors (**Mukkutram**) and 8 vital tests (**Ennvagai Thervu**)

Sowa Rigpa

Origin: Lord Buddha in India before 2500 years

- ➔ Traditional medicine in Himalayan regions of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, etc.
- ➔ Recognised in India by Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 (As amended in 2010)

Homeopathy

German physician Dr. Christian F. S. Hahnemann codified its fundamental principles

- ➔ Medicines prepared mainly from natural substances (plant products, minerals, animal sources)
- ➔ Brought in India by European missionaries - 1810; official recognition - 1948
- ➔ **3 Key Principles:**
 - ➔ *Similia Similibus Curentur* (let likes be cured by likes)
 - ➔ Single Medicine
 - ➔ Minimum Dose



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💡 Awardees:

- ✦ **Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur:** Scholar and academician with **six decades of contribution** in Ayurvedic education and Sanskrit literature.
 - 📎 Recipient of **Rashtrapati Samman** and several other national accolades.
- ✦ **Vaidya Neelakandhan Mooss E.T.:** Head of **Vaidyaratnam Group**, Kerala, representing the **eighth generation** of a 200-year Ayurvedic lineage.
 - 📎 Known for preserving and modernising Ayurveda as a **living, community-oriented practice**.
- ✦ **Vaidya Bhavana Prasher:** Pioneer in **Ayurgenomics**, bridging **Ayurvedic Prakriti concepts with modern genomic science**.
 - 📎 Contribution integrated into **Rashtriya Prakriti Parikshan Karyakram**.

💡 Significance:

- ✦ Recognises **continuity and evolution** of Ayurveda across **classical scholarship, traditional practice, and modern science**.
- ✦ Reinforces Ayurveda's role in **integrated and personalised healthcare**.
- ✦ Strengthens India's global leadership in **traditional medicine and innovation**.

MY Bharat Mobile Application Launched

Why in News?

Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched the **MY Bharat Mobile Application**, marking a significant step in **advancing youth leadership** and civic engagement through technology.

- 💡 He also announced the **integration of the Common Services Centres (CSCs)** with the **MY Bharat Portal**, marking a significant step towards ensuring wider access and deeper penetration of youth-centric initiatives across the country.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** It is an **online Youth Leadership and Social Engagement Platform** under the Department of Youth Affairs (DoYA), Ministry of Youth Affairs and

Sports, which has been designed and developed by the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- ✦ It aims to provide youth with **volunteering, internships, mentorship, and learning opportunities** through a seamless mobile interface.
- ✦ It is currently available in **Hindi and English**, with more Indian languages to be added gradually.

💡 Key Features:

- ✦ **Verified Opportunities:** Volunteering, internships, mentorship, and experiential learning.
- ✦ **Digital Recognition:** Badges, certificates, and personalised youth profiles.
- ✦ **Career Empowerment:** Skill-building resources and **AI-enabled resume building**.
- ✦ **Youth Campaigns:** Active participation in flagship programmes and civic initiatives.
- ✦ **Interactive Learning:** Participation in the **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026 Quiz**.

- 💡 **Integration with CSCs:** By leveraging CSC's vast network of **over five lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs)**, the MY Bharat portal will now extend to remote rural areas, enabling seamless youth registration and participation in initiatives like the VBYLD Quiz.

- ✦ The **MY Bharat platform**, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 31st October 2023, has become **one of India's largest youth-centric ecosystems** with over 1.81 crore youth and 1.20 lakh organisations onboarded, serving as a digital backbone for youth engagement, leadership, and nation-building during the Amrit Kaal.

PM Pays Tribute to Shyamji Krishna Varma

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to **Shyamji Krishna Varma** on his birth anniversary, highlighting his unwavering dedication to **India's freedom struggle** and urging the youth to emulate his fearless spirit and commitment to justice.

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Key Points

- 💡 He was an **Indian revolutionary, patriot, lawyer, and journalist**, born on **4th October 1857**, in **Mandvi, Gujarat**.
- 💡 In London, he established the **Indian Home Rule Society in 1905**, which aimed to inspire young Indians to engage in revolutionary activities against British rule.
- 💡 He founded '**India House**' as a hostel and meeting place for Indian students in London.
- 💡 He also launched '**The Indian Sociologist**,' a journal which aimed to **inspire young Indians** to engage in revolutionary activities against British rule.
- 💡 He was the **first President of the Bombay Arya Samaj** and influenced **Veer Savarkar**.
- 💡 In response to British criticism, Varma transitioned from England to Paris and subsequently settled in Geneva during **World War I**, where he remained until his **death on 30th March 1930**.
- 💡 He had wished for his ashes to be brought back to a free India, a wish realised in August 2003 by then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✦ A **memorial called Kranti Teerth** dedicated to him was built and inaugurated in 2010 near Mandvi.

World Cotton Day 2025

Why in News?

Union Ministers Shri Giriraj Singh and Shri Pabitra Margherita attended the **World Cotton Day 2025 celebration** in New Delhi on **7th October**.

- 💡 The event was jointly organised by the **Ministry of Textiles** and the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), with the theme **“Cotton 2040: Technology, Climate & Competitiveness.”**



Key Points

- 💡 **About:** World Cotton Day was established in 2019 when four cotton-producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa—Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali, collectively known as the Cotton Four—proposed to the World Trade Organisation the idea of celebrating World Cotton Day on 7th October.
- 💡 **Objective:** It aims to create **awareness of the need for market access** for cotton and cotton-related products from least developed countries, foster sustainable trade policies and enable developing countries to benefit more from every step of the **cotton value chain**.
- 💡 **Interesting Facts About Cotton:**
 - ✦ The top five cotton-producing countries are **China, India, Brazil, the United States of America, and Pakistan**, which together account for more than **three-quarters** of global production.
 - 📎 **India is the largest producer of cotton globally**, accounting for 23% of total global cotton production.
 - ✦ Cotton sustains about **24 million growers and benefits** over 100 million families globally.

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- ✦ Cotton is the **second-most used fibre globally** after polyester, making up approximately 20% of total fibre demand.
- ✦ Approximately **80% of cotton is used in apparel**, with the remainder used in home textiles and industrial products.

💡 **Governance in India:** The **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)**, established in July 1970 under the Ministry of Textiles, stabilises **cotton prices through price support** measures and supports the domestic textile industry with commercial purchasing operations, especially during the lean season.



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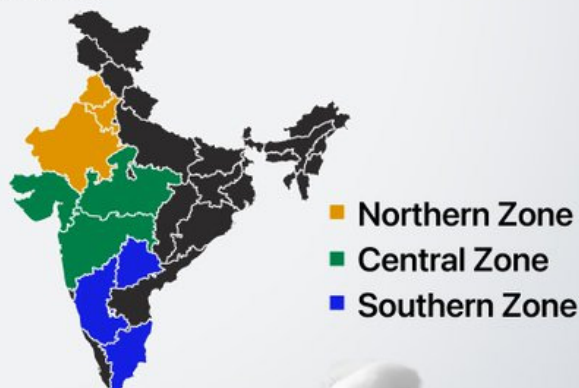
Cotton Cultivation

India got **1st** place in the world in cotton acreage with **130.61** lakh hectares area under cotton cultivation i.e. around **40%** of the world area of **324.16** lakh hectares.

India is the only country which grows all four species of cotton



Major 9 cotton growing states divided according to Agro-Ecological zones



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World Habitat Day

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** celebrated World Habitat Day 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, with the theme **“Urban Solutions to Crisis.”**

- ⚡ The event highlighted the importance of **making cities more resilient, inclusive**, and sustainable in addressing challenges like **climate change**, migration, and **rapid urbanisation**.

Key Points

- ⚡ **Background:** In 1985, the United Nations designated the **first Monday of October** each year as **World Habitat Day**. World Habitat Day was first celebrated in **1986**, with the theme **“Shelter is My Right”**, and **Nairobi** was the host city.
- ⚡ **Objective:** This day serves to reflect on the **state of our habitats** and **emphasises the fundamental right** of all individuals to have access to adequate shelter.
- ⚡ **Theme 2025:** The theme for World Habitat Day 2025, observed on 6th October, is **‘Urban Crises Response,’** focusing on addressing various crises, such as **climate change** and conflicts, that **contribute to inequality** in urban areas, while promoting effective crisis response tools and approaches.

Scroll of Honour Award

- ⚡ **Launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme** in 1989, the **UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award** is the most prestigious global recognition for human settlements.
- ⚡ This award acknowledges exceptional contributions in areas such as:
 - ✦ **Shelter provision** (adequate, affordable housing).
 - ✦ Highlighting the plight of the homeless.
 - ✦ Leadership in **post-conflict reconstruction**.
 - ✦ Improving **urban life quality** and **human settlements**.

93rd Air Force Day

Why in News?

The **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh** conveyed his greetings to the nation on the **93rd Air Force Day**, honouring the brave air warriors who have protected the nation's skies with sacrifice, dedication, and professionalism.



