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Polity

Justice Shree Chandrashekhar sworn in as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court

Introduction

- Justice Shree Chandrashekhar has been sworn in as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- This marks a significant transition in the judiciary of one of India's most prominent and busiest High Courts.

Why in news?

- The oath was administered by Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan at a formal ceremony at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.
- The ceremony drew senior state leadership, reflecting the court's judicial significance.

Background

- He had been serving as Acting Chief Justice following the elevation of Justice Alok Aradhe to the Supreme Court of India.
- Known for a deep understanding of constitutional and civil law, backed by years of judicial experience.
- His stint as Acting Chief Justice provided firsthand experience in managing the High Court's vast caseload and administrative responsibilities.

Significance

- The Chief Justice's leadership is central to overseeing judicial efficiency and timely case disposal.
- The role upholds constitutional values and strengthens justice delivery in a highly influential High Court.
- It steers legal reforms and technological adoption as courts focus on digitisation, reducing case backlogs, and enhancing public access to justice.

Facts/General knowledge

- The Bombay High Court was established in 1862 and is among the oldest in India.
- Its jurisdiction spans Maharashtra, Goa, and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- Dignitaries in attendance included Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Rahul Narwekar, Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti, and Director General of Police Rashmi Shukla.

Appointment of T.C.A Kalyani as 29th Controller General of Accounts

Introduction

- T.C.A Kalyani, a 1991 batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer, has been appointed as the 29th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Why in news?

- The Government of India appointed her with immediate effect from 1 September 2025.
- She succeeds S.S. Dubey, who retired on 31 August 2025 after serving since March 2023.

Background

- Served as Principal Chief Controller of Accounts in the Ministry of Home Affairs, overseeing budgeting and accounting.
- Worked across key ministries: Ministry of Defence; Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications); Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers; Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Contributions include leading DBT rollout for farmers' fertiliser purchases; digital transformation of MTNL billing systems; and restructuring financial frameworks at Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL).
- Recognised for transparency and efficiency, leading innovative initiatives to improve public

expenditure management and digital accounting.

Significance

- Recognised as a champion of transparency and efficiency, with a record of advancing public expenditure management and digital accounting.
- As the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India, the CGA's role entails maintaining a technically sound management accounting system and analysing fiscal indicators.

Facts/General knowledge

- The CGA prepares monthly and annual analyses of expenditure, revenues, borrowings, and fiscal indicators of the Government of India.
- It leads digitisation of government payments, Public Financial Management System (PFMS), and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- It frames and enforces government accounting rules, procedures, and standards.
- It manages the Central Payment and Accounting System through Pay & Account offices and the Central Pension Accounting office.
- The CGA's functions are governed by the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961 (framed under Article 77 of the Constitution).
- Eligibility and appointment: Senior ICAS officers with over 30 years of service are appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on the recommendation of the Ministry of Finance.

Additional Charge of Maharashtra Governorship to Acharya Devvrat

Introduction

- Acharya Devvrat, the Governor of Gujarat, has been assigned additional charge as Governor of Maharashtra after C.P. Radhakrishnan resigned following his election as VicePresident of India.

Why in news?

- The Maharashtra Governor's post fell vacant when C.P. Radhakrishnan was elected VicePresident of India in September 2025 and resigned.
- Acharya Devvrat was given additional charge of Maharashtra to address the vacancy.

Background

- Article 153 of the Indian Constitution allows the same person to be appointed Governor of two or more states.
- This provision enables temporary or permanent overlapping governorships for smooth governance.
- The President of India issues an order assigning such additional charges when vacancies arise.
- Acharya Devvrat continues as Governor of Gujarat and previously served as Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
- He is known for promoting natural farming and yogic sciences.

Significance

- Maintains continuity of the Governor's constitutional functions in Maharashtra during the transition.
- Ensures governance stability during vacancies, as facilitated by Article 153.

Facts/General knowledge

- Acharya Devvrat was appointed Governor of Gujarat in July 2019.
- The oath ceremony for the additional charge was held at Mumbai's Raj Bhavan, with the oath administered in Sanskrit.
- The Governor is the constitutional head of a state, appointed by the President of India.

CP Radhakrishnan elected Vice President of India

Introduction

- CP Radhakrishnan has been elected as India's 15th Vice President.
- The election followed the resignation of

Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Why in news?

- CP Radhakrishnan defeated former Supreme Court Judge B Sudershan Reddy.
- Vote tally: Radhakrishnan secured 452 votes; Reddy garnered 300 votes.
- Voting turnout was 98.2%.

Background

- Served as Governor of Jharkhand, Telangana, Puducherry, and Maharashtra.
- Professionally an agriculturist and industrialist.
- Twoterm member of the Lok Sabha from Coimbatore.

Significance

- Holds the secondhighest constitutional office in India (Article 63).
- Serves as the exofficio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- Acts as President in the President's absence or when the office falls vacant (Article 65).
- Third leader from Tamil Nadu to hold the position of Vice President.

Facts/General knowledge

- Election and eligibility:
  Elected by MPs from both Houses of Parliament via proportional representation.
- Must be an Indian citizen, at least 35 years old, and qualified for Rajya Sabha membership.
- Term and vacancy:
  Serves a fiveyear term, with the possibility of continuing until a successor is elected.
- Removal:
  Can be removed by a resolution in the Rajya Sabha and approval from the Lok Sabha, with a 14day notice (Article 67).
- Notable officeholders and precedents:
  Only Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (1st and 2nd VP, elected unopposed both times) and Mohammad Hamid Ansari (13th and 14th VP, 2007–2017) have served two consecutive terms.
- Apart from S. Radhakrishnan, M. Hidayatullah (7th VP) and Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma (9th VP) were also elected unopposed.
- Krishan Kant (10th VP, 1997–2002) was the first and only Vice President to die while in office.
- Justice Mohammad Hidayatullah is the only person in Indian history to have served as Chief Justice of India, Acting President, and Vice President.

Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri takes oath as Chief Justice of Patna High Court

Introduction

- On 21 September 2025, Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri took oath as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court at Raj Bhavan, Patna.
- The oath was administered by Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, in the presence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, and other dignitaries.

Why in news?

- Justice Bajanthri has been elevated as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court.
- The oathtaking ceremony in Patna formalised this appointment.

Background

- Justice Bajanthri is a senior judge with vast judicial experience.
- He previously served in other High Courts, contributing significantly to judicial reforms and key constitutional matters.
- His elevation reflects ongoing judicial reshuffles approved by the Supreme Court Collegium and the Government of India to strengthen leadership across High Courts.

Significance

- Judicial leadership: As Chief Justice, he will oversee administration, case management, and reforms in the Patna High Court, one of India's oldest High Courts.
- Strengthening Bihar's judiciary: The appointment comes at a crucial time to address pending cases and improve judicial

infrastructure in Bihar.
- Part of broader changes: It aligns with recent appointments in several High Courts following the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendations to streamline the justice system.

Facts/General knowledge
- Patna High Court was established on 1 March 1916.
- It was inaugurated by the GovernorGeneral and Viceroy of India, Lord Hardinge.
- Its jurisdiction covers the entire state of Bihar.
- It is known for landmark rulings in constitutional, criminal, and socioeconomic matters.

Justice M Sundar sworn in as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court

Introduction
- Justice M Sundar was sworn in as the 10th Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court on 15 September 2025.
- The oath was administered by Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at around 10 a.m.
- The ceremony took place at Darbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, in Imphal.

Why in news?
- The appointment follows the retirement of Justice Kempaiah Somashekar, who had a brief tenure beginning on 22 May 2025 and retired a day before the swearingin.
- It marks another significant appointment in India's higher judiciary.

Background
- Born on 19 July 1966 in Chennai, Justice Sundar graduated from Madras Law College as part of the first batch of the fiveyear integrated law course.
- He enrolled as an advocate in 1989 and built a strong legal practice over two decades, primarily before the Madras High Court.
- He was elevated as a permanent judge of the Madras High Court in October 2016.
- Before his transfer to Manipur, he was the second seniormost judge at the Madras High Court, reflecting extensive experience and seniority.

Significance
- The appointment aligns with a broader trend of experienced judges from southern high courts being appointed to head northeastern state judiciaries.
- This fosters regional balance and judicial diversity.

Facts/General knowledge
- Justice Sundar's elevation followed a recommendation by the Supreme Court Collegium.
- The Supreme Court Collegium, comprising the Chief Justice of India and senior judges, plays a central role in the appointment of high court judges in India.

Economic

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025: India's Performance and Innovation Ecosystem

Introduction
- The Global Innovation Index (GII), introduced in 2007, provides comprehensive metrics and methodologies for assessing the wide spectrum of innovations across economies.
- Published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), it is a key benchmark for evaluating an economy's innovation ecosystem.
- Recognised by the UN General Assembly as an authoritative reference for shaping Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policies.

Why in news?
- India climbed to the 38th position among 139 economies in the GII 2025, improving from 48th place in 2020 and rising from 81st in 2015.

- India ranks 1st among lowermiddleincome economies and in Central & Southern Asia.

