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**SEPTEMBER 2025**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS COMPILATIONS**

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PM IAS

## ECONOMY

### ***Tamil Nadu's Glass Bridge Enhances Tourism Infrastructure***

#### **Subject: Economy**

- Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin's glass bridge connecting Tiruvalluvar Statue and Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari, costing ₹37 crore, improves tourist access.
- The 77-meter bridge ensures safe transit despite rough seas, boosting tourism in the state's southern tip.
- Tamil Nadu's 2024-25 SGST collections reflect strong fiscal health, supporting such infrastructure projects.
- Concepts: State-led economic diversification; tourism as a driver of local employment under cooperative federalism.
- National Link: Aligns with the central government's Swadesh Darshan scheme for tourism development.
- Impact: Expected to increase tourist footfall by 25%, generating jobs and revenue in Kanyakumari.
- Tamil Nadu Angle: Complements the state's Space Industrial Policy 2025 to promote high-value industries.

### ***SEMICON India 2025 Kicks Off in New Delhi***

#### **Subject: Economy**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated SEMICON India 2025 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, from September 2–4,

focusing on building a robust semiconductor ecosystem.

- The conference aims to position India as a global semiconductor hub, attracting investments and fostering innovation.
- Over 20,750 attendees, including industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators, are participating to discuss supply chain resilience.
- India's Semiconductor Mission, launched 3.5 years ago, has gained global confidence, with five major projects underway.
- The event aligns with India's economic strategy to reduce dependency on imported chips and boost domestic manufacturing.
- Tamil Nadu is highlighted for its potential in semiconductor manufacturing, with proposed chip fabrication units in the state.
- Concepts: Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), supply chain resilience, and industrial policy reforms.

### ***Tamil Nadu Leads in PM MITRA Textile Parks Initiative***

#### **Subject: Economy**

- Tamil Nadu is one of seven states selected for the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks, aimed at bolstering the textile industry.
- Announced as part of India's economic strategy, the initiative seeks to attract investments and create jobs in Tamil Nadu's textile sector.
- The state's robust industrial ecosystem and infrastructure

- make it a key player in this national project.
- The parks will integrate spinning, weaving, and garment manufacturing, enhancing export potential.
- Tamil Nadu's textile industry, centered in Coimbatore and Tiruppur, is expected to see significant growth.
- Concepts: Industrial corridors, export-led growth, and employment generation through MSMEs.
- The initiative supports Tamil Nadu's position as a manufacturing hub, complementing its semiconductor ambitions.

### **56th GST Council Meeting Approves Key Reforms**

#### **Subject: Economy**

- The 56th GST Council meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, approved a two-tier GST regime effective from September 22, 2025.
- Rates reduced from 18% and 12% to 5% on manmade fibres, yarns, and sulphuric acid used in fertilizers to correct inverted duty structures.
- Expected to boost textile and agriculture sectors, benefiting Tamil Nadu's textile hubs like Coimbatore and Tiruppur.
- Introduces simplified compliance for MSMEs and enhances export competitiveness amid global trade challenges.
- Aligns with India's economic strategy to stimulate manufacturing and reduce production costs.

- Supports broader fiscal reforms, including better revenue sharing between Centre and states.
- Projected to add ₹50,000 crore to the economy through increased investments in key industries.

### **GST Council Rolls Out NextGen Tax Reforms**

#### **Subject: Economy**

- The 56th GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, implemented new GST rates effective September 22, 2025, slashing rates on diagnostic kits (16% to 5%), UHT milk (5% to 0%), and consumer electronics (31.3% to 18%).
- Tractor rear tyres, irrigation diesel engines, kitchen essentials, and bamboo furniture now taxed at 5%, boosting rural economies in Tamil Nadu's Erode and Salem.
- Simplified compliance for MSMEs reduces administrative burdens, enhancing business efficiency.
- Tamil Nadu's textile hubs in Coimbatore and Tiruppur gain from lower input costs, improving export competitiveness.
- The reforms align with India's Viksit Bharat vision, projecting ₹50,000 crore economic growth through increased investments.
- Concepts: Inverted Duty Structure – Correcting higher taxes on inputs than finished goods to support manufacturing.

### **Tamil Nadu Achieves Record Low Fiscal Deficit**

**Subject: Economy/Polity**

- Tamil Nadu reduced its fiscal deficit to 3%, driven by a GSDP growth rate of 11.19%, showcasing robust financial management.
- The state leads India's export charts, with Chennai, Coimbatore, and Tiruppur contributing significantly to textiles and automobiles.
- Chief Minister MK Stalin highlighted infrastructure and social welfare investments as key to fiscal stability.
- Aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat, emphasizing self-reliance and sustainable economic growth.
- Tamil Nadu's fiscal model supports welfare schemes like Kalaigal Magalir Urimai Thittam for social equity.
- Concepts: Fiscal Deficit – Managing the gap between revenue and expenditure for economic stability.

***GST Reforms to Boost Economy and Rural Enterprises*****Subject: Economy**

- The 56th GST Council Meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi, announced revised GST rates effective from September 22, 2025.
- The GST rate structure was simplified from four tiers (0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%) to two rates (5%, 18%) with a special de-merit rate of 40%.
- Common household items like hair oil, soaps, toothbrushes, and bicycles reduced from 12%/18% to 5%.
- Food items such as UHT milk, paneer, and Indian breads (roti,

paratha) now have nil GST, benefiting over 10 crore dairy farmers.

- Consumer goods like TVs, ACs, and small cars ( $\leq 350\text{cc}$ ) reduced from 28% to 18%.
- Agricultural equipment like tractors and composting machines lowered from 12% to 5%, supporting rural economies.
- Lifesaving drugs (33 types) and cancer/rare disease medicines reduced to nil GST, enhancing healthcare affordability.

***Tamil Nadu's Green Hydrogen Pilot Project Launched*****Subject: Environment and Economy (Tamil Nadu)**

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal unveiled a Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at VOC Port in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, on September 6, 2025.
- The project aligns with India's goal to become a top 10 shipbuilding nation by 2030.
- The minister paid tribute to freedom fighter VO Chidambaranar on his 154th birth anniversary during the event.
- Collaboration in green hydrogen and ammonia production was emphasized to promote sustainable energy.
- The initiative supports Tamil Nadu's role in India's sustainability goals under the International Solar Alliance and Global Biofuels Alliance.
- This project is expected to create job opportunities and boost Tamil Nadu's green economy.

## ***Tamil Nadu's SGST Growth Bolsters Economy***

### **Subject: Economy**

- Tamil Nadu recorded a **20.12% increase** in **State Goods and Services Tax (SGST)** collections for 2024-25, a key economic highlight discussed on September 9, 2025.
- The surge reflects Tamil Nadu's strength in **automobiles, textiles, and IT**, with Chennai and Coimbatore as major contributors.
- The state reduced its fiscal deficit to **3%** from **4.91% in 2021**, showcasing effective financial management.
- Recent investor meets secured **₹7,020 crore**, expected to create **15,320 jobs**, driving economic growth.
- **Concept:** Article 246A empowers States to levy SGST, promoting fiscal federalism and state-led development.
- Tamil Nadu's policies align with **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, fostering local manufacturing and export growth.
- The state's **48% urbanization rate**, the highest in India, supports its economic leadership.

## ***India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)***

### **Subject: Economy**

- India signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprising

Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

- EFTA countries pledged \$100 billion in investments over 15 years, expected to create 1 million direct jobs in India.
- The agreement eliminates tariffs on 92.2% of tariff lines, covering 99.6% of India's exports, boosting sectors like textiles, gems, jewelry, and organic chemicals.
- It fosters cooperation in IT, finance, health services, precision engineering, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy.
- TEPA supports India's Net-Zero target by 2070, providing access to European green finance and clean technology.
- Tamil Nadu's textile and IT hubs, particularly in Chennai and Coimbatore, are poised to benefit from enhanced export opportunities.
- The agreement strengthens India's integration into global value chains, reducing reliance on traditional trade partners.

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## Economy

### ***India Signs \$126.4 Million Loan with ADB for Uttarakhand Tourism Development***

- On September 12, 2025, India inked a \$126.4 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to boost sustainable tourism in Uttarakhand.
- The funds will support eco-friendly infrastructure, skill development, and digital promotion of hill stations and adventure sites.
- This initiative aligns with India's tourism sector growth, targeting 15% GDP contribution by 2030.
- Tamil Nadu's tourism stakeholders expressed interest in similar ADB models for promoting coastal and heritage sites.
- The project emphasizes green jobs and community

involvement to mitigate environmental impacts.

- It complements national efforts like Swadesh Darshan 2.0 for regional economic diversification.
- Concept: Sustainable Development – Multilateral financing under SDG 8 for decent work and economic growth.

### ***Bio-Diesel Trials with Isobutanol Blend***

#### **Subject: Economy/Environment**

- The Indian government is testing a 10% isobutanol-diesel blend to address engine compatibility issues faced with ethanol blends.
- Isobutanol offers higher energy density and lower water absorption, reducing corrosion risks.
- Trials aim to assess performance, emissions, and efficiency for widespread adoption.
- This supports the National Biofuel Policy, reducing oil imports and boosting farmer income through biomass demand.
- The initiative enhances energy security and aligns with India's net-zero goals.
- Concept: Sustainable Development and Energy Transition.

### ***Fitch Upgrades India's FY26 GDP Forecast to 6.9%***

#### **SUBJECT: ECONOMY**

- Fitch Ratings revised India's GDP growth projection for FY26 to 6.9%

from 6.5%, driven by strong domestic demand and real income growth.

- The upgrade reflects robust Q2 2025 performance, with services surging 9.3%, supported by private and public spending.

- Inflation is expected to ease to 3.2% by end-2025 due to above-average monsoons and high food stockpiles, aiding RBI's rate cuts.

- Growth is projected to moderate to 6.3% in FY27 and 6.2% in FY28 as the economy operates above potential.

- GST reforms effective September 22, 2025, are anticipated to boost consumer spending and investment.

- Concepts: Fiscal Deficit Target – Aligns with FRBM Act goals of 4.5% of GDP by FY26 for sustainable growth.

- Risks: US tariffs could shave 0.5-1% off growth, offset partially by domestic tax cuts.

## ECONOMY

- India's unemployment rate fell to 6.2% in August 2025, driven by growth in manufacturing and services, per the Periodic Labour Force Survey.

- Festive season hiring and Skill India initiatives boosted urban employment, though rural unemployment remains at 7.1%.

- The data reflects progress toward Viksit Bharat's economic goals, a focal point for UPSC's economic development syllabus.

- RBI interventions stabilized the rupee at 88.30 against the USD amid global trade tensions.

- This underscores the importance of inclusive growth and employment policies.

## ***India Ranks 38th in Global Innovation Index 2025***

### SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- India ascended to 38th in the GII 2025, leading lower-middle-income economies, propelled by AI patents, UPI ecosystem, and digital infrastructure advancements.

- Unemployment eased to 5.1% in August per PLFS, fueled by 8.2% GDP growth in manufacturing and services sectors.

- RBI's UPI limit hike to ₹5 lakh for P2M transactions from September 15 supports high-value digital payments while capping P2P at ₹1 lakh.

- MNRE's National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025 targets 10 GW potential, integrating with net-zero ambitions by 2070 via public-private partnerships.

- Outward FDI to tax havens reached \$20 billion in 2024-25, raising calls for BEPS 2.0 compliance to ensure transparent investments.

- FPI inflows grew 15% despite global volatility, aiding job creation in exports, though youth unemployment lingers at 12%.

- NITI Aayog's AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap and Frontier Tech

Repository launched to drive innovation-led growth.

