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DHAIRYA TIMES

A quest for Horizon



DHAIRYA TIMES

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INTRODUCTION

In a world that's constantly evolving, Dhairya Times, a monthly magazine series presented by Dhairya - The Civil Services Society, seeks to be your trusted guide to navigating the crucial trends, headlines, opinions, stories and ideas shaping our lives everyday.

Our missions stands to providing a platform for peer learning, holistic development and an analytical point of views that push our horizons beyond to build a crucial analysis of ongoing issues.

From in-depth features and peer analysis to all the technical information, we dive deep into the topics that are transforming the global landscape, while also forging in as your go-to resource for understanding the forces shaping the world we are a part of.

As a Society , we thrive to assist students in their academic and professional pursuits. To achieve this, we have come across monthly Current Affairs magazine series, starting from October.

We hope the standpoint of Dhairya and Dhairya Times as a whole brings about the desired change in boosting your understanding of facts along with opinions so stated.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we reflect on the journey of completing Magazine - *Dhairya Times* for September 2025, we are reminded that every step was made possible by the unwavering support and expertise of our esteemed Principal Ma'am , Prof. Saloni Gupta, whose vision has shaped our society's mission.

Followed by the significant encouragement of our mentor, IRS Rajesh Gupta sir, for his invaluable insights and expertise, inspiring our students to strive for excellence. Our gratitude also extends to our guest speakers, IPS Preeti Kumari and IPS Abhishek Vashishtha, for sharing their experiences and motivating our students.

We thank our founding mentor Mr. Vimlok Tiwari, our Convenor Mr. Jatin, Ms. Stanzin Chuskit, Dr. Akshat Pushpam, our Associate Teacher's of Dhairya, and Dhairya's Editorial Board Members for their tireless efforts in making our monthly magazine a reality. The due contribution has enabled in shaping this endeavour in ways that words can scarcely capture, providing a valuable resource for Civil Services Aspirants

Sincerely
Nikky Kaushik
President
Dhairya: The Civil Services Society

From the Desk of Principal



Prof. Saloni Gupta

Principal

Bharati College, University of Delhi

Hello my dear students.

I have always believed that your College is a place where three things are made viz. your career, your personality and your friends for life. Each one of these is very important and each one of you must explore all the avenues and opportunities available, towards each one of these payoffs from the college life.

Societies and clubs are platforms that often provide you with the wonderful confluence, if not congruence, of all three of these goals. They connect you to people with similar interests, they create opportunities for you to work in teams, they put you in positions of responsibility and leadership, they help you evolve as individuals and shape your personalities and, in their own intangible ways, they pave career paths for you by doing some or all of the above.

The Dhairya Society of our college is one such society that brings civil services aspirants of our college together and works towards supporting their goal of cracking this hallowed exam, conducted by the prestigious UPSC. Its a matter of great pride and satisfaction that the Dhairya society is bringing the first ever edition of its monthly magazine, aimed at sharing the vital information, tips and strategic advice for fellow aspirants.

I congratulate the office bearers and foot soldiers of this society and extend my best wishes to all our civil services aspirants.

Best wishes and best of luck.

From the Desk of Convenors



Mr. Jatin
(Convenor)



Ms. Stanzin
(Co-Convenor)



Dr. Akshat Pushpam
(Mentor)

It gives us immense pleasure to present the August edition of Dhairya Times, the magazine of our Civil Services Society. This issue is a reflection of our collective spirit of learning, discussion and the pursuit of excellence.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our respected Principal, Prof. Saloni Gupta Ma'am, for her constant encouragement and support for the team and also deeply grateful to the editorial team, mentors and members for their dedication.

We sincerely hope these pages encourage every reader to think, engage and aspire higher.

Warm regards

Mr. Jatin (Convenor), Ms. Stanzin (Co-Convenor) and Dr. Akshat Pushpam (Mentor)

Dhairya - The Civil Services Society



IRS Rajesh Gupta

Greetings to the students of Bharati College in general and to the civil services aspirants connected via the platform of the Dhairya Society (Bharati College) in particular. It gives me immense pleasure to note that Dhairya society is doing commendable work in the field of peer learning, information dissemination and mutual self-help. Dhairya Times, its monthly magazine, is another step in that direction. I am glad to convey my congratulations and best wishes to all those who relate to the Dhairya Society and its meaningful endeavours.