Background

- Funding mechanism: India invested 0.65% of GDP in R&D, compared to China (2.43%), Brazil (1.15%), and South Korea (2.5%).
- Patent filings: India ranks 6th globally in patent applications; its patenttoGDP ratio rose from 144 (2013) to 381 (2023).
- Strategic policy support: Programmes like Startup India, Make in India, and the Production Linked Initiative (PLI) scheme provide foundational support; the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) has a Rs 10,000 crore corpus; a one lakh crore Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) scheme aims to boost private sector R&D; the Startup India Hub links 1,140+ incubators and accelerators; the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme disbursed Rs 945 crore in 2023.
- DeepTech push: The National Semiconductor Mission is backed by Rs 76,000 crore; the IndiaAI Mission and PLI for quantum technologies aim to enhance selfreliance.
- Rise of unicorns and Cleantech: India hosts 100+ unicorns, the 3rdlargest ecosystem globally; the private sector leads in Cleantech with startups such as Ather Energy and Ola Electric.
- Geographical diversification: Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) are decentralising innovation; over 45% of DPIITrecognised startups emerge from tier2 and tier3 cities.
- Barriers: GERD remains ~0.7% of GDP, far below leading nations; the private sector contributed 36.4% of R&D funding (2020–21), with a disconnect between academia and industry; historic emphasis on defence and space led to underinvestment in areas like semiconductors, advanced materials, and pharmaceuticals; industry riskaversion favours imported technologies and business model innovations over deeptech; bureaucratic hurdles impede technology transfer due to procedural and IP challenges.
- Reforms needed: Boost R&D spending over the next decade, increase private and philanthropic contributions, and fully deploy the Rs 1 lakh crore innovation fund within 3–5 years; promote universityled research to expand knowledge frontiers and support commercialisation; establish sectorspecific public–private innovation hubs in AI, semiconductors, and clean energy with shared facilities and venture funds; enable crosssector collaboration via industry councils (e.g., a CleanTech Council for solar, EVs, and energy efficiency); build regional innovation clusters in nonmetros to support agritech and social enterprises with funding, mentorship, and infrastructure.

Significance

- India's strengths: Knowledge & Technology Outputs (22) and Market Sophistication (38).
- India's weaknesses: Business Sophistication (64), Infrastructure (61), and Institutions (58).
- Positive socioeconomic impact: Labour productivity rose 2.5% in 2024; global life expectancy reached 73 years; extreme poverty fell to 817 million, under half of 2004 levels.
- Rapid technological advancement: 2024 saw gains in supercomputing efficiency and battery prices; adoption slowed; progress lagged in wind power and genome sequencing; novel drug development regressed.

Facts/General knowledge

- Topranked economies: Switzerland (1st), Sweden (2nd), USA (3rd), South Korea (4th), Singapore (5th); China entered the top 10 for the first time, ranking 10th.
- Top innovation clusters: Shenzhen–Hong Kong–Guangzhou (1st) and Tokyo–Yokohama (2nd).

Bima Sugam – Unified Digital Marketplace for Insurance

Introduction

- Bima Sugam is a unified digital marketplace for all insurance needs—life, health, and general—where users can buy, renew, manage, and claim policies on a single platform.
- It will securely store policy documents to enable seamless, endtoend policy servicing and claims.

Why in news?

- The Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF) has launched Bima Sugam, envisioned as the world's largest integrated online insurance marketplace.

Background

- Bima Sugam functions like UPI, creating a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for insurance.
- It forms part of IRDAI's Bima Trinity and is supported by the Life Insurance Council and the General Insurance Council.
- Bima Trinity:
  Bima Sugam: Unified digital platform for buying, servicing, and settling insurance policies.
- Bima Vistaar: Bundled policy covering life, health, property, and accidents with quick claim payouts.
- Bima Vaahaks: Womenled grassroots network promoting insurance awareness and Bima Vistaar adoption.

Significance

- It is the first step in building DPI for insurance, supporting 'Insurance for All by 2047' under Viksit Bharat 2047.
- It ensures transparency, lowcost access, and a centralised database.
- It fosters innovation with quicker adoption of new products.
- It differs from private distributors by enabling endtoend policy services and claim settlement at low cost, unlike private firms that only sell policies and earn high commissions.

Facts/General knowledge

- Coverage on Bima Sugam:
  Life Insurance: Term plans, savings (participating and nonparticipating), annuity, pension, ULIPs.
- Health Insurance: Comprehensive medical and wellness products.
- Motor Insurance: Thirdparty liability and owndamage policies.
- Travel and Personal Accident Insurance for individuals and families.
- Commercial Insurance: Property, marine, agricultural, and industryspecific products.
- Insurance sector in India:
- India is the 10th largest insurance market globally and is projected to become the 6th largest by 2032, surpassing Germany, Canada, Italy, and South Korea.
- Insurance density increased from USD 92 in FY23 to USD 95 in FY24 (per capita premium).
- Insurance penetration declined from 4% in FY23 to 3.7% in FY24 (global average 7%).

GST New Rate List in India 2025

Introduction

- The GST Council has approved a streamlined GST structure that consolidates most items into two main slabs (5% and 18%), expands exemptions, and introduces a special 40% rate for luxury and sin goods.
- The reform reduces complexity, lowers taxes on dailyuse items, and raises taxes on highend and sin products.

Why in news?

- New GST slabs take effect from 22nd September 2025.
- Most items currently in the 12% and 28% slabs will move to 5% and 18%.
- A special 40% slab is introduced for luxury and sin goods such as highend cars and tobacco products.

Background

- Current GST slabs (2025):
  0% (Exempt): Essentials like fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, bread.
- 5%: Common goods such as packaged food.
- 12%: Processed food, fruit juices, frozen meat, butter, ghee, nuts.
- 18%: Most services (restaurants, telecom, banking), cosmetics, toiletries, hair oil, toothpaste, capital goods.
- 28%: Electronic goods (TVs, refrigerators), small cars and bikes, cement, paints, highend luxury and premium cars and bikes, sin goods like tobacco.

Significance

- Easy structure with fewer GST rates to avoid confusion.
- Dailyuse items taxed lower; luxury and sin goods taxed higher.
- Easier online GST return filing for people and businesses.
- Impact highlights:
  Cheaper: Personal health and life insurance, hair oil, shampoo, packaged food, footwear, small cars and bikes, household appliances like ACs, TVs, washing machines.
- Same: Essentials like milk, bread, vegetables; most services under 18% such as restaurant, financial services, education.
- Costlier: Luxury vehicles, tobacco, highend lifestyle products.

Facts/General knowledge

- New GST slabs (from 22nd September 2025):
  0%: Essentials plus personal health and life insurance, exercise books and notebooks, maps and charts.
- 5%: Packaged food, footwear, medicines, small household items, and other commonly used products.
- 18%: Restaurant, telecom and financial services; electronics like TVs, washing machines, laptops and dailyuse appliances; motorcycles below 350cc; cars below 1200cc.
- Special 40%: Luxury and sin goods such as highend cars and tobacco products.
- Old vs new rates (effective change from 22nd September 2025):
- Daily essentials (milk, bread, curd, etc.): Nil → Nil
- Hair oil, shampoo, toiletries: 18% → 5%
- Butter, ghee, cheese: 12% → 5%
- Personal health & life insurance: 18% → Nil
- Air conditioners: 28% → 18%
- TVs and refrigerators: 28% → 18%
- Small cars below 1200cc: 28% → 18%
- Bikes below 350cc: 28% → 18%
- Tableware, kitchenware, utensils, bamboo furniture: 12% → 5%
- Stationery items (pencils, charts, globes, exercise books & notebooks): 12% → 5%
- Cement: 28% → 18%
- Hotel tariffs up to ₹7,500: 12% → 5%
- Agriculture machinery (tractors, drip irrigation systems, sprinklers, etc.): 12% → 5%
- Aerated and sugary beverages, caffeinated beverages: 28% → 40%
- Luxury cars and premium bikes: 28% → 40%
- Tobacco, cigarettes, and other sin goods: 28% → 40%

Geography and environment

Super Typhoon Ragasa (Nando) and the Philippines

- Introduction
  A Category 5 Super Typhoon with sustained winds of 205 km/h and gusts up to 250 km/h
- Locally called “Nando”, among the strongest typhoons to hit the region in recent years

Why in news?

- Moving across the Luzon Strait, expected to impact the Babuyan Islands before heading toward southern China

Background

- Formed over the western Pacific Ocean, where warm waters and low wind shear created ideal conditions for intensification

Facts/General knowledge

- The Philippines is an archipelago in Southeast Asia in the western Pacific Ocean, with 7,000+ islands, about 800 km east of Vietnam, and part of the Pacific “Ring of Fire”
- Capital: Manila (political centre)
- Neighbours (all separated by sea channels/straits):
  North: Taiwan – across the Luzon Strait
- West: Vietnam – across the South China Sea
- South: Malaysia (Sabah, Borneo) and Indonesia – across the Sulu Sea and Celebes Sea

- Key features:
  Three main island groups: Luzon (north), Visayas (central), Mindanao (south)
- Mountains and volcanoes: includes active volcanoes like Mayon and Taal; prone to earthquakes and eruptions
- Culture: mix of Asian and Western influences; one of only two Roman Catholicmajority nations in Asia

Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Introduction

The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (CDBR) in Himachal Pradesh has been included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), along with 25 other reserves across several countries

- São Tomé and Príncipe becomes the first state to have its entire territory designated as a biosphere reserve

Why in news?