Key Points

- ⚡ **About:** Celebrated annually on 8th October to honour the establishment of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on **8th October 1932**.
- ⚡ **Early Years:** The IAF's **first operational flight** took place on 1st April 1933, beginning a vision of air power that has shaped India's defence over the decades.
 - ✦ From a small force with limited personnel and aircraft, the IAF has grown to become the **world's fourth-largest air force**, involved in various military and humanitarian missions.
- ⚡ **Motto:** The motto of IAF is **Touch the sky with Glory (Nabhah Sparsam Diptam)**, which has been taken from the eleventh chapter of the **Bhagavad Gita**.
- ⚡ **Theme:** The 2025 theme is centred on the force's contribution to **Operation Sindoor**.
- ⚡ **2025 Celebrations:** This year's celebrations featured a farewell to the iconic **MiG-21**, a grand flypast with **Rafale**, Su-30MKI, C-17 Globemaster, Apache Guardian, and others, along with parades, air shows, and exhibitions showcasing the IAF's technological advancements and operational readiness.

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- ✦ The parade took place at Hindon Air Base, Uttar Pradesh, showcasing technological advancements and operational readiness.
- ✦ The restored **Hindustan Trainer-2 (HT-2) aircraft**, the **first indigenously built IAF aircraft**, was also displayed for the first time as part of the **Heritage Flight**.
- ✦ The traditional flypast and aerial display are scheduled to be held in **Guwahati on 9th November**, marking the culmination of this year's Air Force Day celebrations.

70th Filmfare Awards 2025

Why in News?

The **70th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2025**, held on **11th October 2025** at EKA Arena, Ahmedabad, in collaboration with **Gujarat Tourism**, marked a distinguished celebration of excellence in Hindi cinema



Key Points

- 💡 **About:** Hosted by **Shah Rukh Khan** and **Karan Johar**, who reunited on the Filmfare stage after 18 years, the ceremony blended glitz and nostalgia to celebrate seven decades of cinematic excellence.
- ✦ The evening celebrated the best films of **2024**, honouring excellence across multiple categories.
- 💡 **Major Wins:** '**Laapataa Ladies**' emerged as the **biggest winner of the night**, bagging **13 trophies**, including **Best Film**, thus equalling the record previously set by '**Gully Boy**' (2019) starring Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt.
- ✦ In the acting categories, **Abhishek Bachchan** and **Kartik Aaryan** shared the **Best Actor (Male)** award for their remarkable performances, while **Alia Bhatt** clinched the **Best Actress** trophy for her stellar role.

Top Individual Winners		
Name	Award(s)	Film(s)
Kiran Rao	Best Director	Laapataa Ladies
Shoojit Sircar	Critics' Award for Best Film	I Want To Talk
Sneha Desai	Best Screenplay & Best Dialogue	Laapataa Ladies
Ram Sampath	Best Music Album & Best Background Score	Laapataa Ladies

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Achint Thakkar	RD Burman Award (Upcoming Talent in Music)	Jigra, Mr & Mrs Mahi
Zeenat Aman, Shyam Benegal (Posthumously)	Lifetime Achievement Award	Honoured for unparalleled contributions to Indian cinema.

World Mental Health Day

Why in News?

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day 2025, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare **Jagat Prakash Nadda** launched a series of new features under the **National Tele-Mental Health Programme (Tele-MANAS)**.

Key Points

- 💡 **App Enhancements:** The **Tele-MANAS** mobile app enables users to access mental health support **anytime, anywhere**, strengthening India's digital healthcare framework.
 - ✦ The app now features a **multi-lingual interface, chatbot, accessibility improvements**, and an **emergency response module**.
 - ✦ Available in **10 regional languages** (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, and Punjabi) in addition to **English and Hindi**.
 - ✦ **Accessibility features** make the interface user-friendly for **persons with disabilities**, including the visually impaired.
 - ✦ **Chatbot "Asmi"** allows users to engage, seek information, and access mental health support.
 - ✦ **Emergency module** ensures quick guidance and support during crises.
- 💡 **Mental Health Ambassador:** The Minister announced that **Deepika Padukone** has been designated as the **Mental Health Ambassador** to raise awareness about access to mental health services.
- 💡 **World Mental Health Day:**
 - ✦ **About:** World Mental Health Day, observed on 10th October, aims to **raise global awareness** about mental health issues, encourage dialogue, and mobilise efforts to make mental health care accessible for all.

- ✦ **Theme:** The 2025 theme, "**Access to Services—Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies**," underscores the importance of ensuring mental health care during crises such as **natural disasters**, armed conflicts, and pandemics.

World Standards Day

Why in News?

Shri Pralhad Joshi, the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy lead the **World Standards Day** programme on 14th October 2025.

- 💡 The event was organized by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The celebration at the National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS) featured the release of the **National Lighting Code of India 2025**, along with the launch of the **Learning Management System (LMS)** and the **Online Standards Development (OSD) Module** on the BIS Standards Portal.
- 💡 **World Standards Day:**
 - ✦ **About:** The first World Standards Day was first celebrated in **1970** to raise global awareness about the importance of standards in fostering safety, quality, and international trade.
 - 📎 The day was established by **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**, in collaboration with **International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)** and **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, to honor the global community of standard developers and their contributions.

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- ✦ **Purpose:** World Standards Day celebrates the pivotal role of standards in ensuring **quality, safety, and sustainability**. It recognizes the collaborative efforts of experts—scientists, engineers, policymakers, and innovators—who work to create these frameworks.
- ✦ **Theme:** The 2025 theme, “A Shared Vision for a Better World: Standards for Sustainable Development Goals” emphasises the role of international standards in promoting global cooperation towards achieving the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- 💡 BIS is the **statutory national standard body** of India established under the **BIS Act, 2016**, for the **harmonious development** of the activities of **standardisation, marking and quality certification** of goods.
- ✦ It was initially set up as the **Indian Standards Institution (ISI)** that came into being on **6th January 1947**.
- ✦ It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- ✦ It operates various schemes like **Product Certification (ISI mark)**, **Hallmarking** of Gold and Silver Jewellers, **ECO Mark Scheme** (for labelling of environment friendly products).

Defence Minister Releases Book on Future-Ready Armed Forces

Why in News?

On **14th October 2025**, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh released a book titled “*Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II: Shaping a Future Ready Force*”, authored by **Chief of Defence Staff** General Anil Chauhan.

Key Points

- 💡 The book presents a **comprehensive and forward-looking blueprint** for shaping India’s Armed Forces to meet the challenges of the future.

- 💡 It provides an **in-depth analysis of the evolving nature of warfare**, tracing the **evolution of conflict** and examining **emerging domains** such as **cyberspace, space-enabled operations, and cognitive warfare**—highlighting their increasing significance for the Indian Armed Forces.
- 💡 Emphasizing the importance of **strong military leadership** and **institutional resilience**, the author envisions a **bold reimagination of India’s military future**—one that draws from historical insight, harnesses technological innovation, and is anchored in the vision of a **ready, reliable, and resurgent India**.

Chief of Defence Staff

- 💡 The post of **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** was created in 2019. The CDS acts as the **Principal Military Adviser** to the Defence Minister on all tri-services matters.
- 💡 As the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, the CDS is supported by the Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff in performing assigned functions.
- 💡 The **Department of Military Affairs** is headed by the Chief of Defence Staff, who holds the rank of a four-star General, with salary and perquisites at par with a Service Chief.

India-South Korea Naval Bilateral Exercise (IN-RoKN)

Why in News?

The inaugural edition of the **India–South Korea Naval Bilateral Exercise (IN–RoKN)** commenced on **13th October 2025** at the **Busan Naval Base, South Korea**, marking a significant milestone in the growing strategic partnership between the **Indian Navy (IN)** and the **Republic of Korea Navy (RoKN)**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The inaugural IN–RoKN exercise is structured into two distinct phases — **the Harbour Phase** and **the Sea Phase** — designed to enhance **interoperability, mutual understanding, and trust** between the two maritime forces.

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- ✦ **Harbour Phase:** During this phase, naval personnel from both countries will engage in **cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, best practice sharing, sports events, and cross-training sessions**. The **Commanding Officer of INS Sahyadri** will also pay courtesy calls on **senior RoKN officials and local dignitaries**.
- ✦ **Sea Phase:** The sea segment will include **complex joint manoeuvres and operational exercises** between **INS Sahyadri and ROKS Gyeongnam**, aimed at strengthening **tactical coordination and operational synergy**.
- 💡 **INS Sahyadri:** An indigenously designed and constructed **Shivalik-class stealth frigate**, **INS Sahyadri** was commissioned in 2012 and serves under the **Eastern Fleet** of the **Eastern Naval Command**, headquartered at **Visakhapatnam**.
 - ✦ The ship stands as a testament to India's '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**' (Self-Reliant India) initiative and its indigenous shipbuilding capabilities.
- 💡 **Strategic Significance:** As the **Indo-Pacific region** assumes greater geopolitical importance, both India and the Republic of Korea have reaffirmed their commitment to developing **robust maritime partnerships** founded on **shared interests, mutual respect, and common values**.

World Food Day 2025

Why in News?