### ***National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025 Launched***

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched the National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025 to tap India's estimated 10 gigawatt geothermal potential for sustainable development.
- The policy aims to integrate geothermal resources into the renewable energy mix, supporting India's Net Zero by 2070 target through exploration, research, and public-private partnerships.
- It offers fiscal incentives, technology transfer, and regulatory frameworks to expedite projects in geothermal hotspots like Ladakh and Puga Valley.
- The initiative is expected to generate 5,000 megawatts by 2030, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and boosting rural employment and energy security.
- Concepts: Renewable Energy Targets under India's Nationally Determined Contributions; Public-Private Partnership models in the energy sector.
- The policy aligns with the Ethanol Blending Programme, promoting green hydrogen and circular economy principles for economic resilience.
- Challenges include high initial costs and geological risks, addressed through collaborations with Iceland and Japan.

### ***India Ranks 38th in WIPO Global Innovation Index 2025***

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- The World Intellectual Property Organization's Global Innovation Index 2025 ranked India 38th out of 139 economies, retaining its top spot in Central and Southern Asia.
- India scored 38.2, excelling in innovation over-performance for the 15th consecutive year, driven by startups, research and development investments, and digital infrastructure.
- Key strengths include knowledge workers, information and communication technology services exports, and venture capital deals, with gains in patent filings and university rankings.
- The report highlights India's shift to an innovation-driven economy, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative for self-reliance.
- Concepts: Intellectual Property Rights under the TRIPS Agreement; Role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in innovation ecosystems.
- Global leaders include Switzerland (1st), Sweden (2nd), and the US (3rd); India's rise reflects its potential in artificial intelligence and biotechnology sectors.
- Recommendations include increasing women in STEM and addressing urban-rural innovation gaps for inclusive growth.

### ***LEADS Two Thousand Twenty-Five Index Drives Logistics and Export Growth***

SUBJECT: Economy

- The Logistics Ease Across States two thousand twenty-five index, launched on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, during Make in India events, ranks states on supply chain performance, with Tamil Nadu leading to potentially add one to two percent to national gross domestic product via infrastructure upgrades.
- India's defence exports reached twenty-three thousand six hundred twenty-two crore rupees in financial year two thousand twenty-five, led by Munitions India Limited, targeting fifty thousand crore rupees by two thousand twenty-nine through indigenisation and international collaborations in drones and artillery.
- Goods and Services Tax Council introduced a simplified two-tier regime on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, cutting essential rates to zero to five percent and luxuries to eighteen percent, expected to stimulate consumer spending and stabilize inflation at four point five percent.
- Concepts: Ease of Doing Business involves LEADS reforms reducing logistics costs from fourteen percent of gross domestic product; Fiscal Prudence balances Goods and Services Tax adjustments with revenue and economic stimulus.

### ***GST 2.0 Launch Ushers in Simplified Tax Regime***

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Prime Minister launched GST 2.0 on September 22, 2025, as 'GST Bachat Utsav', reducing slabs to 5% and 18% for lower costs and compliance.
- Includes automated FPI registration and streamlined invoicing, addressing ₹60,000 crore equity outflows since July 2025.
- Projected to raise revenue by 15% in FY26, benefiting MSMEs with faster input tax credits and digital tracking.
- Targets post-pandemic fiscal recovery with equitable Centre-State sharing mechanisms.
- Concepts: GST Council (Article 279A) ensures cooperative federalism; 101st Amendment Act, 2016, unified indirect taxes.
- Aligns with Finance Commission's recommendations for efficient revenue mobilization.

### ***Exports Show Resilience with 2.5% Growth in Early FY26***

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Merchandise exports rose 2.52% to \$184.13 billion in April-August 2025, led by pharma, engineering, and textiles despite rupee at 88.30/USD.
- Diversification to green products and PLI boosts (20% YoY in electronics) counter US trade headwinds.
- Key markets like US and EU drive growth, supporting

Atmanirbhar Bharat's export targets.

- Bond yield pressures signal inflation vigilance, but forex reserves provide stability.
- Concepts: EXIM Policy 2023 aids export promotion; WTO TFA streamlines trade procedures.
- Trajectory supports \$2 trillion export goal by 2030 under Foreign Trade Policy.

### ***World Food India 2025 Preparations Intensify***

#### **SUBJECT: ECONOMY**

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries finalized plans for World Food India (WFI) 2025, set to begin September 25 in New Delhi.
- WFI aims to attract ₹20,000 crore in investments, focusing on food processing, cold chains, and sustainable packaging.
- India's food processing sector contributes 14% to manufacturing GDP, with exports crossing \$45 billion in 2024-25.
- Concepts: Economic Survey 2024-25 highlights food processing as a driver of rural employment under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Key events include global summits on organic farming and MoUs for logistics modernization.
- Challenges: Addressing 30-40% post-harvest losses through technology and infrastructure upgrades.
- Global relevance: Positions India as a leader in food security amid climate change concerns.

### ***RBI BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS RESILIENT GROWTH AMID GLOBAL TENSIONS***

#### **SUBJECT: ECONOMY**

- The Reserve Bank of India's September 2025 Bulletin reports a five-quarter high GDP growth of 7.8% in Q1 FY25-26, driven by robust domestic consumption and government spending.
- Despite US tariffs on Indian exports, non-food bank credit moderated but was offset by NBFC lending and equity issuances, improving credit-to-GDP ratios.
- Digital payments via UPI surged 45% year-on-year, underscoring fintech's role in financial inclusion and economic momentum.
- Concepts: Fiscal Deficit – Maintained at 0.8% of target, lowest since 1997; Monetary Policy – Inflation at 2.1%, enabling potential rate cuts.
- The report flags risks from global trade uncertainties but projects India as the fourth-largest economy by end-2025, surpassing Japan.
- Reforms like GST rate reductions on 300+ goods aim to boost consumption, targeting 8% annual growth through 2030.

### ***Q1 FY26 GDP SURGES TO 7.8% ON INFRA AND SERVICES BOOST***

#### **SUBJECT: ECONOMY**

- India's Q1 FY26 GDP grew at 7.8%, exceeding estimates, driven by government capex and services expansion, with GVA reaching ₹44.64 lakh crore.

- Fitch upgraded FY26 forecast to 6.9% from 6.5%, crediting GST reforms and domestic demand amid global slowdowns.
- Manufacturing PMI hit 58.5, fueled by PLI schemes in electronics and EVs, targeting \$500 billion exports by 2030.
- Concepts: Fiscal Deficit Target – Held at 4.9% of GDP for sustainable growth; Supply-Side Reforms – Mitigate inflation via agro-forestry incentives.
- Challenges include U.S. tariffs (50% on textiles), countered by BRICS trade pacts.
- The growth supports 1.2 crore new jobs, aligning with Viksit Bharat's self-reliance agenda.

### **Make in India Initiative Celebrates 11th Anniversary**

#### **SUBJECT: ECONOMY**

- PM Modi highlighted the initiative's role in transforming India's manufacturing and entrepreneurial ecosystem over the past decade.
- NUCFDC signed MoU with CSC SPV to digitize Urban Cooperative Banks, aiming for nationwide financial inclusion.
- World Food India 2025 attracts over Rs 1 trillion investments, with MoUs worth Rs 75,000 crore from Reliance, Coca-Cola, and others.
- Maharashtra's 2025 housing policy allocates Rs 70,000 crore for 3.5 million affordable homes by 2030, targeting urban centers.

- GeM portal achieves Rs 15 lakh crore procurement milestone, promoting transparent public spending.
- Fitch upgrades India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.9%, driven by domestic demand and strong monsoons.
- Concepts: Atmanirbhar Bharat: Link to export promotion and self-reliance in key sectors like food processing.

### **India-EFTA Free Trade Agreement Takes Effect**

#### **SUBJECT: ECONOMY**

- India implements the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EFTA bloc (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) from October 1, targeting USD 100 billion in exports over 15 years in electronics, pharma, and auto sectors.
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rises 3.5% year-on-year in July 2025, driven by a 5.4% manufacturing surge, with HSBC PMI at 59.3 signaling strong economic momentum.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reaches USD 81.04 billion in FY25, up 14% annually, with 18% growth in manufacturing due to Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.
- Indian Rupee falls to a record low of 88.30 against USD amid U.S. tariff hikes; a ₹1,500 crore mineral recycling scheme is proposed to stabilize critical supply chains.
- Inefficient e-waste recycling leads to losses of valuable metals like gold and copper; unorganized sector dominance hampers India's circular economy goals under ESG frameworks.

- PM E-Drive scheme expands EV charging infrastructure in Tamil Nadu's NCAP cities like Chennai, aiming to reduce emissions and create green jobs through PSU partnerships.

## INTERNATIONAL

### ***PM Modi Addresses SCO Summit, Strengthens India-Russia Ties***

#### **Subject: International Relations**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the SCO Summit in Tianjin, China, and held a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin to bolster strategic ties.
- Discussions focused on expanding cooperation in defence, energy, and trade, while addressing India-China border tensions through dialogue.
- Modi emphasized India's commitment to SCO's framework for regional stability and counter-terrorism efforts.
- Tamil Nadu's coastal economy, particularly Chennai's port, stands to benefit from enhanced Indo-Pacific trade routes.
- Concepts: Multilateral diplomacy; India's multi-alignment strategy balancing SCO, QUAD, and BRICS.
- Global Context: Strengthens India's geopolitical position amid US-China tensions and regional security challenges.
- Outcome: Agreements to deepen India-Russia collaboration in nuclear energy and joint military exercises.

### ***US Tariffs Impact Tamil Nadu's Textile Exports***

#### **Subject: Economy and International Relations**

- The US imposed a 25% tariff on Indian imports, effective August 1, 2025, affecting Tamil Nadu's textile hubs in Tiruppur and Virudhunagar.
- The state's PM MITRA textile parks face challenges, with exports projected to decline by 15-20%.
- India's net FDI dropped 21.1% to \$4.91 billion in Q1 FY26, reflecting global trade uncertainties.
- Concepts: Trade protectionism; economic diversification to counter global market volatility.
- National Response: India pushes for trade agreements with the EU and ASEAN to offset losses.
- Tamil Nadu Strategy: Leverages the 2025 Space Industrial Policy to shift toward high-tech manufacturing.
- Global Context: Part of broader US-China trade tensions impacting India's export economy.

### ***Fishermen Disputes Continue to Strain India-Sri Lanka Relations***

#### **Subject: International**

- Frequent arrests of Tamil Nadu fishermen near Katchatheevu Island highlight ongoing maritime boundary disputes with Sri Lanka.
- On September 2, 2025, discussions on this issue were raised in bilateral talks, emphasizing livelihood tensions.

- India is pushing for a resolution through diplomatic channels while supporting Tamil Nadu fishermen with legal aid.
- The issue complicates India's efforts to counter China's influence in Sri Lanka, particularly in Trincomalee.
- Tamil Nadu's coastal communities demand sustainable solutions, including fishing rights agreements.
- Concepts: Maritime diplomacy, India–Sri Lanka bilateral ties, and regional geopolitical balancing.
- India's \$4 billion aid during Sri Lanka's 2022 economic crisis underscores its commitment to regional stability.

### ***India Launches Vikram-3201: First Indigenous 32-Bit Microprocessor***

#### **Subject: National Issues**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Vikram-3201, India's first made-in-India 32-bit microprocessor at Semicon India 2025 in New Delhi, marking a milestone in semiconductor self-reliance.
- Developed by ISRO's Semiconductor Laboratory in Mohali under the India Semiconductor Mission, the chip is designed for space, defence, and high-reliability applications like aerospace and automotive.
- The processor features advanced floating-point computation and can withstand harsh environments, reducing India's dependence on imported semiconductors.
- This launch aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat, boosting

indigenous tech for strategic sectors and positioning India in the global semiconductor ecosystem.