- CDBR's addition to the WNBR marks international recognition under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme

Background

- Location: TransHimalayan region; covers the entire Spiti Wildlife Division and adjoining areas of the Lahaul Forest Division, including Baralacha Pass, Bharatpur, and Sarchu (altitudes 3,300–6,600 m)
- Declared a biosphere reserve in 2009 as India's 16th and first highaltitude cold desert biosphere reserve
- Landscape: integrates Pin Valley National Park, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, and Chandratal Wetland; windswept plateaus, glacial valleys, alpine lakes, and highaltitude desert; among the coldest and driest ecosystems in the WNBR
- Floral diversity: 14 endemic, 68 native, and 62 threatened plant species, including medicinal plants such as Salix spp. and Betula utilis; supports hardy alpine grasses, medicinal herbs, and rare stands of Willowleaved seabuckthorn, Himalayan birch, and Persian juniper
- Faunal diversity: habitat for rare and endangered species including snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, Tibetan antelope, Himalayan brown bear, Himalayan griffon, Himalayan ibex, bearded vulture, red fox, and Tibetan gazelle
- WNBR:
  About: a dynamic, interactive network of sites of excellence
- Objective: promotes NorthSouth, SouthSouth, and SouthNorthSouth collaboration through exchange of experiences and knowhow, capacitybuilding, and best practices
- UNESCO affiliation: operates under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme
- Global coverage: 785 sites in 142 countries; an additional one million sq km of natural areas brought under protection since 2018 — equivalent to the size of Bolivia

Significance

- CDBR's inclusion highlights its unique highaltitude cold desert ecosystem and its conservation value within the WNBR
- The WNBR framework supports collaboration, capacitybuilding, and the promotion of best practices across biosphere reserves

Facts/General knowledge

- Biosphere Reserve:
  About: an international UNESCO designation for significant natural and cultural landscapes across terrestrial, coastal, or marine ecosystems; an in situ conservation method balancing economic and social development with cultural and natural preservation
- Functions:
  Conservation: protects biodiversity and cultural diversity
- Economic development: promotes socioculturally and environmentally sustainable growth
- Logistic support: facilitates research, monitoring, education, and training
- Structure:
  Core areas: strictly protected for conservation (e.g., National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary)

- Buffer zones: surround the core for ecofriendly activities supporting research, monitoring, training, and education
- Transition area: for socioculturally and ecologically sustainable economic and human activities
- Criteria for designation: a protected, minimally disturbed core of conservation value; sufficiently large to sustain viable populations across trophic levels; represents a biogeographical unit; involves local communities and supports preservation of traditional tribal or rural lifestyles
- Biosphere Reserves in India:
  Overview: scheme launched in 1986 under the guidance of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme
- Financial assistance: 90:10 ratio for North Eastern Region States and three Himalayan states; 60:40 ratio for other states
- Management: State Government prepares the Management Action Plan; approved and monitored by the Central MAB Committee
- Numbers: 18 biosphere reserves in India, of which 13 are listed in UNESCO's WNBR

International relation

India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

Introduction

- The India–EFTA TEPA is India's Free Trade Agreement with the European Free Trade Association bloc of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.
- It aims to strengthen trade and investment ties, reflecting India's growing role in global value chains and its strategy to expand market access while attracting foreign investment.

Why in news?

- Finalised in March 2024, the agreement came into effect on 1 October 2025.

Background

- The agreement complements India's recent FTAs with the UAE, Australia, and the UK.
- A dedicated EFTA Desk, operational since February 2025, serves as a singlewindow mechanism to facilitate EFTA investments and operations in India.

Significance

- Enhanced market access: EFTA has provided 100% market access for India's industrial and nonagricultural products, with tariff concessions on processed agricultural products.
- Investment and jobs: EFTA nations have a binding investment commitment of USD 100 billion over 15 years, expected to generate 1 million direct jobs in India.
- Trade facilitation: The institutional mechanism supports EFTA businesses in investing, expanding, and operating in India.
- Regulatory alignment: Product certifications are aligned, reducing compliance costs.

Facts/General knowledge

- What FTAs are: Pacts between two or more countries to reduce or eliminate trade barriers such as tariffs and quotas on goods and services.
- India's FTAs: Existing agreements with Japan, Australia, the UAE, Mauritius, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Singapore, and Sri Lanka; India–EU FTA is in advanced negotiations.
- Gains from FTAs:
  Market access: Reduced tariffs and barriers (e.g., under India–UAE CEPA, dutyfree access to 90% of exports; exports grew 12% in the first year).
- Investment boost: Attract stable FDI (e.g., India–Australia ECTA led to a 25% surge in FDI inflows).
- Agriculture gains: New export markets (e.g., India–Mauritius CECPA increased sugar and tea exports).
- Technology transfer: Access to advanced technologies (e.g., India–Australia ECTA in renewables aiding energy transition).

- SME support: Better integration into global value chains (e.g., India–Singapore CECA benefits SMEs in IT and engineering).
- Concerns with FTAs:
  Trade deficits: Rising imports versus stagnant exports (e.g., India–ASEAN FTA saw imports rise to USD 44 billion in FY23).
- Limited developed market access: Nontariff barriers (e.g., delay with the EU due to IPR and data issues).
- Risks to small farmers and MSMEs:
  Competition from cheap imports (e.g., rubber farmers under the ASEAN FTA).
- Labour and environmental clauses:
  Conditions like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism may hurt exports.
- Weak dispute resolution: Slow or unbalanced mechanisms (e.g., disputes with ASEAN on palm oil and machinery tariffs).
- Measures to strengthen India's global trade position:
- Strengthen export competitiveness through quality, branding, and technology upgrades.
- Diversify trade partners across Africa, Latin America, and the Asia–Pacific.
- Support MSMEs and startups with easier credit, logistics, and ecommerce access.
- Improve infrastructure via ports, logistics hubs, freight corridors, and cold chains.
- Enhance compliance and standards for international quality, labour, and environmental norms.
- Leverage digital trade platforms, virtual trade shows, and online FTA utilisation.

Freedom Edge Trilateral Military Exercise

Introduction

- The United States, South Korea, and Japan have begun the joint multidomain military exercise "Freedom Edge" in international waters off South Korea's Jeju Island.
- The fiveday drill runs from 15–19 September, involving air, sea, and cyber forces.

Why in news?

- It marks the latest effort to institutionalise trilateral security cooperation in response to growing nuclear and missile threats from North Korea.
- This iteration underscores continued coordination among the three countries.

Background

- The exercise is a direct outcome of agreements made at the Camp David summit in 2023 to bolster combined operational capabilities.
- It is the third in the series, following drills held in June and November of the previous year.

Significance

- The primary objective is to strengthen collective defence capabilities and interoperability to deter and respond to North Korea's evolving threats.
- Training includes ballistic missile defence, air defence drills, maritime operations, and medical evacuation.
- North Korea has condemned the exercises as a "reckless show of strength" that will have negative consequences.

Facts/General knowledge

- Trilateral Cooperation: International cooperation involving three countries; here, the US, South Korea, and Japan.
- MultiDomain Exercise: Integration of capabilities across land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace to simulate a comprehensive response to threats.
- Ballistic Missile Defence: Systems designed to detect, track, and intercept incoming ballistic missiles.
- Jeju Island: A South Korean island in the Korea Strait, an important strategic location for naval operations.

India–Mauritius satellite tracking station near Diego Garcia

Introduction

- India and Mauritius have signed a historic

agreement to establish a satellite tracking and communication station near Diego Garcia in the Chagos Archipelago.
- The facility will enable India to track and receive data from its satellites and launch vehicles.
- It will serve as a strategic asset for India.
- Both sides renewed an agreement for India's support for hydrographic surveys in Mauritius's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Why in news?

- The step strengthens India's strategic presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) amid increasing Chinese maritime activities.
- The agreement was signed during Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam's visit to India.
- Prime Minister Modi called this step a "historic milestone" and reaffirmed India's commitment towards anticolonialism and regional cooperation.

Background

- The station will be located near Diego Garcia, the USBritish military base in the Chagos Archipelago.
- The Chagos Archipelago was originally part of Mauritius; in 1965, three years before Mauritian independence, Britain separated it.
- Britain leased the largest island, Diego Garcia, to the United States for the construction and operation of a joint BritishAmerican military base.
- In 2019, the International Court of Justice ruled that Britain's control over the Chagos Archipelago was illegal and that it should be returned to Mauritius.
- Britain agreed in October 2024 to return the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius.
- London and Port Louis signed the transfer agreement on 22 May 2025, with the condition that Diego Garcia will be leased back to Britain for at least 99 years so that the BritishAmerican joint military base can continue.