World Food Day is observed every year on **16th October** to promote awareness about food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** World Food Day marks the establishment of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** by the **United Nations (UN)** on **16th October, 1945**.
 - ✦ The World Food Day came into existence in 1979 during the **FAO's 20th General Conference** and the **UN General Assembly** endorsed it in **1984**.
 - ✦ **Right to food** is recognized by the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948**.
- 💡 **Theme:** The theme for 2025 is "**Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future**", highlighting the power of global collaboration to transform agrifood systems.
- 💡 **India's Status:** Over the past decade, India's foodgrain production rose by nearly 90 million metric tonnes, reflecting strong agricultural growth.
 - ✦ Fruit and vegetable output expanded significantly, increasing by over 64 million metric tonnes during the same period.
 - ✦ **India now ranks first** globally in milk and millets production and second in fish, fruit, and vegetable output, with honey and egg production doubling since 2014.
- 💡 **Indian Initiatives:** Flagship initiatives like the **National Food Security Act, 2013, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, PM POSHAN Scheme, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Rice Fortification** and **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)** are reinforcing India's commitment to ensuring food and nutritional security.

Birth Anniversary of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Why in News?

On **15th October 2025**, President Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, on his **birth anniversary** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

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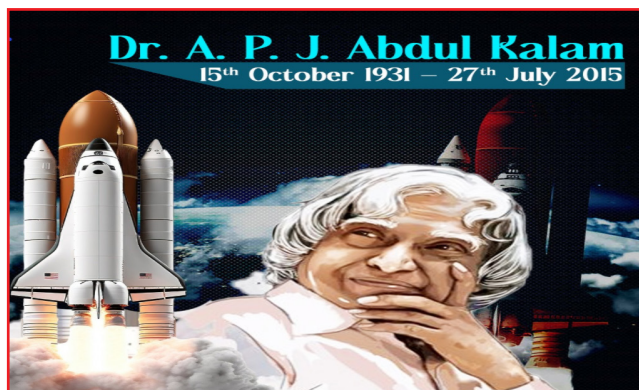


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Key Points

- 💡 **About:** Born on **15th October 1931** in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, Dr Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam specialised in **Aeronautical Engineering** from the **Madras Institute of Technology**.
- 💡 **Space Research:** He served as the **Project Director** for India's first indigenous **Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III)**, which successfully placed the **Rohini satellite** in near-earth orbit in **July 1980**, making India a member of the exclusive **Space Club**.
 - ✦ He played a key role in the evolution of the **ISRO launch vehicle program**, particularly the **PSLV** configuration, which became a cornerstone of India's space exploration capabilities.
- 💡 **Defence Development:** As the **Chief Executive of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**, he was instrumental in the development and operationalisation of key missile systems such as **AGNI** and **PRITHVI**.
 - ✦ As **Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister** and **Secretary of the Department of Defence Research & Development** from **July 1992 to December 1999**, Dr Kalam led India's missile systems weaponisation and oversaw the successful **Pokhran-II nuclear tests**, making India a **nuclear weapons state**.
 - ✦ His contributions also extended to self-reliance in defence systems, including the development of the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)**.
- 💡 **Vision for Developed India:** His leadership extended to the **Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)**, where, as **Chairman**, he spearheaded the **Technology Vision 2020** project.

- 💡 **Books:** His works, including **"Wings of Fire"**, **"India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium"**, **"My Journey"**, and **"Ignited Minds - Unleashing the Power Within India"**, have been translated into multiple languages and remain popular worldwide.
- 💡 **Recognition and Honours:** He received **30 honorary doctorates** and was awarded India's highest civilian honours: **Padma Bhushan** (1981), **Padma Vibhushan** (1990), and the **Bharat Ratna** (1997).
- 💡 **President of India:** On **25th July 2002**, Dr Kalam became the **11th President of India**, where he continued to champion the vision of a developed nation.
 - ✦ His presidency focused on achieving the goal of transforming India into a global leader by **2020**, leaving behind a legacy of scientific excellence, national pride, and youth empowerment.

Google Artificial Intelligence Hub in Visakhapatnam

Why in News?

Google has unveiled plans to invest **\$15 billion** over the next **five years** (2026–2030) to establish a cutting-edge **Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub** in **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The project was announced during the **'Bharat AI Shakti'** event in New Delhi, where **Google CEO Sundar Pichai** revealed that he had discussed the project with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- 💡 **Largest AI Hub:** The new data centre in **Visakhapatnam** will be **Google's largest AI hub outside the United States**.
 - ✦ This forms part of Google's broader strategy to invest approximately **\$85 billion** this year to expand its data centre capacity, meeting the growing demand for AI services globally.
- 💡 **Services:** The **Google AI hub** will offer a full range of AI solutions, leveraging **Google's proprietary Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)**, which are designed to be twice as power-efficient as traditional chips.

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✦ The hub will store data locally to comply with India's sovereign AI requirements, while also deploying Google's advanced AI models, including Gemini, Imagine, and Veo.

💡 **Collaboration:** To support this ambitious initiative, **Adani Group** and **Airtel** have partnered with Google to build the necessary infrastructure, which includes the construction of a **new international subsea gateway**.

5th Edition of Samudra Shakti

Why in News?

The Indian Navy is hosting the **fifth edition** of the bilateral maritime exercise **Samudra Shakti** with the Indonesian Navy from 14th to 17th October in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The joint exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen maritime cooperation between the two nations through a series of professional and operational engagements, both at sea and ashore.
- 💡 **Participating Units:**
 - ✦ **INS Kavaratti:** An anti-submarine warfare corvette from the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy.
 - ✦ **KRI John Lie:** A corvette from the Indonesian Navy, equipped with an integral helicopter.
- 💡 **Harbour Phase:** The harbour phase includes activities such as cross-deck visits, joint yoga sessions, friendly sports events, and professional exchanges under the Subject Matter Expert

Exchange (SMEE) programme, all aimed at fostering professional interaction and camaraderie between the naval personnel of both nations.

💡 **Sea Phase:** The sea phase will feature **complex and high-tempo maritime operations** aimed at improving tactical coordination between the two navies. These operations will include Helicopter manoeuvres, **Air defence exercises**, Weapon firing drills and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations.

💡 **Significance:** The exercise highlights the shared commitment of both nations towards maintaining stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific region.

💡 **Other Military Exercises between India and Indonesia:** **Garuda Shakti, IND-INDO CORPAT**

UN Troop Contributing Countries (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave 2025

Why in News?

The **United Nations Troop Contributing Countries (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave 2025**, hosted by the Indian Army from 14th to 16th October 2025, brought together senior military leaders from 32 nations that play a key role in global **UN peacekeeping** operations.



Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The conclave is attended by senior military officials from 32 nations, including Algeria, Armenia, Australia, **Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia**, France, Ghana, India, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Poland, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, and Vietnam.
- ✦ The event also features defence exhibitions aimed at building shared capacities for peacekeeping missions.

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💡 **Objectives:** The UNTCC serves as a vital forum to **address operational challenges**, evolving threats, interoperability, inclusivity in decision-making, and the role of technology and training in strengthening UN peacekeeping.

✦ India, one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping, has convened this high-level forum to **discuss best practices, share insights**, and build mutual understanding for future peacekeeping.

💡 **Technology Demonstration:** The chiefs witnessed a demonstration of integrated, **new-age military technology** by the Indian Army, showcasing various indigenous military equipment.

💡 **4C Formula for UN Peacekeeping:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh proposed a guiding principle of enhanced *Consultation, Cooperation, Coordination, and Capacity Building (4C)* to **address emerging challenges** in peacekeeping.

✦ He noted that the **Centre for UN Peacekeeping in New Delhi** has trained participants from over 90 countries, contributing significantly to the development of interoperability among peacekeepers.

United Nations Peacekeeping (UNPK)

- The first UNPK mission, the **United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)**, was established in May 1948 to monitor the **Armistice Agreement** between Israel and its Arab neighbours with a small team of military observers.
- They are deployed by the **UN Security Council** to support ceasefires and peace agreements and are called Blue Helmets due to the light blue colour symbolising peace on the UN flag.
- Currently, over 61,000 military and police peacekeepers from 119 countries and more than 7,000 civilian personnel serve in 11 UN Peacekeeping Missions.

INS Sahyadri Participates in JAIMEX-25

Why in News?

Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Sahyadri**, an indigenously built Shivalik-class Guided Missile Stealth Frigate,

participated in the **Sea Phase of JAIMEX-25 (Japan-India Maritime Exercise)** from **16th–18th October 2025**, followed by a **Harbour Phase at Yokosuka, Japan**, on **21st October 2025**.



Key Points

Objective:

✦ JAIMEX-25 reinforces the **'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'** between India and Japan **established in 2014**, aiming to promote peace, stability, and security in the **Indo-Pacific**, while reflecting their shared vision of a free, open, and inclusive maritime region.

Phases:

✦ The **Sea Phase** featured INS Sahyadri, JMSDF ships Asahi, Oumi, and submarine Jinryu, conducting advanced **Anti-Submarine Warfare exercises**, missile defence drills, flying operations, and underway replenishment to enhance interoperability.

✦ The **Harbour Phase at Yokosuka** focused on **professional and cultural exchanges** such as **cross-deck visits, operational planning, sharing of best practices**, and a **combined Yoga session**, as part of INS Sahyadri's **Long Range Deployment** in the Indo-Pacific region.