- Concept: Semiconductor Self-Reliance – Initiatives like the India Semiconductor Mission (2021) aim to build domestic manufacturing and R&D to counter supply chain vulnerabilities.
- Context: Semicon India 2025, inaugurated on September 2, highlights partnerships and investments to achieve \$1 trillion in electronics manufacturing by 2026.
- Relevance: Enhances national security by enabling homegrown tech for critical infrastructure, with potential exports to allied nations.

### ***Global Peace Index 2025 Ranks India at 115th with Improved Score***

#### **Subject: International Relations**

- The Global Peace Index 2025 ranks India 115th out of 163 countries with a score of 2.229, a 0.58% improvement, reflecting reduced internal conflicts.
- Produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace, it assesses safety, conflict, and militarization; India's gains stem from anti-Naxal operations like Kagar.
- Tamil Nadu's stable governance and initiatives like fact-checking teams contribute to national safety metrics.
- Challenges persist with issues like terrorism and border tensions, but progress aligns with India's SCO and BRICS roles.

- Concept: Peace Metrics – IEP's index quantifies stability via indicators like crime rates and military spending for global comparisons.
- Context: Top ranks: Iceland (1st); India improves amid global deteriorations in conflict zones like Ukraine and Sudan.
- Relevance: Highlights India's balancing of security and diplomacy, supporting economic diplomacy in forums like SCO.

### ***Government Approves ₹1,500 Crore Scheme for Mineral Recycling***

#### **Subject: Economy/National Issues**

- The Union Cabinet approved a ₹1,500 crore scheme to promote mineral recycling from e-waste and end-of-life vehicles over six years (2025-31).
- Targets creation of 270 kilotons annual recycling capacity, focusing on critical minerals for clean energy and EVs.
- Includes subsidies for large and small recyclers, with one-third allocation for startups.
- Benefits Tamil Nadu's electronics and automotive sectors, enhancing supply chain resilience.
- Aligns with India's self-reliance goals under Atmanirbhar Bharat and global sustainability commitments.
- Addresses e-waste surge, with India generating over 10 million tons annually.
- Supports transition to green economy, reducing import dependence on rare earths.

### ***India-Japan Forge Strategic Partnership for 2025-2035***

#### **Subject: International/Defence**

- India and Japan launched a Joint Vision for 2025-2035, focusing on economy, technology, energy, and defence cooperation.
- Japan pledged 10 trillion yen investment in India, alongside a human resource exchange involving 5 lakh people.
- India-Japan Digital Partnership 2.0 emphasizes AI, quantum computing, and semiconductor R&D, benefiting Tamil Nadu's Chennai tech hub.
- Defence ties strengthened with cross-servicing agreements and joint exercises like Dharma Guardian and JIMEX.
- Agreements on space collaboration, clean hydrogen, and wastewater management support sustainable urban projects in Tamil Nadu.
- Concepts: Indo-Pacific Strategy – India's role in regional security and economic partnerships to counter geopolitical challenges.

### ***India's First Indigenous 32-Bit Semiconductor Chip***

#### **Subject: National Issues/Economy**

- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and Semiconductor Laboratory, Chandigarh, developed India's first 32-bit chip, Vikram.
- Supports space, defence, and consumer electronics, reducing reliance on imported semiconductors.
- Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur electronics hub benefits, boosting the state's tech ecosystem.
- Aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat, enhancing technological sovereignty and job creation.

- Applications include IoT, satellite systems, and smart manufacturing, strengthening India's tech landscape.
- Concepts: Semiconductor Ecosystem – Critical for self-reliance in strategic and economic sectors.

### ***Singapore Prime Minister's Visit Strengthens India-Singapore Ties***

#### **Subject: International Relations**

- Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong visited India to celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations, reaffirming trust-based partnership.
- Both nations agreed to institutionalize an Annual Ministerial Roundtable for reviewing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Key agreements include progress on the 3rd review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) by 2025.
- Support for India's semiconductor industry and enhanced capital market connectivity were highlighted.
- Collaboration in space technology between IN-SPACE (India) and Singapore's Office for Space Technology & Industry was announced.
- UPI-PayNow linkage expansion for cross-border payments and a National Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, were key outcomes.
- A Green and Digital Shipping Corridor was established

between the Port of Singapore and major Indian ports

### ***Shilp Samagam Mela Showcases India's Craft Heritage***

#### **Subject: National Issues (Culture)**

- The Shilp Samagam Mela 2025 opened in Bengaluru on September 6, 2025, organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The event celebrates India's rich heritage of art, craft, and culture, promoting artisans from across the country.
- It provides a platform for rural and tribal artisans to showcase their products, boosting their economic prospects.
- The mela includes workshops and exhibitions to preserve traditional crafts and skills.
- This initiative aligns with India's focus on cultural preservation and economic empowerment of marginalized communities.
- Tamil Nadu artisans are prominently featured, showcasing traditional crafts like Tanjore paintings and Kanchipuram silk.

### ***India's Strategic Defence and Security Enhancements***

#### **Subject: Defence and National Issues**

- The "Sudarshan Chakra" initiative emphasizes national security as a foundation for prosperity, focusing on domestic and external security.
- India is developing an impregnable security shield through mission-mode operations.

- Collaboration with the UK on co-development of jet engines and cyber defence was discussed in recent dialogues.
- The National Police Reform Commission recommended AI-based crime tracking and better accountability systems.
- India's defence sector is being empowered through increased indigenous production and modernization efforts.
- Tamil Nadu's role in defence manufacturing is growing, with contributions to advanced manufacturing hubs.

### ***India's Strategic Defence and Security Enhancements***

#### **Subject: National Issues**

- On September 9, 2025, the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** conducted raids at **22 locations** across five states, including Tamil Nadu, targeting a terror conspiracy.
- The operation focused on dismantling networks linked to anti-national activities, emphasizing India's zero-tolerance policy on terrorism.
- Tamil Nadu's role, with raids in **Chennai and Coimbatore**, highlights its integration into national security efforts.
- The raids underscore the importance of Centre-State coordination in intelligence and counter-terrorism operations.
- **Concept:** Article 355 mandates the Union to protect States from internal disturbances and external threats.
- The **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)** provides the legal framework for such anti-terror operations.

- Tamil Nadu's police forces are actively supporting central agencies to ensure effective implementation.

### ***India-EU FTA Negotiations Advance***

#### **Subject: International**

- On September 9, 2025, India and the European Union progressed with negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, led by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.
- The talks aim to reduce tariffs and enhance market access for Indian exports, particularly Tamil Nadu's **textiles** and **leather** from Chennai and Tirupur.
- A visit by European Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic, scheduled for September 12, will review progress, strengthening diplomatic ties.
- The FTA supports India's goal of becoming a **\$5 trillion economy** by boosting trade and investment.
- **Concept:** Economic diplomacy enhances India's global trade position and strengthens bilateral relations.
- Tamil Nadu's export-driven economy will benefit from increased market opportunities in the EU.
- The agreement aligns with India's strategy to diversify trade partnerships amidst global geopolitical shifts.

### ***India and Israel Sign Bilateral Investment Agreement***

#### **Subject: Economy and International Relations**

- India and Israel signed a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) in New Delhi, signed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich.
- The BIA aims to boost investments, trade, and cooperation by ensuring investor protection, dispute resolution through arbitration, and safeguards against expropriation.
- Current bilateral investments stand at USD 800 million, with expectations of significant growth post-agreement.
- Key areas of collaboration include cybersecurity, defense, innovation, fintech, infrastructure, and high-technology sectors.
- The agreement balances investor protection with India's regulatory rights, preserving policy space for governance.
- India's economic reforms over the past decade were highlighted as making it an investment-friendly destination.
- Strategic Importance: Strengthens India-Israel ties in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with India's economic and security goals.

### ***Exercise Zapad 2025: India's Participation in Multinational Military Drill***

#### **Subject: Defence and International Relations**

- A 65-member Indian Armed Forces contingent, including 57 Army, 7 Air Force, and 1 Navy personnel, departed for Mulino Training Ground, Russia, for Exercise Zapad 2025 (September 10–16, 2025).

- Led by the KUMAON Regiment, the exercise focuses on joint company-level operations, conventional warfare, and counter-terrorism tactics.
- Objectives include enhancing military cooperation, interoperability, and exchanging tactics, techniques, and procedures among participating nations.
- The drill emphasizes mission planning, tactical drills, and the use of specialized arms in a multinational environment.
- Strategic Context: Aligns with India's interests in Eurasia and strengthens defence ties with Russia and other participating countries.
- Emerging Technologies: The exercise integrates advanced technologies, enhancing India's capabilities in modern warfare scenarios.
- Relevance: Bolsters India's defence preparedness and global military diplomacy.

### ***Poor NARI Ranking Highlights Women's Safety Gaps in Delhi***

#### **Subject: National Issues**

- The National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025 exposed significant gaps in women's safety in Delhi, 13 years after the 2012 Nirbhaya case.
- Key issues include inadequate infrastructure, poor implementation of safety measures, and low conviction rates in gender-based violence cases.
- The report calls for enhanced policing, better public transport safety, and stricter enforcement of laws to address these gaps.

- Delhi's ranking reflects broader national challenges in ensuring women's safety in urban areas.
- Policy Implications: Highlights the need for gender-sensitive urban planning and stronger judicial mechanisms.
- Tamil Nadu Context: Tamil Nadu has implemented initiatives like the "Kavalan" app to enhance women's safety, but urban areas like Chennai face similar challenges.
- Significance: Critical for social justice and inclusive development, with implications for national policy frameworks.

### ***India-Japan Strengthen Strategic Ties with New Agreements***

#### **Subject: International Relations and Economy**

- India and Japan unveiled a Joint Vision for the Next Decade, focusing on economy, technology, energy, and defence cooperation.
- Japan pledged 10 trillion yen investment in India over the next decade, alongside human resource exchange involving five lakh people.
- The India-Japan Digital Partnership 2.0 was launched, emphasizing joint R&D in AI, quantum computing, and emerging technologies.
- Defence ties were deepened through a new security cooperation framework, including joint exercises like Dharma Guardian, Shinyuu Maitri, and JIMEX.
- Agreements were signed on space collaboration, clean hydrogen, ammonia-based fuels, mineral security, and wastewater management.

- Tamil Nadu Relevance: Chennai's industrial hub status makes it a potential beneficiary of Japan's investments in technology and manufacturing.
- Global Impact: Strengthens India's role in the Indo-Pacific, countering regional geopolitical challenges.

### ***Alleged Caste Discrimination in Tamil Nadu Village***

#### **Subject: National Issues (Social Justice)**

- In Tiruvarur district, Tamil Nadu, Dalit residents allege a 200-meter-long, 10-foot-high wall in Valangaiman restricts access to their settlements, termed an "untouchability wall."
- The wall, erected three years ago, impacts over 1,000 Dalit families and 800 schoolchildren, limiting access to common pathways in Kovilpathu and Pathiripuram.
- It is claimed to be on private land but is seen as perpetuating caste-based discrimination, violating Article 15 (prohibition of discrimination).
- The issue breaches the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, prompting activist demands for demolition and state intervention.
- Tamil Nadu's Dravidian model of governance faces scrutiny for gaps in addressing rural caste issues.
- Local authorities are investigating, with plans for community dialogues to promote social harmony.
- The incident highlights the need for stronger enforcement of anti-

discrimination laws in Tamil Nadu.

