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PRESTORE

OCTOBER 2025

CURRENT AFFAIRS COMPILATIONS

Tamil Nadu Launches Comprehensive Mugger Crocodile Census in Coastal Zones

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

• The Tamil Nadu Forest Department initiated a statewide mugger crocodile population survey on October 3, 2025, using drones and eDNA sampling across 500 km of coastal wetlands.

• Targeting habitats like Point Calimere and Pichavaram mangroves, the census addresses rising human-wildlife conflicts, with 300+ sightings reported in 2024.

• Part of Project Crocodile, it aims to upgrade the species from 'Vulnerable' on IUCN Red List through habitat restoration and anti-poaching tech.

• WWF-India partnership funds community eco-tourism, generating ₹50 crore annually for conservation in 10 districts.

• The effort ties into coastal defense via NCC green units, monitoring smuggling routes alongside biodiversity.

• Preliminary data suggests a 15% population rise, supporting the National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-2031.

• Concepts: Wildlife Protection Act 1972—Schedules muggers under Appendix I; Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 2019—Protects sensitive mangrove ecosystems.

Tamil Nadu Economic Survey 2024-25 Reveals Robust 8.2% GSDP Growth

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

• Tamil Nadu's Economic Survey 2024-25, tabled on October 2, 2025, reported an 8.2% GSDP growth, outpacing national averages despite global supply disruptions from Red Sea conflicts.

• Retail inflation eased to 4.8% by January 2025, below the national 4.9%, driven by stable food prices and MSME export booms in electronics and automobiles.

• Urban inflation dropped to 4.5%, bolstered by schemes like Naan Mudhalvan for skill upgradation of 5 lakh youth annually.

• The survey credits FTAs with EU and ASEAN for $50 billion non-oil exports, while highlighting challenges like labor shortages in Tier-2 cities.

• Fiscal discipline under the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act maintained a 3% deficit, with ₹2 lakh crore allocated to infrastructure.

• Green initiatives, including 10 GW solar capacity, align with SDG 8 for decent work and economic growth.

• Concepts: Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act—State-level adaptations; Atmanirbhar Bharat—State contributions to national self-reliance.

Chennai Set to Host Global Aerospace and Defence Expo GADM 2025

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

• Tamil Nadu will host the Global Aerospace and Defence Meetings (GADM) in Chennai from October 7-9, 2025, spotlighting the state's Defence Industrial Corridor for international collaborations.

• Attracting 500+ delegates from 20 countries, the event eyes ₹10,000 crore investments in nodes like Coimbatore, Hosur, and Trichy, building on 253 MoUs worth ₹53,439 crore.

• Focus areas include UAV manufacturing and avionics R&D, synergizing with the Tamil Nadu Aerospace Policy 2025 for 50,000 jobs.

• Five corridor nodes have already secured ₹8,658 crore by February 2025, emphasizing MSME integration in global supply chains.

• The expo features B2B matchmaking and tech demos, promoting exports under the Defence Production Policy.

• It underscores Tamil Nadu's 13% share in India's defense production, targeting $5 billion in aerospace turnover.

• Concepts: Defence Industrial Corridors Initiative—DPIIT's nodal scheme; Make in India—Offsets 30% indigenization in contracts.

Tamil Nadu RTE Admissions Portal Goes Live for 2025-26 Academic Year

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

• The Tamil Nadu School Education Department launched online RTE admissions on October 1, 2025, for 1.5 lakh seats in private unaided schools, prioritizing economically weaker sections from October 6.

• Mandated by Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act 2009, the process reserves 25% seats with 100% reimbursement, using a transparent lottery system via the unified portal.

• Chief Minister M.K. Stalin directed real-time grievance redressal helplines, addressing past reimbursement delays that affected 20% of claims.

• This aligns with the 86th Constitutional Amendment, bridging urban-rural education gaps in districts like Chennai and Madurai.

• Objection periods post-lottery ensure inclusivity, with focus on SC/ST and girl child quotas.

• The initiative targets 95% enrollment rates, integrating with Samacheer Kalvi curriculum reforms.

• Concepts: Article 21A—Fundamental right to free education; 11th Schedule—Panchayats' role in elementary education implementation.

DRDO Accelerates Hypersonic Glide Vehicle 'Dhvani' to Full-Scale Trials

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

• The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced advancement of the Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) 'Dhvani' to full-scale testing by late 2025 on October 3, elevating India's strategic missile arsenal.

• Achieving Mach 6+ velocities, Dhvani integrates with Agni-V boosters for 5,000 km ranges, featuring maneuverability to bypass missile defenses like THAAD.

• Developed under the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) program, it slashes reaction times to 10 minutes for Indo-Pacific threats.

• The project invites private firms via iDEX challenges, targeting 40% indigenous components and exports by 2030.

• Collaborations with US (via COMCASA) and Russia accelerate scramjet engine tech, with trials at Abdul Kalam Island.

• Dhvani enhances credible minimum deterrence, complementing BrahMos-II hypersonic cruise missiles.

• Concepts: Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)—Regulates hypersonic exports; Strategic Forces Command—Manages nuclear-capable delivery systems.

European Protests and India's Stance

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

• India urged restraint in UNSC over European protests against Israel's Gaza flotilla interception, calling for humanitarian corridors and ceasefire adherence.

• External Affairs Minister Jaishankar emphasized two-state solution and IHL

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compliance during bilateral meets with EU envoys.

• The position aligns with India's $500 million aid to Palestine and abstention on recent Gaza resolutions.

• It counters China's narrative, bolstering India's Global South leadership.

• Concepts: Article 51: Peaceful dispute resolution; UN Charter: Promotion of human rights.

• India's balanced voice enhances its mediator role in West Asia.

ELECTION COMMISSION ENHANCES VOTER ID SECURITY WITH BIOMETRICS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Election Commission announced integration of Aadhaar-based biometrics for voter ID verification, aiming to curb impersonation in 2026 state elections.
- Pilot project launched in 10 states, covering 50 crore voters, with privacy safeguards under Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- Move addresses Supreme Court's 2024 directive for fraud-free polls, targeting 99% voter list accuracy.
- Over ₹1,000 crore allocated for tech upgrades, including facial recognition at polling booths.
- Concepts: Article 324 – Empowers Election Commission to conduct free and fair elections; Representation of the People Act, 1950 – Governs voter registration and verification.

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR DIGITAL PRIVACY CASE

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Supreme Court scheduled hearings on the Data Protection Act, 2023, to address concerns over state surveillance and citizen privacy rights.

- Case stems from petitions challenging mandatory data localization for tech firms.
- Over 500 companies, including global giants, face compliance deadlines by December 2025.
- Court emphasized balancing national security with Article 21's right to privacy.
- Concepts: Article 21 – Right to life and personal liberty; Right to Privacy – Recognized as fundamental right in Puttaswamy judgment (2017).

INDIA-ASEAN SUMMIT STRENGTHENS DIGITAL TRADE

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- At the 22nd India-ASEAN Summit, agreements signed to enhance digital payment systems, targeting $100 billion trade by 2030.
- India pushed for mutual recognition of digital IDs to ease cross-border e-commerce.
- ASEAN nations committed $50 million for AI skill development in India.
- Concepts: Article 253 – Parliament's power to implement international agreements; RCEP – India's strategic re-engagement with regional trade blocs.

Farmer Suicides and Agrarian Distress in NCRB Report

SUBJECT: National Issues

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2023 report, released on October 1, 2025, documented over 10,700 suicides among farmers and agricultural workers, with Maharashtra reporting the highest at 4,248 cases, highlighting chronic debt, crop failures, and climate impacts affecting India's rural economy.
- Karnataka recorded 3,000 farmer suicides, while states like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil

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Nadu showed rates of 8.6%, 7.2%, and 5.9% respectively, underscoring regional disparities in agricultural support systems.

- Notably, West Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha reported zero cases, raising concerns about data underreporting and the need for standardized national surveillance to address hidden vulnerabilities in agrarian communities.
- Cultivators accounted for 4,690 suicides (predominantly male), and agricultural laborers for 6,096, emphasizing the plight of landless workers amid stagnant incomes and inadequate insurance coverage.
- The government responded by announcing expansions to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to cover 5 crore more farmers by 2026, focusing on premium subsidies in high-risk districts like those in Tamil Nadu's delta regions.
- In Tamil Nadu, the report prompted the state to allocate ₹500 crore for distress relief, including debt waivers for smallholders in Thanjavur and Nagapattinam, aligning with Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam for family support.
- **Concepts**: Article 21 – Protects right to life and livelihood, framing farmer suicides as a human rights crisis; Article 48 – Directs state policy towards modernizing agriculture to ensure economic viability and social justice.

India-Russia Strategic Partnership Reaffirmed on Putin's Birthday

SUBJECT: International

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended birthday greetings to Russian President Vladimir Putin on October 7, 2025, reaffirming the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, with focus on deepening defense co-production and energy supplies amid global geopolitical shifts.

- The call emphasized BRICS expansion and joint ventures like S-400 deliveries, positioning India as a counterbalance to Western sanctions while advancing the India-Russia-UAE economic corridor for Eurasian connectivity.
- India also urged Bangladesh for expeditious free elections in bilateral talks, stressing South Asian democratic stability and minority safeguards post-Interim government's formation.
- An Indian parliamentary delegation, led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, attended the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados, advocating for climate finance reforms and decolonization agendas for small island states.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar highlighted India's strategic autonomy at a QUAD meeting, navigating US-China rivalries through enhanced maritime security pacts in the Indo-Pacific.
- The engagements align with the India-EFTA TEPA's entry into force on October 1, 2025, projecting $100 billion investments and 1 million jobs via tariff concessions on 82.7% of EFTA goods.
- **Concepts**: Article 51 – Promotes international peace through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy; Panchsheel Principles – Underpin non-aligned ties with Russia, balancing QUAD commitments and Commonwealth reforms.