💡 **Other Exercises:** Other bilateral exercises between India and Japan include the **Malabar exercise** (Naval Exercise), **'Veer Guardian'** (Air Force), and **Dharma Guardian** (Army).

About INS Sahyadri:

✦ **INS Sahyadri**, commissioned in **2012**, represents India's advancement in **indigenous defence technology** and aligns with the nation's vision of **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'** (Self-Reliant India).

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- ✦ The multi-role stealth frigate has actively participated in numerous operational deployments as well as bilateral and multilateral naval exercises.

Pinky Anand Appointed Judge at Bahrain International Commercial Court

Why in News?

Dr. Pinky Anand, Senior Advocate and former **Additional Solicitor General of India**, has been appointed as a Judge of the Bahrain International Commercial Court (BICC), following the 2024 appointment of former **Supreme Court** judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul to the same court.



Dr. Pinky Anand

- 💡 **Background:** A Harvard Law School graduate and Inlaks Scholar, Dr. Pinky Anand has over 40 years of legal experience, having served as Additional Solicitor General of India (2014–2020), with expertise in constitutional law, civil arbitration, and criminal law.
- 💡 **International Representation:** Represented India in various national and international fora, including BRICS; founding member of the BRICS Legal Forum.
- 💡 **Honours:** Awarded the French National Order of Merit by the President of France.

Bahrain International Commercial Court (BICC)

- 💡 The Bahrain International Commercial Court (BICC), established to handle complex cross-border commercial disputes, will commence operations with a swearing-in ceremony for judges on 5th November 2025, attended by the Bahraini monarchy and the Prime Minister.
- 💡 The BICC is presided over by renowned arbitration expert Jan Paulsson and comprises 17 judges — 7 women and 10 men — representing diverse jurisdictions across the globe.
- 💡 The court was established under a treaty between Bahrain and Singapore in March 2024, and is modelled on the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) to promote international best practices in commercial dispute resolution.

Neeraj Chopra Conferred Honorary Rank of Lieutenant Colonel

Why in News?

Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra has been conferred the Honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army in recognition of his outstanding achievements and service to the nation.

- 💡 The pipping ceremony was held at South Block, New Delhi where Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formally presented the rank insignia in the presence of Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi.



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Key Points

- 💡 **About:** Born on 24th December 1997 in Khandra village, Panipat district, Haryana, Neeraj Chopra hails from a farming family and has emerged as one of India's most celebrated athletes.
- 💡 **Journey in the Indian Army:**
 - ✦ Neeraj Chopra joined the Indian Army in August 2016 as a **Naib Subedar** in the **Rajputana Rifles Regiment** and was **promoted to Subedar in 2021** in recognition of his outstanding achievements in athletics.
 - ✦ In **2022**, after his Olympic triumph, he was further promoted to **Subedar Major** and awarded the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal**, the highest peacetime honour of the Indian Army.
 - ✦ In **April 2025**, President **Smt Droupadi Murmu** granted him the **Honorary Commission as Lieutenant Colonel** in recognition of his service to the nation and outstanding sporting achievements.
- 💡 **Achievements in Sports:**
 - ✦ **Tokyo Olympics 2020:** Created history by becoming the **first Indian athlete to win an Olympic Gold Medal** in track and field.
 - ✦ **World Athletics Championships 2023:** Won the **Gold Medal**, further strengthening India's presence in global athletics.
 - ✦ **Paris Olympics 2024:** Secured a **Silver Medal**, maintaining his elite performance level.
 - ✦ **Asian Games & Commonwealth Games:** Multiple **Gold Medals** showcasing dominance in javelin throw across international events.
 - ✦ **Diamond League & Other Events:** Consistently achieved top podium finishes, with a **personal best throw of 90.23 metres (2025)** — a record in Indian athletics.
- 💡 **Awards and Honours:**
 - ✦ Vishisht Seva Medal (2023)
 - ✦ Param Vishisht Seva Medal (2022)
 - ✦ Padma Shri (2022)

- ✦ Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award (2021)
- ✦ Arjuna Award (2018)

International Snow Leopard Day and '#23for23' Initiative

Why in News?

India celebrated **International Snow Leopard Day** on **23rd October 2025** with a unique nationwide campaign titled **'#23for23'**, which encouraged people to dedicate **23 minutes to physical activity** in order to raise awareness about the conservation of **snow leopards** and their **fragile high-altitude habitats**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Initiative:** The campaign **'#23for23'** was launched to symbolize **23 minutes of active participation** for the year 2023, promoting awareness and public engagement in wildlife conservation.
- ✦ It was organized under the aegis of the **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP)** in collaboration with the **Snow Leopard Trust Worldwide**.
- 💡 **India's Conservation Achievements:**
 - ✦ The **first-ever Snow Leopard Census** conducted across the Indian Himalayas recorded **718 individual snow leopards**, out of which **477 are in Ladakh**.
 - ✦ India has identified snow leopard as a **flagship species** for the high-altitude Himalayas.
- 💡 **International Snow Leopard Day:** It came into being in **2013**, following the adoption of the **Bishkek Declaration** in Kyrgyzstan where **12 countries** that host snow leopard populations agreed to **collaborate** in their **conservation efforts**.
- 💡 **Countries Hosting Snow Leopards:** Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, **India**, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

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Facts About Snow Leopards (*Panthera uncia*)

- 💡 **About:** Medium-sized cats known for their **elusive nature** and ability to thrive in **harsh, high-altitude environments**.
- 💡 **Habitat:** Native to mountains of **Central and South Asia**, typically found at elevations between **9,800 and 17,000 feet**.
 - ✦ Population estimates range between **3,500 and 7,000 individuals** in the wild.
- 💡 **Feature:** Possess **thick, greyish-white fur** that provides **camouflage** against snow and rocks.
- 💡 **Ecological Importance:** Serve as **top predators** and **Indicator species**, as their presence **reflects the health** of their **high-altitude ecosystems**.
 - ✦ Their kills provide **food for scavengers** like **vultures** and wolves, supporting other species.

Snow Leopard

Panthera Uncia



Often referred to as the "ghost of the mountains"

HABITAT

- Mountainous regions of **Central and Southern Asia**
- **12** Range Countries
- In India:
 - **Western Himalayas:** Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh
 - **Eastern Himalayas:** Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh



MAJOR SITES

- Hemis National Park, Ladakh
 - **Snow leopard capital of the world**
- Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh
- Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand
- Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim

THREATS

- Human Snow Leopard Conflict
- Climate Change
- Loss of Prey and Habitat
- Poaching

PROTECTION STATUS

- **Vulnerable:** IUCN Red List
- **Appendix I:** CITES
- **Schedule I:** Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

- Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme
- Himal Sanrakshak- Community Volunteer Programme
- Project Snow Leopard
- Snow Leopard Conservation Breeding Programme- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, West Bengal




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Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025

Why in News?

India has achieved a major milestone in global environmental conservation by climbing to the **ninth position worldwide** in terms of **total forest area**, according to the **Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025** released by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** in **Bali, Indonesia**.

- 💡 This marks an improvement from the **tenth position** in the previous assessment, reflecting the country's growing commitment to sustainable forest management.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), conducted by the FAO, provides a **comprehensive overview** of the **world's forest resources**—including their condition, management, and uses—based on **country-submitted data** verified through an expert review process.
 - ✦ The report helps monitor international commitments related to the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, the **Paris Agreement** on Climate Change, the **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, and the **United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (2017–2030)**.
- 💡 **Findings About India:**
 - ✦ The report highlights that **India's total forest area** now stands at approximately **72.73 million hectares**, positioning the country **ninth globally**.
 - ✦ India also continues to hold the **third position** in the world in terms of **annual forest area gain**, showcasing the success of its large-scale afforestation and conservation initiatives.
 - ✦ The FAO report also highlights **India's large area under agroforestry**, noting that out of **55.4 million hectares** of global agroforestry land across **91 countries**, **India and Indonesia** together account for nearly **70% of the global total**.

- ✍ India alone has **12.87 million hectares** under agroforestry, which plays a critical role in **carbon sequestration**, **livelihood generation**, and **ecosystem restoration**.

Global Trends:

- ✦ According to the FRA 2025, **forests currently cover about 4.14 billion hectares**, which is roughly **one-third of the Earth's total land area**.
- ✦ The report notes a **slowing of deforestation rates** worldwide, although the current rate of **10.9 million hectares per year** remains high.
- ✦ More than **half of the world's forests** are now covered by **long-term management plans**, and nearly **20%** fall within **legally established protected areas**.
- ✦ Globally, **Russia** tops the list with **832.6 million hectares of forest**, followed by **Brazil, Canada, the United States, and China**.

East Timor Becomes 11th Member of ASEAN

Why in News

East Timor (Timor-Leste) has officially become the **11th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** after a **14-year wait**.