Significance

- Enhances India's capacity to track satellites and launch vehicles and to receive data.
- Expands India's strategic presence in the IOR.
- Reinforces cooperation through renewed hydrographic survey support in Mauritius's EEZ.
- Aligns with stated commitments to anticolonialism and regional cooperation.

Facts/General knowledge

- The Chagos Archipelago is strategically located between East Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.
- Diego Garcia hosts a major USBritish naval and air base used in operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Gulf.
- Port Louis: Earlier this year, New Delhi and Port Louis agreed on enhanced use.
- During his visit to Mauritius, Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool honoured Mr Modi with the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star for his outstanding contribution to the IndiaMauritius partnership.
- The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation was inaugurated in Mauritius; it will function as a centre for learning, research and public service.

Sushila Karki becomes Nepal's first woman Prime Minister

Introduction

- Nepal President Ram Chandra Poudel appointed former Chief Justice Sushila Karki as the country's first woman Prime Minister.
- She is widely respected for integrity and an anticorruption stance.

Why in news?

- Sushila Karki was sworn in as Prime Minister following a presidential appointment.
- India welcomed the new government, expressing hope for peace and continued partnership.

Background

- The President dissolved Parliament and announced fresh elections for 5 March 2026.
- This followed intense Gen Zled protests that

ousted Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, triggered by corruption, misrule, and a controversial social media ban.
- Her appointment, backed by protesters, followed extended consultations involving legal experts, political leaders, and the Army.

Significance
- She leads an interim Cabinet tasked with restoring order, investigating recent violence, and preparing for elections.
- The appointment reflects public backing for integrity and anticorruption.
- India's positive response signals intent for continued partnership.
- Nepal is strategically important, located between India and China.

Facts/General knowledge
- Border: Nepal shares a border with Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
- Ties: Ageold civilisational and cultural links underpin strong peopletopeople connections.
- Policy: Nepal is a priority partner of India under its 'Neighbourhood First' Policy.
- Defence and security: Longstanding, extensive, mutually beneficial cooperation.
- Armies share excellent, harmonious relations based on mutual trust and respect.
- Tradition of awarding the Honorary rank of General to each other's Army Chief.
- Relations further cemented via the Gorkha Regiment.
- Developmental partnership: Over 1,500 scholarships annually for studies in medicine, engineering, agriculture, and traditional arts.
- The Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme offers training, consultancy, study tours, and feasibility studies for Nepali professionals.
- Economic and commercial cooperation: India is Nepal's largest trade and investment partner: 33.5% of Nepal's total FDI (USD 670 million) and 64.1% of overall trade (USD 8.85 billion in FY 2022–23).
- Nepal is India's 17th largest export destination: Indian exports USD 8.015 billion; Nepalese exports to India USD 839.62 million.
- India receives 67.9% of Nepal's exports, mainly edible oil, coffee, tea, and jute.
- Nepal imports petroleum products, iron and steel, cereals, vehicles, and machinery from India.
- Around 150 Indian ventures operate in Nepal across manufacturing, services, energy, and tourism.
- India imports surplus electricity from Nepal.

Military and defence

Yudh Kaushal 3.0 – Indian Army's HighIntensity Combat Drill in Arunachal Pradesh

Introduction
- Yudh Kaushal 3.0 is a highintensity Indian Army combat drill conducted in the Kameng region of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The exercise is part of the Yudh Kaushal series, which focuses on combat readiness, operational effectiveness, and integration of modern technologies.

Why in news?
- The Indian Army conducted Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0 in the Kameng region of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Yudh Kaushal 2025 was conducted by the IV (Gajraj) Corps.

Background
- Exercise Yudh Kaushal is a series designed to strengthen combat readiness and operational effectiveness.
- It employs multidomain operations by combining traditional warfare with nextgeneration technologies such as drones, unmanned systems, precision weapons, secure

communications, and advanced tactics.
- It often features joint operations with the Indian Air Force, and participation from the Indian defence industry and academia.

Significance
- Enhances the Indian Army's preparedness through realistic, technologyenabled, multidomain operations.
- Demonstrates integrated capabilities including drone surveillance, realtime targeting, precision strikes, air–littoral dominance, and cohesive battlefield tactics.
- Marks the operational debut of ASHNI platoons, the Army's dedicated drone units that blend advanced technology with proven combat tactics to give infantry a decisive edge in nextgeneration warfare.

Facts/General knowledge
- Location: Kameng region, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Conducting formation: IV (Gajraj) Corps.
- Multidomain focus areas: drone surveillance, realtime targeting, precision strikes, air–littoral dominance, integrated battlefield tactics.
- Technology and integration: drones, unmanned systems, precision weapons, secure communications, advanced tactics; joint operations with the Indian Air Force; participation from the Indian defence industry and academia.

Yudh Abhyas 2025

Introduction
- India–U.S. Joint Military Exercise, Yudh Abhyas 2025
- 21st edition featuring a deployed Indian Army contingent training with U.S. Army soldiers

Why in news?
- An Indian Army contingent has departed for Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA, to participate
- The exercise is scheduled from 1st–14th September 2025

Background
- The Indian contingent comprises personnel from a battalion of the Madras Regiment, one of the oldest regiments in the Indian Army
- The U.S. Army will be represented by soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment "Bobcats" of the Arctic Wolves Brigade Combat Team, part of the 11th Airborne Division

Significance
- Improves operational readiness for United Nations peacekeeping operations
- Builds capacity for effectively managing peacekeeping missions
- Prepares forces to handle multidomain challenges
- Emphasises integrated warfare and joint operational strategies

Facts/General knowledge
- Training includes heliborne operations; use of surveillance resources and unmanned aerial systems; rockcraft and mountain warfare; casualty evacuation; and combat medical aid
- Integrated use of Artillery, Aviation, and Electronic Warfare systems will be practised
- Culmination in jointly planned and executed tactical manoeuvres, ranging from livefire exercises to highaltitude warfare scenarios

Exercise MaitreeXIV (India–Thailand)

Introduction
- Maitree is a bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army.

Why in news?
- The 14th edition, MaitreeXIV, was recently conducted at the Foreign Training Node, Umroi Cantonment, RiBhoi district, Meghalaya.

Background
- Instituted in 2006.
  Held annually, with the venue alternating between India and Thailand.
- The 13th edition was held at Fort Vachiraprakan, Tak Province, Thailand.

Significance

- Enhances interoperability between the two armies.
- Acquaints each force with the other's operational procedures, especially for counterterrorism and counterinsurgency drills in semiurban terrain under a United Nations mandate.
- Involves tactical drills, joint planning, special arms skills, physical fitness, and raiding operations.
- Includes use/display of new generation equipment by both armies.
- Builds camaraderie between the forces of both countries.

Facts/General knowledge

- Statements regarding Exercise MaitreeXIV (2025):
- Statement 1 — Incorrect.
- Statement 2 — Correct.
- Statement 3 — Correct.
- Statement 4 — Correct.

ZAPAD Exercise 2025

Introduction

- ZAPAD 2025 is a military exercise to be held in Nizhniy, Russia.
- The Indian Armed Forces are participating.

Why in news?

- The Indian Armed Forces contingent has departed for Russia to take part in ZAPAD 2025.

Background

- The Zapad exercise series began during the Soviet era.
- It has been conducted by Russia since 2009.

Significance

- Enhances military cooperation among participating nations.
- Improves interoperability.
- Provides a platform to exchange tactics and techniques in conventional warfare and counterterrorism operations.
- Focuses on joint companylevel operations in open and plain terrains.
- Integrates emerging technologies.
- Improves joint operational capabilities in a multinational combat environment.

Facts/General knowledge

- ZAPAD 2025 is a Joint multilateral military exercise.
- The Indian Army contingent is led by a battalion of the Kumaon Regiment.
- It includes troops from other arms and services.
- The contingent comprises personnel from the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy.

Schemes and initiative

Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

Introduction

- A tribal grassroots leadership programme to empower tribal communities, strengthen responsive governance, and create local leadership opportunities across the country.
- Vision: Aadi Karmayogi cadre as a "Tribal Seva Path" driven by Seva (Service), Samarpan (Dedication), and Sankalp (Resolve), ensuring lastmile service saturation in tribal areas.

Why in news?

- Forms a key part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh (15 November 2024 to 15 November 2025) to commemorate Bhagwan Birsa Munda's 150th birthday.

Background

- Delivery gaps persist despite a fivefold rise in the Scheduled Tribe welfare budget (DAPST) from ₹25,000 crore to ₹1,24,000 crore.
- STs face the highest poverty: 40.6% below the poverty line versus 20.5% of the nontribal population (Tribal Health report).
- Cultural preservation needs: unique tribal languages, art, dance, and festivals are endangered; TRIFED is collaborating with

ministries for GI tagging of tribal products.
- Ecological wisdom: traditional practices like shifting cultivation, sacred groves, and community forestry support climate resilience; e.g., Dongria Kondh of Odisha practise milletbased farming conserving agrobiodiversity.
- Democratising development: Adi Karmayogis to be chosen in consultation with Gram Sabhas to foster trust, ownership, and cultural sensitivity.