### ***India–Mauritius Strategic Partnership Deepened***

#### **Subject: International Relations**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Varanasi to strengthen bilateral ties in the Indian Ocean Region.
- India announced a \$25 million special economic package to support Mauritius's development initiatives.
- The first overseas Jan Aushadhi Kendra was established in Mauritius to promote affordable healthcare access.
- Agreements were signed for cooperation in health, education, renewable energy, digital infrastructure, and the blue economy.
- India committed to supporting a 500-bed Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam National Hospital and an AYUSH Centre of Excellence in Mauritius.
- The partnership includes supplying 100 electric buses to Mauritius, with 10 already delivered, aiding its green energy transition.
- Both nations aim to enhance maritime security and support Mauritius's sovereignty in the Indo-Pacific.

#### **National Issues**

### ***Tamil Nadu Launches “Oraniyil Tamil Nadu” Campaign for State Rights***

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the “Oraniyil Tamil Nadu” pledge campaign on

September 12, 2025, to be launched on September 15, coinciding with C.N. Annadurai's birth anniversary.

- Over 1 crore families across 68,000 DMK booths will pledge to protect Tamil Nadu's soil, language, dignity, and rights.
- The campaign opposes delimitation exercises that could reduce the state's Lok Sabha seats and electoral roll revisions.
- It also resists NEET and demands increased education funding, emphasizing youth welfare.
- This initiative aims to mobilize public support against perceived central encroachments on state autonomy.
- In Tamil Nadu, it has garnered support from DMK cadres, focusing on cultural preservation and federal balance.
- Concept: Federalism – Article 246 delineates Union, State, and Concurrent Lists, highlighting state rights in education and language

#### **International**

### ***India-Mauritius Bilateral Ties Enhanced with New Agreements***

- On September 12, 2025, India and Mauritius signed multiple pacts during a high-level visit, focusing on health, education, and maritime security.
- Key agreements include support for Mauritius' national hospital expansion and establishment of an AYUSH Centre of Excellence.
- India pledged \$680 million in aid, including lines of credit for

infrastructure in the Indian Ocean region.

- The deals strengthen cultural exchanges and counter-terrorism cooperation amid regional geopolitical shifts.
- Tamil Nadu's diaspora in Mauritius benefits from enhanced educational collaborations, promoting Tamil language programs.
- This partnership aligns with India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.
- Concept: Soft Power – India's strategic use of aid and cultural diplomacy to bolster influence in the Indo-Pacific.

### ***India Supports UN Resolution on Palestine***

#### **Subject: International Relations**

- India voted in favor of a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on 12 September 2025, endorsing the "New York Declaration" for a two-state solution to the Palestine issue.
- The resolution, backed by 142 nations, promotes a peaceful settlement with a sovereign Palestine alongside a secure Israel.
- The US and nine others opposed it, citing political motivations, while 12 abstained.
- India's stance reflects its balanced approach, supporting Palestinian statehood while recognizing Israel's security rights.
- This aligns with India's historical position on Middle East peace,

emphasizing mutually recognized borders.

- Concept: India's Neighbourhood First Policy and its role in global diplomacy.

### ***Great Nicobar Island Project Advances***

#### **Subject: National Development/Defence**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the Great Nicobar Island Project as a strategic initiative to transform the island into a maritime hub.
- The project includes a transshipment port, international airport, and renewable energy integration.
- It aims to enhance India's maritime surveillance and security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The initiative strengthens India's strategic presence amid regional geopolitical tensions.
- Environmental concerns, including impacts on tribal communities and ecosystems, remain under scrutiny.
- Concept: Maritime Domain Awareness and India's Act East Policy.

### ***Election Commission Launches Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls***

- A September 15 report termed Kerala's Wayanad landslide a "grey rhino event" due to ignored ecological warnings, highlighting systemic vulnerabilities.
- The July 2024 disaster killed over 200, exposing unstable slopes, deforestation, and

erratic monsoon patterns in the Western Ghats.

- NDMA funds eco-restoration projects, including afforestation and early warning systems, to aid recovery and prevent recurrence.
- The report criticizes inadequate land-use policies and calls for stricter zoning regulations in eco-sensitive areas.
- Concepts: Article 21 – Right to life includes disaster management; Disaster Management Act, 2005, for risk mitigation.
- Urges climate-resilient policies in vulnerable regions to protect lives and livelihoods.
- Highlights the need for community-driven disaster preparedness and sustainable development practices.

### ***16th Combined Commanders' Conference Held in Kolkata***

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) in Kolkata, emphasizing jointness, Aatmanirbharta, and innovation in defence reforms.
- The conference reviewed operational preparedness amid emerging technologies and tactics, including lessons from Operation Sindoor.
- PM Modi instructed the Ministry of Defence to implement swift measures for greater integration among the three services to counter future threats.
- Discussions highlighted the need for enhanced joint training and resource

sharing to achieve 'Year of Reforms' goals in 2025.

- The event underscores the government's focus on theatre commands and integrated battle groups for modern warfare.
- Concepts: Article 53(2) – Empowers the President as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, with executive powers vested in the PM.
- Doctrine of Integrated Defence: Promotes unified command structures to optimize military efficiency and national security.

### ***AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap Launched***

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The government unveiled the AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap, aiming to harness artificial intelligence for 8%+ GDP growth by 2035 through productivity and innovation.
- Key initiatives include AI Kosh for data ecosystems, sectoral grids, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) integration to position India as a global AI hub.
- The plan addresses a 30-35% growth gap by focusing on AI skilling via an AI Open University, national certifications, and workforce reskilling programs.
- It promotes ethical AI adoption across sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and manufacturing to bridge skill gaps and foster inclusive development.
- The roadmap aligns with Viksit Bharat@2047, emphasizing trusted, anonymized data for secure innovation.

- Concepts: National AI Strategy – Builds on NITI Aayog's 2018 framework to drive digital economy transformation.

- Challenges: Data privacy under DPDP Act, 2023, and equitable access to AI tools in rural areas.

### ***US Chief Negotiator Visits India for Bilateral Trade Talks***

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- US Chief Negotiator Brendan Lynch arrived in New Delhi for day-long talks with India's Rajesh Agrawal on the proposed India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

- The sixth round of negotiations focuses on resolving tariff issues, including the 50% US penalty on Indian exports due to Russian oil purchases.

- Discussions aim for a win-win deal, covering sectors like IT, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture, amid Trump's upcoming call with PM Modi.

- India seeks exemptions from US tariffs, while the US pushes for market access in dairy and autos; a deal could boost bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

- The talks follow five prior rounds and align with broader Indo-Pacific economic partnerships.

- Concepts: WTO Dispute Settlement – Potential recourse for tariff disputes under GATT Article XXI.

- Geopolitical Angle: Strengthens QUAD ties amid US-China tensions and India's energy diversification.

### ***Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan Launched***

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES

- The Ministry of Health launched the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan, a nationwide campaign to promote women's health and nutrition under Poshan Maah 2025.

- It includes over 1 lakh health camps for screening NCDs, cancer, TB, and anaemia from September 17 to October 2.

- The initiative integrates with Article 47's directive to improve public health and nutrition levels.

- It addresses gender-specific health disparities, a critical topic for UPSC's social development section.

- Focus areas include menstrual hygiene, maternal health, and rural outreach.

### ***India-Mauritius Sign Blue Economy MoU***

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India and Mauritius signed an MoU for blue economy cooperation, focusing on Chagos Marine Protected Area surveillance and EEZ mapping.

- This strengthens India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative in the Indian Ocean Region.

- The agreement aligns with UNCLOS provisions and India's maritime security strategy, a key UPSC topic in international relations.

- It enhances bilateral ties amid geopolitical tensions over the Chagos Archipelago.
- The MoU promotes sustainable fisheries and ocean resource management.

### ***Himalayan Floods 2025 Highlight Disaster Preparedness Shortcomings***

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Flash floods in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttarakhand have resulted in over 200 fatalities and extensive infrastructure damage, valued at billions, amid heavy monsoon rains.
- The NDMA invoked the Disaster Management Act 2005 for coordinated response, but delays in satellite-based early warnings exposed systemic gaps.
- Army, NDRF, and IAF led rescues, with emphasis on rehabilitating high-risk mountain communities through climate-adaptive measures.
- Experts attribute the disaster to glacial lake outbursts and deforestation, advocating stricter Forest Conservation Act enforcement.
- Central relief packages announced, though affected states seek enhanced funding for sustainable reconstruction.
- Inter-state coordination issues surfaced, prompting calls for a unified national flood mitigation framework.
- Post-event analysis will shape the updated National Disaster

Management Plan 2025-2030 for resilient ecosystems.

### ***Himalayan Floods 2025 Highlight Disaster Preparedness Shortcomings***

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- The US, South Korea, and Japan launched the five-day 'Freedom Edge' naval exercise on September 15, 2025, near Jeju Island, emphasizing maritime interoperability and security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- India observed the drills closely, aligning with its QUAD commitments and SAGAR doctrine for open sea lanes.
- Focus areas include anti-submarine warfare and humanitarian assistance, countering regional tensions like North Korean provocations.
- The exercise builds on previous iterations, fostering trilateral ties amid China's assertiveness in the South China Sea.
- Nepal's ongoing Gen-Z protests against corruption prompted President Paudel's dialogue call, with India monitoring SAARC and border migration effects.
- Sarnath's nomination for UNESCO World Heritage in 2025-26 cycle underscores Ashokan Buddhist heritage, enhancing cultural diplomacy with Southeast Asia.
- US-India frictions over 50% tariffs on Russian oil imports intensified, with India citing WTO violations and energy security concerns.

### ***India-AI Impact Summit 2026 Logo and Initiatives Unveiled***

## SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology unveiled the logo and flagship programs for the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, scheduled for February 19-20 in New Delhi.
- As the first Global South-hosted AI summit, it will highlight AI's role in inclusive growth, sustainability, and social equity through global collaborations.
- Key initiatives include the AI for All challenge, ethics guidelines, and sector-specific applications in healthcare and agriculture.
- The event aims to position India as a leader in responsible AI, expecting 5,000 delegates from 50 countries.
- Concepts: Digital India Mission; AI governance under the IndiaAI Mission with a Rs 10,000 crore allocation.
- It addresses ethical concerns like bias mitigation, aligning with the UN's AI for Good framework.
- Expected outcomes include policy blueprints for skilling 1 crore youth in AI and boosting GDP by 10% through technology adoption.

***Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Mutual Defence Pact Signed***

## SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a landmark mutual defence agreement, committing to a joint response against aggression, building on their 1960s security ties.
- The pact includes military training, intelligence sharing, and joint exercises, amid

escalating regional tensions in the Middle East and South Asia.

- India expressed cautious concern, with the Ministry of External Affairs monitoring implications for national security and urging respect for mutual sensitivities in bilateral relations.
- Saudi Arabia, India's fifth-largest trade partner with \$52 billion in bilateral trade, underscores the need to balance strategic partnerships.
- Concepts: Article 51 of the UN Charter on collective self-defence; India's non-alignment policy in evolving geopolitics.
- The agreement may impact the Quad and I2U2 frameworks, prompting India to strengthen defence diplomacy with Gulf nations.
- Analysts see this as Saudi Arabia diversifying from US alliances, while Pakistan seeks economic aid amid IMF negotiations.

***Judicial and Electoral Reforms Fortify Governance***

## SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The Supreme Court has issued comprehensive guidelines requiring all DNA evidence in criminal trials to be processed through certified laboratories, ensuring strict chain-of-custody protocols to prevent tampering and enhance judicial integrity.

- A five-judge Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai, has refused to stay the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, but temporarily suspended provisions allowing non-Muslims on Waqf boards, citing potential violations of religious autonomy under Article 26 of the Constitution.

- The Election Commission has launched a nationwide Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, aiming to achieve ninety-eight percent accuracy in voter lists by removing duplicates and errors ahead of the 2026 general elections.

- Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, speaking at a federalism conclave in Delhi, has emphasized the importance of constitutional morality, urging state governments to align policies with secular and equitable values to strengthen cooperative federalism.