- 💡 The formal induction took place at a ceremony in **Kuala Lumpur**, marking ASEAN's **first expansion since the 1990s**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** East Timor applied for ASEAN membership in 2011, was granted observer status in 2022, and achieved full membership in 2025 after a 14-year wait.
 - ✦ The last country to join ASEAN was **Cambodia in 1999**.
- 💡 **Impact:** Membership will enable it to participate in **ASEAN's free trade agreements**, access **investment opportunities**, and expand its presence in a **broader regional market**.
- 💡 **About East Timor (Timor-Leste):**
 - ✦ It is bounded by the **Timor Sea to the southeast**, the **Wetar Strait to the north**, the **Ombai Strait to the northwest**, and western **Timor** (part of the Indonesian province of **East Nusa Tenggara**) to the southwest.

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- ✦ It comprises the eastern half of Timor Island, the western half of which is part of Indonesia.
- ✦ It was colonised by **Portugal** in the 18th century, was **annexed by Indonesia in 1975** after Portugal withdrew, leading to a long struggle for independence.
- ✦ In a **1999 UN-supervised referendum**, it **voted for independence**, which led to further violence until peace-keeping forces intervened, and the **country was officially recognised by the UN in 2002**.

ASEAN

Founded: By signing the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) (1967)

Founding Members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

Secretariat: Indonesia, Jakarta

Chairmanship: Rotates annually (Currently Malaysia)

ASEAN Summit Meetings: Occur biannually

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Vigyan Ratna for Physicist Jayant Narlikar

Why in News?

Eminent physicist **Jayant Vishnu Narlikar** has been **posthumously selected for the Vigyan Ratna Puraskar 2025**, the country's highest honour for lifetime achievement in science and technology.

- The **Government of India** announced the **second edition** of the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025**, recognising **23 individuals and one institution** across four categories — **Vigyan Ratna**, **Vigyan Shri**, **Vigyan Yuva**, and **Vigyan Team**.



Key Points

- About Jayant Vishnu Narlikar:**
 - ✦ **Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (1938–2025)** was an eminent astrophysicist known for his work on **cosmology, general relativity, and the steady-state theory of the universe**.
 - ✦ A close collaborator of **Sir Fred Hoyle**, he co-developed the **Hoyle–Narlikar theory of gravitation**.
 - ✦ He served as the **founding director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)**, Pune.
 - ✦ His contribution bridged Indian and international research, and his popular science writings inspired generations of young scientists.

Recipients of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025:

Vigyan Shri (Distinguished Contributions)

Recipient(s)	Field
Gyanendra Pratap Singh	Agricultural Science

Yusuf Mohammad Shaikh	Atomic Energy
K. Thangaraj	Biological Sciences
Pradeep Thalappil	Chemistry
Aniruddha Bhalchandra Pandit	Engineering Sciences
S. Venkata Mohan	Environmental Science
Mahan Mj	Mathematics and Computer Science
Jayan N	Space Science and Technology

Vigyan Yuva (Young Scientist Award)

Jagadis Gupta Kapuganti	Agricultural Science
Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia	Agricultural Science
Debarka Sengupta	Biological Sciences
Deepa Agashe	Biological Sciences
Dibyendu Das	Chemistry
Waliur Rahaman	Earth Science
Arkaprava Basu	Engineering Sciences
Sabyasachi Mukherjee	Mathematics and Computer Science
Shweta Prem Agrawal	Mathematics and Computer Science
Suresh Kumar	Medicine
Amit Kumar Agrawal	Physics
Surhud Shrikant More	Physics
Ankur Garg	Space Science and Technology
Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam	Technology and Innovation

Vigyan Team Award

CSIR Aroma Mission	Agricultural Science
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Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

About:

- ✦ The **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)** is India's highest national honour recognising exceptional contributions by scientists, technologists, and innovators.

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- ✦ Modelled on the **Padma Awards**, it celebrates achievements across diverse fields of science, technology, and innovation.
- ✦ The awards are **presented annually by the President of India** on **National Space Day** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✦ Instituted in **2023**, the RVP awardees are recommended by the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC)**, chaired by the **Principal Scientific Adviser**, with the first ceremony held in **August 2024**.

💡 **Categories:**

- ✦ **Vigyan Ratna:** Recognises lifetime achievements and contributions in any field of science and technology.
- ✦ **Vigyan Shri:** Awarded for distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
- ✦ **Vigyan Yuva:** Given to young scientists (below 45 years) for exceptional achievements in science and technology.
- ✦ **Vigyan Team:** Conferred on teams of three or more scientists, researchers, or innovators for outstanding collaborative work.

Exercise Trishul

Why in News

India has launched the large-scale tri-service exercise 'Trishul' along the western border with Pakistan, underscoring its readiness to counter any provocation and strengthen defence preparedness amid rising tensions in the **Sir Creek region**.



Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The exercise is scheduled from **30th October to 10th November 2025** and involves large-scale participation from the **Army, Navy, and Air Force** and aims to enhance operational readiness, joint coordination, and multi-domain warfare capabilities.
 - ✦ The exercise, codenamed "**Trishul**" and internally referred to as "**Mahagurjar**", will cover the **Thar Desert region** extending from **Jaisalmer (Rajasthan)** to **Sir Creek (Gujarat)**.
- 💡 **Objective:** The primary goal is to **test and refine joint operations** between the three services — the Army, Navy, and Air Force — across land, sea, air, and cyber domains.
 - ✦ The drills will emphasise **unified operations, deep-strike missions, amphibious warfare, and multi-domain combat readiness**.
 - ✦ The exercise also aims to enhance **coordination among different commands** and validate new **indigenous weapon systems** under realistic battlefield conditions.
- 💡 **Scale and Participation:**
 - ✦ The **Army** has deployed **more than 20,000 soldiers**, supported by **T-90S and Arjun tanks, howitzers, armed helicopters, and missile systems**.
 - ✦ The **IAF** is conducting high-tempo '**Mahaguraj**' operations, deploying **Rafale and Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, transport and refuelling aircraft (IL-78), AEW&C systems, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)**.
 - ✦ The **Navy** has stationed **frigates and destroyers** off the **Saurashtra and Gujarat coasts** for amphibious and maritime combat drills.
- 💡 **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM):** The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has issued a **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)** restricting civilian flights over large parts of **Rajasthan and Gujarat** during the exercise, while **Pakistan** has similarly restricted air routes over its **central and southern airspace**, likely for its own military drills or weapons testing around **28th–29th October 2025**.

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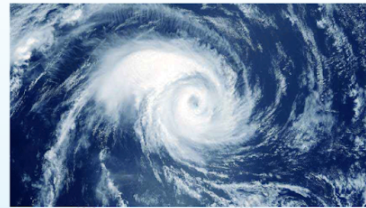
Cyclone Montha

Why in News?

The **cyclonic storm "Montha"**, forming over the **Bay of Bengal**, is intensifying as it approaches the eastern coast of India, prompting **Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu** to issue high-alert warnings.

CYCLONE

Cyclones are rapid **inward** air circulation around a **low-pressure** area.

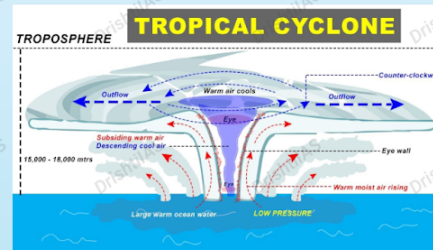


Cyclone v/s Anticyclone

Pressure System	Pressure Condition at the Center	Pattern of Wind Direction	
		Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere
Cyclone	Low	Anticlockwise	Clockwise
Anticyclone	High	Clockwise	Anticlockwise

Classification

- **Tropical Cyclones;** originate between the **Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer**
- **Extra Tropical/ Temperate Cyclones;** originate in the **Polar Regions**



Conditions for Formation

- Large sea surface with temperature $>27^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- Presence of the **Coriolis force**
- Small **variations in the vertical wind speed**
- A **pre-existing weak low-pressure area**
- **Upper divergence** above the sea level system

Different Names for Tropical Cyclones

- **Typhoons** - Southeast Asia and China
- **Hurricanes** - North Atlantic and eastern Pacific
- **Tornados** - West Africa and southern USA
- **Willy-willies** - Northwest Australia
- **Tropical Cyclones** - Southwest Pacific and Indian Ocean

Nomenclature

- Nodal Authority - **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**
- Indian Ocean Region - **Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand** contribute to naming cyclones that occur in this region.

Cyclones in India

- **Bi-annual Cyclone Season** - March to May and October to December
- Recent Cyclones - **Tauktae, Vayu, Nisarga and Mekanu** (in Arabian Sea) and **Asani, Amphan, Fani, Nivar, Bulbul, Titli, Yaas and Sitrang** (in Bay of Bengal)

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Key Points

- Definition: **Cyclones** are fast air circulations around low-pressure areas, rotating anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern, often causing storms and severe weather.
- Classification of Cyclones: IMD classifies low-pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea by damage potential, following **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** guidelines.