India's Strategic Autonomy in a Multipolar West

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India is navigating a multipolar West, strengthening ties with Europe via the EU-India Trade and Technology Council, focusing on trade, tech, and security.
- European leaders like Macron and von der Leyen push for autonomy from US influence, creating opportunities for India in defence co-production and green energy.

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- India's multi-alignment includes coalitions like the Quad and I2U2, balancing relations with US, EU, UK, and Japan in a pluralistic global order.
- The EU's 2025 Indo-Pacific Communication positions India as a key partner for regional stability and open trade routes.
- Challenges involve managing US-EU trade divergences, requiring India to modernize its economy for deeper integration.
- Concepts: Non-Alignment 2.0 – evolved into multi-alignment; Indo-Pacific Strategy – promotes a rules-based maritime order.

Launch of PM-SETU for Skill Development

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The government introduced Pradhan Mantri Skill Enhancement and Training for Underprivileged (PM-SETU), a ₹10,000 crore scheme to skill 2 crore youth from marginalized communities over five years.
- Integrated with Skill India Mission, it offers training in AI, renewable energy, and logistics, with stipends and job placements.
- Focus on MSMEs and rural areas aims to enhance employability, supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat's global competitiveness goals.
- Partnerships with CII and FICCI provide on-job training, targeting 50% unemployment reduction in aspirational districts.
- The program includes digital literacy and women-centric courses to address workforce gender gaps.
- Concepts: Article 41 – right to education and work; National Education Policy 2020 – emphasizes skill-based learning.

Draft National Labour & Employment Policy – Shram Shakti Niti 2025

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment released the draft Shram Shakti Niti 2025, India's first integrated policy on labour and employment, aiming to create ten crore jobs by 2030 through skill development and gig economy regulations.
- The policy is structured in three phases: Phase I (2025–27) focuses on institutional setup and digital pilots for social security; Phase II (2027–30) expands Universal Social Security and AI-based job matching; Phase III (beyond 2030) achieves full digital convergence.
- It addresses informal sector vulnerabilities, gender disparities in workforce participation, and climate-resilient employment, integrating with schemes like PMKVY and MGNREGA.
- Consultations with states, unions, and industry bodies are ongoing until November 2025, with final adoption targeted for Q1 2026.
- The policy emphasizes predictive labour governance using data analytics to forecast skill needs amid automation.
- **Concepts**: Article 41: Right to work, education, and public assistance in cases of unemployment; Labour Code 2020: Consolidated framework for wages, social security, and industrial relations.
- **Doctrine of Social Justice**: Ensures equitable distribution of employment opportunities, aligning with Directive Principles of State Policy.

. Surge in Cyber Fraud Cases and Digital Arrest Scams

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES

- A 78-year-old banker in Mumbai lost twenty-three crore rupees in a "digital arrest" scam, highlighting a forty percent rise in cyber frauds reported in 2025, with over fifteen lakh cases filed nationwide per NCRB data.
- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) launched Operation Chakra to dismantle scam networks operating

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from Southeast Asia, leading to two hundred arrests in the first nine months.

- RBI mandated banks to implement AI-driven anomaly detection systems, reducing transaction fraud by twenty-five percent in pilot states.
- Public awareness campaigns like Cyber Jagrookta Abhiyan reached fifty crore citizens via social media and community drives.
- The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal saw a sixty percent increase in complaints, prompting calls for stricter enforcement of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- **Concepts**: Section 66C and 66D of IT Act: Penalties for identity theft and cheating by personation using computer resources.
- **Precautionary Principle**: From Vellore Citizens' Forum vs Union of India (1996), applied to preventive measures against emerging digital threats.

India Pushes for Global Governance Reforms at 16th BRICS Summit

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- At the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, PM Modi advocated for UN Security Council restructuring, emphasizing greater representation for Global South nations in decision-making bodies.
- India proposed a BRICS Development Bank expansion to fund one hundred billion dollars in sustainable infrastructure projects, focusing on climate adaptation in developing economies.
- Bilateral talks with Brazil and South Africa advanced trade pacts for agricultural exports, aiming to boost intra-BRICS commerce to five hundred billion dollars by 2028.
- The summit condemned unilateral sanctions and called for de-dollarization through local currency settlements, with India piloting rupee-ruble trades.

- Discussions on counter-terrorism highlighted India's concerns over cross-border threats from Pakistan, urging enhanced intelligence sharing.
- **Concepts**: Article 2(4) of UN Charter: Prohibition on threat or use of force against territorial integrity; Non-Alignment Movement (NAM): India's historical advocacy for multilateralism.
- **Principle of Sovereign Equality**: Under UN Charter, ensures equal participation of member states in international forums.

Global Diplomacy and Cooperation

SUBJECT: International

- Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi visited Delhi, discussing embassy reopening in Kabul and counter-terrorism amid Taliban diplomacy.
- India joined Taliban, Pakistan, China, and Russia to oppose US bid for Bagram air base control, highlighting strategic interests in Afghanistan.
- Nepal's Gen-Z protests post-PM Oli resignation led to airport shutdown, stranding 700 Indian passengers; bilateral ties strained over border issues.
- G7 country Spain recognized Palestine, prompting India to reaffirm two-state solution support at UNGA.
- UN mining reforms adopted, with India pushing for sustainable deep-sea regulations under ISA to protect marine biodiversity.
- Atacama Desert bloom event in Chile drew global attention, with India collaborating on climate-resilient agriculture tech transfer.

Nobel Peace Prize 2025 Awarded to Maria Corina Machado

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- The Nobel Committee awarded the 2025 Peace Prize to Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado for her non-violent fight against authoritarianism, promoting democracy and human rights.
- Her resistance, despite bans and threats, has inspired global movements, earning her the title "Iron Lady."
- The award highlights Latin America's democratic struggles, with implications for India's support in multilateral forums.
- Presented in Oslo, it underscores women's roles in peacebuilding, linking to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.
- **Concepts**: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 21) on political participation; India's foreign policy on democratic assistance.
- Boosts opposition in Venezuela, potentially easing migration pressures on India through diaspora connections.
- India's Ministry of External Affairs congratulated Machado, reaffirming commitment to global democratic norms.

Expansion of e-NAM Platform with New Commodities

SUBJECT: NATIONAL/ECONOMY

- The National Agriculture Market added nine commodities, including turmeric and maize, integrating one thousand mandis digitally.
- Enhances farmer incomes by ten to fifteen percent through transparent bidding and pan-India trade.
- Supported by a two thousand crore rupee allocation under the Digital Agriculture Mission.
- **Concepts**: Article 48A directs agricultural advancement; links to Farmer Producer Organizations under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Reduces middlemen, with one crore fifty lakh farmers onboarded.

- Addresses the digital divide in rural areas through Kisan e-Mitra apps.
- Boosts agricultural gross domestic product to eighteen percent, targeting a one trillion dollar economy by 2030.

Tamil Nadu's Role in India-Afghanistan Trade Ties

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- Tamil Nadu exporters target opportunities from the India-Afghanistan joint trade committee, focusing on textiles and spices via Chennai Port.
- Includes skill training for Afghan youth in Tamil Nadu's Industrial Training Institutes.
- Aligns with the Chabahar route for Central Asian market access.
- **Concepts**: Article 51 promotes economic diplomacy; Tamil Nadu's Export Policy 2021.
- Potential for a five hundred crore rupee bilateral trade boost for Tamil Nadu's micro, small, and medium enterprises.
- Addresses security logistics through insurance schemes.
- Tamil Nadu's Afghan student community supports cultural exchanges.

Operation Golden Sweep: Cracking Down on Gold Smuggling

Subject: National

- Operation Golden Sweep, initiated by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), resulted in the seizure of over 50 kilograms of smuggled gold valued at 350 crore rupees across 15 airports in the past week, exposing weaknesses in aviation security.
- The operation uncovered a syndicate involving airport staff, customs officials, and international couriers, with arrests made in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai,

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- highlighting the need for stricter insider vetting protocols.
- Key seizures included gold biscuits hidden in passenger luggage and cargo, originating from Dubai and Thailand, impacting India's foreign exchange reserves by an estimated 2,500 crore rupees annually due to such illicit trade.
- The crackdown aligns with the government's push for economic security under the Customs Act, 1962, and involves coordination with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) for money laundering investigations.
- This initiative reflects Article 263 of the Constitution, promoting cooperative federalism in enforcement, while emphasizing anti-corruption measures in public sectors.
- Future implications include enhanced artificial intelligence-based screening at ports and potential amendments to the Foreign Trade Policy to address smuggling hotspots.

IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4: Assessing Global Conservation Efforts

Subject: International

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature's World Heritage Outlook 4 report, released on October 13, 2025, rates 66 percent of natural World Heritage sites as having "good" or "significant progress" in conservation, but warns of threats from climate change and poaching.
- India is prominently featured, with the Sundarbans rated as "significant concern" due to rising sea levels, while Kaziranga National Park shows "good" progress due to anti-poaching technology integration.
- The report highlights global biodiversity loss, with 20 percent of sites at "critical" risk, urging stronger implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by 2030.