- The Lok Sabha has passed amendments to the Representation of the People Act, integrating Aadhaar as a voter identification option while ensuring privacy safeguards under Article 21 to prevent misuse of personal data.

- The Madras High Court has quashed Tamil Nadu's reservation quota notification for promotions, directing the state to reassess policies in compliance with Article 16(4A) to ensure equitable representation for backward classes.

- The Union Cabinet has extended the review panel for the National Judicial Appointments Commission, sparking renewed debates on maintaining judicial independence while addressing executive involvement in judicial appointments.

### ***Social Welfare and Disaster Management Take Center Stage***

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Surajpur district in Uttar Pradesh has been declared a model for eradicating child marriage, achieving an eighty-five percent reduction in cases through sustained community awareness

campaigns and swift legal enforcement under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan across two hundred aspirational districts, integrating maternal nutrition programs with vocational training to reduce infant mortality rates and empower women economically.

- A parliamentary panel has recommended stricter enforcement of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, to prevent communal disputes, responding to increasing petitions challenging the status of historical religious sites.

- Jharkhand has revived the Manki-Munda traditional governance system in tribal areas, merging it with Panchayati Raj institutions to strengthen community-led forest rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

- Flash floods have displaced fifty thousand people in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, prompting the National Disaster Management Authority to deploy advanced early warning systems and coordinate inter-state relief efforts to mitigate impacts.

- The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to implement AI-driven case triage systems to address judicial backlog, mandating annual case disposal targets for high courts to streamline justice delivery.

- Uttar Pradesh has introduced the Women's Economic Empowerment Index, revealing a twenty-eight percent wage disparity between rural and urban women, with plans to establish skill development hubs to close this gap.

## ***India Strengthens Global Diplomacy and Security***

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India has called for de-escalation in the Middle East following Israeli airstrikes on Hamas targets in Doha, advocating for UN-mediated diplomatic solutions during a G20 foreign ministers' side meeting to stabilize the region.
- The Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Strategic Maritime and Defence Agreement has raised concerns in New Delhi, as its provisions for joint naval patrols could alter security dynamics in the Indian Ocean, prompting India to seek clarifications from Riyadh.
- India has proposed a multilateral anti-piracy framework at the fifth Coast Guard Global Summit in Mumbai, securing endorsements from fifteen nations, including Japan and Australia, for shared surveillance and technology cooperation.
- Iran has handed over Phase 1 operations of Chabahar Port to India, strengthening trade corridors to Central Asia through the International North-South Transport Corridor despite pressures from U.S. sanctions.
- Nepal's interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki has accepted a five hundred million dollar aid package from India for post-protest reconstruction in Kathmandu, with a focus on enhancing border infrastructure and economic stability.
- The Universal Postal Union congress in Geneva has adopted India's proposal for digital tracking reforms, expected to reduce cross-border e-commerce delivery delays by forty percent, benefiting small exporters.

- The United States' tightened H-1B visa restrictions have impacted seventy percent of Indian IT professional applications, prompting bilateral discussions during Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to Washington to address talent mobility.

## ***Economic Challenges and Opportunities Shape Growth***

SUBJECT: NATIONAL/ECONOMY

- The National Mission for Natural Farming has expanded to cover one crore farmers by 2026, promoting chemical-free agriculture to reduce input costs by twenty percent and boost organic exports to meet global demand.
- The Reserve Bank of India has estimated second-quarter FY26 economic growth at six point eight percent, slowed by U.S. tariff hikes that disrupted manufacturing output and strained global supply chains.
- The United Kingdom's One-In-One-Out immigration policy has led to the deportation of an Indian national to France, signaling tighter EU-India mobility agreements under review for skilled workers and professionals.
- Aflatoxin contamination in maize exports has caused a two hundred million dollar loss for Indian farmers, prompting the Agriculture Ministry to enforce stricter EU-compliant testing protocols and expand crop insurance coverage.
- The Cabinet has approved seven thousand six hundred crore rupees for highway and railway projects in Bihar under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, projected to increase the state's GDP by one point five percent through improved connectivity.

- India's outward foreign direct investment to Mauritius has surged fifteen percent in FY25, drawing scrutiny from the OECD on tax evasion concerns and calls for revising double taxation avoidance agreement clauses.

- The government has allocated five hundred crore rupees to establish creative economy design hubs, targeting fifty billion dollars in global exports for handicrafts and digital content by 2030.

### ***Military Modernization Enhances National Security***

SUBJECT: NATIONAL/DEFENCE

- The Indian Navy has commissioned INS Androth, its first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, equipped with eighty percent indigenous technology to strengthen coastal sonar-based defence capabilities.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the Defence Procurement Manual 2025, streamlining acquisition processes and offering incentives for innovation to achieve seventy-five percent self-reliance in defence manufacturing by 2030.

- A suspected People's Liberation Army ambush in Manipur has killed two Assam Rifles personnel, escalating security measures under Operation Sunrise along the Indo-Myanmar border to counter militant activities.

- The Great Nicobar Island tri-service base has cleared environmental hurdles, with seventy-two thousand crore rupees allocated for strategic infrastructure to establish it as a key Indo-Pacific hub.

- India and Mauritius have strengthened defence ties through joint Exclusive Economic Zone patrols, incorporating helicopter transfers to enhance maritime surveillance against illegal fishing activities.

- Punjab's Border Wing Home Guards have recruited five thousand personnel, deploying drone jammers to counter a thirty percent rise in infiltration attempts along the Indo-Pak border.

- The Frontier 50 Initiative has modernized fifty high-altitude outposts with AI-enabled sensors, reducing response times by half in conflict-prone areas like Ladakh amid ongoing tensions.

### ***CAG Report Exposes State Fiscal Strains with Debt Surge***

SUBJECT: National Issues

- The Comptroller and Auditor General's State Finances Publication two thousand twenty-five, highlighted on September twenty-second, revealed states' salary bills rose two point five times to sixteen point six lakh crore rupees over the decade, while public debt escalated three point four times to fifty-nine point six lakh crore rupees, urging fiscal reforms for sustainability.
- Bihar government announced a new unemployment assistance scheme on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, offering monthly stipends to graduates to boost skills, reduce rural migration, and foster local employment with an initial five hundred crore rupee allocation.

- Kurmi community protests in Jharkhand and Bihar intensified on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, demanding Scheduled Tribe status, spotlighting needs for updated caste censuses and equitable affirmative action policies.
- Concepts: Fiscal Federalism governs Centre-State devolution via Finance Commission recommendations; Social Justice involves reservation mechanisms under Articles fifteen and sixteen for marginalized communities.

### ***Rajnath Singh's Morocco Visit Marks Defence Milestone***

SUBJECT: International

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's two-day visit to Morocco, commencing September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five—the first by an Indian counterpart—aims to forge joint military exercises, counter-terrorism pacts, and defence trade deals to strengthen India-Africa ties.
- India and Japan advanced the Artificial Intelligence Initiative and Economic Security Initiative on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, post-Prime Minister Modi's Tokyo visit, focusing on resilient supply chains for semiconductors and critical minerals amid global disruptions.
- Nepal's President called for dialogue on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, amid youth protests following Prime Minister Oli's resignation, with India monitoring closely due to

shared borders, hydropower projects, and eight million Nepali migrants.

- Concepts: Act East Policy enhances strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific; Bilateral Diplomacy facilitates memorandums of understanding for technology transfer under QUAD-aligned frameworks.

### ***1. Ayurveda Day Observed on Autumnal Equinox for Global Promotion***

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL**

- Ayurveda Day 2025 is celebrated on September 23, aligning with the autumnal equinox to symbolize natural balance, a core Ayurvedic principle.
- Shift from traditional Dhanteras date was notified by the Ministry of Ayush on March 23, 2025, for annual consistency and global outreach.
- Nationwide events include wellness seminars, yoga sessions, and awareness drives to integrate Ayurveda into public health systems.
- Over 500 events planned across states to promote preventive healthcare through traditional knowledge systems.
- Concepts: Ministry of Ayush, formed in 2014 under Article 47 (DPSP), promotes indigenous systems; National Ayush Mission enhances accessibility.
- Supports WHO's recognition of Ayurveda, fostering evidence-based research for global integration.

### ***Supreme Court Addresses Places of Worship Act Petitions***

#### **SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES**

- The Supreme Court scheduled hearings for petitions challenging the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, amid debates over religious site disputes.
- The petitions question the Act's clause freezing the religious character of sites as of August 15, 1947, citing historical claims.
- Concepts: Article 25 (freedom of religion) and Article 26 (management of religious affairs) are central to the legal discourse.
- The court urged stakeholders to avoid escalating communal tensions, emphasizing constitutional secularism.
- The case links to ongoing Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, discussions, reflecting tensions over property rights.
- Historical context: The Act was enacted post-Babri Masjid demolition to prevent similar conflicts.
- Outcome: Could redefine judicial oversight of religious disputes, impacting social cohesion.

### ***India-UK Free Trade Agreement Finalized***

#### **SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL**

- India and the UK signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), reducing tariffs on goods like textiles, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals.
- The agreement facilitates easier market access for Indian IT services

and professionals, boosting bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030.

- Concepts: Article 253 empowers Parliament to legislate for international agreements; aligns with India's Act East Policy.
- Key provisions include mutual recognition of qualifications and investment protection clauses.
- The FTA addresses post-Brexit trade realignments, countering global protectionist trends.
- Challenges: Balancing domestic agricultural interests with UK demands for market access.
- Strategic impact: Strengthens India's role in the Commonwealth and Indo-Pacific economic frameworks.

### ***SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN WTO TALKS***

#### **SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL/ECONOMY**

- India reiterated demands for Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) at WTO negotiations, rooted in the Enabling Clause for developing nations' trade flexibilities.
- Amid US tariff hikes, S&DT seeks longer implementation periods for subsidies and market access, addressing structural imbalances.
- The Doha Agenda reinforces S&DT, aiming to level global trade playing fields for economies like India's facing agriculture and IP hurdles.
- Concepts: GATT 1994 – Core WTO framework; Article XXI – Security exceptions for trade restrictions.

- India's stance aligns with Global South coalitions, pushing for reforms in fisheries subsidies and e-commerce duties.

- Outcome could influence \$42.9 billion Indo-Saudi trade, with potential for diversified FTAs amid BRICS expansion.

### ***CDS GENERAL ANIL CHAUHAN'S TENURE EXTENDED TO MAY 2026***

#### **SUBJECT: NATIONAL/DEFENCE**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved a nine-month extension for Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, enhancing tri-service integration efforts.

- The extension, until May 30, 2026, or further orders, allows continuity in theatre commands and jointness reforms post-Operation Sindoor.

- Chauhan's leadership has prioritised indigenous procurement, with ₹30,000 crore RFP for MALE drones set for release soon.

- Concepts: Integrated Theatre Commands – Article 33 for military discipline; Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence – 75% domestic capex target.

- This move addresses squadron shortages in the IAF, aiming to raise combat fleet to 56 squadrons amid border threats.

- It signals stability in defence leadership, with focus on R&D spending increase to 15% of budget for next-gen tech like AI and drones.

### ***AYUSHMAN BHARAT COMPLETES SEVEN YEARS WITH EXPANDED COVERAGE***

#### **SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES**

- The Ayushman Bharat scheme marked its seventh anniversary, delivering affordable healthcare to over 50 crore beneficiaries, with a focus on rural expansion and digital integration.

- The program has reduced out-of-pocket expenses by 40%, but challenges persist in remote areas, prompting plans for 1 lakh new empanelled hospitals by 2026.

- It integrates with the National Digital Health Mission, enabling real-time claims and telemedicine for underserved populations.

- Concepts: Article 47 – State's directive to improve public health standards; SDG 3 – Advances universal health coverage through preventive care.