Type of Disturbances	Wind Speed in Km/h
Low Pressure	Less than 31
Depression	31-49
Deep Depression	49-61
Cyclonic Storm	61-88
Severe Cyclonic Storm	88-117
Super Cyclone	More than 221

- Naming of Cyclones:** The **WMO/ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Panel on Tropical Cyclones**, which includes **13 North Indian Ocean countries**, manages cyclone naming for the **Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal**.
 - The panel has a **pre-set list of names** submitted by 13 countries to be used **sequentially**.
 - Names are chosen in order, **column by column**, regardless of where the cyclone forms.
- Recent Cyclones:**
 - The name '**Montha**', meaning beautiful or fragrant flower, was **contributed by Thailand**.
 - The first cyclonic storm of the season was named '**Shakhti**', as suggested by **Sri Lanka**. Other recent cyclones include **Shakhti** (Sri Lanka), **Fengal** (Saudi Arabia), **Dana** (Qatar), **Asna** (Pakistan), and **Remal** (Oman).
 - According to the naming list, the next cyclone will be **Senyar (UAE)**, followed by **Ditwah (Yemen)**, **Arnab (Bangladesh)**, and **Murasu (India)**.

Passenger Trains Begin Operations on DFC

Why in News?

For the **first time in Indian Railways history**, passenger trains have begun operating on the **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)** network.

Key Points

- Traditionally, the **Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs)** were designed exclusively for **freight transport**, aiming to enhance logistics efficiency and reduce congestion on existing railway lines.
- However, due to the **heavy rush during Chhath Puja (25th–28th October 2025)**, the Railways has allowed **empty passenger coaching rakes** and **special trains** to run on the DFC for the first time.
- This step enables the operation of a **larger number of passenger and express trains** during the festive period.
- DFC** consists of two arms:
 - Eastern DFC (EDFC):** Ludhiana (Punjab) – Dankuni (West Bengal) via Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (Approx. 1,839 km). **The World Bank** is funding a majority of the EDFC.
 - Western DFC (WDFC):** Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT), Mumbai – Dadri (Approx. 1,506 km). The **Japan International Cooperation Agency** is funding it.

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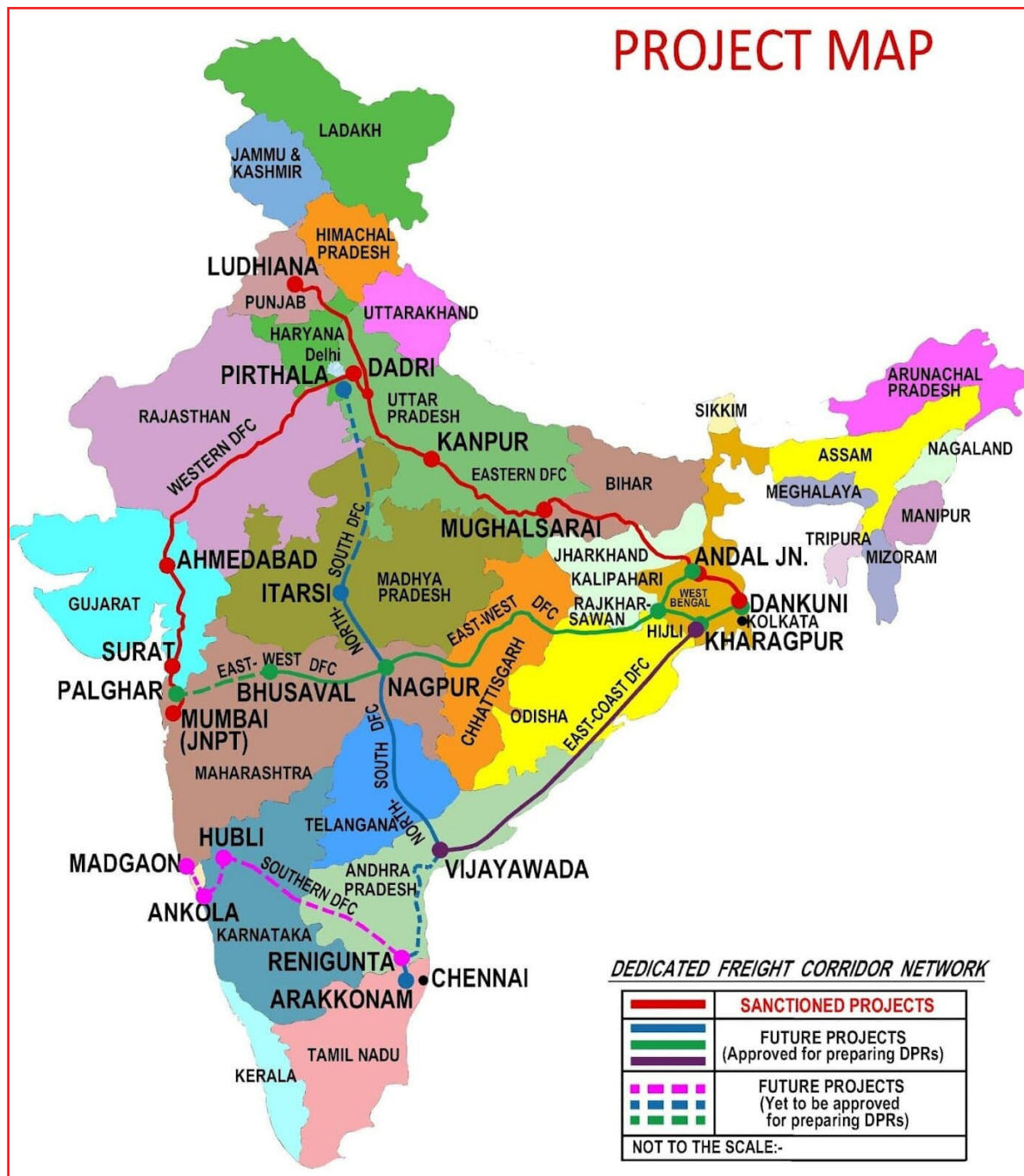


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Terms of Reference of 8th CPC Approved

Why in News?

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** for the 8th **Central Pay Commission (CPC)**, which is responsible for reviewing and recommending revisions in the pay structure and retirement benefits of **central government employees and pensioners**.

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Key Points

💡 **About:** The formation of the 8th CPC was first announced in **January 2025**, and its **Terms of Reference** were approved by the Cabinet on **28th October 2025**.

- ✦ The Commission will submit its recommendations within 18 months of its constitution, impacting around **50 lakh central government employees** (including defence personnel) and 69 lakh pensioners.
- ✦ The revised pay and pension structures are expected to be implemented from **January 2026**, after the submission of the Commission's report.

💡 **Composition of 8th CPC:**

Position	Name / Designation
Chairperson	Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (Former Supreme Court Judge)
Part-time Member	Professor Pulak Ghosh (Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore)
Member-Secretary	Pankaj Jain (Petroleum Secretary)

💡 **Terms of Reference (ToR):** The 8th CPC has been tasked with making recommendations after considering:

- ✦ **Economic conditions** of the country and the need for **fiscal prudence**.
- ✦ **Availability of resources** for developmental expenditure and welfare measures.
- ✦ The **unfunded cost of non-contributory pension schemes** (particularly the pre-2004 pension liabilities).
- ✦ The **impact on state finances**, as state governments often align their pay scales with the Centre.
- ✦ The **current emolument structure, benefits, and working conditions** of employees in **central public sector undertakings (CPSUs)** and the **private sector**.
- **Background:** The **Pay Commission** is typically constituted **once every 10 years** to review and recommend changes in the salary structure, allowances, and pensions of government employees.

- ✦ The **7th CPC** was constituted in **2014**, and its recommendations were implemented from **1st January 2016**.

Justice Surya Kant Appointed as 53rd CJI

Why in News?

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice Surya Kant as the 53rd **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.



Key Points

💡 **About:**

- ✦ He will assume office as the Chief Justice of India on 24th November 2025, **succeeding CJI B. R. Gavai**, and will serve a **15-month tenure** until 10th February 2027.
- ✦ He will be the first Chief Justice of India from Haryana.
- ✦ He is a **first-generation lawyer** known for his **forthright observations, balanced judgments**, and emphasis on **constitutional morality**.
- ✦ His tenure is expected to focus on **judicial accessibility, administrative reforms**, and **consistency in constitutional interpretation**.

💡 **Notable Judgments:**

- ✦ **Article 370:** Part of the five-judge bench that upheld the **abrogation of Article 370**.
- ✦ **Minority Tag to AMU:** Member of the bench that delivered the verdict on **Aligarh Muslim University's minority status**.
- ✦ **Election Commission Oversight:** Currently heading a bench supervising the **Special Intensive Revision exercise in Bihar**.