I take this opportunity to give my perspective on the Role of Civil Servants, as a kind of a pep-talk to all you aspirants. As I see it, you as civil servants can help in bringing The Change that the society needs and probably the change that you also wish to see in your country, in the governance around you. This is a great platform that allows you to B the change you want to C. It is also an opportunity and a platform to serve the underprivileged masses and under-served sections. So, Being the Voice of the Voiceless is another role that can and should inspire the youth in our colleges towards this exam/job. This job also allows you to become Self-made and Empowered. **ANYONE CAN BECOME** a civil servant with the right combo of intelligence, diligence, motivation and strategy. So, if you come from humble backgrounds or from a weaker section/gender/class - this is The Job that can empower you and you, in-turn, can empower thousands and lakhs of common people. Be driven by that, be fired by that!

Make no mistakes though, this is a tough exam and so it should be too, for it gets you **THE TOP JOBS** in the country. But hey, when the going gets tough, the tough gets going. So, tell yourself "I'm willing to suffer today, for a better tomorrow". They say those who sweat in peace, don't have to bleed in war. So, prepare yourselves adequately for this war - with the right arsenal, the right strategy, the right work ethics and the right attitude. This exam is tough, but not as tough as it is often made out to be. Dream big, create commensurate processes, believe in your processes and believe in yourself! If your processes are right, the results are bound to be right - sooner or later, in fact sooner rather than later!

Finally, I'll tell you what a teacher of mine at SRCC, my alma mater, had told everyone in our passing out batch - make sure you get what you like, else you'll have to like what you get.

Best of luck.

Jai Hind!



Mr. Vimlok Tiwari (IRS, Assistant Professor)

The accomplishment of two glorious years of Dhairya and the release of a new edition of its flagship project, Dhairya Times, fills me with both pride and a sense of deep nostalgia. What began as a humble initiative has today grown into a space that nurtures dialogue, fosters creativity, and builds a community of knowledge-seekers. Each issue of Dhairya Times is not merely a compilation of information, but a reflection of the passion, dedication, and vision of every member who contributes to it.

For me Serving as Convenor has been one of the most rewarding chapters of my life, filled with learning, challenges, and the joy of creating something meaningful with a dedicated team. As I now step away from academia to join the civil services, I am deeply grateful to every member, contributor, and reader who believed in this initiative and helped it flourish.



Editor's Note

Dhairya- The Civil Services society of our College are delighted to bring you the latest edition of our monthly magazine “Dhairya Times: A quest for Horizon”. In an era where information moves fast, our goal is to help you pause, reflect, and understand the larger picture behind the headlines.

Through Dhairya times: A quest for Horizon, We aim to provide you with a concise yet comprehensive overview of the most relevant national and international developments shaping India's governance, diplomacy and economy. This edition includes News, Highlights, Editorial, Policies and Focus of the Month which is designed to help readers align current affairs preparation with general studies syllabus of Civil Services Examinations.

Key highlights of this month:

1. US Relations and the H-1B Visa Fee Hike GS Paper 2
2. Supreme Court on POSH Act and Political Parties GS Paper 2
3. Nepal's Political Crisis GS Paper 2
4. India's Trade Strategy Amidst US Uncertainty and EU Engagements GS Paper 2 & 3.
5. Natural Calamities in North and North-Western India GS Paper 1 & 3.
6. India's Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy GS Paper 2.
7. Ladakh Unrest of 2025. GS Paper 2
8. GST 2.0 and India's Green Development Pathway GS Paper 3.
9. Stubble Burning, Air Pollution, and the Supreme Court's Suggestion GS Paper 2 & 3.
10. Strengthening Transparency through RTI GS Paper 2.

The editorial section features thought-provoking perspectives on governance, ethics, and diplomacy — penned by students and mentors who bring fresh insights to contemporary debates. Policy tracks key government schemes, Supreme Court judgments, and international developments relevant to all GS papers. News Highlights capture significant political, economic, and environmental developments that directly relate to GS Papers 1, 2, and 3. From global diplomatic shifts to pressing domestic issues, our team has distilled complex stories into clear insights for your preparation.