- Recent audits highlight fraud reduction via AI monitoring, saving ₹5,000 crore annually.

- The milestone underscores India's progress toward Health for All, amid calls for 15% budget allocation to health per Abuja Declaration.

### ***INDIA REJECTS NATO CLAIMS ON MODI-PUTIN CALL OVER UKRAINE STRATEGY***

#### **SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL**

- India dismissed as "baseless" NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte's remarks alleging PM Modi sought Russia's Ukraine strategy amid U.S. tariffs, reaffirming strategic autonomy.

- The response highlights India's multipolar diplomacy, balancing ties with Russia (energy imports) and the

West (Quad security), without endorsing any side in the conflict.

- External Affairs Ministry emphasized non-alignment, citing recent BRICS summits for equitable global norms.
- Concepts: Non-Alignment 2.0 – Guides India's balanced foreign policy; Article 51 – Promotes international peace and security.
- The episode underscores tariff impacts on Indian exports (25% on steel), prompting diversification via FTAs with ASEAN and EU.
- Implications include bolstered credibility in G20, positioning India as a mediator in Indo-Pacific tensions.

### **Sonam Wangchuk's Detention Sparks Protests in Ladakh**

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act (NSA) following a violent protest in Leh, prompting the Ministry of Home Affairs to cancel his NGO's FCRA license.
- Curfew remains enforced for the fourth day in Leh, with intensified police and paramilitary patrolling to curb unrest over demands for statehood and environmental protections.
- Over 5 crore citizens participated in the Ek Din Ek Ghanta Ek Saath initiative under the Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 campaign, led by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- The Election Commission of India introduced an e-sign feature on its ECINET portal for streamlined voter

services, enhancing digital accessibility.

- Uttar Pradesh integrates with the Yuktdhara Portal from April 2026 to monitor MNREGS works in real-time using GIS technology.
- Concepts: Article 19(1)(b): Right to form associations, relevant to NGO regulations under FCRA.

### **2. Ladakh Protests Escalate Over Statehood Demands**

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Intense protests in Ladakh highlight grievances on autonomy, with locals demanding safeguards for land and culture amid fears of demographic changes.
- The National Zoological Park enhanced biosecurity after detecting bird flu in painted storks, increasing surveillance to prevent spread.
- Cabinet approved doubling of the Bakhtiyarpur–Tilaiya rail line to boost connectivity in Bihar's flood-prone areas.
- EC de-listed 474 political parties for norm violations, aiming to streamline electoral processes.
- India marks 60 years of the 1965 War victory, commemorating military valor against Pakistan.
- The Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) was launched in New Delhi to expedite tax dispute resolutions.
- Concepts: Article 370 Abrogation: Implications for UT governance and local aspirations in Ladakh.

### 3. India-Mauritius Ties Strengthened with \$680 Million Aid Package

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- PM Modi announced a USD 680 million package during Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam's Varanasi visit, focusing on health, infrastructure, and maritime security.
- Includes construction of a new national hospital, Jan Aushadhi Kendra, and AYUSH Centre of Excellence to enhance bilateral cooperation.
- India reaffirms support for Palestinian statehood, with over 150 UN members recognizing it; India did so in 1988.
- PM Modi to visit Japan and China from August 29 to September 1, discussing trade and strategic partnerships.
- Russia opens 1 million job slots for Indian workers, boosting labor mobility amid global talent competition.
- Concepts: Indo-Pacific Strategy: Mauritius as a key partner in maritime security and SAGAR vision.

### CAG Report Highlights Fiscal Challenges for Indian States

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) released a decadal analysis on states' macro-fiscal health, revealing uneven revenue sources, rising debt burdens, and a welfare paradox impacting fiscal sustainability across India.
- States like Punjab and Kerala face high debt-to-GSDP ratios exceeding 35%, while Odisha maintained the

lowest at 15% through prudent borrowing reductions.

- Political populism, including free power schemes and cash transfers, has deferred costs via opaque mechanisms like guarantees and special-purpose vehicles.
- The report underscores structural issues in fiscal federalism, with vertical imbalances limiting states' capacity to fund welfare without central aid.
- Concepts: Article 293: Governs state borrowing powers; Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act: Aims to ensure fiscal discipline at sub-national levels.
- Doctrine of Fiscal Federalism: Emphasizes balanced resource sharing to prevent over-reliance on central transfers.
- Recommendations include enhanced own-tax revenues and transparent debt management to avert future crises.

### Karur Stampede at Political Rally Exposes Crowd Management Gaps

SUBJECT: STATES

- A tragic stampede at actor-turned-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu, claimed 41 lives, including 18 women and 10 children, prompting statewide mourning.
- The incident involved people falling from trees onto the crowd, exacerbated by poor planning and emotional fervor at large political gatherings.

- India's vulnerability to stampedes is evident in events like the 2025 RCB IPL victory parade in Bengaluru and religious yatras, often due to inadequate regulation.
- Authorities registered cases against rally organizers, with opposition parties aiding relief while criticizing permission lapses.
- Concepts: Disaster Management Act, 2005: Mandates coordinated response for mass gatherings.
- Right to Life (Article 21): Implies state duty to prevent foreseeable risks in public events.
- Measures suggested include AI-based crowd monitoring and fixed entry/exit protocols for high-risk assemblies.

### **Bihar Gains Two New Ramsar Sites, Boosting Wetland Conservation**

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

- Bihar added Kanwar Lake and Kabar Taal to its Ramsar sites, bringing the state's total to five and India's overall to 93, third globally after the UK and Mexico.
- These wetlands, spanning over 68,000 hectares, support migratory birds and biodiversity, with 51 sites added since 2020.
- The designation aligns with India's commitment under the Ramsar Convention, emphasizing ecological restoration amid climate threats.
- Challenges include encroachment and pollution, addressed through community-led conservation models.

- Concepts: Environment (Protection) Act, 1986: Empowers wetland regulation.
- Ramsar Convention (1971): International treaty for wise use of wetlands as vital ecosystems.
- India leads Asia in Ramsar sites, promoting eco-tourism and sustainable livelihoods.

### **India Advances FTA Negotiations with Key Global Partners**

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced ongoing free trade agreement (FTA) talks with the US, EU, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, Chile, Qatar, and Bahrain to boost exports.
- The US discussions aim for a mutually beneficial pact, while EU talks focus on reducing tariffs on goods and services.
- These negotiations come amid global trade tensions, positioning India as a key player in supply chain diversification.
- Expected outcomes include enhanced market access for Indian textiles, IT, and pharmaceuticals.
- Concepts: Article 24 of GATT: Governs formation of customs unions and FTAs.
- Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) Principle: Ensures non-discriminatory trade, with FTAs as exceptions.
- Strategic implications for India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific partnerships.

## Drafting of India's First National Security Strategy Nears Completion

### SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- India's inaugural National Security Strategy (NSS) is in its final drafting phase under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), aiming for completion by December 2025, covering defence, cyber threats, and internal security.
- The strategy emphasizes a unified approach to counter emerging threats like cyberattacks, terrorism, and regional instability, strengthening India's geopolitical stance.
- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) flags rising ground-level ozone pollution in urban hubs, with Delhi-NCR recording critical levels, urging stricter vehicular and industrial emission norms.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs introduces Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ), pairing cities like Chennai and Coimbatore for collaborative waste management to enhance urban sustainability.
- Significant natural gas reserves found near Andaman and Nicobar Islands by ONGC, projected to boost domestic energy production and reduce import reliance by 10%.
- Election Commission removes 474 political parties from its registry for non-compliance, aiming to streamline electoral processes and curb fraudulent registrations.
- Dairy sector faces fodder shortages due to erratic monsoons, with experts advocating climate-resilient agricultural practices to sustain rising milk consumption trends.

## . U.S. Unveils Gaza Peace Plan with India's Support

### SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- U.S. President Trump launches the Gaza Peace Plan, proposing conditional Palestinian statehood and a ceasefire, with India endorsing the multilateral effort for Middle East stability.
- India champions reforms in South-South and Triangular Cooperation on UN Day, emphasizing its role in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals globally.
- Nepal's political unrest escalates with Gen Z protests following PM Oli's resignation; India monitors potential cross-border impacts along the Indo-Nepal frontier.
- Saudi Arabia-Pakistan defence pact raises concerns, but India's USD 42.9 billion trade with Riyadh ensures balanced diplomatic ties in the Gulf region.
- Spain's recognition of Palestine as a G7 nation shifts global dynamics; India reiterates its two-state solution stance while navigating diplomatic pressures.
- Venezuela's political crisis prompts India to diversify oil imports, mitigating risks from U.S. sanctions and global supply chain disruptions.

### POLITY

## *President Appoints Permanent Judges to Kerala and Allahabad High Courts*

**Subject: Polity**

- President Droupadi Murmu appointed Arun Kumar as a judge of the Allahabad High Court and elevated Justices Johnson John, G.U. Girish, and C.N. Pratheep Kumar to permanent judges in the Kerala High Court under Article 217.
- These appointments, made in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, strengthen judicial infrastructure amid rising case backlogs in key high courts.
- The move addresses vacancies, with Allahabad HC facing over 1.2 lakh pending cases and Kerala HC around 4 lakh, improving access to justice.
- Tamil Nadu's judiciary benefits indirectly through similar elevations, as the Madras High Court pushes for more judges to handle regional disputes.
- Concept: Article 217 – Governs appointment and tenure of High Court judges, ensuring independence and efficiency in the judiciary.
- Context: Part of ongoing judicial reforms to reduce pendency, with the Supreme Court emphasizing timely appointments for constitutional balance.
- Relevance: Bolsters federal judicial framework, crucial for upholding rule of law in diverse states like Tamil Nadu with complex land and environmental cases.

***Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Unveils Periyar Portrait at Oxford*****Subject: Polity**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin unveiled a portrait of social reformer Periyar EV Ramasamy at the University of Oxford, marking the Self-Respect Movement's centenary.
- Released two books chronicling the movement's 100-year legacy on rationalism, social equality, and gender justice.
- Event places Periyar's ideals in global dialogue with worldwide struggles for dignity and freedom.
- Influences Dravidian politics and Tamil Nadu's welfare policies on inclusion and reservation.
- Stalin emphasized Periyar's universal principles transcending borders, promoting self-respect and anti-caste reforms.
- Commemorates the 1925 launch, shaping Tamil Nadu's governance model.
- Highlights Tamil Nadu's cultural diplomacy and commitment to social justice globally.

***UPSC Establishes Centre of Excellence for Best Practices*****Subject: Polity**

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced a Centre of Excellence to adopt global best practices in civil services recruitment and training.
- Aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and merit-based selection processes.
- Involves collaboration with international bodies for knowledge exchange and capacity building.

- Impacts Tamil Nadu's aspirants by improving exam standards and administrative reforms.
- Aligns with broader governance reforms under the National Education Policy.
- Focuses on digital integration and AI for fairer evaluation systems.
- Strengthens India's civil services framework for Viksit Bharat by 2047.

### **Arur Upgraded to Municipality Status**

#### **Subject: Polity/Tamil Nadu**

- Arur, previously a town panchayat, was upgraded to a municipality to enhance local governance and infrastructure.
- Tamil Nadu recognized Rajapalayam (first), Rameswaram (second), and Perambalur (third) in the 2025 Best Municipality Awards for urban excellence.
- The upgrade improves Arur's access to funds for waste management, water supply, and urban planning.
- Tamil Nadu's urban reforms align with Swachh Bharat Mission and Smart Cities initiatives.
- Concepts: Decentralized Governance – Empowering local bodies for effective administration and development.
- Historical benchmarks: Chennai (1688, India's first corporation) and Walajapet (1866, first municipality).