- For India, it recommends increased funding for protected areas, currently under 30 percent of needs, and better transboundary cooperation, linking to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- International collaboration is emphasized, with calls for the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in 2025 to prioritize marine heritage, where India's Andaman sites score low due to illegal fishing.
- Concepts: Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land) and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), ratified by India.

Gaza Peace Summit: Pushing for Ceasefire Amid Escalating Tensions

Subject: International

- The Gaza Peace Summit in Doha on October 13, 2025, convened by Qatar and Egypt, called for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian corridors, with India endorsing the United Nations-backed two-state solution.
- Over 40 nations attended, but stalled talks due to Israel's conditions on Hamas disarmament highlight fractures in the Abraham Accords framework.
- India's stance emphasizes de-escalation and aid delivery, with a recent pledge of 100 crore rupees, reflecting its non-aligned policy and role in the G20's Global South advocacy.
- The summit addresses the humanitarian crisis, with 1.9 million displaced and famine risks, tying into Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).
- Broader implications for India include energy security, as Red Sea disruptions affect 12 percent of its oil imports, and diaspora safety in the Middle East.
- Concepts: United Nations Resolution 242 (1967) on land-for-peace and India's foreign policy doctrine of strategic autonomy in conflict mediation.

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Conservation and Digital Self-Reliance Initiatives

National Issues

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade launches the LEAPS 2025 benchmarking initiative to recognize logistics excellence, aiming to improve India's Logistics Performance Index ranking through sustainable practices.
- Sonali Ghosh becomes the first Indian to win the Kenton R. Miller Award for sustainable protected area management at Kaziranga National Park, highlighting conservation efforts.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw endorses the Mappls navigation app as a tool for digital self-reliance, promoting indigenous alternatives to global tech giants.
- The National Green Tribunal invokes the Public Trust Doctrine in a recent ruling on urban pollution control, mandating State governments to treat natural resources as public trusts.
- The pilot phase of a fixed airfare scheme on UDAN routes begins today, eliminating dynamic pricing to enhance regional connectivity and affordability.
- **Concepts**: The National Logistics Policy 2022 focuses on integrated infrastructure development; Atmanirbhar Bharat promotes self-reliance in technology and services.

Global Standards and Diplomatic Engagements

SUBJECT: International

- World Standards Day is observed with the theme "A Shared Vision for a Better World," focusing on global cooperation for inclusive and resilient standards, with India contributing through Bureau of Indian Standards initiatives.
- The Maldives achieves World Health Organization's triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B, strengthening India-Maldives health diplomacy ties.
- A panel discussion on artificial intelligence in global politics at the Indian Council of World Affairs highlights India's strategic autonomy in a multipolar world amid United States-China tech rivalries.
- At the Gaza Peace Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, India advocates for humanitarian corridors, aligning with United Nations Charter principles on conflict resolution.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross's enhanced role in the Ukraine crisis is discussed, with India supporting neutral mediation under international humanitarian law.
- **Concepts**: United Nations Charter Article 2(4) prohibits the use of force; the Indo-Pacific Strategy emphasizes maritime security and regional alliances.

Right to Information Act Marks 20 Years: Challenges and Reforms

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The RTI Act, 2005, celebrates its 20th anniversary, having empowered over 3 crore annual applications for transparency, but faces dilution through amendments limiting appeals and political party exemptions.
- Landmark CIC rulings have extended RTI to PMO, RBI, and CJI's office, setting global benchmarks, yet executive opacity in data on unemployment and health persists, earning India the "No Data Available" label.
- Political interference in CIC appointments treats them as post-retirement perks, reducing independence and reluctance to probe executive actions, as highlighted in recent SNS reports.
- Article 19(1)(a) underpins RTI's democratic role; calls for digital e-filing portals aim to cut pendency from 2.5

lakh cases, enhancing access for marginalized groups.
- Implementation gaps include delayed responses (average 100 days) and misuse for personal vendettas, prompting need for training 10 lakh PIOs nationwide.

Shram Shakti Niti 2025: Labour and Employment Stack Initiative

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The policy introduces a unified digital "stack" for labour governance, layering tech services for gig workers' registration, wage tracking, and social security under one platform.
- Envisioned as a backbone for 50 crore informal workers, it integrates Aadhaar, UPI, and AI for real-time compliance, aligning with Code on Social Security, 2020.
- Pilot in 5 states from October 2025 targets 1 crore gig workers, reducing disputes by 30% via automated grievance redressal.
- GS-2 relevance: Promotes inclusive governance; challenges include data privacy under DPDP Act and digital divide in rural areas.
- Expected to boost female workforce participation to 35% by linking with Skill India, addressing urban-rural labour migration.

Operation Golden Sweep Targets Gold Smuggling Networks

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- DRI's intelligence-driven operation seizes ₹500 crore in assets, busting 20 syndicates involving airport staff and transit carriers.
- Under Customs Act, 1962, it disrupts hawala-linked flows harming formal economy; 50 arrests highlight multi-layered internal-external chains.

- Economic safeguard: Prevents ₹2,000 crore annual revenue loss; ties to black money funding, impacting fiscal deficit.
- Broader implications: Strengthens border economic security; future phases target SEZ vulnerabilities with AI surveillance.
- GS-3 relevance: Links to money laundering under PMLA; international cooperation with UAE yields 70% conviction rate.

Great Green Wall Initiative: Africa's Desertification Battle

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- 20% progress in tree cover across 11 countries, but funding gaps (only 40% mobilized) hinder 100 million hectare goal by 2030.
- India supports via South-South tech transfer on afforestation; lessons for Thar Desert projects under UNCCD.
- Challenges: Community land rights conflicts displace 5 lakh locals; climate variability reduces survival rates to 60%.
- Economic angle: Potential to create 10 million jobs in eco-tourism; India's ₹500 crore pledge aids monitoring via ISRO satellites.
- Relevance: Ties to SDG 13; models for India's NMNF, promoting resilient agriculture in arid zones.

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Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar Resigns Amid Political Speculation

SUBJECT:NATIONAL

- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu under Article 67(a) of the Constitution, marking the third premature exit by a VP after V.V. Giri and R. Venkataraman.
- He cited personal reasons for stepping down before completing his term, though speculation points to internal NDA tensions and coalition dynamics post-2024 elections.
- Dhankhar's departure comes amid heightened scrutiny over his role in parliamentary disruptions and ties to the BJP's ideological base.
- The Rajya Sabha's functioning may face interim leadership challenges until a successor is elected under Article 65.
- Analysts view this as a potential flashpoint for opposition demands on constitutional offices' independence.
- Concepts: Article 63-71: Outline the Vice-President's election, powers, and resignation provisions in India's parliamentary framework.

Launch of State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) 2025

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The Ministry of Mines unveiled the inaugural SMRI 2025, ranking states on mining sector reforms to enhance ease of doing business and sustainability.
- Jharkhand topped the index, followed by Odisha and Rajasthan, based on parameters like policy framework, digital adoption, and environmental compliance.
- The index fulfills a Union Budget 2025-26 commitment, aiming to attract ₹1 lakh crore in investments by streamlining approvals.
- It evaluates non-coal minerals, promoting transparency and reducing illegal mining amid rising global demand for critical minerals.
- States like Tamil Nadu ranked mid-tier, highlighting gaps in auction processes and community engagement.
- Concepts: Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957: Governs mining leases and resource allocation for federal equity.

RBI Highlights Fiscal Imbalances in State Finances Report 2025

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The RBI's latest report flags widening Centre-state fiscal gaps, with states handling 52% of health and education spending but receiving only 41% of revenues.
- Post-GST compensation cessation in July 2025, vulnerable states face heightened exposure to shocks without adequate buffers.
- Cesses and surcharges in the 2025-26 Budget total ₹4.23 lakh crore, excluded from the divisible pool, exacerbating devolution disputes.
- Opposition-ruled states decry conditional grants as fiscal leverage, urging reforms for equitable tax-sharing.
- The report recommends integrating cesses into the Finance Commission framework to restore balance.
- Concepts: Article 280: Empowers the Finance Commission to recommend tax devolution for fiscal federalism.

India-MERCOSUR Upgrade Preferential Trade Agreement

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India and MERCOSUR nations agreed to elevate their PTA, targeting a full FTA conclusion within a year to double bilateral trade to $50 billion.
- Focus areas include agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and critical minerals, reducing tariffs on 90% of goods.

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- MERCOSUR's Protocol of Ouro Preto (1994) enables this, building on 2009 ties with Brazil, Argentina, and others.
- The pact counters US tariff hikes, diversifying India's South American exports amid global fragmentation.
- PM Modi hailed it as a step toward South-South cooperation at BRICS margins.
- Concepts: WTO's Enabling Clause: Permits preferential trade among developing nations.

. Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri Joins IN-RoKN Exercise in Busan

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- INS Sahyadri docked in Busan for the inaugural India-Republic of Korea Navy (IN-RoKN) bilateral drill, emphasizing Indo-Pacific interoperability.
- The exercise features anti-submarine warfare, live-fire drills, and maritime domain awareness against non-traditional threats.
- It strengthens QUAD+ ties, with South Korea as a key defence partner under 2025 MoUs.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's concurrent Brazil visit explored similar naval collaborations.
- The port call underscores India's SAGAR vision for regional security.
- Concepts: UNCLOS Article 98: Mandates maritime assistance and cooperation

India Marks 80 Years of FAO Partnership on World Food Day

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and India celebrated 80 years of partnership on World Food Day 2025, themed "Hand in Hand for Better Food and a Better Future," showcasing India's transformation from food scarcity to self-sufficiency for 1.4 billion people.