Warm regards

Editorial team

Dhairya- The Civil Services society

Bharati College

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SEPT
EMBER



समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

1 सितंबर 2025

- भारत-चीन संबंध:
शंघाई सहयोग संगठन SCO शिखर सम्मेलन में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग ने सीमा पर शांति बनाए रखने और सहयोग बढ़ाने पर चर्चा की। यह पंचशील सिद्धांत की प्रासंगिकता को दर्शाता।
(GS Paper II :- अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)
- भारतीय सेना सीमा पर चीन और पाकिस्तान के साथ तेजी से कार्रवाई की क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने के लिए पहले पांच 'भैरव' कमांडो बटालियनों का गठन कर रही है।
(GS paper 2 - राजनीति विज्ञान)
- ब्रिटिश म्यूजियम ने 16वीं सदी के वृंदावनी वस्त्र को 2027 में असम को 18 महीने की सार्वजनिक प्रदर्शनी के लिए उधार देने पर सहमति दी है।
(GS paper 1- कला और संस्कृति)
- एजुकेटेड गर्ल्स, एक भारतीय एनजीओ जो स्कूल से बाहर लड़कियों को कक्षा में लाने का काम करती है, ने 2025 का रामोन मैग्सेसे पुरस्कार जीता है।
(GS paper 1- सामाजिक मुद्दे)

2 सितंबर 2025

- भारत और अमेरिका ने बढ़ती द्विपक्षीय शुल्क तनाव के बावजूद अलास्का के फोर्ट वेनराइट में युद्ध अभ्यास सेना अभ्यास का अब तक का सबसे बड़ा संस्करण शुरू किया है।
(GS paper 2- अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)
- केंद्र सरकार प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण अन्न योजना (PMGKAY) की समीक्षा कर रही है ताकि अयोग्य लाभार्थियों को हटाकर सब्सिडी लागत को कम किया जा सके, क्योंकि वित्त वर्ष 2026 में खाद्य सब्सिडी बिल 2 लाख करोड़ रुपये पार कर गया है।
(GS paper 2 - शासन/ GS paper 3 - सार्वजनिक वितरण)

1 सितंबर

राष्ट्रीय पोषण सप्ताह

उपलब्धियाँ

अगस्त 2025 में, भारत ने एक ही महीने में 2,001 करोड़ UPI लेनदेन पूरे किए। ये लेनदेन ₹24.85 लाख करोड़ मूल्य के थे, जो भारत के डिजिटल वित्तीय बुनियादी ढाँचे में नागरिकों के बढ़ते विश्वास को दर्शाता है।

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

3 सितंबर 2025

- अगस्त 2025 में न्यायमूर्ति सुधांशु ढुलिया के सेवानिवृत्त होने के साथ, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में 34 न्यायाधीशों में से केवल एक महिला न्यायाधीश (न्यायमूर्ति बी.वी. नागरधना) शेष हैं।
(GS paper 1- राजनीति)
- भारत के प्रधानमंत्री ने सेमिकॉन इंडिया 2025 में भारत का पहला स्वदेशी सेमीकंडक्टर — 'विक्रम 32-बिट प्रोसेसर' का अनावरण किया, जो सेमीकंडक्टर आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में भारत की यात्रा में एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है।
(GS paper 3- विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी)
- कृषि एवं प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण (APEDA) ने BHARATI पहल शुरू की है, जिसका उद्देश्य 100 एग्री-फूड स्टार्टअप्स का समर्थन करना और 2030 तक 50 बिलियन डॉलर के एग्री-फूड निर्यात का लक्ष्य हासिल करना है।
(GS paper -अर्थव्यवस्था और कृषि)
- भारतीय नौसेना के पहले प्रशिक्षण स्क्वाड्रन (INS तीर, INS शार्दूल, और ICGS सारथी) लंबी दूरी की प्रशिक्षण तैनाती के लिए पोर्ट विक्टोरिया, सेशेल्स में पहुँचे, जिससे भारत और सेशेल्स के बीच समुद्री संबंध मजबूत हुए।
(GS paper 2 - अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