### **Vice Presidential Election 2025 Voting Commences**

#### **Subject: Polity**

- On September 9, 2025, voting for the **Vice Presidential Election 2025** began, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi casting his vote, marking a key democratic event.
- The electoral college includes **781 members** from both Houses of Parliament, requiring **391 votes** for a majority to elect the Vice President.
- Tamil Nadu's political prominence is evident, with the **DMK pushing for a candidate** from the state to challenge the NDA's nominee, CP Radhakrishnan.
- The Vice President, as ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, plays a critical role in legislative oversight and parliamentary balance.
- **Article 66:** Governs the Vice President's election through proportional representation with a single transferable vote.
- The election will influence legislative dynamics, especially on issues like economic reforms and social policies.
- **Concept:** Separation of Powers ensures the Vice President's role in balancing legislative and executive functions.

### **C.P. Radhakrishnan Elected as Vice-President of India**

#### **Subject: Polity**

- C.P. Radhakrishnan, Governor of Maharashtra and NDA nominee, was elected as the 17th Vice-President of India, securing 452 first-preference votes against Opposition

candidate Justice B. Sudershan Reddy's 300 votes.

- The election saw a 98.2% turnout of the electoral college, with some cross-voting from the Opposition camp.
- Constitutional Provisions: Article 63 establishes the Vice-President's office; Article 64 makes the Vice-President the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha; Article 66 outlines the election process via proportional representation and single transferable vote.
- The Vice-President is elected by members of both Houses of Parliament, including nominated members, with equal vote value for all MPs.
- Eligibility: Must be a citizen of India, at least 35 years old, and qualified for Rajya Sabha membership.
- Significance: Radhakrishnan's election strengthens the NDA's position in the Rajya Sabha, where he will play a pivotal role in legislative proceedings.
- Historical Context: Several Vice-Presidents, like Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and K.R. Narayanan, later became Presidents, highlighting the office's significance.

### **130th Constitutional Amendment Bill: Enhancing Accountability**

#### **Subject: Polity**

- The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, proposes automatic removal of Ministers, including the Prime Minister or Chief Ministers, if detained for 30 consecutive days for offenses punishable by

five years or more imprisonment.

- Applicable to the Centre, States, Delhi, and Union Territories like Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir through separate legislation.
- Removal is triggered by custody, not conviction, raising concerns about potential political misuse and violation of the basic structure doctrine (Kesavananda Bharati Case, 1973).
- The process involves the President (for Union Ministers, on PM's advice) or Governor (for State Ministers, on CM's advice), with PM/CM required to resign by the 31st day.
- Supporters argue it promotes constitutional morality and public trust in governance.
- Critics highlight risks to parliamentary democracy, as executive discretion could undermine judicial processes.
- The bill is under review by a Joint Parliamentary Committee to address logistical and constitutional concerns.

#### **Polity**

### **CP Radhakrishnan Sworn In as India's 15th Vice President**

- CP Radhakrishnan officially assumed office as the 15th Vice President of India on September 12, 2025, after his election victory on September 9.
- He defeated Justice B. Sudershan Reddy in a closely contested poll, marking a significant shift in the Rajya Sabha's leadership.
- Radhakrishnan, a former Kerala Governor, brings experience in

federal governance and tribal welfare to the role.

- His swearing-in ceremony was administered by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The event underscores the constitutional process under Article 66 for Vice Presidential elections.
- In Tamil Nadu, political reactions highlighted the importance of regional representation in national leadership.
- Concept: Article 63 – Establishes the office of the Vice President as ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

### ***Tamil Nadu Education Policy 2025 Implemented***

#### **Subject: Polity/State Governance**

- Tamil Nadu's 2025 Education Policy retains the two-language formula, rejecting the National Education Policy's three-language model.
- The policy abolishes Class 11 board exams to reduce student stress.
- It promotes inclusive, technology-driven education reforms, focusing on equitable access.
- Emphasis on vocational training and digital literacy to align with industry needs.
- The policy has sparked debates over alignment with national education frameworks.
- Concept: Federalism and state autonomy in education policy

#### **1. Election Commission Launches Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls**

#### **SUBJECT: POLITY**

- The Election Commission initiated the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls on September 15 to update voter lists for upcoming state and local elections.
- Aims to enroll over 10 crore new voters, particularly targeting youth aged 18-19, and remove duplicates through door-to-door verification and Aadhaar linkage.
- Focuses on inclusivity for marginalized groups, including tribals and transgenders, to enhance democratic participation.
- Leverages digital platforms like the Voter Helpline app to streamline updates and address voter grievances.
- Concepts: Article 326 – Universal adult suffrage; Representation of the People Act, 1950, for electoral roll maintenance.
- Strengthens electoral integrity by curbing bogus voting and ensuring accurate voter data for fair elections.
- The drive aligns with the goal of achieving 100% voter registration in urban and rural constituencies.
- Wayanad Landslide Labeled 'Grey Rhino' in Scientific Report

### ***Supreme Court Upholds Tribal Women's Property Rights***

#### **SUBJECT: POLITY**

- The Supreme Court ruled in favor of tribal women's inheritance rights in Ram Charan and Ors. v. Union of India, ensuring equitable access to property under customary laws.

- The judgment invokes Article 14 (equality) and Article 15(3) (special provisions for women), strengthening constitutional protections for marginalized groups.
- It sets a precedent for addressing gender disparities in tribal communities, a key issue in social justice debates.
- The ruling aligns with the Forest Rights Act, 2006, emphasizing community rights over ancestral land.
- This is significant for UPSC aspirants under constitutional law and social issues.

### ***.Supreme Court Commences Hearings on Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025***

SUBJECT: POLITY

The Supreme Court began hearings on challenges to the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025, focusing on its provisions for central oversight of Waqf properties and potential violations of Article 26's religious autonomy.

- Petitioners argue the Act's board restructuring could undermine minority administration, drawing parallels to federalism debates under the Seventh Schedule.
- The bench, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, emphasized balancing reforms with constitutional safeguards for endowments and equality under Article 14.
- Legal scholars note risks of discriminatory impacts, urging alignment with secularism as a basic structure per the 1994 S.R. Bommai case.

- Amicus curiae submissions highlight social harmony implications, with hearings expected to influence future minority welfare legislation.
- The case involves multiple states, underscoring Centre-state tensions in religious affairs governance.
- Outcomes may set precedents for similar acts, like the Places of Worship Act, in upcoming sessions.

### ***Supreme Court Upholds Waqf Amendment Act 2025***

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Supreme Court dismissed challenges to the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025, upholding Parliament's decision to enhance digitization and transparency in waqf property management.
- The verdict affirms constitutional validity, mandating Aadhaar-linked surveys and online registries to curb encroachments and disputes.
- It balances minority rights under Article 26 with public interest, rejecting claims of religious interference.
- The Act introduces a centralized portal for waqf boards, expected to resolve over 5 lakh pending claims and unlock assets worth Rs 1 lakh crore.
- Concepts: Article 26 on freedom to manage religious affairs; Doctrine of Basic Structure in legislative amendments.
- The ruling aligns with ongoing Places of Worship Act hearings, reinforcing secularism and federalism in property governance.

- Critics call for greater minority consultations, while supporters praise it as a step toward efficient welfare delivery.

### 1. ***Uttar Pradesh Launches Mission Shakti Phase Five for Women's Safety***

SUBJECT: Polity

- Uttar Pradesh launched the fifth phase of Mission Shakti on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, coinciding with Sharadiya Navratri, to enhance women's safety through upgraded helplines, awareness campaigns, and community mobilization across all seventy-five districts.
- The initiative focuses on zero-tolerance for gender-based violence, integrating digital tools for quick reporting and support services under the broader National Mission for Empowerment of Women.
- The Election Commission de-listed four hundred seventy-four registered unrecognised political parties on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, for non-compliance with annual financial reporting norms, invoking Section twenty-nine A of the Representation of the People Act, nineteen fifty-one, to curb misuse of tax exemptions.
- Concepts: Article three hundred twenty-four empowers the Election Commission with supervisory authority over elections; Cooperative Federalism involves state-led programs like Mission Shakti aligning with national gender justice goals under Articles fourteen and fifteen.

### 1. ***ECI Strengthens Electoral Roll Transparency***

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) issued new guidelines to ensure transparency in voter list updates, addressing complaints of unauthorized deletions in states like Maharashtra and Jharkhand.
- The move follows a surge in petitions alleging discrepancies in electoral rolls ahead of state assembly elections.
- ECI mandated public disclosure of deletion lists and verification drives, involving Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to prevent fraudulent removals.
- Concepts: Article 324 empowers ECI to oversee elections; aligns with Representation of the People Act, 1950, for clean voter lists.
- Over 1.5 crore voters were added in 2024-25, with ECI emphasizing inclusivity for first-time voters aged 18-19.
- The initiative aims to curb electoral malpractices, with technology-driven audits like Aadhaar linkage under scrutiny.
- Impact: Strengthens voter trust, critical for upcoming elections in 2026.

### ***LADAKH PROTESTS ESCALATE OVER STATEHOOD DEMANDS***

SUBJECT: POLITY

- Protests in Leh intensified with demands for Sixth Schedule protections and statehood restoration, highlighting Centre-UT tensions post-2019 bifurcation.

- Led by the Leh Apex Body, demonstrators cite erosion of cultural autonomy and economic neglect in the border region.

- The agitation revives federalism debates, with calls for dialogue under Article 239AA's special provisions for Union Territories.

- Concepts: Article 370 Abrogation – Impacts on J&K and Ladakh; Panchayati Raj – Extension via 73rd Amendment for tribal areas.

- Security concerns rise as protests near LAC, potentially exploitable by adversaries, affecting eco-tourism reliant on Pashmina trade.

- Government response includes promises of infrastructure boosts, but unresolved grievances risk broader UT autonomy movements.

### ***ELECTION COMMISSION DE-LIST 474 PARTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE***

#### **SUBJECT: POLITY**

- The Election Commission de-listed 474 political parties for failing registration norms, including unsubmitted audits and reports, to curb electoral malpractices.

- This cleanup enhances transparency under the Representation of the People Act, reducing dummy entities ahead of 2026 state polls.

- It follows Supreme Court directives on electoral bonds, emphasizing donor disclosure and fair play.

- Concepts: Article 324 – Empowers EC for free elections; Doctrine of Electoral Integrity – Upholds democratic fairness.

- Impacts include streamlined voter lists via Aadhaar linkage, targeting 97% coverage by 2025.

- The move bolsters federalism, aiding Panchayati Raj devolution under 73rd Amendment.

## **DEFENCE**

### ***Indian Army Raises 'Bhairav' Commando Battalions***

#### **Subject: Defence**

- The Indian Army established five 'Bhairav' light commando battalions to enhance rapid-response capabilities along borders with China and Pakistan.
- Each battalion, with 250 soldiers, focuses on agile operations, reducing reliance on larger units.
- Tamil Nadu's defence corridor in Coimbatore and Hosur supports indigenous equipment production for these units.
- Concepts: Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence; integration of emerging technologies like AI in military operations.
- National Impact: Frees up Para-Special Forces for strategic missions, strengthening border security.
- Global Relevance: Bolsters India's deterrence in the Indo-Pacific amid rising regional tensions.
- Tamil Nadu Contribution: Local industries supply gear, aligning with the state's industrial growth strategy.

### **India–US Yudh Abhyas Army Exercise Begins in Alaska**

#### **Subject: Defence**

- The largest-ever Yudh Abhyas Army Exercise between India and the US commenced at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, on September 2, 2025.
- The bilateral exercise focuses on counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, and high-altitude warfare in subarctic conditions.
- Initiated in 2004, it strengthens India–US defence cooperation amid rising bilateral tariff tensions.
- Indian Army personnel will train alongside US counterparts, enhancing interoperability and joint operational capabilities.
- The exercise underscores India's strategic shift towards assertive defence policies and regional security collaboration.
- Concepts: Integrated Theatre Commands, jointness in military operations, and strategic autonomy in defence.
- Tamil Nadu's defence corridor is noted for contributing equipment used in such joint exercises.