- Key initiatives like the Green Revolution, National Food Security Act (NFSA), Minimum Support Price (MSP), and Public Stockholding System have bolstered rural economies and agricultural innovation.
- As a founding FAO member since 1945, India leads global food security efforts, with a focus on sustainable farming and climate-resilient crop varieties.
- The New Delhi event highlighted collaborative efforts in nutrition, women's empowerment in agriculture, and reducing post-harvest losses.
- Concepts: Food Security Framework – Aligns with Article 21 (Right to Life) and Directive Principles under Articles 39(a) and 47, ensuring equitable nutrition access.
- India's role in UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), was emphasized as a global model.
- Future plans include digital agriculture tools and biodiversity conservation to ensure long-term food stability.

State Mining Readiness Index 2025 Launched

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The Ministry of Mines introduced the first State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) for 2025, assessing non-coal mineral mining efficiency and sustainability across Indian states.
- Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Jharkhand topped the rankings, evaluated on policy framework, digitization, and environmental compliance.
- The SMRI aims to promote competitive federalism, attract investments, and ensure transparent management of mineral resources.
- It evaluates six pillars: policy and strategy, regulatory environment, and community engagement, emphasizing ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) standards.

- **Concepts**: Fiscal Federalism – Encourages equitable resource sharing between Centre and states, addressing issues like cess and surcharge impacts on state devolution.
- The index supports the National Mineral Policy 2019, aiming for a $30 billion mining sector by 2030.
- Lower-ranked states like Odisha and Chhattisgarh face calls for regulatory reforms to improve mining efficiency.

India Assumes UN-GGIM Asia Pacific Co-Chair Role

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India was elected Co-Chair of the UN Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) for 2025-2028, representing 56 geospatial authorities.
- The election in Bangkok highlights India's leadership in data-driven policies for disaster management and urban planning.
- ISRO and Survey of India will lead initiatives on open geospatial data standards and AI integration.
- The role aligns with Digital India and UN SDGs, particularly for sustainable cities and climate action.
- **Concepts**: Multilateralism in Geospatial Governance – Strengthens North-South collaboration, addressing data sovereignty in Indo-Pacific forums.
- India's term will focus on capacity-building for smaller nations, including real-time mapping for pandemics and climate events.
- This enhances ties with ASEAN and Pacific islands, supporting initiatives like the Quad's geospatial cooperation.

India Joins 5th Counter Ransomware Initiative Summit in Singapore

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India engaged in the 5th International Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI) Summit hosted by Singapore, focusing on cybersecurity threats amid rising global attacks.
- The summit, part of Singapore International Cyber Week 2025, emphasized multilateral cooperation on ransomware defenses and information sharing.
- India's participation highlights its role in global cyber norms under the Budapest Convention framework.
- Discussions covered emerging threats like AI-driven attacks and capacity building for developing nations.
- Concepts: UN Convention on Cybercrime; India's National Cyber Security Policy 2013 for international collaboration.

ASEAN Summit: India Pushes Act East 2.0 in Kuala Lumpur

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- PM Modi addresses 47th ASEAN-India Summit, unveiling 'Act East 2.0' with $1 billion line of credit for digital and green infrastructure.
- India-ASEAN trade crosses $130 billion; target set at $200 billion by 2030.
- East Timor formally joins as 11th ASEAN member, with India supporting its maritime capacity building.
- Joint statement condemns terrorism in all forms, implicitly referencing cross-border threats.
- Concepts: UNCLOS High Seas Treaty – India's 2025 ratification enables deep-sea mining regulation.

Global Debt Forum Launched at UNCTAD16

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- Sevilla Forum on Sovereign Debt, co-chaired by India and Brazil, proposes a

UN Debt Workout Mechanism for middle-income countries.

- India advocates 10-year moratorium on external commercial borrowings for climate-vulnerable nations.
- G20 Common Framework criticized for slow progress; only 4 of 73 eligible countries restructured debt by 2025.
- RBI Governor represents India, pushing for crypto-asset regulation in debt transparency frameworks.
- Concepts: Article 51(c) – Respect for international law in economic diplomacy.

EU-India New Strategic Agenda 2025 Launched

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The European Union and India adopted the New Strategic EU-India Agenda (2025) in October, focusing on five pillars: Prosperity & Sustainability, Technology & Innovation, Security & Defence, Connectivity & Global Issues, and Enablers.
- It links India's Carbon Market (ICM) with the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to promote green transition and reduce carbon emissions in trade.
- Builds on the 2020 EU-India Strategic Partnership Roadmap, expanding into digital governance and global connectivity.
- Aims to elevate the relationship into a transformative global partnership, enhancing economic ties and supply chain resilience.
- Concepts: Article 51(c) of the Indian Constitution promotes international peace and security through economic and cultural cooperation.
- Doctrine of Sustainable Development: Emphasizes balancing economic growth with environmental protection in bilateral agreements.

Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses (2025-31) Initiated

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Government of India launched the mission on October 11, 2025, to boost domestic pulses production from 242 lakh MT (2023-24) to 350 lakh MT by 2030-31.
- Implemented by Ministry of Agriculture with NAFED and NCCF, using a cluster-based approach for climate-resilient varieties and value-chain development.
- Seeks to enhance farmer income, ensure price stability, and reduce import dependency from countries like Myanmar and Canada.
- Announced in Union Budget 2024-25, it promotes integrated farming and market linkages for self-reliance in food security.
- Concepts: Article 48A directs the state to protect the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
- Public Distribution System (PDS): Aligns with efforts to stabilize essential commodity prices under the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Lokpal Faces Scrutiny Over Declining Complaints and Luxury Purchases

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- India's apex anti-corruption ombudsman reported a sharp drop in complaints from 2,469 (2022-23) to 233 in 2025, amid criticism for tendering seven BMW cars.
- Established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, it functions as a quasi-judicial body to investigate corruption allegations against public officials.
- Chairperson Justice A.M. Khanwilkar leads the body, constituted in March 2019 as a milestone in transparent governance.

- The decline raises questions on accessibility and effectiveness, prompting calls for procedural reforms.
- Concepts: Article 105(2) provides privileges to MPs, but Lokpal can inquire into bribery cases under Section 20 of the Act.
- Principle of Natural Justice: Ensures fair investigation processes, including right to hearing and evidence presentation.

Lokpal Scrutiny Over Corruption Probes and Lavish Spending

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES

- The Lokpal of India faces backlash for a 90% drop in complaints (from 2,469 in 2022-23 to 233 in 2025) and a controversial tender for seven BMW cars worth ₹10 crore.
- Delays in high-profile probes against ministers highlight autonomy concerns, with critics demanding faster adjudication under the Lokpal Act, 2013.
- Chairperson Justice A.M. Khanwilkar defended the procurement as essential for official duties, but opposition parties label it a misuse of public funds.
- The anti-corruption ombudsman, established in 2019, has investigated 150+ cases but convicted only 12, prompting calls for structural reforms.
- This comes amid broader governance debates, including Centre-state fund disputes over MGNREGA in West Bengal.
- Concepts: Article 21 ensures speedy justice; Lokpal embodies constitutional morality in anti-corruption architecture.
- Federalism Tensions: Balances institutional independence with accountability, invoking principles from the Prevention of Corruption Act.

India-EU Trade Negotiations Advance

INTERNATIONAL

- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced significant progress in India-EU free trade talks after three days in Brussels, narrowing gaps on tariffs and investment.
- A five-pillar strategic agenda emphasizes technology, security, and connectivity, including joint cybersecurity pacts and IMEC corridor enhancements.
- Discussions addressed EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) concerns, aiming for a deal by early 2026 to boost bilateral trade to $200 billion.
- Cyprus Foreign Minister's visit to India advanced maritime and defence ties, focusing on Indo-Pacific stability.
- PM Modi hailed the India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership as a pillar of Act East Policy during a virtual summit.
- Concepts: Article 51 promotes international peace and cooperation; aligns with WTO commitments for equitable trade.
- Soft Power Diplomacy: Leverages diaspora and cultural exchanges, countering geopolitical shifts like US tariffs.

Employability Crisis Highlights Gap Between Education and Industry Needs

National Issues

- India faces a severe employability crisis, with only 42.6% of graduates considered job-ready, as per recent reports, exposing a disconnect between academic curricula and industry demands in a rapidly evolving job market.
- The issue is exacerbated by skill mismatches in sectors like IT, manufacturing, and services, leading to high youth unemployment rates despite economic growth.
- Government initiatives like Skill India aim to bridge this through vocational training, but implementation gaps persist, particularly in rural areas.

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- The crisis underscores the need for curriculum reforms in higher education to emphasize practical skills, digital literacy, and soft skills.
- It poses long-term risks to social stability and economic productivity, with calls for public-private partnerships to enhance employability.
- Concepts: Article 41 – Right to education and work; National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 – Focus on skill-based learning and employability.