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Chief Justice of India

(Head of the Supreme Court)

Qualification

A citizen of India
He should have been:
A judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years or
An advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years or
A distinguished jurist in the opinion of the President
The Constitution has **not prescribed a minimum age** for appointment as a judge of the SC
SC judges **retire on attaining the age of 65**

Appointment

CJI is **appointed by the President under Article 124 (2) of the Constitution**
As per the protocol, the senior-most judge of the SC is designated as the CJI.
The recommendation of the senior-most judge of the SC is officially communicated by the incumbent CJI to the Ministry of Law and Justice, which, then, relays the communication to the Prime Minister
The Prime Minister advises the President on the recommendation and the President subsequently makes the appointment

Role

Swearing in of the President and Governors.
"Master of the Roster", CJI has the power to constitute benches to hear cases in the SC. CJI decides which judge will hear which case and when
CJI (along with collegium of four senior most judges of SC) is consulted by the President for the appointment of judges in the SC and the HC
CJI appoints **ad-hoc SC judges** under Article 127 of the Constitution
With the approval of the President, the CJI can **change the seat of the SC** from Delhi to any other place
CJI can **appoint an arbitrator to resolve a financial dispute** between the Centre and the states

Removal

By **an order of the President**
Only after an address by Parliament has been presented to President
Supported by a **special majority of each House of Parliament** (i.e. by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting)
Grounds of Removal - Proved misbehaviour or Incapacity (Article 124(4))

The SC, in 2019, ruled that the office of CJI comes under the purview of the RTI Act, 2005



About Chief Justice of India:

- ✦ A **Supreme Court** judge, including the CJI, is appointed by the **President** under **Article 124 (2)**.
- ✦ The senior-most judge is designated as CJI based on length of service (it is customary practice, not a legal requirement).
- ✦ To qualify as CJI, one must be a citizen of India, have served as a **High Court judge for 5 years** or as an **advocate for 10 years**, or be a distinguished jurist in the President's opinion.

- ✦ The CJI can only be removed by the **President** after an address by **Parliament**, supported by a special majority in both Houses.

National Unity Day

Why in News?

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas(National Unity Day), observed annually on **31st October** to honour **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's** role in unifying India, holds special significance in 2025 as it marks his **150th birth anniversary**.

Key Points

National Unity Day:

- ✦ It embodies the **values of unity, integrity, and inclusiveness** championed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ✦ It was **first celebrated in 2014**, following the Government's decision to honour Patel's monumental role in nation-building.
- ✦ During the **2015** observance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'** initiative to strengthen connections and cultural exchange among people of different regions.

Events:

- ✦ The **Sardar@150 Unity March (Yatra)**, organised by the **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** through the **My Bharat platform**, aims to promote **unity, patriotism, and civic responsibility** among youth in line with the vision of **'Ek Bharat, Aatmanirbhar Bharat'**.
- ✦ The **"Run for Unity,"** a nationwide marathon symbolising national cohesion, was held on **31st October 2025** across major cities, with a **flag-off event in New Delhi**.

Statue of Unity:

- ✦ On **31st October 2018**, the **Statue of Unity**, the world's tallest statue at 182 meters (600 feet), was inaugurated at **Kevadia, Gujarat**, honouring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ✦ Overlooking the **Narmada River** and the **Sardar Sarovar Dam** (the second largest gravity dam worldwide by concrete volume), the statue is situated on **Sadhu Bet hillock**.

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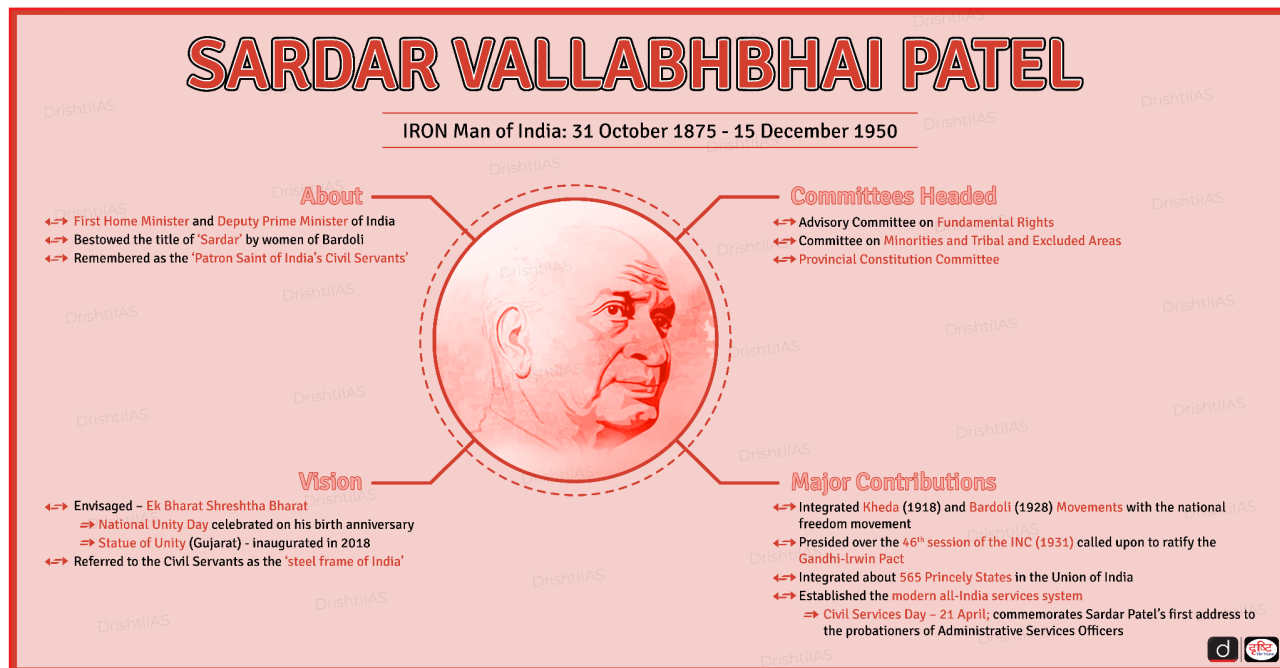
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- ✦ In 2020 India's Statue of Unity was included in the list of eight wonders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).



Uttarakhand Eases Marriage Rules for Foreigners

Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government has approved an important amendment to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which now allows **citizens of Nepali, Bhutanese, and Tibetan** origin residing in the state to register their marriages, even if they **do not have an Aadhaar card**.

Key Points

- 💡 **Eligibility:** Citizens from Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet can now register their marriages using **alternative identity documents**, such as a Citizenship Certificate, Residence Certificate, Passport, or Valid Identity Card.
 - ✦ In cases where citizens from these countries are already married or about to marry, they can register their marriages by uploading these documents.
- 💡 **Objective of the Amendment:** The amendment aims to **accommodate foreign citizens**, especially from Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet, who have deep **historical and cultural ties with Uttarakhand**.
 - ✦ These regions share an **international border with Uttarakhand** and have longstanding residence, relationships, and marriage connections with the state.
 - ✦ The state recognises the importance of integrating these citizens into the **social justice system** and ensuring they are not excluded from legal processes such as **marriage registration**.
- 💡 **Key Provisions of UCC in Uttarakhand:**
 - ✦ The UCC, passed in February 2024, **excluded tribal communities** from its provisions.
 - ✦ The UCC prohibits certain practices like **Halala, Iddat and Talaq** (customs related to marriage and divorce in Muslim Personal Law).

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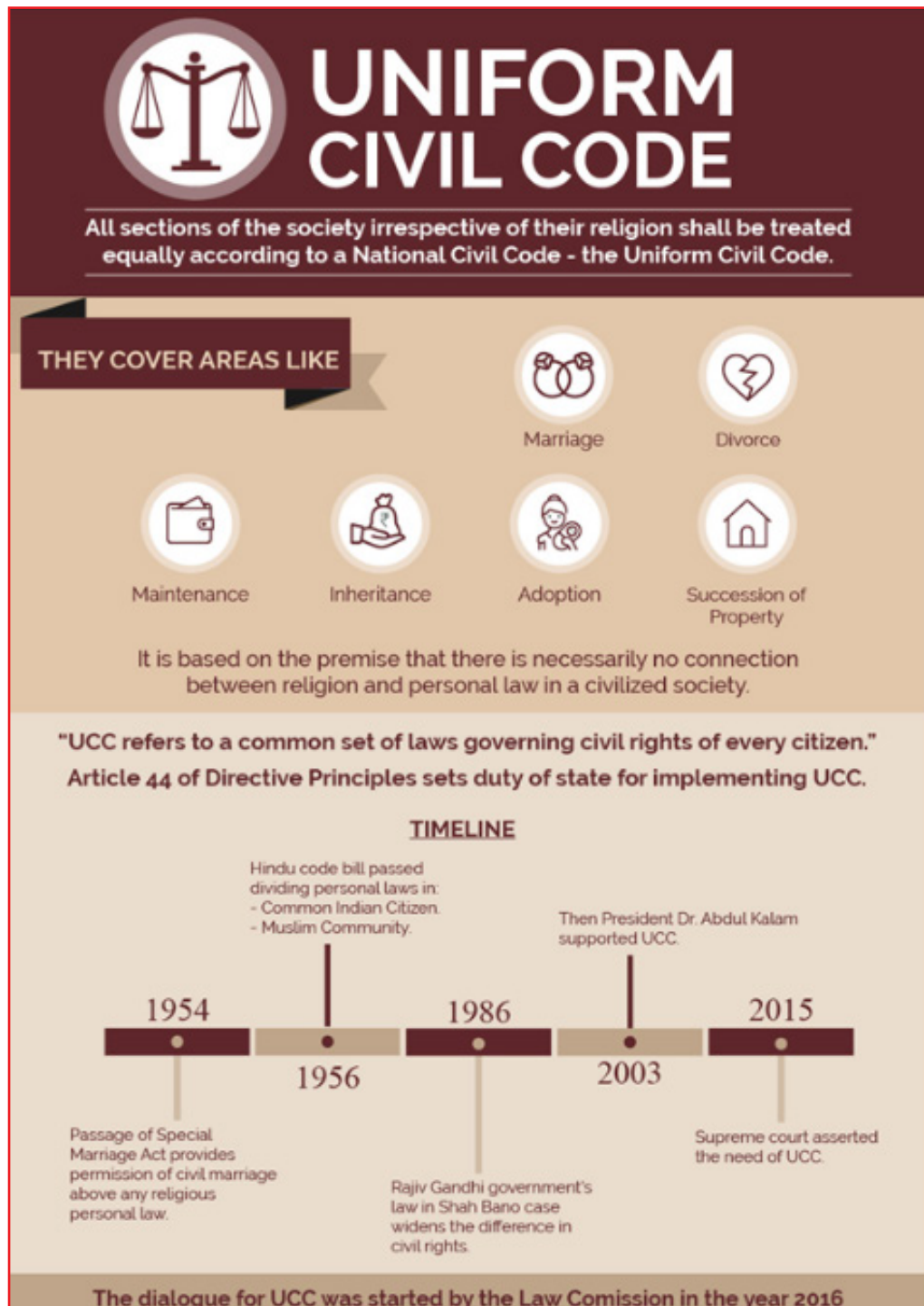
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- ✦ It ensures gender equality by granting **women equal rights in property** and inheritance matters.
- ✦ Under the UCC, **marriage and divorce registrations are mandatory**, with couples who fail to register being denied government benefits.
- ✦ Stringent provisions are in place for unregistered **live-in relationships**, though children born from such relationships are recognized as legitimate.