### **India-US Yudh Abhyas 2025 Enhances Defence Cooperation**

#### **Subject: Defence**

- The **Yudh Abhyas 2025** joint military exercise between India and the US, ongoing as of September 9, 2025, began in Alaska to strengthen bilateral ties.
- The exercise focuses on **counter-terrorism**, tactical operations, and interoperability in extreme conditions.

- Tamil Nadu's **Defence Corridor** in Chennai and Coimbatore supports indigenous production for such exercises.
- The collaboration enhances India's strategic role in the **Indo-Pacific**, aligning with the Quad framework.
- **Concept:** Defence diplomacy bolsters India's global security partnerships and regional influence.
- Training includes modern weaponry and cyber warfare, reflecting evolving defence needs.
- The exercise supports India's **Atmanirbhar Bharat** goal of self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

### **ISRO Transfers SSLV Technology to HAL**

#### **Subject: Defence and Science & Technology**

- ISRO signed its 100th technology transfer agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in Bengaluru.
- Facilitated by INSPACe, HAL will manufacture SSLVs for Indian and global markets, with ISRO providing technical support and training.
- The SSLV can carry 500 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and 300 kg to Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO), designed for cost-effective launches.
- The three-stage solid propulsion rocket features a liquid propulsion-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) for precise orbital insertion.

- The first successful SSLV flight on February 10, 2023, launched EOS-07 and two customer satellites into orbit.
- This transfer bolsters India's position in the global small satellite market, reducing dependence on foreign launchers.
- Tamil Nadu's aerospace sector in Chennai will benefit from increased manufacturing and job creation.

## Defence

### ***India Participates in Russia-Hosted Exercise Zapad 2025***

- India joined the multilateral Exercise Zapad 2025, conducted by Russia from September 10-15, 2025, focusing on conventional warfare and counter-terrorism.
- The exercise involves troop maneuvers, AI-integrated simulations, and joint operations in multinational scenarios.
- Indian Army contingents from Eastern Command participated, enhancing interoperability with Russian and other partner forces.
- It underscores India's balanced defence diplomacy amid QUAD and SCO engagements.
- Tamil Nadu's defence corridor contributes to indigenous tech showcased, including drone systems.
- The drill tests high-intensity operations, vital for border security readiness.
- Concept: Joint Military Exercises – Bilateral/multilateral drills under Article 51(c) to promote international peace and security.

### ***INS Aravali: New Naval Facility Commissioned***

#### **Subject: Defence**

- INS Aravali, a shore-based naval information and communication facility, was commissioned in Gurugram, Haryana.
- It serves as a headquarters for real-time maritime surveillance, data fusion, and threat detection in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The facility connects with 43 multinational centers across 25 countries for live maritime data sharing.
- It hosts the National Maritime Domain Awareness Center, integrating security and intelligence agencies.
- Features AI-driven surveillance and satellite-enabled communication via GSAT-7R.
- Concept: National Security and India's role in countering piracy, terrorism, and smuggling

### ***SAMBHAV Indigenous Mobile System Deployed by Army***

#### **SUBJECT: DEFENCE**

- Indian Army deployed SAMBHAV, a DRDO-developed encrypted mobile communication system, on September 15 for secure battlefield operations.
- Replaces imported systems, integrating AI for real-time coordination across Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Reduces India's defence import reliance by 60%, enhancing data security in sensitive operations.
- Tested successfully in high-altitude terrains like Ladakh,

ensuring reliability in extreme conditions.

- Concepts: Article 355 – Union's duty to protect states from external threats; Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020.
- Advances self-reliance by promoting indigenous defence technology and manufacturing.
- Plans for export to friendly nations, boosting India's defence diplomacy.

### ***Defence Procurement Manual 2025 Approved***

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh approved the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025 to streamline revenue procurement and adapt to modern warfare needs.
- The manual simplifies processes, enables faster acquisitions, and promotes indigenization for the Armed Forces.
- It rationalizes procedures for equipment, spares, and maintenance, reducing delays in operational readiness.
- Key focus on Aatmanirbharta through preferential sourcing from domestic industry and MSMEs.
- The DPM aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat, aiming to cut import dependence by 30% in defence by 2027.
- Concepts: DPP 2020 – Predecessor framework emphasizing strategic partnerships and buy-indian categories.
- Implications: Enhances jointness post-CCC, supporting theatre

commands and tech integration like AI in warfare.

### ***HAL Inks ₹62,700 Crore Deal for 156 Light Combat Helicopters***

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- HAL finalized a contract for 156 indigenous LCH Prachand helicopters, enhancing Army and Air Force capabilities in high-altitude terrains like LAC by 2033.
- The deal promotes Atmanirbhar Bharat, generating 5,000 jobs and technology transfers for stealth avionics.
- INS Nistar participated in Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 in Singapore, refining multinational search-and-rescue for Indo-Pacific operations.
- Indo-Russian Zapad 2025 at Mulino Training Ground simulated counter-terrorism and conventional warfare, strengthening 2000 defence pact.
- Army's Spear Corps summited Mount Gorichen (6,488m) in Arunachal, boosting acclimatization for border defence.
- CCS approved Bofors howitzer upgrades with Cummins engines, improving artillery along northern frontiers.
- Defence Procurement Manual 2025 incorporates indigenisation, integrating MSMEs for self-reliant manufacturing.

### ***. Indian Forces Depart for Zapad Two Thousand Twenty-Five in Russia***

SUBJECT: Defence

- Indian Armed Forces contingent left for Russia on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, to join Exercise Zapad two thousand twenty-five at Mulino Training Ground, simulating high-intensity warfare and counter-terrorism with over twenty nations for enhanced interoperability.
- Following Operation Sindoor's triumph, the Indian Air Force proposed acquiring one hundred fourteen advanced fighters like Tejas Mark Two on September twenty-second, two thousand twenty-five, incorporating artificial intelligence for precision strikes on terror infrastructure along borders.
- Defence Public Sector Undertakings achieved record financial year two thousand twenty-five profits after corporatisation, with Rajnath Singh urging fifteen percent research and development investment on September twenty-second to reach seventy percent indigenisation under Atmanirbhar Bharat by two thousand twenty-seven.

Concepts: Integrated Theatre Commands boosts tri-service coordination in multinational exercises; Defence Indigenisation aligns with Article fifty-one

### ***ICGS Adamya Commissioned for Enhanced Bay of Bengal Patrols***

#### **SUBJECT: DEFENCE**

- Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS 'Adamya' on September 19, 2025, at Paradip, Odisha – a 2,500-

tonne indigenous vessel for multi-mission operations.

- Built by GRSE under Project 'S', features 30mm guns, helicopter ops, and surveillance for EEZ enforcement.
- Enhances anti-poaching, disaster relief, and piracy response in vital trade corridors.
- Part of 200-ship indigenization goal by 2027, reducing imports to 40%.
- Concepts: SAGAR Initiative ensures regional maritime security; Article 51A(g) mandates environmental protection.
- Reinforces Operation Sankalp's anti-threat mandate.

### ***ISRO Advances 'Guardian' Satellites for Orbital***

#### **SUBJECT: DEFENCE**

- ISRO prototypes 'guardian satellites' to protect NavIC and GSAT assets from collisions and debris by 2026.
- Triggered by near-miss incidents, tech includes ASAT evasion and real-time tracking for 50+ active satellites.
- Integral to C4ISR, telecom, and banking, with integration into Defence Space Agency.
- Draws from US Space Force models, enhancing deterrence in militarized space.
- Concepts: Outer Space Treaty 1967 bans space WMDs; Article 51 supports self-defence rights.
- Aligns with 2024 Space Policy for strategic autonomy.

- (k) for technological self-reliance in security.

### ***Tri-Services Technology Symposium Launched***

**SUBJECT: DEFENCE**

- Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan inaugurated the first Tri-Services Academia Technology Symposium in New Delhi.
- The symposium signed MoUs with IITs and DRDO for R&D in AI, quantum computing, and hypersonic weapons.
- Concepts: Aligns with Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020, promoting indigenous innovation under Make in India.
- Over 50 academic institutions participated, fostering civil-military collaboration for dual-use technologies.
- Focus areas: Cyber defence and unmanned systems to counter hybrid warfare threats.
- Strategic goal: Reduce import dependency by 15% by 2030, boosting domestic defence production.
- Outcome: Strengthens India's self-reliance in next-gen defence capabilities.

**INDIA TEST-FIRES AGNI-PRIME MISSILE****SUBJECT: DEFENCE**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted a flight test of the Agni-Prime ballistic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha's coast.
- This next-generation missile, with a range of up to 2,000 km, features advanced propulsion and guidance

systems for enhanced accuracy and survivability.

- The test validates the missile's rail-mobile launch capability, aligning with India's nuclear doctrine for flexible and rapid response options.
- Concepts: Nuclear Triad – Complements air, sea, and land-based delivery systems; Article 51A(h) – Promotes scientific temper and defence self-reliance.
- The launch reinforces India's strategic deterrence amid regional tensions, with integration planned for all three armed forces by 2026.
- International implications include bolstering credibility in arms control talks, as the missile's canisterised design reduces launch predictability.

**INDIA CONDUCTS LARGEST DRONE EXERCISE AMID REGIONAL TENSIONS****SUBJECT: DEFENCE**

- India is set to host its largest joint military exercise focused on drones and counter-drone systems in early October 2025, named Cold Start, involving multi-service integration and international partners.
- The exercise emphasizes unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) interoperability, electronic warfare, and swarm tactics to enhance border surveillance and rapid response capabilities.
- It aligns with the Chief of Defence Staff's push for theatre command reforms, incorporating AI-driven threat detection for high-altitude and maritime domains.

- Concepts: Article 51A(h) – Promotes scientific temper and defence self-reliance; Integrated Theatre Commands – Facilitates joint operations under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

- The drill reinforces India's strategic deterrence against asymmetric threats from neighbors, with over 100 indigenous drones tested.

- International implications include strengthened Quad ties, showcasing India's export potential for UAVs worth ₹30,000 crore by 2027.

### **IAF Retires MiG-21 Fleet After 63 Years of Service**

#### **SUBJECT: DEFENCE**

- The iconic MiG-21 was decommissioned at Chandigarh Air Base, marking the end of an era that inspired indigenous platforms like LCA Tejas.

- DRDO explores converting LCA Tejas prototypes into unmanned platforms for testing autonomous systems and sensors.

- MoD considers leasing Indian-developed weapons, including fighter jets, to foreign nations under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

- Revival of Advanced Landing Grounds at Chushul and Anini near LAC to enhance IAF operations with UAVs and helicopters.

- BEML, Bharat Forge, and Data Patterns sign tripartite MoU to support AMCA programme development.

- Concepts: Agnipath Scheme: Relevance to modernizing squadrons and reducing legacy fleet dependencies.

### **Indian Air Force Retires MiG-21 Fleet**

#### **SUBJECT: DEFENCE**

- Indian Air Force decommissions its last MiG-21 jets, transitioning to indigenous Tejas fighters to enhance operational efficiency and reduce maintenance costs.

- India secures a contract with the International Seabed Authority for polymetallic sulphide exploration in Carlsberg Ridge, strengthening strategic deep-sea resource access.

- Exercise Zapad 2025 concludes in Russia, with Indian troops showcasing expertise in counter-terrorism and joint warfare, reinforcing India-Russia defence ties.

- Agni-Prime missile test success highlights advanced precision strike capabilities, integrating with tri-service commands for Indo-Pacific deterrence.