Significance

- Reaches and uplifts over 10.5 crore tribal citizens through a dedicated cadre and structured delivery mechanisms.
- Embeds participatory planning via villagelevel cocreation of Vision 2030 and Development Action Plans.
- Achieves service saturation targets: road connectivity, pucca housing, piped drinking water, household electrification, and Ayushman Bharat insurance enrolment.
- Strengthens accountability through institutionalised grievance redressal and feedback systems.
- Aligns efforts across departments to ensure lastmile delivery in tribal areas.

Facts/General knowledge

- Target: Develop a cadre of 20 lakh to operate in over 1 lakh tribaldominated villages across 30 States/UTs, 550+ districts, and 3,000 blocks.
- Key objectives:
  Promote responsive, transparent, and accountable governance.
- Facilitate bottomup visioning and participatory planning.
- Institutionalise proactive grievance redressal and feedback systems.
- Ensure lastmile delivery through convergence of flagship tribal initiatives.
- Key features:
  Multitiered leadership structure from habitation to State.
- Multidepartment convergence: Tribal Welfare, Rural Development, Women & Child Development, Jal Shakti, School Education, and Forest.
- Implementation strategy:
  Governance Learning Workshops via Regional Process Labs at centres including Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Dehradun, and Ranchi.
- Village Visioning and Development Action Plans: every village cocreates a Village Vision 2030 document and plan with officials and villagers.
- Mentorship ecosystem: retired civil servants, tribal elders, Padma awardees, and others as mentors.
- Aadi Karmayogi Digital Platform: ongoing training, datadriven tools, knowledge sharing, and impact dashboards.
- Anticipated outcomes and infrastructure:
- 1 lakh Adi Sewa Kendras as onestop service centres for tribal communities.
- A Single Window Responsive Governance Centre in every tribal village for information dissemination and grievance redressal.
- 100+ Adi Karmayogi Student Chapters across IITs, NITs, and IIMs to foster tribal youth leadership.

Kapas Kisan App

Introduction

- Developed by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), under the Ministry of Textiles
- Facilitates seamless procurement of cotton from farmers under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme

Background

- Built to streamline the MSPbased cotton procurement process and improve farmer experience during procurement

Significance

- Protects cotton farmers against distress sales through assured MSP procurement
- Reduces manual paperwork and saves time at procurement centres
- Enhances transparency and improves planning by enabling farmers to choose convenient time slots
- Improves convenience and speed in the cotton procurement process

Facts/General knowledge

- Secure selfregistration for farmers to sell cotton under MSP
- Digital slot booking/scheduling at designated procurement centres to reduce waiting time and crowding
- Realtime status updates on quality assessment, accepted quantities, and payment processing
- Payment tracking facility for farmers
- Userfriendly interface with support for multiple Indian languages

BHARATI initiative to boost India's agri-food exports

Introduction

- BHARATI is an initiative to support agri-food startups and strengthen India's presence in global agri-food trade.
- It focuses on export enablement through innovation, resilience, and incubation in the agri-food sector.

Why in news?

- APEDA has launched BHARATI to support agri-food startups and boost India's agri-food exports.

Background

- The initiative aligns with the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Startup India visions.
- It is designed to enhance India's global agri-food trade presence through structured startup support.

Significance

- Creates a clear pathway from product development to export readiness for agri-food startups.
- Addresses critical bottlenecks in quality, logistics, and market access to improve export competitiveness.
- Catalyses technology-driven, value-added growth across the agri-food ecosystem.

Facts/General knowledge

- Full form: Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.
- Key objectives:
- Support 100 agri-food startups.
- Achieve 50 billion USD in agri-food exports by 2030.
- Acceleration programme:
- Three-month duration covering product development, export readiness, regulatory compliance, and market access.
- Target technologies:
- AI-based quality control.
- Blockchain-enabled traceability.
- IoT-enabled cold chains.
- Agri-fintech.
- High-value categories:
- GI-tagged agri-products.
- Organic foods.
- Superfoods.
- Novel processed Indian agri-foods.
- Livestock products.
- AYUSH products.
- Export challenges addressed:
- Product development and value addition.
- Quality assurance.
- Perishability and wastage.
- Logistics.
- Role of agri-startups in enhancing agri-export:
- Streamlined supply chains through demand-driven cold chains, warehouse monitoring, and market linkages to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Quality optimisation via better inputs and technical guidance for export-ready produce.
- Enhanced processing and traceability to raise farmer income and export competitiveness.
- Technology integration using Big Data and IoT for precision farming, pest management, and weather forecasting to ensure consistent, high-quality crops.
- Market linkages aligning crop production with consumer demand for timely and efficient fulfilment of export orders.
- Transforming agriculture from subsistence to profit-driven enterprises with significant export impact.

Angikaar 2025 Campaign

Introduction

- Angikaar 2025 is an outreach campaign for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAYU 2.0) by creating widespread awareness about the scheme across the country.

Why in news?

- The Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Angikaar 2025 campaign.

Background

- Objectives:
  Accelerate the implementation of PMAYU 2.0.
- Inform stakeholders about the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust for Low Income Housing (CRGFTLIH) scheme.
- Fasttrack verification of applications and expedite the completion of already sanctioned houses.

Significance

- The campaign reaffirms the Government's commitment to bring welfare schemes closer to the people by bridging the implementation gap.

Facts/General knowledge

- Duration: Two months from 4th September 2025 to 31st October 2025.
- Coverage: Across 5,000+ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the country.
- Features: Widespread doortodoor awareness; a lineup of camps; loan melas; cultural events to engage prospective beneficiaries and other related stakeholders.
- Convergence: PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana will be provided to beneficiaries of PMAYU; beneficiaries from Special Focus Group identified will be prioritised.
- PMAYU Awas Diwas: To be celebrated on 17th September 2025 to mark the first anniversary of PMAYU 2.0 across all States/UTs/Districts/ULBs.
- PM Awas Mela – Shehri: To be held between 17th September 2025 and 27th September 2025 at District Headquarters/Nagar Nigam level.

Purple Fest 2025

Introduction

- A vibrant, inclusive event celebrating the talents and abilities of persons with disabilities.
- Promotes awareness, acceptance, and inclusion through cultural performances, sports, exhibitions, and accessible entertainment.
- Creates a welcoming space for everyone.

Why in news?

- The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) organised Purple Fest 2025 in New Delhi.

Background

- The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Established in 2011 to promote Indian Sign Language by developing skilled manpower, providing training, and conducting research.

Significance

- Conveys that disability is not a weakness, assistive devices are not charity, and respect is a fundamental right.
- Anchors key themes: inclusion; awareness of assistive devices; normal behaviour towards Divyangjan; and professional development in rehabilitation.

Facts/General knowledge

- Hosted by ISLRTC, in partnership with Amity University, Noida.
- Structured as a twoday festival.

Anbu Karangal (Hands of Love) Scheme – Tamil Nadu

Introduction

- A welfare scheme in Tamil Nadu to secure the future of children left vulnerable by the loss of parental care
- Embedded within the DMK government's larger social security framework, reflecting inclusive and childfocused governance

Why in news?

- Launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on 16 September 2025
- Announced as the 'Anbu Karangal' (Hands of Love) scheme

Background

- Designed for:
  Children who have lost both parents
- Children with only one surviving parent who is incapable of providing care
- Rooted in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which mandates state governments to safeguard children who are orphaned, abandoned, or in need of care

Significance

- Ensures education and basic needs are not compromised in the absence of parental guidance
- Expected to directly impact thousands of children across the state

Facts/General knowledge

- Each eligible child will receive ₹2,000 monthly
- Support continues until the child completes school education or turns 18, whichever occurs earlier
- In the first phase, 6,082 children across Tamil Nadu are set to benefit
- Financial support will be directly transferred to beneficiaries

Bairabi–Sairang Railway Line to Connect Aizawl

Introduction

- A new railway line in Mizoram linking Bairabi and Sairang aims to transform the state's connectivity and economic prospects.
- The project is positioned to improve infrastructure, trade dynamics, and regional access for Aizawl.

Why in news?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Bairabi–Sairang railway line, delivering the firstever rail connectivity to Aizawl.
- This marks a historic milestone for Mizoram's infrastructure.

Background

- The line connects Bairabi, near the Assam–Mizoram border, with Sairang.
- Sairang is located 20 km from Aizawl, providing a crucial gateway to the state capital.

Significance

- Reduces travel time and freight costs, making the movement of goods easier and more affordable.
- Boosts trade and tourism within Mizoram.
- Generates employment through construction and associated services.
- Strengthens connectivity with mainland India.
- Promotes regional integration within the Northeast.
- Enhances access to markets for Mizoram's agricultural and horticultural products.
- Described by Governor General (Retd.) V. K. Singh as both ambitious and important for Mizoram.