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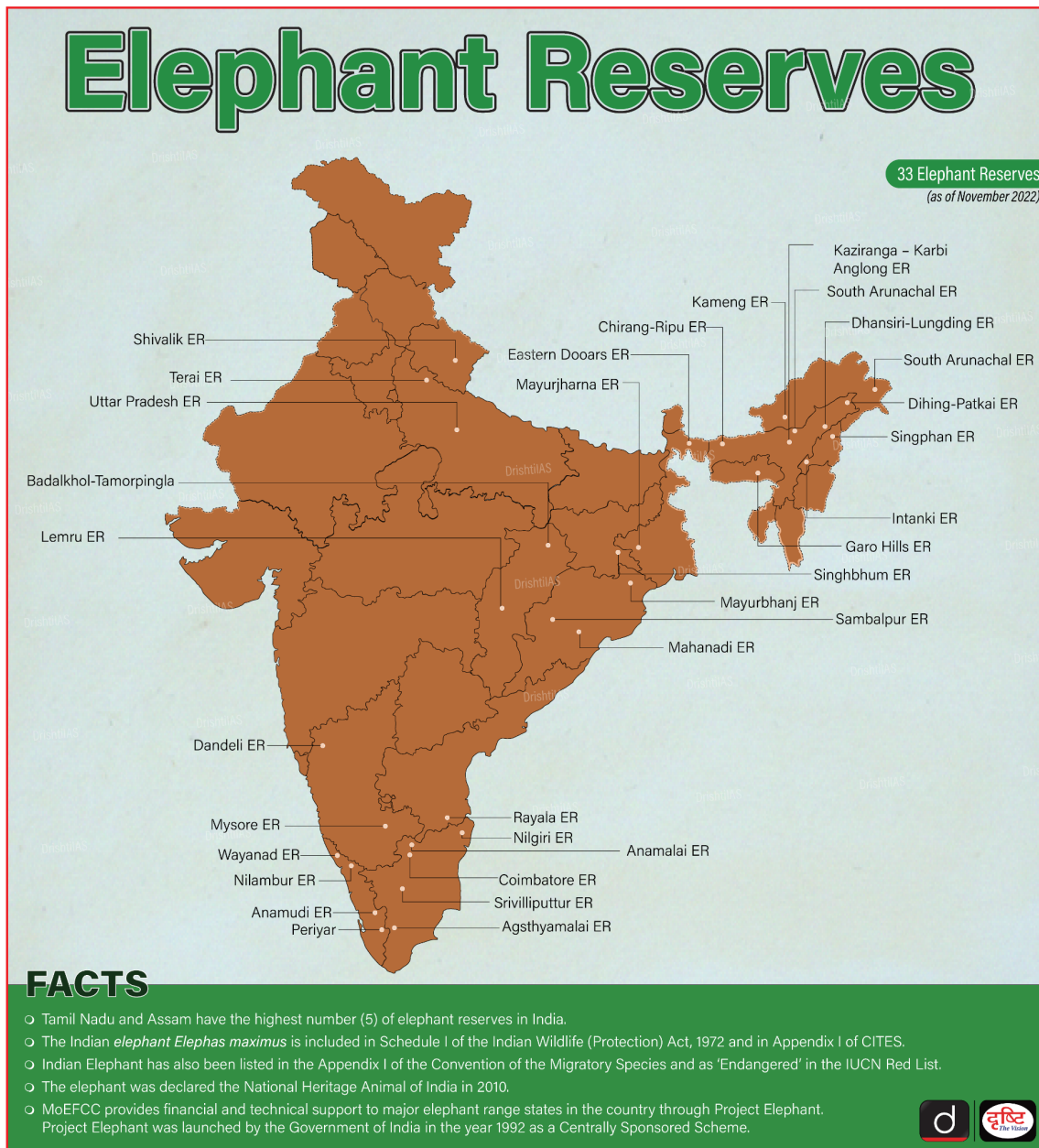
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India's 1st DNA-Based Elephant Census

Why in News?

India's first-ever **nationwide DNA-based census** of wild elephants has revealed a **25% decline** in the country's **elephant population** over the past eight years, highlighting growing threats from **habitat loss, fragmentation, and human-elephant conflict**.



Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The report titled '**Status of Elephants in India: DNA-based Synchronous All-India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE 2021–25)**' estimated **22,446 elephants**, compared to **29,964** in 2017.

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- ✦ The exercise was conducted by the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** under **Project Elephant (1992)**.
- ✦ The study marks a shift from **visual and dung-based counts** to a **DNA mark-recapture technique**, enabling more **scientifically accurate population estimation**.
- ✦ The **DNA-based method**, similar to that used in tiger estimation, identifies individual elephants through **unique genetic markers**, overcoming the limitation of elephants' lack of distinctive physical features.

🔦 Data Collection:

- ✦ Conducted across **188,030 trails** covering **6.66 lakh km**.
- ✦ Over **3.19 lakh dung plots** examined and **21,056 samples** collected.
- ✦ **DNA profiles** generated for **4,065 individual elephants**.

🔦 **Estimation Technique:** Used **Spatially Explicit Capture-Recapture (SECR)** models integrating genetic and habitat data for accurate population estimation.

🔦 Regional Distribution:

- ✦ Karnataka – 6,013
- ✦ Assam – 4,159
- ✦ Tamil Nadu – 3,136
- ✦ Kerala – 2,785
- ✦ Uttarakhand – 1,792
- ✦ Odisha – 912

🔦 Regional Trends:

- ✦ **Western Ghats:** 11,934 elephants (down from 14,587 in 2017)
- ✦ **Northeastern Hills & Brahmaputra Plains:** 6,559 (down from 10,139)
- ✦ **Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats:** 1,891 (down from 3,128)
- ✦ **Shivalik-Gangetic Plains:** 2,062 (nearly unchanged from 2,085)

🔦 Key Insights:

- ✦ **Habitat Fragmentation:** Expansion of **coffee and tea plantations**, **farmland fencing**, and **infrastructure projects** are fragmenting elephant habitats, especially in the **Western Ghats**.
- ✦ **Human-Elephant Conflict:** Highest in **Assam** (Sonitpur, Golaghat) and **central India** (Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha).

✍ Central India, with less than 10% of elephants, accounts for **45% of human deaths** caused by elephants.

- ✦ **Positive Development:** **Poaching incidents have declined**, but **habitat degradation** remains the major threat.

Uttarakhand to Levy Green Tax

Why in News?

The **Uttarakhand government** will begin collecting a **Green Tax** from vehicles entering the state from other states starting December 2025.

Key Points

🔦 **Objective:** The decision aims to **control vehicular pollution**, **protect the fragile Himalayan ecosystem**, and **promote environmental cleanliness** across the state.

🔦 **System and Technology:** The automated tax collection system will use **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)** cameras installed at the state's entry points to capture the registration numbers of incoming vehicles.

- ✦ The captured data will be transmitted to the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** database, where, after verification, the applicable tax amount will be **automatically deducted** from the vehicle owner's payment wallet and credited to the transport department's account.

🔦 **Exemption:** Vehicles registered in Uttarakhand, government, electric and **CNG vehicles**, ambulances, fire brigade trucks, and two-wheelers will be exempt from the green tax, while **vehicles re-entering** the state within 24 hours will also not be charged again.

Green Tax

- "Green tax" is a **financial levy** imposed by governments on vehicles or sources that contribute to environmental pollution, particularly **air pollution** from vehicular emissions.
- The tax serves **both as a deterrent** to excessive polluting vehicle use and as a revenue source for ecological initiatives.



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Key Points

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