4 सितंबर 2025

- ओड़िशा के देब्रीगढ़ वन्यजीव अभयारण्य को अद्भुत पारिस्थितिकी और सामुदायिक प्रयासों के कारण भारत का नवीनतम बाघ अभयारण्य बनने के लिए NTCA की मंजूरी मिल गई है।
(Gs paper 3 - पर्यावरण और जैव विविधता)
- आरक्षण 50% की सीमा से अधिक होना चाहिए या नहीं, इस पर बहस फिर से शुरू हो गई है, राजनीतिक मांगों के बाद उच्चतर कोटा लागू करने की और सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने केंद्र से यह पूछताछ की है कि क्या 'क्रिमी लेयर' की नीति को अनुसूचित जातियों (SC) और अनुसूचित जनजातियों (ST) पर भी लागू किया जाना चाहिए।
(Gs paper 2 - राजनीति)

उपलब्धियाँ

भारत का माल एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) संग्रह उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़कर ₹1.86 ट्रिलियन तक पहुँच गया। यह पिछले वर्ष इसी महीने की तुलना में 6.5% की वृद्धि दर्शाता है।

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

5 सितंबर 2025

- नीति आयोग ने अपनी रिपोर्ट "स्वनिर्भरता के लक्ष्य की ओर दालों में विकास को तेजी देने की रणनीतियाँ और मार्ग" जारी की।
(Gs paper 3 - अर्थव्यवस्था)
- सिंगापुर के प्रधानमंत्री ने भारत का दौरा किया ताकि 60 वर्षों के कूटनीतिक संबंधों का जश्न मनाया जा सके, जिसके दौरान भारत और सिंगापुर ने आठ प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में अपने समग्र रणनीतिक साझेदारी (CSP) के लिए एक भविष्य-दृष्टिगत रोडमैप पर सहमति जताई।
(Gs paper 2 - अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)
- नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री ने 2025 के तियांजिन में हुए SCO शिखर सम्मेलन के दौरान चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग के साथ लिपुलेख पास मुद्दा उठाया, और नेपाल के क्षेत्रीय दावे की पुष्टि की।
(Gs paper 2- अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

6 सितंबर 2025

- राजस्थान विधानसभा ने राज्य के कोचिंग उद्योग को नियंत्रित करने के लिए राजस्थान कोचिंग सेंटर्स (नियंत्रण और विनियमन) विधेयक, 2025 पारित किया, जो बढ़ती छात्र आत्महत्याओं की घटनाओं और कोचिंग उद्योग के बढ़ते प्रभाव को देखते हुए है।
(GS paper 2 -शासन)
- 5 सितंबर 2025 को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने डॉ. सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन की जयंती पर राष्ट्रपति भवन में उन्हें पुष्प अर्पित कर श्रद्धांजलि दी, जिसे भारत में शिक्षक दिवस के रूप में भी मनाया जाता है।
(GS paper 1 - भारतीय समाज और संस्कृति)
- केंद्रीय मंत्री ने तमिलनाडु के वी.ओ. चिदंबरनार (VOC) पोर्ट में भारत की पहली पोर्ट आधारित ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन पायलट परियोजना का उद्घाटन किया, जिससे यह देश का पहला पोर्ट बन गया जो ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन का उत्पादन करता है।
(GS paper 3- विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी)

5 सितंबर
शिक्षक दिवस

उपलब्धियाँ

ओडिशा की एथलीट रस्मिता साहू ने पहले खेलो इंडिया वाटर स्पोर्ट्स फेस्टिवल में महिलाओं की 200 मीटर एकल और 500 मीटर युगल कैनो स्पर्धाओं में स्वर्ण पदक जीते।

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

- मॉरीशस के प्रधानमंत्री नवीनचंद्र रामगुलाम इस सितंबर में भारत का राज्य दौरा करेंगे, जो उनके वर्तमान कार्यकाल में पहला विदेशी द्विपक्षीय दौरा है।
(GS paper -2 अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

7 सितंबर 2025

- 23वीं कानून आयोग की अधिसूचना 2 सितंबर को जारी की गई।
(GS paper 2 - राजनीति)
- इंटरनेशनल फूड पॉलिसी रिसर्च इंस्टिट्यूट द्वारा नेचर जर्नल में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन से पता चलता है कि स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (SBM) ने स्वच्छता में सुधार करके शिशु मृत्यु दर में महत्वपूर्ण कमी लाने में मदद की है।
(GS paper 2 - शासन (सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम, नीति प्रभाव))
- भारतीय सरकार 'INDIAsize' पहल और VisioNxt लॉन्च करने जा रही है, जिसका उद्देश्य भारतीय शारीरिक प्रकारों के अनुरूप मानकीकृत माप बनाना है, जिससे कई ब्रांडों द्वारा उपयोग किए जा रहे वर्तमान अमेरिकी और ब्रिटिश आकार मानकों से होने वाली फिटिंग समस्याओं को हल किया जा सके।
(GS paper 3 - विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी)