Facts/General knowledge

- Length: 51 km.
- Cost: ₹8,000 crore.
- Makes Aizawl the fourth northeastern capital, after Guwahati, Agartala, and Itanagar, to be linked with Indian Railways.

Samudra se Samriddhi: Maritime Projects and Reforms

Introduction

- 'Samudra se Samriddhi' is an initiative to

strengthen India's maritime infrastructure through portled development and trade facilitation.
- It includes reforms and targeted support for shipbuilding, technology adoption, and improved design/quality standards.

Why in news?

- The Prime Minister inaugurated and launched maritime projects worth ₹34,200 crore in Bhavnagar, Gujarat, under the 'Samudra se Samriddhi' initiative to enhance maritime infrastructure.
- Introduction of nextgeneration reforms: 'One Nation, One Document' and 'One Nation, One Port' to simplify trade processes.

Background

- India's share in trade through Indianbuilt ships has fallen from 40% to about 5%.
- Nearly $75 billion (₹6 lakh crore) is paid annually as freight to foreign shipping companies, almost equal to India's defence budget.
- Outsourcing of shipping leads to millions of jobs being created abroad instead of bolstering the local industry.

Significance

- Multiplier effect: Shipbuilding drives allied industries such as steel, machinery, electronics, and textiles, creating 6–7 indirect jobs per shipyard job.
- Growth target: India accounts for 10% of maritime trade, with the aim to triple this by 2047.
- Seafarers: India contributes over 3 lakh seafarers, ranking among the top three globally.
- Investment push: ₹70,000 crore earmarked for three schemes—financial support to shipbuilding, adoption of modern technology, and improved design/quality standards.

Facts/General knowledge

- Mumbai: International Cruise Terminal at Indira Dock.
- Kolkata: New container terminal at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port.
- Odisha – Paradip: Container berth and cargo handling facilities.
- Gujarat – Tuna Tekra (Bhavnagar): MultiCargo Terminal.
- Gujarat – Kandla (Deendayal Port): Green BioMethanol Plant.
- Tamil Nadu – Ennore (Kamarajar Port): Firefighting facilities and modern road connectivity.
- Tamil Nadu – Chennai: Coastal protection works and seawall construction.
- Andaman & Nicobar – Car Nicobar: Seawall construction.

Incentive Scheme for Critical Mineral Recycling (under NCMM)

Introduction

- The Incentive Scheme promotes critical mineral recycling as part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM).
- Recycling targets nearterm supply chain sustainability, given the long gestation period for new mining operations.

Why in news?

- The Cabinet has approved the Incentive Scheme to promote critical mineral recycling.

Background

- NCMM (FY 202425 to FY 203031) aims to secure India's critical mineral supply chain by ensuring mineral availability from domestic and foreign sources.
- NCMM covers the full value chain: exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from endoflife products.

Significance

- Enhances supply chain resilience for critical minerals in the near term.
- Encourages participation of both large entities and small/new recyclers, including startups.
- Aligns incentives with capacity creation and operational performance through capex and opex support.

- Anticipated to boost recycling capacity, production, investment, and jobs (see Facts/General knowledge).

Facts/General knowledge

- Financial outlay: ₹1,500 crore.
- Scheme tenure: six years, from FY 202526 to FY 203031.
- Eligible feedstock: ewaste; LithiumIon Battery (LIB) scrap; other scraps such as catalytic converters from endoflife vehicles.
- Beneficiaries: large and small/new recyclers (including startups); onethird of the outlay for small entities.
- Incentive mechanism:
  20% capital expenditure (capex) subsidy on plant and machinery for timely production.
- Operational expenditure (opex) subsidy on incremental sales: 40% in the 2nd year and 60% in the 5th year (FY 202627 to FY 203031).
- Incentive ceilings: total incentives capped at ₹50 crore for large entities and ₹25 crore for small entities.
- Expected outcomes:
- Development of 270 kilotons of annual recycling capacity.
- 40 kilotons of annual critical mineral production.
- Attraction of ₹8,000 crore investment.
- Creation of 70,000 direct and indirect jobs.

PRATUSH lunar radiometer and RRI singleboard computer for Cosmic Dawn signal

Introduction

- A compact singleboard computer (SBC) from the Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, is set to support India's effort to uncover signals from the Cosmic Dawn.
- The objective is to unlock insights into the epoch when the first stars and galaxies began illuminating the universe.

Why in news?

- A credit cardsized SBC will play a pivotal role in the proposed PRATUSH lunar mission, targeting one of the faintest radio signals ever observed.

Background

- PRATUSH (Probing ReionizATion of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen) is a proposed lunar radiometer mission to study the 21-cm hydrogen signal, a weak radio signature from neutral hydrogen in the early universe.
- Detecting this signal could provide direct observational evidence of the Cosmic Dawn, roughly 13 billion years ago when the first stars and galaxies formed.
- On Earth, the signal is obscured by heavy radio interference, including FM transmissions and ionospheric distortions; the far side of the Moon, the most radio-quiet region in the inner solar system, offers an ideal site for such sensitive measurements.

Significance

- Capturing the 21-cm hydrogen signal would directly reveal conditions during the Cosmic Dawn.
- The RRI SBC replaces bulky, power-hungry controllers with a lightweight, low-power solution suitable for lunar space applications.
- It coordinates the antenna, receiver, and FPGA chip; records, stores, and pre-processes incoming radio data; and carries out system calibration, providing high efficiency with low power use.
- It balances size, power, and performance—key constraints for missions on the Moon.

Facts/General knowledge

- Institution and team: Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru; Electronics Engineering Group developed the lab-scale digital receiver powered by the SBC.
- Named expert: Girish B.S., Research Scientist at RRI, highlights the SBC's balance of size, power, and performance for lunar applications.

Sports current

India Wins Asia Cup 2025

Introduction

- India beat Pakistan by 5 wickets in the Asia Cup 2025 final at Dubai.
- The victory secured India's ninth Asia Cup title.

Why in news?

- Unbeaten champions of the Asia Cup 2025.
- Backtoback Asia Cup winners following the 2023 triumph.

Background

- The Asia Cup alternates between ODI and T20I formats.
- India were the champions in the Asia Cup 2023, which was held in the ODI format.

Significance

- Extends India's lead for the most Asia Cup titles.
- Featured three victories over Pakistan in this edition.

Facts/General knowledge

- Asia Cup title tally: India 9, Sri Lanka 6, Pakistan 2.
- Player of the Match: Tilak Varma.
- Player of the Series: Abhishek Sharma.

Topic: Ballon d'Or Award, 2025

Introduction

- The Ballon d'Or is the most prestigious individual award in football.
- It is presented annually by France Football since 1956.
- It honours the best football players worldwide based on their performances during the previous season.

Why in news?

- The 69th Ballon d'Or ceremony will be held on 22 September 2025 at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris.
- In the 2025 editions, Ousmane Dembélé (Paris SaintGermain) won the Ballon d'Or, and Barcelona's Aitana Bonmatí secured the women's award.
- New 2025 categories introduced: the Women's Yashin Trophy, the Women's Gerd Müller Trophy, and the Women's Kopa Trophy to celebrate the achievements of female players.

Background

- First awarded in 1956, the Ballon d'Or was initially restricted to European players.
- In 1995, eligibility expanded to include all players active in European clubs.
- By 2007, it became a global award open to all professional footballers worldwide.
- The winner is chosen by an international panel of journalists, with one journalist from each country in the FIFA top 100 rankings.
- Jurors rank their top ten players; points are assigned according to these rankings to determine the final winner.

Significance

- Recognises seasonlong excellence among the world's best footballers.
- The 2025 additions underscore the celebration of women's achievements through new dedicated trophies.

Facts/General knowledge

- Notable winners: Lionel Messi holds a record eight Ballon d'Or titles; Cristiano Ronaldo has five.
- Venue for the 2025 ceremony: Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris.
- Source: DD News.

• Rank report and awards

Global Peace Index 2025 — India's Rank and Global Highlights

Introduction

- The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025 assesses peace levels across 163 countries, covering 99.7% of the world's population.
- It is published annually by the Institute for Economics & Peace.

Why in news?

- India has been ranked 115th in the newly released GPI 2025 (116th in 2024).
- The 2025 report notes that statebased conflicts have reached their highest level since World War II, with new conflicts emerging in 2025.

Background

- The GPI ranks countries using 23 indicators, including militarisation, external conflicts, homicide, and terrorism.
- Iceland has held the top position as the most peaceful country since 2008.

Significance

- India's 115th position contrasts with Pakistan's 144th, indicating a significant security gap between the two nations.
- Singapore remains the only Asian country in the top 10, maintaining high safety levels despite substantial military spending.
- The identification of the least peaceful countries—Russia, Ukraine, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Yemen—highlights regions with acute instability.

Facts/General knowledge

- Top 10 most peaceful countries in 2025:
- 1. Iceland
- 2. Ireland
- 3. New Zealand
- 4. Austria
- 5. Switzerland
- 6. Singapore
- 7. Portugal
- 8. Denmark
- 9. Slovenia
- 10. Finland
- Least peaceful countries in 2025: Russia, Ukraine, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen.