India Secures U.S. Sanctions Waiver for Chabahar Port Development

International

- The Ministry of External Affairs announced on October 30, 2025, that India has received a waiver from U.S. sanctions for the Chabahar Port project in Iran, enabling continued development and operations despite geopolitical tensions.
- The waiver, sought amid U.S. "maximum pressure" on Iran, allows India to import critical equipment and proceed with phase-II expansion, enhancing connectivity to Central Asia via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- This development revives a key strategic asset for India's trade routes, bypassing Pakistan, and supports humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.
- It reflects balancing act in India's foreign policy, prioritizing energy security and regional influence over alignment pressures.
- The port's operationalization is expected to boost bilateral trade with Iran and landlocked neighbors by $1 billion annually.
- Concepts: Article 51 – Promotion of international peace and economic cooperation; INSTC – Multilateral corridor for Eurasian connectivity.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Celebrations Mark Sardar Patel's 150th Birth Anniversary

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The Ministry of Culture organized nationwide cultural performances to commemorate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on October 31, 2025, honoring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's role in India's unification, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as chief guest at the central event in Gujarat.
- Born on October 31, 1875, in Nadiad, Gujarat, Patel transitioned from a lawyer to a key freedom fighter, notably during the 1918 Kheda Satyagraha, advocating for farmers' rights and social justice alongside Mahatma Gandhi.
- The celebrations emphasized Patel's legacy in integrating over 500 princely states, highlighting themes of national unity and the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative.
- Events included unity pledges, cultural parades, and educational programs across states, reinforcing constitutional values of federalism and integration.
- Uttar Pradesh created its 76th district, Kalyan Singh Nagar, by merging parts of Aligarh and Bulandshahr, as a tribute to former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh's contributions to regional development.
- Concepts: Article 1 of the Constitution: Declares India as a Union of States, reflecting Patel's integration efforts; Preamble: Emphasizes unity and integrity of the nation.

India-Maldives Ties Evolve Amid 'India Out' Challenges and Regional Strategy

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India's partnership with Maldives integrates into its Indo-Pacific maritime strategy, focusing on disaster resilience via CDRI and ISA.
- Despite 'India Out' rhetoric under President Muizzu since 2023,

cooperation persists on climate adaptation and blue economy.
- Joint launches like IRIS at COP26 (2021) highlight shared goals for small island states.
- Nepal's 2015 blockade fears underscore asymmetrical power perceptions in neighbourhood relations.
- BIMSTEC summits, like 2018 in Kathmandu, show greater engagement than SAARC forums.
- Agreements with Nepal on cross-border power lines enhance regional energy trade.
- Concepts: Act East Policy: Strengthens neighbourhood ties; SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region): Guides maritime security cooperation.

UN Peacekeeping Conclave in Delhi

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

• Indian Army to host UN Troop Contributing Countries' Chiefs Conclave on October 14-16, showcasing tech like Drona UAVs and sharing lessons from 280,000 peacekeeper deployments.

• As top contributor with 5,000 troops in Congo and South Sudan, India pushes for 'Protection of Civilians' mandate enhancements.

• Discussions on hybrid threats and gender parity in missions.

• Aligns with UNSC reforms advocacy.

• Concepts: UN Charter Chapter VII: Peace enforcement; India's Non-Alignment: Evolving to multilateralism.

• Reinforces India's global peacekeeping stature

Mission Sudarshan Chakra Advances Multilayered Air Defence Shield

SUBJECT: Defence

- Mission Sudarshan Chakra progressed with DRDO unveiling indigenous prototypes on October 7, 2025, targeting a nationwide multilayered air defence system by 2035 to intercept drones, missiles, and hypersonic threats using integrated radars.
- The initiative incorporates Akashteer command systems and Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM), achieving 90% indigenization under DAP 2020 to enhance Army and Air Force interoperability.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the project at DefConnect 4.0, emphasizing private sector R&D with over 100 startups contributing AI-driven surveillance for multi-domain warfare.
- Exercise Konkan 2025, a bilateral naval drill with the UK, commenced off the western coast, focusing on anti-submarine tactics and joint maneuvers to secure Indian Ocean sea lanes.
- In Tamil Nadu, the Defence Industrial Corridor attracted ₹10,000 crore for UAV and satellite tech at AeroDefCon'25, positioning Coimbatore as a hub for 15,000 jobs in indigenous defence production.
- INS Sahyadri's port call at Kemaman, Malaysia, bolstered maritime ties, enabling joint patrols in the Malacca Strait amid rising Indo-Pacific tensions.
- Concepts: Article 355 – Imposes Union's duty to defend states from external aggression, central to air defence expansions; Make in India – Fosters strategic autonomy through Sudarshan Chakra's indigenous integrations.

93rd Air Force Day Celebrations

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- India celebrated the 93rd anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF) with parades, aerial displays, and tributes at the National War Memorial and Hindon Air

Base, honoring air warriors' contributions to national security.

- The event marked the IAF's founding on October 8, 1932, showcasing its growth into a strategic aerospace force with assets like Rafale jets and S-400 systems.
- Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari highlighted self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat, with over 70% indigenous content in new procurements.
- International delegations from Japan, UK, Russia, Canada, Austria, and Ireland attended, reflecting global defence partnerships.
- Fly-pasts featured Tejas and Sukhoi-30 MKI jets, symbolizing India's advancing aerospace capabilities amid regional security dynamics.
- Concepts: Integrated Theatre Commands – unifies Army, Navy, and Air Force operations; Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 – promotes indigenous R&D.

DRDO Unveils Indian Radio Software Architecture for Enhanced Defence Communications

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- DRDO, in collaboration with Tri-Services, launched IRSA 1.0 at a New Delhi workshop, standardizing software for Software Defined Radios to ensure secure, interoperable military networks.
- The architecture supports real-time encryption and AI-enabled spectrum management, reducing dependency on foreign tech by forty percent.
- Tested in joint exercises, it enhances command-control for border surveillance and naval operations.
- Integration with Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative aims for seventy percent indigenous content in defence electronics by 2027.
- The rollout includes training for ten thousand personnel across Army, Navy, and Air Force.

- **Concepts**: Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020: Prioritizes indigenous procurement and technology transfer.
- **Strategic Autonomy**: Aligns with National Security Strategy for self-reliance in critical defence technologies.

Strategic Security and Indigenous Advancements

SUBJECT: Defence

- India-Australia signed bilateral security pact during Defence Ministers' Dialogue, focusing on Indo-Pacific stability and joint tech R&D.
- IAF to receive first LCA Tejas Mk-1A by late October, enhancing indigenous fighter capabilities amid squadron shortages.
- S-400 upgrades integrated with IACCS for network-centric warfare, countering Pakistan's SEAD attempts post-Operation Sindoor.
- DRDO's Passive Coherent Location Radar added to anti-stealth grid, bolstering low-observable threat detection along LAC.
- Rajnath Singh warned Pakistan on Sir Creek buildup, referencing 1999 naval shootdown and readiness for any misadventure.
- Defence exports crossed Rs 21,000 crore, targeting Rs 50,000 crore by 2029 via MSME integration and global partnerships.

DRDO Launches Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) 1.0

DRDO Launches Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) 1.0

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation unveiled Indian Radio Software Architecture 1.0 for Software Defined Radios at a Tri-Services

workshop, standardizing military communications.

- Enhances interoperability across Army, Navy, and Air Force with indigenous Software Defined Radio technology.
- Reduces foreign dependency by seventy percent, integrating artificial intelligence for secure waveforms.
- **Concepts**: Defence Procurement Procedure 2020 mandates seventy-five percent indigenous content; supports Atmanirbhar in Defence.
- Enables real-time data in joint operations, critical for Line of Actual Control and maritime domains.
- Developed in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited and startups under the Innovations for Defence Excellence scheme.

Strengthens Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capabilities, positioning India in the globa

Strengthening Defence and Peacekeeping

SUBJECT: Defence

- The United Nations Training and Coordination Conclave, hosted by the Indian Army in New Delhi, begins today, with chiefs from thirty-two nations discussing United Nations peacekeeping challenges and best practices.
- The Ministry of Defence utilizes over fifty-one percent of the financial year 2025-26 capital outlay by September, fast-tracking acquisitions like aircraft and submarines for self-reliance.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's Tejas Mark-1A maiden flight is scheduled for October 17 at Nashik, advancing indigenous fighter jet capabilities under Make in India.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers signs a memorandum of understanding with Centum Electronics for high-tech navigation systems,

boosting naval indigenization for modern fleet integration.

- India acquires six AK-630 air defence guns for border protection, enhancing multi-layered defences along sensitive frontiers.
- **Concepts**: Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence targets seventy-five percent indigenous procurement; United Nations Peacekeeping highlights India's role as a top troop provider.

- Software Defined Radio market.

Indian Coast Guard Inducts Two New Fast Patrol Vessels

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Indian Coast Guard launched two advanced Fast Patrol Vessels, ICG Ship Ajit and ICGS Aparajit, at Goa Shipyard to bolster maritime security in the EEZ.
- These vessels enhance round-the-clock surveillance and rapid response against threats, aligning with Atmanirbhar Bharat in naval production.
- Cochin Shipyard delivered 'Mahe', the first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft to the Navy, featuring diesel-waterjet propulsion for underwater operations.
- Defence exports reached $482 million via BrahMos deals, boosted by Operation Sindoor's combat demonstration.
- Concepts: Integrated Theatre Commands for tri-service synergy; Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 for indigenization.

HAL-Russia MoU for SJ-100 Aircraft Production

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MoU with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation to co-produce the SJ-100 regional jet in India, targeting domestic and export markets.

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- The agreement, inked in Moscow on October 27, 2025, boosts civil aviation self-reliance with potential for 100+ aircraft annually by 2028.
- Indian Army awarded Neeraj Chopra honorary Lieutenant Colonel rank, integrating sports excellence with defence motivation.
- Border Roads Organisation advances Project Arunank, upgrading 200 km of strategic roads near LAC in Arunachal for faster troop mobility.
- INS Sahyadri joins Japan for JAIMEX-25, enhancing anti-submarine interoperability in the Indo-Pacific.
- Concepts: Article 355 ensures state defence; aligns with DAP 2020 for indigenous procurement.
- Strategic Autonomy: Strengthens Quad ties, deterring regional threats through joint exercises.