8 सितंबर 2025

- छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने जेल सुधार पहल के तहत सभी जिला जेलों में योग और सुधर्शन क्रिया लागू की है, जिसका उद्देश्य कैदियों को मानसिक शांति, आत्म-अनुशासन और सकारात्मकता के माध्यम से पुनर्वासित करना है।
(Gs paper 2 - शासन)
- विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने घोषित किया है कि मर्पोक्स (मंकीपॉक्स) अब अंतर्राष्ट्रीय चिंता का सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य आपातकाल (PHEIC) नहीं है, क्योंकि वैश्विक मामलों और मौतों में लगातार कमी आई है।
(GS paper 2 -अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

7 सितंबर
ब्राज़ील स्वतंत्रता
दिवस

उपलब्धियाँ

भारत ने सैफ
अंडर-17 महिला
चैंपियनशिप में छह में
से पाँच मैच जीतकर
15 अंकों के साथ अंक
तालिका में शीर्ष स्थान
हासिल किया।

8 सितंबर
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय
साक्षरता दिवस

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

- भारत के शहर, जिनमें 2070 तक लगभग एक अरब लोग रहने का अनुमान है, बाढ़, हीट वेव, चक्रवात और भूकंप जैसी बढ़ती जोखिमों का सामना कर रहे हैं, जिससे जलवायु-प्रतिरोधी शहरी योजना की तत्काल आवश्यकता उत्पन्न हो रही है।
(Gs paper 3-पर्यावरण और आपदा प्रबंधन)

9 सितंबर 2025

- भारत ने राजगीर, बिहार में मेन्स हॉकी एशिया कप 2025 के फाइनल में कोरिया को 4-1 से हराकर अपना चौथा खिताब जीत लिया।
(GS paper 1- sports)
- भारत और इज़राइल ने नई दिल्ली में द्विपक्षीय निवेश समझौते (BIA) पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसमें भारत और इज़राइल के वित्त मंत्रियों ने शहान्वयन दी।
(GS paper 2- international relations)
- भारत जीएसटी 2.0 लागू कर रहा है, जो एक बड़ा कर सुधार है, जिसका उद्देश्य स्लैब्स को सरल बनाना, अनुपालन लागत को कम करना और अल्पकालिक राजस्व अधिकतमकरण के बजाय दीर्घकालिक विकास को प्राथमिकता देना है।
(GS paper 3 - economy)
- असम ने भारत रत्न डॉ. भूपेन हजारिका की जन्म शताब्दी के उपलक्ष्य में वर्षभर चलने वाले समारोहों की शुरुआत की है, जिसमें राष्ट्रीय नेताओं की श्रद्धांजलियाँ और राज्यभर में सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम शामिल हैं।
(GS paper 1- भारतीय कला और संस्कृति)
- भील लोककथाओं का हिंदी अनुवादित संग्रह जल्द ही जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय की "आदि वाणी" वेबसाइट और ऐप पर ई-बुकलेट के रूप में जारी किया जाएगा, जिसमें जाति और प्रेम से जुड़ी मौखिक परंपराएँ प्रस्तुत की जाएंगी।
(GS paper 1- भारतीय समाज और संस्कृति)

उपलब्धियाँ

भारत ने बायोई3 नीति के तहत अपना पहला राष्ट्रीय बायोफाउंड्री नेटवर्क लॉन्च किया। यह पहल उन्नत जैव प्रौद्योगिकी और जैव-विनिर्माण क्षमताओं को स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित करने पर केंद्रित है।