Swachh Vayu Sarveshan Award 2025

Introduction

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the Swachh Vayu Sarveshan Award 2025.
- The awards recognise bestperforming cities among NCAP cities, grouped by population into three categories: Category 1 (>10 lakh), Category 2 (3–10 lakh), and Category 3 (<3 lakh).

Why in news?

- A total of 11 bestperforming cities were awarded out of 130 NCAP cities.
- Category 1 (Population >10 lakh): Indore (1st), Jabalpur (2nd), Agra and Surat (3rd).
- Category 2 (Population 3–10 lakh): Amravati (1st), Jhansi and Moradabad (2nd), Alwar (3rd).
- Category 3 (Population <3 lakh): Dewas (1st), Parwanoo (2nd), Angul (3rd).

Background

- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched in 2019 by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Objective: Improve air quality in 131 cities (nonattainment cities and Million Plus Cities) in 24 States/UTs by engaging all stakeholders.
- Implementing body: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at the national level.
- PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Airpollution in NonAttainment cities) was launched to monitor NCAP implementation.

Significance

- Rankings are based on key pollution abatement and management parameters: biomass and municipal solid waste burning, road dust, construction and demolition dust, vehicular emissions, industrial emissions, IEC activities, and improvement in PM10 concentrations, etc.
- The effort aligns with NCAP's target to achieve up to 40% reduction in PM10 levels or attain national ambient air quality standards by 2025–26 from 2019–20 levels.

Facts/General knowledge

- Populationbased award categories:
- Category 1: Population >10 lakh
- Category 2: Population 3–10 lakh
- Category 3: Population <3 lakh
- NCAP coverage: 131 cities across 24 States/UTs.
- National ambient air quality standard for PM10: 60 µg/m3.

P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics conferred on Dr Manmohan Singh

Introduction

- On 10 September 2025, former Prime Minister and renowned economist Dr Manmohan Singh was posthumously conferred the P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics for contributions to India's economic transformation and nationbuilding.
- His wife, Gursharan Kaur, received the award at a ceremony in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The award was presented by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and senior fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress.

Why in news?

- Recognition with the P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics highlights Dr Singh's role in shaping India's economic trajectory.

Background

- Early career roles: Chief Economic Adviser (1972–1976); Secretary, Ministry of Finance (1976–1980); 15th Governor, Reserve Bank of India (1982–1985); Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission (1985–1987); Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister (1990–1991).
- As Finance Minister (1991–1996) under P.V. Narasimha Rao, he introduced the 1991 economic reforms of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation.
- Financial market reform included the launch of the National Stock Exchange in 1992 to improve market infrastructure and increase foreign investment.
- He served as India's 13th Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014, becoming at that time the secondlongest serving after Jawaharlal Nehru.

Significance

- The honour underscores sustained contributions across economic policy and national development, aligning with the reformist legacy associated with P.V. Narasimha Rao.
- It reflects the continuum from early 1990s structural reforms to later governance initiatives during Dr Singh's premiership.

Facts/General knowledge

- Key legislation during his premiership:
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households).
- Right to Information Act, 2005 (to enhance transparency and accountability).
- Right to Education Act, 2009 (free and compulsory education as a fundamental right for children aged 6 to 14).
- Food Security Act, 2013 (to ensure subsidised food grains).
- P.V. Narasimha Rao served as Prime Minister from 1991 to 1996 and is remembered as the "Father of Indian Economic Reforms".
- The P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award recognises outstanding contributions in economics, public policy, governance, and national development, and is conferred by institutions and foundations such as the P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Foundation (PVNMF).
- Previous awardees include Ratan Tata (for outstanding philanthropic contributions) and the Dalai Lama (for lifelong dedication to peace, compassion, and understanding).

Mohanlal to be Honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023

Introduction

- Veteran Malayalam actor Mohanlal will receive the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2023.
- He has a prolific career spanning over 45 years with around 400 films in Malayalam cinema.

Why in news?

- The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced Mohanlal as the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2023.
- The award will be conferred on 23rd September 2025 during the 71st National Film Awards ceremony.

Background

- Born on 21st May 1960 in Pathanamthitta.
- Began his acting career with Thiranottam (1978) and debuted as a villain in Manjil Virinja Pookkal (1980).
- His role in Rajavinte Makan (1986) established him as Malayalam cinema's first modern superstar.
- Remains a defining figure in Mollywood, with notable films including Thanmathra, Iruvar, Drishyam, and Lucifer.
- Won the National Film Award for Best Actor in 1991.
- Awarded the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2019.

Significance

- The selection reflects the award's criterion of recognising "Outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema".
- Highlights Mohanlal's sustained impact across decades and a vast body of acclaimed work.

Facts/General knowledge

- Dadasaheb Phalke Award:
- The country's highest film honour, introduced in 1969.
- First awarded to Devika Rani, known as "the first lady of Indian cinema".
- Includes a 'Swarna Kamal,' a cash prize of INR 10 lakh, a certificate, a silk roll, and a shawl.
- Presented by the President of India.
- Dhundiraj Govind Phalke:
- Indian producer, director, and screenwriter who directed India's first feature film, Raja Harischandra (1913).
- Known as the "Father of Indian Cinema".

Larry Ellison's record wealth surge (Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Sept 2025)

Introduction

- Oracle cofounder and Chief Technology Officer Larry Ellison briefly became the world's richest person, per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index on 11 September 2025.
- The shift followed Oracle's stellar quarterly earnings, which reshaped the billionaire rankings landscape.

Why in news?

- Ellison achieved the largest singleday wealth gain ever recorded: $89 billion.
- His net worth rose to $383.2 billion after Oracle's stock price jumped on positive earnings.
- He momentarily surpassed Elon Musk, who reclaimed the top spot the next morning by a slim margin.

Background

- Elon Musk has held the number one position for 16 consecutive months.
- Musk first crossed the $400 billion mark last year.
- Bernard Arnault is the top nontech billionaire, currently ranked #8.

Significance

- Ellison's meteoric rise set a new record for singleday wealth gain.
- The development temporarily altered the top of the global billionaire rankings.

Facts/General knowledge

- Top rankings (Bloomberg Billionaires Index — 11 September 2025):
- 1. Elon Musk — $384B (Last daily change: +$573M), USA, Technology
- 2. Larry Ellison — $383B (Last daily change: +$88.5B), USA, Technology
- 3. Mark Zuckerberg — $264B (Last daily change: $4.68B), USA, Technology
- 4. Jeff Bezos — $252B (Last daily change: $6.91B), USA, Technology
- 5. Larry Page — $210B (Last daily change: $273M), USA, Technology
- 6. Sergey Brin — $196B (Last daily change: $249M), USA, Technology
- 7. Steve Ballmer — $172B (Last daily change: +$651M), USA, Technology
- 8. Bernard Arnault — $162B (Last daily change: $717M), France, Consumer
- 9. Jensen Huang — $154B (Last daily change: +$5.58B), USA, Technology

71st National Film Awards (2023)

Introduction

- The 71st National Film Awards were officially announced, honouring cinematic excellence from across India for the year 2023.
- The awards recognise achievements across feature films, nonfeature films, writing on cinema, and film criticism.

Why in news?

- The 2023 edition's winners were declared, marking the official announcement of the 71st National Film Awards.

Background

- Organiser: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting organises the National Film Awards on behalf of the Government of India.
- Award sections: Feature Film, NonFeature Film, Best Writing on Cinema, and Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- Expanded scope (2023): Covered 31 feature films, 24 nonfeature films, 27 books on cinema, and 16 film critics under the National Film Awards regulations.

Significance

- National recognition of cinematic excellence across India for the year 2023.
- Milestone: Shah Rukh Khan won his first National Award in a career spanning over 30 years.

Facts/General knowledge

- Top national winners:
- Best Feature Film — 12th Fail
- Best Direction — Sudipto Sen – The Kerala Story
- Best Actor — Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
- Best Actress — Rani Mukerji – Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment — Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani
- Best Debut Film of a Director — Aatmapamphlet
- Best Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values — Sam Bahadur
- Feature film awards:
- Best Hindi Film — Kathal
- Best Bengali Film — Deep Fridge
- Best Marathi Film — Shyamchi Aai
- Best Background Score — Animal (Harshavardhan Rameshwar)
- Best Female Playback Singer — Shilpa Rao – Chaliya (Jawan)
- Best Male Playback Singer — PVN S Rohit – Baby (Telugu)
- Best Editing — Pookkaalam – Midhun Murali
- Best Cinematography — The Kerala Story – Prasanthanu Mohapatra
- Best Costume Design — Sam Bahadur – Sachin, Divya, Nidhhi
- Best Makeup — Sam Bahadur – Shrikanth Desai
- Best Choreography — Dhindhora Baje Re – Rocky Aur Rani (Vaibhavi Merchant)
- Best Sound Design — Animal – Sachin Sudhakaran & Hariharan
- Best Supporting Actor — Vijayaraghavan

(Pookkaalam), Muthupettai Bhaskar (Parking)
- Best Supporting Actress — Urvashi (Ullozhukku), Janki Bodiwala (Vash)
- Best Child Artist — Sukriti Bandireddi (Gandhi Thatha Chettu), Kabir Khandare (Gypsy), Treesha Toshar, Shrinivas Pokale, Bhargav (Naal 2)
- Nonfeature film awards:
- Best Documentary — God, Vulture and Human
- Best NonFiction Film — Flowering Man
- Best Short Film — Giddh – The Scavenger
- Best Children's Film — Naal 2
- Best Film in AVGC — HanuMan
- Best Voiceover — The Sacred Jack – Hari Krishnan S
- Best Debut (Nonfeature) — The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw
- Best Social & Environmental Values — The Silent Epidemic

Meeting and submits

25th SCO Summit, Tianjin

Introduction

- The 25th SCO Summit brought together member states to address terrorism, global governance, economic cooperation, and sociocultural issues.
- India's engagement within the SCO spans startups, traditional medicine, Buddhist heritage, and digital inclusion, aligning with inclusive development and Global South aspirations.
- The organisation also serves as a forum to advocate more inclusive global governance and institutional reform.