President Droupadi Murmu Flies in Rafale Jet, Marking Historic Milestone

Defence

- President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian head of state to fly in a Rafale fighter jet on October 29, 2025, undertaking a 30-minute sortie from Ambala Air Force Station in the twin-seater trainer variant.
- Accompanied by Group Captain Amit Gehani of the 17 Squadron "Golden Arrows," the flight included advanced maneuvers, highlighting the aircraft's agility and India's growing air combat capabilities.
- This event symbolizes women's empowerment in defence and boosts morale ahead of operational integrations.
- The Rafale induction under a $8.7 billion deal enhances multi-role strike capabilities, with full squadron strength by mid-2026.
- It underscores Atmanirbhar Bharat in aviation, with indigenous maintenance hubs planned.

- Concepts: Article 53 – Executive power vested in the President as nominal commander-in-chief; Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 – Strategic partnerships for tech transfer.

Southern Command Implements PM's JAI Strategy Ahead of Ex Trishul

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Indian Army's Southern Command rolled out the Prime Minister's JAI Strategy—Jointness, Atmanirbharta, Innovation—for Tri-Services Exercise 'Ex Trishul'.
- It fosters synergy across army, navy, and air force, integrating indigenous tech for future readiness.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Tawang, inaugurating the Museum of Valour and unveiling Sardar Patel's statue, celebrating Diwali with troops.
- India redeveloped Ayni Air Base in Tajikistan with $100 million, extending runway to 3,200 meters for strategic logistics.
- Neeraj Chopra received honorary Lieutenant Colonel rank in Territorial Army, blending sports and military ethos.
- Global Firepower Index 2025 ranks India high on manpower and modernization factors.
- Concepts: Article 51A(d): Encourages scientific temper for innovation; Integrated Theatre Commands: Enhance joint operations.

INS Androth Commissioned, Enhancing Anti-Submarine Capabilities

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Androth, an advanced anti-submarine warfare vessel, bolstering maritime surveillance.

- Built under Make in India, it features indigenous systems for underwater threat detection.
- SECL's 'Kabad Se Kalakriti' recycled 800 kg scrap into defence models, promoting waste-to-wealth sustainability.
- Sawalkote Hydropower Project (1,856 MW) in J&K cleared, first post-Indus Waters Treaty suspension.
- AeroDefCon'25 in Chennai attracted Rs 8,658 crore investments for Tamil Nadu's Defence Corridor.
- Poland's NATO Pipeline integration invests €4.7 billion for allied energy security.
- Concepts: Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence: Targets 70% indigenous procurement; Maritime Security: Under SAGAR doctrine.

RBI's Unclaim RBI's Unclaimed Deposits Drive

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

• RBI launched a 12-month incentive scheme for banks to reunite ₹25,000 crore in unclaimed deposits with owners, offering 1% of reunited amounts as rewards.

• The initiative uses AI-driven UPI linkages and Aadhaar verification to trace 10 crore dormant accounts, targeting seniors and NRIs.

• It builds on 2024's success, reuniting ₹15,000 crore, and includes public awareness via RBI's 'Uttam Jeevan' portal.

• Expected to reduce fiscal leakages and boost financial inclusion under PMJDY.

• Concepts: Banking Regulation Act, 1949: Mandates deposit insurance; Digital India: Enhances traceability.

• This promotes a transparent banking ecosystem.

National Pulses Mission Approval

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

• Cabinet approved ₹2,500 crore National Pulses Mission to raise production 20% to 30 million tonnes by 2030, focusing on drought-resistant varieties in 200 rainfed districts.

• It integrates FPOs and contract farming, aiming to cut ₹1 lakh crore import bill and stabilize dal prices at ₹150/kg.

• Pilots in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan target tur and moong, with MSP hikes of 8-10%.

• Aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat for food security.

• Concepts: Article 48A: Environmental protection in agriculture; PM-AASHA: Price support mechanisms.

• Boosts farmer incomes by 50% in pulse belts.

Retail Inflation at 2.07%

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

• August CPI inflation rose to 2.07% from July's 1.8%, driven by 3% vegetable price hike, while core inflation held at 4.2%; MPC kept repo at 6.25% for growth balance.

• RBI projects Q3 FY26 at 3.5%, citing monsoon gains but global oil risks at $75/barrel.

• Focus shifts to transmission of 50 bps cuts since February.

• Supports 7% GDP forecast amid festive demand.

• Concepts: RBI Act, 1934: Inflation targeting at 4%±2%; Fiscal Responsibility Act: Debt sustainability.

• Signals monetary policy pivot to growth.

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RBI LAUNCHES DIGITAL RUPEE PILOT EXPANSION

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Reserve Bank of India expanded digital rupee pilot to 10 more cities, targeting 1 crore transactions by March 2026.
- Pilot includes offline payment features for rural areas, boosting financial inclusion.
- Banks like SBI reported 20% rise in digital wallet usage since pilot began.
- Concepts: Article 265 – Taxation and monetary policy; FEMA, 1999 – Regulates digital currency frameworks.

TAMIL NADU SPACE POLICY 2025 UNVEILED

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Tamil Nadu launched Space Industrial Policy 2025, targeting ₹15,000 crore investments in satellite and rocket manufacturing by 2030.
- Sriperumbudur hub to create 30,000 jobs with ISRO collaboration.
- Offers 25% subsidy for space startups and single-window clearance.
- Concepts: Article 246 – State's industrial policy powers; FDI Policy – 100% auto-approval in space sector.

India's GDP Growth Moderates Amid Private Sector Surge

SUBJECT: Economy

- India's Q2 FY 2025-26 GDP growth eased to 6.5% from 7.1% in the previous quarter, per RBI data released on October 1, 2025, attributed to manufacturing slowdowns and global trade barriers, though services exports provided resilience.
- Private sector project announcements reached a 15-year high of ₹12 lakh crore in H1 FY 2025-26, propelled by green energy and infrastructure outlays,

offsetting moderated government capex for fiscal prudence under FRBM targets.
- The UN downgraded India's 2025 growth forecast to 6.3% from 6.8%, citing robust domestic consumption but risks from US tariffs impacting 20% of bilateral trade volumes.
- In Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin secured ₹75,000 crore commitments in aerospace and defense at AeroDefCon'25 in Chennai, targeting 50,000 jobs by 2032 in manufacturing clusters like Hosur.
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched UPI services at Lulu Mall in Doha, Qatar, on October 7, 2025, enabling instant remittances for 3 million Indian expatriates and amplifying fintech exports to the Gulf.
- The RBI hinted at cryptocurrency policy evolution, preparing stablecoin frameworks for UPI integration to attract $50 billion in digital inflows while curbing volatility.
- Concepts: Article 266 – Regulates Consolidated Fund for balanced fiscal management in growth moderation; Atmanirbhar Bharat – Drives self-reliance via private investments and UPI's global expansion

Prime Minister Inaugurates India Mobile Congress 2025

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 in New Delhi, Asia's largest digital technology expo, featuring 500+ exhibitors showcasing 5G/6G, AI, and satellite communications.
- The event, themed 'Bharat to Global Leadership,' saw participation from 20+ countries, focusing on telecom advancements and startup ecosystems.
- Over 100 new products were launched, with MoUs worth ₹15,000 crore signed for telecom infrastructure development.

- It aligns with the National Digital Communications Policy, targeting 1.2 billion broadband users by 2026 and positioning India as a global telecom hub.
- Discussions emphasized spectrum allocation and cybersecurity, supporting 2.5 million jobs in the sector.
- Concepts: Atmanirbhar Bharat – drives self-reliance in electronics; Digital India – enhances connectivity for inclusive growth.

Record Solar and Wind Energy Generation Boosts Renewable Targets

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- India achieved a record twelve percent contribution from solar and wind to the national grid in Q3 2025, generating eighty-five gigawatts, aligning with the five hundred gigawatt non-fossil fuel target by 2030.
- PM Modi's inauguration of the Green Energy Corridor Phase II added thirteen gigawatts capacity, attracting one point five lakh crore rupees in private investments.
- The scheme reduced import dependency on coal by fifteen percent, creating five lakh green jobs in states like Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- Integration with smart grids enabled twenty-four by seven renewable supply, cutting power costs by twenty percent for industrial consumers.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) partnerships facilitated technology transfer from Australia and France.
- **Concepts**: Section 61 of Electricity Act, 2003: Mandates renewable purchase obligations for distribution licensees.
- **Fiscal Federalism**: Under Article 246, concurrent powers for Centre-states in energy policy implementation.

Economic Growth and Policy Initiatives

SUBJECT: Economy

- IMF hailed India as 'key growth engine' with 7.8% Q1 FY26 GDP surge, downplaying Trump tariff impacts via domestic tax reforms boosting consumption.
- Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) launched at GIFT City, enabling real-time forex settlements to attract $50 billion FDI by 2030.
- RBI cut repo rate to 6.25%, projecting 6.7% FY26 growth amid resilient exports outpacing global averages.
- India extended US LPG import tender deadline to October 17, diversifying energy sources to reduce Middle East dependency.
- Digital payments dipped to yearly low in September, but NPCI introduced biometric wearables to revive UPI transactions.
- Neo-Middle Class expansion explained by PM Modi during GST Bachat Utsav, targeting 30 crore beneficiaries via simplified taxation.

Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses: Boosting Domestic Production

Subject: Economy

- Launched on October 11, 2025, with an 11,440 crore rupee outlay till 2030-31, the Mission aims to expand pulse cultivation to 310 lakh hectares, targeting 350 lakh tonnes output to cut imports by 50 percent.
- Focus on high-yield varieties in states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, integrating with the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana for irrigated farming, addressing a 15 million tonne annual import dependency.
- The scheme promotes self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat, with subsidies for seeds and technology, expected to stabilize prices and enhance farmer incomes by 20 percent.
- Ties to the National Food Security Mission, linking to Article 48A (Directive

Principles) on agriculture and environmental protection.
- Challenges include climate variability, with solutions via crop insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, monitored through digital dashboards.
- Projected impact: Reduce edible oil and pulse deficits, contributing to 7 percent agricultural gross domestic product growth by 2027.

Nine Years of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code: Strengthening Corporate Resolve

Subject: Economy

- Marking the ninth anniversary of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016, the government reported over 8,000 cases resolved, recovering 3.5 lakh crore rupees, boosting creditor confidence and easing credit flow.
- Recent amendments in 2025 have reduced resolution timelines to an average of 180 days, with success rates climbing to 35 percent, aiding micro, small, and medium enterprises amid economic slowdowns.
- The IBC's impact on gross domestic product is estimated at 1 to 2 percent through asset revival, though challenges like delays in appeals persist, with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal backlog at 2,000 cases.
- Integration with digital platforms like the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India portal has streamlined filings, aligning with Ease of Doing Business reforms under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- For competitive exams: Links to Article 19(1)(g) on the right to trade and economic policies promoting fiscal discipline via the Fiscal Responsibility Act.
- Future outlook includes artificial intelligence-driven valuation tools and expansion to personal insolvency, targeting a 10 lakh crore rupee recovery by 2030.

Economic Growth and Inflation Trends

SUBJECT: Economy

- The International Monetary Fund upgrades India's financial year 2026 growth forecast to six point six percent, crediting strong domestic consumption despite United States tariff impacts, positioning India as a global growth engine.
- Retail inflation dips to one point five four percent in September 2025, the lowest since 2017, driven by moderated food prices and stable energy costs.
- The Wholesale Price Index eases to zero point one three percent in September, reflecting softening in primary articles and fuels, aiding monetary policy easing.
- Salaries are projected to rise by nine percent in 2026, according to an AON survey, fueled by resilient consumption and policy support amid a global slowdown.
- Tamil Nadu's Economic Survey 2024-25 reports four point eight percent retail inflation until January, with the Global Investors Meet 2024 securing six point six four lakh crore rupees in investments for fourteen point five five lakh jobs.
- **Concepts**: The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act includes an escape clause for economic shocks; Goods and Services Tax reforms aim for price stability.

Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) Launch for Rupee Trade

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- FM Sitharaman unveils platform at GIFT City for rupee-denominated settlements with EFTA, slashing USD dependency by 20%.
- Enables $100 bn FDI inflows over 15 years under TEPA; integrates UPI for seamless cross-border payments.

- Atmanirbhar boost: Reduces forex risks for exporters; pilot with UAE processes ₹5,000 crore monthly.
- Challenges: Regulatory harmonization with 10 partner nations; GS-3 relevance to monetary policy autonomy.
- Long-term: Aligns with RBI's internationalization vision, targeting 10% global trade share by 2030.

IMF Upgrades India's GDP Growth Forecast to 6.6%

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- IMF projected India's GDP growth at 6.6% for FY 2025-26, outpacing China's 4.8%, driven by strong domestic consumption despite global tariff challenges.
- The upward revision from April forecasts reflects Q1 FY26's 7.8% growth, with official estimates steady at 6.3-6.8%.
- Forex reserves hit a new high, enhancing import coverage and investor confidence amid volatile global markets.
- Emphasis on diversified economy and internal demand to mitigate trade headwinds.
- Concepts: Balance of Payments under IMF's Special Drawing Rights; Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act for economic stability.

Industrial Growth Rebound Expected in H2FY26

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Bank of Baroda forecasts India's industrial output to accelerate in H2FY26, driven by GST rationalization, festive demand, and easing inflation.
- September 2025 data showed 5.2% IIP growth, with infrastructure and consumer durables outperforming amid global uncertainties.
- NITI Aayog's report highlights services sector's 55% GVA contribution, pushing

for innovation hubs to achieve Viksit Bharat @2047.
- CEA V. Anantha Nageswaran stated GDP growth could exceed 6.7% in FY26, supported by fiscal discipline and domestic resilience.
- EPFO data indicates rising withdrawals as economic stress signals, urging financial literacy reforms for informal workers.
- Concepts: Article 39(b) directs economic justice; links to SDG 8 for decent work and growth.
- Fiscal Federalism: Urban reforms under 74th Amendment address ₹1 lakh crore infrastructure gaps.

SEBI Proposes Reforms to Mutual Fund Fees for Investor Protection

Economy

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) released a consultation paper on October 30, 2025, proposing caps on expense ratios at 1.5% for equity mutual fund schemes to reduce costs and enhance retail investor returns.
- The reforms aim to address high fee structures that erode long-term gains, promoting transparency and fairness in the $600 billion mutual fund industry.
- It includes rationalizing total expense ratios (TER) and performance fees, with stakeholder feedback sought until November 2025.
- This move aligns with global best practices, potentially increasing market participation among middle-class savers.
- The proposal could save investors up to 0.5% annually, boosting net asset values and encouraging SIP inflows.
- Concepts: SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 – Framework for fee disclosures and investor safeguards; Article 300A – Protection against arbitrary deprivation of property rights in financial assets.

NITI Aayog Reports Highlight Services-Led Growth and Agrarian Inequality

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- NITI Aayog's Services Thematic Series reports analyze India's services sector contributions to GDP and employment, amid skill mismatch challenges.
- They project services to drive 60% of growth by 2030, emphasizing digital upskilling.
- A separate report on agrarian inequality reveals stark landholding disparities, with small farmers comprising 86% but holding only 47% of land.
- Cultural significance of agriculture as 'dharti-mata' links to MSME and rural-urban chains.
- Tamil Nadu's 2025 Economic Survey notes 18% GDP from manufacturing, with risks from global volatility.
- Telecom Centres of Excellence piloted Samriddh Gram services in three states for rural digital transformation.
- Concepts: Atmanirbhar Bharat: Promotes inclusive growth; SDG 2: Addresses zero hunger through equitable agrarian reforms.

Mugger Crocodile Population Mapping Initiative

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department launched surveys to map mugger crocodiles in coastal wetlands, addressing rising human-wildlife conflicts.
- Covers five hundred kilometers of habitats like Pichavaram, using drones and camera traps.
- Aims to update conservation plans under Project Crocodile.
- **Concepts**: Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 protects muggers; integrates with Coastal Regulation Zone rules.

- Reports a population of over three hundred, threatened by habitat loss and pollution.
- Promotes eco-tourism pilots to reduce encroachments.
- Integrates with national Project Tiger for wetland restoration.

Supreme Court Verdict on Tamil Nadu Governor's Bill Assent Delays

SUBJECT: Polity

- The Supreme Court, in a ruling on October 3, 2025, rebuked Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi for undue delays in assenting to 10 state bills under Article 200, deeming it an overreach that undermines federal structure and state legislative autonomy.
- The verdict mandates Governors to process bills within three months, invoking constitutional morality to prevent partisan interference, and directs immediate clearance of pending legislations on education and land reforms in Tamil Nadu.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin termed the judgment a triumph for cooperative federalism, accusing the Centre of weaponizing Raj Bhavan against opposition-led states, with implications for similar disputes in Kerala and West Bengal.
- The case originated from petitions challenging the Governor's referral of bills to the President, highlighting tensions in Centre-state relations and the judiciary's role as a federal arbiter.
- In Tamil Nadu, the ruling accelerates implementation of bills on university vice-chancellor appointments and women's reservation, bolstering the DMK government's agenda ahead of 2026 assembly elections.
- The decision also addresses broader ECI announcements for eight assembly bypolls alongside Bihar elections,

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ensuring uniform electoral oversight without gubernatorial vetoes.

- **Concepts**: Article 200 – Outlines Governor's powers on state bills, emphasizing timely assent over discretionary delays; Doctrine of Constitutional Morality – Ensures executive actions align with egalitarian and federal values

Governance and Electoral Reforms

SUBJECT: Polity

- The Supreme Court initiated hearings on the Presidential Reference under Article 143 regarding Governors' timelines for assenting to state Bills, stemming from the Tamil Nadu Governor case where 10 Bills were delayed.
- Election Commission warned political parties in Bihar against using AI-generated deepfakes in campaigns, mandating clear labeling for synthetic content to ensure electoral transparency.
- Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) retained its national party status, while Trinamool Congress (TMC), CPI, and NCP lost theirs, impacting their symbol usage and funding eligibility.
- The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments were highlighted in discussions on strengthening Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies, with new guidelines for devolution of powers.
- National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) debates resurfaced amid calls for reforming the collegium system to enhance judicial transparency.
- West Bengal's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls assured no legitimate voters would be deleted, countering opposition claims of mass removals.

Election Commission on TVK Party's Status in Madras HC

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The ECI informed the Madras High Court that actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) lacks formal recognition, amid a PIL seeking derecognition over a rally stampede killing 41.
- The court reserved orders on the plea, emphasizing accountability for political events under the Representation of the People Act.
- TVK's unregistered status bars it from reserved symbols, forcing independent contesting in upcoming polls.
- This highlights ECI's scrutiny on new parties' compliance with organizational norms and financial disclosures.
- The case underscores tensions between celebrity politics and electoral integrity in Tamil Nadu.
- Concepts: Section 29A, RPA 1951: Regulates political party registration and symbol allotment.

National Sports Governance Bill 2025 Introduced

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Centre tabled the Bill in Lok Sabha to overhaul sports bodies, mandating transparency, athlete representation, and anti-doping measures.
- It establishes a National Sports Regulatory Board to oversee federations, curbing administrative overreach seen in past scandals.
- Provisions include 30% athlete quotas in decision-making and mandatory ethics officers in national bodies.
- The Bill aligns with Olympic Charter reforms, aiming to boost India's medal tally post-Paris 2024.
- States like Tamil Nadu welcome it for empowering regional sports councils.
- Concepts: Article 51A(h): Promotes excellence in sports as a fundamental duty.

Monsoon Session of Parliament Kicks Off

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The session opened with debates on fiscal federalism and AI governance, amid opposition pushes for quorum on key Bills.
- Agenda includes amendments to the Banking Laws Act 2025, notified for enhanced consumer protections and digital banking norms.
- Speaker Om Birla urged consensus on 73rd/74th Amendments' implementation for panchayat devolution.
- Protests over state funding delays marked Day 1, with adjournments in both Houses.
- The session precedes Bihar polls, amplifying regional voices on governance.
- Concepts: Article 110: Defines money Bills, central to fiscal policy debates.

Supreme Court Permits Green Crackers for Diwali in Delhi-NCR

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Supreme Court relaxed its firecracker ban in Delhi-NCR, allowing green crackers during Diwali from October 18 to 21, with restricted timings (8-10 PM) and specific types.
- The decision balances cultural traditions with environmental concerns, with Delhi Police and CPCB tasked with enforcement and air quality monitoring.
- Building on 2018 and 2023 rulings, only low-emission, barium nitrate-free crackers are permitted to mitigate AQI spikes.
- Environmental groups welcomed the move but called for stricter vendor licensing and public awareness campaigns.
- Concepts: Doctrine of Basic Structure – Ensures judicial oversight on executive actions affecting fundamental rights, like

the right to a clean environment under Article 21.
- The ruling aligns with the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, reinforcing pollution control principles.
- This precedent may encourage other states to adopt uniform standards for festive emissions.

Transgender Activist Joins Supreme Court Committee

SUBJECT: POLITY

- Akkai Padmashali, a Karnataka-based transgender rights activist, was appointed to a Supreme Court committee to draft an equal opportunity policy for transgender rights.
- As the first transgender member on a national panel, her focus is on inclusive policies for employment, healthcare, and education.
- The appointment follows the 2014 NALSA judgment, advancing gender-neutral rights under Articles 14 and 15.
- Padmashali's advocacy includes legal aid for over 1,000 transgender individuals and pushing for reservation quotas.
- Concepts: Article 16(6) – Supports affirmative action for marginalized groups, tied to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- The committee aims for cabinet approval of its draft by 2026, addressing gaps in state-level policy implementation.
- This step reflects judicial commitment to diversity, potentially shaping future electoral reforms for gender inclusivity.

ECI Launches Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls in Tamil Nadu

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is set to launch a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil

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Nadu within a week, ahead of 2026 Assembly elections.

- This nationwide exercise focuses on voter verification and inclusion, linking to broader electoral reforms under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- Madras High Court monitored the process, emphasizing timely updates for accurate voter lists.
- SIR includes door-to-door surveys and claims-objections periods to ensure inclusivity.
- Concepts: Article 326 for adult suffrage; Delimitation Commission for seat redistribution post-census.

Lokpal Under Scrutiny: Decline in Anti-Corruption Filings

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Lokpal institution records a sharp drop in complaints, from 2,469 in 2022-23 to only 233 in 2025, despite the activation of its Prosecution Wing in January.
- Experts attribute the decline to public disillusionment and procedural delays in inquiry disposal.
- The Central Vigilance Commission pushes for mandatory annual integrity reports from public authorities under the Lokpal Act, 2013.
- A parliamentary panel reviews the need for suo motu powers for Lokpal to initiate probes without formal complaints.
- Concepts: Article 124(2) – Appointment of Supreme Court judges; Lokpal's independence mirrors judicial autonomy.
- Doctrine of Constitutional Morality – Ensures institutional integrity in anti-corruption mechanisms.

ECI Orders Special Revision of Tamil Nadu Electoral Rolls

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Election Commission directs a week-long Special Intensive Revision (SIR) across Tamil Nadu starting November 1, 2025, ahead of 2026 Assembly polls.
- Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to verify 6.2 crore voters using Aadhaar-linked EPIC validation.
- Special focus on newly eligible 18-year-olds and migrant worker inclusion in urban constituencies.
- Political parties demand live webcasting of Form 6, 7, 8A processing to ensure transparency.
- Concepts: Article 326 – Adult suffrage and electoral roll integrity.
- Basic Structure Doctrine – Electoral fairness as a non-amendable feature.

New IT Rules Mandate Executive Accountability for Platforms

SUBJECT: POLITY

- Amended IT (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, effective November 15, 2025, require CEOs/CROs of social media firms to certify content moderation compliance quarterly.
- Non-compliance attracts personal liability under Section 79(3) of the IT Act.
- Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) to be expanded with retired High Court judges.
- Tamil Nadu government seeks state-level digital ethics panels for regional language content.
- Concepts: Article 19(2) – Reasonable restrictions on free speech in digital public squares.

Election Commission Issues Notice to Prashant Kishor for Dual Voter Registration

SUBJECT: POLITY

- Poll strategist Prashant Kishor received a notice for registering as a voter in both West Bengal and Bihar, violating the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

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- Potential penalties include imprisonment or fines; ECI is conducting special revision of electoral rolls in Bihar to address discrepancies.
- Highlights issues in voter list integrity ahead of state elections, emphasizing single registration under Section 17.
- Kishor's case underscores challenges in multi-state political engagements and digital voter verification.
- Concepts: Article 326 guarantees universal adult suffrage based on adult franchise.
- Model Code of Conduct: ECI's guidelines prevent misuse of official machinery during elections.

INDIA Bloc Releases Manifesto for Bihar Assembly Elections

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The INDIA bloc, led by RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, unveiled a 32-page manifesto on October 28, 2025, promising job creation and social welfare reforms.
- Rahul Gandhi to join campaign from October 29; focuses on youth employment, women's safety, and agricultural support.
- BJP criticized the opposition's stance on ECI's special intensive revision of voter lists in 12 states and UTs.
- Aims to counter NDA's narrative in the polls, emphasizing inclusive governance and anti-corruption measures.
- Concepts: Article 243O bars interference in electoral matters by courts post-commencement.
- Federalism: Reflects state-level coalition dynamics under the parliamentary system.

8th Central Pay Commission Constituted

SUBJECT: POLITY

- The Union Cabinet approved the formation of the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) to revise pay, pensions, and allowances for over 48 lakh central government employees and 65 lakh pensioners, effective from January 1, 2026.
- Chaired by former Finance Secretary Ram Mohan, the commission includes members from NITI Aayog and the Department of Expenditure, with a mandate to submit recommendations within 18 months.
- It addresses disparities in Dearness Allowance and pension structures, focusing on fiscal sustainability amid inflation pressures.
- The move follows the 7th CPC's implementation in 2016, aiming to boost employee morale and align with Viksit Bharat goals.
- Coverage extends to defence personnel, All India Services, and Union Territory staff, marking a step towards equitable remuneration.
- Concepts: Article 309 empowers Parliament to regulate civil service conditions, ensuring fair pay as a constitutional imperative.
- Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation: Guarantees periodic revisions to uphold administrative efficiency and social equity.

Election Commission Initiates Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls

Polity

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the first large-scale document-based voter verification exercise in nearly two decades, using pre-printed forms based on data as of October 27, 2025, to update, authenticate, and purify voter lists ahead of upcoming elections.
- Booth Level Agents (BLAs) from recognized political parties are assisting in collecting forms, verifying voter

details, and resolving discrepancies to ensure transparency and prevent electoral malpractices.

- The drive targets a 5-10% increase in voter inclusions, with a focus on youth aged 18-25 and marginalized communities through house-to-house surveys, addressing gaps from the 2024 general elections.
- Pre-printed forms include personal details like name, EPIC number, and address from the ECI database, streamlining the process while allowing corrections for inaccuracies.
- This revision reinforces democratic integrity by curbing issues like duplicate entries and deletions, with completion targeted before state polls.
- Concepts: Article 326 – Universal adult suffrage for inclusive participation; Representation of the People Act, 1951 – Section 21 on preparation and periodic revision of electoral rolls.

2025 Nobel Prize in Physics Announced

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to three scientists for quantum error correction, enabling scalable quantum computing for cryptography and drug discovery.
- Their work addresses qubit instability, advancing fault-tolerant quantum systems beyond classical computing.
- India's National Quantum Mission, with ₹6,000 crore investment, collaborates with IISc Bengaluru, IBM, and Google on quantum applications.
- The prize underscores the global quantum race, with India focusing on hybrid quantum-classical systems.
- Applications include optimizing supply chains and simulating molecular interactions for sustainable energy.
- Concepts: Schrödinger's Cat – illustrates quantum superposition; NISQ Era – noisy intermediate-scale quantum devices