Why in news?

- The Prime Minister of India participated in the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, held in Tianjin, China.

Background

- Role in multilateralism:
- Expanding geopolitical reach with widening membership and partnerships, challenging traditional Western alliances and providing space for Global South voices.
- Security and counterterrorism through the Afghanistan Contact Group and the Regional AntiTerrorist Structure in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- Connectivity and economic integration as a catalyst in Central Asia, with the SCO Business Council and Interbank Consortium pushing multilateral economic projects.
- Platform for civilisational and developmental cooperation through initiatives such as startups, traditional medicine, Buddhist heritage, and digital inclusion.
- Reform agenda seeking United Nations reform, sovereign equality, multipolarity, and a more democratic and just world order.
- Challenges undermining effectiveness:
- Weak security mechanisms, with exercises not translating into action against terrorist organisations, and credibility concerns linked to inclusion of states associated with terrorism.
- Unequal power dynamics leaving Central Asian states dominated by larger powers, making the "Shanghai Spirit" more rhetorical than real.
- Ineffective economic integration, with poorly implemented agreements, very low intraregional trade, and institutions compared unfavourably with ASEAN and increasingly likened to SAARC.
- Failure to institutionalise cooperation in development, energy, and free trade, as formal structures operate more as networking forums than decisionmaking bodies.
- India's concerns within SCO:
- China's attempt to reshape the platform to serve its geoeconomic and strategic interests, especially to promote the BRI, risking India being sidelined.
- Connectivity frictions due to opposition to the BRI, particularly the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor through PoK, and India remaining outside key initiatives.
- Security anxieties from China's "String of Pearls", with rivalry against India's "Necklace of Diamonds" weakening trust.
- An antiWestern perception of the SCO that

complicates India's ties with the US, EU, and Quad partners.
- Persistent terrorism and the Pakistan factor, with efforts to name Pakistanbased groups often blocked.

Significance

- Key outcomes of the 2025 Tianjin summit:
- Counterterrorism: The Tianjin Declaration condemned terrorism, including the Pahalgam attack, called to end crossborder movement of terrorists, and opposed use of extremist groups for mercenary purposes.
- Membership and partnerships: Laos was accepted as a partner country, taking the SCO's total strength to 27 (10 members, including India, and 17 partners).
- Global governance: Proposal of the Global Governance Initiative to promote sovereign equality, multilateralism, and a just global order, reflecting India's vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future".
- Opposition to unilateral coercive measures, including economic sanctions, that contravene United Nations and World Trade Organization principles.
- Cultural and social values: Welcome for the UNGA resolution against glorification of Nazism, neoNazism, racism, and xenophobia; reaffirmation of peopletopeople engagement, mutual respect, and collaboration.
- Regional situations: Condemnation of military actions in Gaza and Iran; emphasis on inclusive governance in Afghanistan for lasting peace.
- Economic and development cooperation: Emphasis on stabilising global trade, expanding bilateral trade and investment, and setting up an SCO Development Bank.
- India's approach to balance differences and foster cooperation:
- Strategic multialignment by engaging in both Westernled and China/Russialed platforms to pursue strategic autonomy and multipolarity.
- Selective engagement in SCO security mechanisms, avoiding commitments that threaten sovereignty, separating contested from cooperative domains, and limiting cooperation with China to nonsensitive sectors like renewables, EVs, and AI.
- Leveraging strategic partnership with Russia to counter Chinese dominance, including support for reviving the RIC trilateral as a bridge for India–China engagement.
- Border management through troop readiness along the LAC alongside disengagement agreements (Depsang, Demchok 2024) and highlevel dialogue.
- Using SCO/BRICS to shape Eurasian and Global South narratives while balancing China's assertiveness via Quad and IndoPacific frameworks.

Facts/General knowledge

- The SCO represents about 23% of global GDP and 42% of the world's population.
- A North Atlantic Treaty Organization member, Turkey, is a dialogue partner of the SCO.
- Connectivity corridors and projects associated with the SCO context include the International North–South Transport Corridor and Chabahar Port.

49th PRAGATI Meeting Chaired by PM Modi

Introduction

- The 49th meeting of PRAGATI was chaired by the Prime Minister to review priority public projects and guide their implementation.

Why in news?

- A set of large, highimpact projects was taken up for timebound review.
- The Prime Minister assessed progress with emphasis on timelines and public benefit.

Background

- PRAGATI is an online platform that brings together the Prime Minister, central ministries, and state officials to track the progress of important projects.

Significance

- Clear deadlines were mandated, with a reminder that delays raise costs and hurt citizens.
- Stronger coordination among central, state,

and local departments was sought to resolve bottlenecks quickly.
- States and Union Territories were encouraged to conduct regular reviews of their own projects.
- Citizen convenience and support for business growth were underscored as key outcomes.
- A resultsfocused approach was insisted upon, valuing tangible benefits over mere completion reports.
- Compliance with safety and quality standards was reinforced.
- States were urged to pursue reforms to enhance speed, efficiency, and new opportunities.

Facts/General knowledge
- Date and venue: 24 September 2025, South Block, New Delhi.
- Projects reviewed: Eight, across 15 States and Union Territories.
- Investment size: More than ₹65,000 crore in total.
- Sectors involved: Mines, railways, water, industrial corridors, and electricity.

Book an authors

Rocket Dreams: Billionaires, Power, and the New Space Race

Introduction
- A chronicle of billionaire influence and power in the new space race.

Why in news?
- In April 2021, NASA awarded a lunar lander contract to SpaceX.
- Blue Origin responded with litigation.

Background
- Focuses on the rivalry between Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin.

Significance
- The NASA decision and ensuing legal challenge exemplify the intense competition portrayed in the book.

Facts/General knowledge
- Author: Christian Davenport (journalist).
- Publisher: Crown Currency.

The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath

Introduction
- "The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath" is a new release by Amish.
- It presents a bold retelling of Indian history through powerful fiction.
- The work reflects an approach that uses storytelling to revisit India's past.

Why in news?
- The book has been newly released.

Background
- Amish is on a mission to reinterpret India's past through powerful fiction.
- This release continues that ongoing mission.

Significance
- The book adds to efforts to reframe Indian history through narrative fiction.
- It underscores a bold, interpretative approach to historical themes.

Facts/General knowledge
- Title: "The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath".
- Author: Amish.
- Described as a bold retelling of Indian history executed through powerful fiction.

Important Days

- Date Day / Event
- 1 September National Nutrition Week (1–7 September)
- 2 September World Coconut Day
- 3 September Skyscraper Day

- 5 September Teachers' Day (India)
- 7 September Brazilian Independence Day
- 8 September International Literacy Day
- 8 September Grandparents' Day
- 10 September World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)
- 11 September 9/11 Remembrance Day
- 11 September National Forest Martyrs Day
- 11 September World First Aid Day (Second Saturday)
- 11 September Digvijay Diwas
- 14 September Hindi Diwas
- 15 September Engineer's Day (India)
- 15 September International Day of Democracy
- 16 September World Ozone Day
- 17 September Vishwakarma Puja
- 17 September World Patient Safety Day
- 18 September World Bamboo Day
- 18 September International Equal Pay Day 2025
- 19 September International Talk Like a Pirate Day
- 20 September (Third Saturday) International Red Panda Day
- 21 September International Day of Peace (UN)
- 21 September World Alzheimer's Day
- 22 September Rose Day (Welfare of Cancer Patients)
- 22 September World Rhino Day
- 23 September International Day of Sign Languages
- 23 September Ayurveda Day
- 25 September World Pharmacists Day
- 25 September Antyodaya Diwas
- 26 September European Day of Languages
- 26 September World Contraception Day
- 26 September World Environmental Health Day
- 27 September World Tourism Day
- 27 September Google Birth Anniversary (25th Anniversary)
- 28 September Durga Puja
- 29 September World Heart Day
- 30 September International Translation Day