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

10 सितंबर 2025

- चीन ने नए अंतरिम प्रावधानों के माध्यम से दुर्लभ धातुओं के खनन और प्रसंस्करण पर नियंत्रण कड़ा कर दिया है, जिससे वैश्विक उत्पादन और रिफाइनिंग पर अपनी पकड़ और मजबूत कर ली है।
(GS paper 2- अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)
- भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों का एक दल रूस के निज़नी के मुलिनो प्रशिक्षण मैदान में होने वाले बहुपक्षीय सैन्य अभ्यास "जापाद 2025" में भाग लेने के लिए रवाना हुआ है।
(GS paper 2 - अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)
- सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन 9 सितंबर 2025 को हुए चुनाव में न्यायमूर्ति बी. सुदर्शन रेड्डी को हराकर भारत के 15वें उपराष्ट्रपति चुने गए हैं।
(GS paper 2- संवैधानिक पद और चुनाव)
- यू.के.-इंडिया इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर फाइनेंसिंग ब्रिज (UKIIFB), जो सितंबर 2024 में शुरू किया गया था, ने लंदन में एक रिपोर्ट के साथ अपनी पहली वर्षगांठ मनाई, जिसमें भारत के बुनियादी ढांचा क्षेत्र में निवेश को सुरक्षित बनाने के लिए नीतिगत बदलावों की सिफारिश की गई।
(GS paper 3 - economy)
- नेपाल के राष्ट्रपति रामचंद्र पौडेल ने प्रधानमंत्री के.पी. शर्मा ओली के इस्तीफे के बाद उत्पन्न राजनीतिक अशांति से जुड़े Gen-z प्रदर्शनों के बीच शांतिपूर्ण संवाद की अपील की है।
(Gs paper 2 - अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

11 सितंबर 2025

- 130वें संविधान संशोधन विधेयक, 2025 में पांच साल या उससे अधिक की सजा वाले अपराधों में लगातार 30 दिनों तक हिरासत में रखे गए मंत्रियों (प्रधानमंत्री/मुख्यमंत्री सहित) को स्वतः हटाने का प्रस्ताव है।
(GS paper 2- राजनीति और शासन)

10 सितंबर
विश्व आत्महत्या
रोकथाम दिवस

उपलब्धियाँ

बैंगलुरु ने ग्लोबल
एआई सिटी इंडेक्स
2025 में 26वां स्थान
हासिल किया।

11 सितंबर
राष्ट्रीय वन शहीद
दिवस

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

- IAEA (संयुक्त राष्ट्र परमाणु निगरानी संस्था) और ईरान ने एक महत्वपूर्ण समझौता किया है, जिसके तहत निरीक्षकों को परमाणु स्थलों की निगरानी फिर से शुरू करने की अनुमति मिल गई है, जिनमें हाल ही में इजरायल और अमेरिकी हमलों में क्षतिग्रस्त हुए स्थल भी शामिल हैं।

(GS paper 2 - अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

12 सितंबर 2025

- केंद्रीय नवीन एवं नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्री ने घोषणा की कि भारत का लक्ष्य 2028 तक पूर्णतः स्वदेशी सौर विनिर्माण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का निर्माण करना है, जिसमें मॉड्यूल, सेल, वेफर्स और सिल्लियां शामिल होंगी।

(GS paper 2 - अर्थव्यवस्था)

- कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम (ईएसआईसी) ने 2025 में सामाजिक सुरक्षा कवरेज का विस्तार करने और उद्योगों के लिए अनुपालन को आसान बनाने के लिए दो प्रमुख योजनाएँ शुरू कीं। इन पहलों का उद्देश्य अधिक श्रमिकों को रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करना है।

(GS paper 2 - कल्याणकारी योजना)

- मॉरीशस के प्रधानमंत्री नवीनचंद्र रामगुलाम ने वाराणसी का दौरा किया, जहां भारत ने स्वास्थ्य, बुनियादी ढांचे, समुद्री सुरक्षा और शिक्षा को कवर करने वाले 680 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के विशेष आर्थिक पैकेज की घोषणा की।

(Gs paper 2- अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

13 सितंबर 2025

- विशाखापत्तनम के पास एर्ला मट्टी डिब्बालु (लाल रेत के टीले) और आंध्र प्रदेश में तिरुमाला पहाड़ियों को यूनेस्को की विश्व प्राकृतिक विरासत स्थलों की अस्थायी सूची में शामिल किया गया है।

(Gs paper 1- भारतीय समाज और संस्कृति)

- पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ ने घोषणा की है कि पाकिस्तान 2027 में शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (एससीओ) शिखर सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेगा और उन्होंने अधिकारियों को इस्लामाबाद में तैयारी शुरू करने का निर्देश दिया है।

(Gs paper 2 - अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

उपलब्धियाँ

अगस्त में भारत के सेवा क्षेत्र की वृद्धि 15 साल के उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुँच गई, एचएसबीसी-एसएंडपी ग्लोबल पीएमआई बढ़कर 62.9 और समग्र पीएमआई 63.2 पर पहुँच गया।

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

- मध्य प्रदेश ने गांधी सागर वन्यजीव अभयारण्य में चीतों के लिए कुनो राष्ट्रीय उद्यान के बाद दूसरा व्यवहार्य घर बनाने के लिए चीता संभोग कार्यक्रम शुरू किया है।
(Gs paper 3 - पर्यावरण)
- श्री सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन ने 12 सितंबर 2025 को भारत के 15वें उपराष्ट्रपति के रूप में शपथ ली, राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने शीर्ष गणमान्य व्यक्तियों की उपस्थिति में राष्ट्रपति भवन में उन्हें शपथ दिलाई।
(Gs paper 2 - राजनीति और सरकार)

14 सितंबर 2025

- प्रधानमंत्री ने ₹9,000 करोड़ से अधिक की परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन किया, जिनमें भारत का पहला बॉस-आधारित बायो-एथेनॉल संयंत्र भी शामिल है। इन परियोजनाओं का उद्देश्य पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में बुनियादी ढाँचे और ऊर्जा क्षेत्र को मज़बूत बनाना है।
(Gs paper 2 - राजनीति और शासन)
- भारत 2027 में चेन्नई में 5वीं कोस्ट गार्ड ग्लोबल समिट की मेजबानी करेगा।
(Gs paper 2 - अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

15 सितंबर 2025

- अमेरिका ने भारत को "टैरिफ किंग" करार दिया है, जिसने हाल ही में भारतीय वस्तुओं पर 50% टैरिफ लगाया है, जिससे भारत के उच्च आयात शुल्क पर बहस फिर से शुरू हो गई है।
(GS paper 3 - अर्थव्यवस्था)
- सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में लंबित मामलों की संख्या 88,417 के सर्वकालिक उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गई है, जबकि न्यायालय 34 न्यायाधीशों की अपनी पूर्ण स्वीकृत क्षमता पर कार्य कर रहा है। (GS paper 3- शासन)
- दिबांग शक्ति अभ्यास हाल ही में अरुणाचल प्रदेश की दिबांग घाटी में आयोजित किया गया। यह भारतीय सेना की स्पीयर कोर द्वारा एक उच्च-तीव्रता वाला क्षेत्रीय प्रशिक्षण अभ्यास है।
(GS paper 3 - रक्षा)

उपलब्धियाँ

हैदराबाद के गाचीबोवली स्टेडियम में लड़कियों के लिए भारत की पहली फीफा टैलेंट अकादमी का उद्घाटन किया गया।

14 सितंबर
हिंदी दिवस

15 सितंबर
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय
लोकतंत्र दिवस

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

16 सितंबर 2025

- भारत के प्रधान मंत्री 'स्वस्थ नारी, सशक्त परिवार अभियान' और 8वें पोषण माह का शुभारंभ करेंगे।
(GS Paper II: स्वास्थ्य, कल्याण योजनाएं, शासन और सामाजिक क्षेत्र के हस्तक्षेप)
- भारत 2027 में चेन्नई में पाँचवें कोस्ट गार्ड वैश्विक शिखर सम्मेलन (Coast Guard Global Summit – CGGS) की मेजबानी करेगा। यह आयोजन भारतीय तटरक्षक बल की स्वर्ण जयंती के साथ जुड़ा होगा।
(GS Paper II – अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन और भारत की भूमिका।)
- नीति आयोग ने अपने फ्रंटियर टेक हब के अंतर्गत 'विकसित भारत के लिए एआई रोडमैप' और 'फ्रंटियर टेक रिपोर्टिजरी' की शुरुआत की है।
(GS paper - III- विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी)

17 सितंबर 2025

- उद्योग और आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (डीपीआईआईटी) भास्कर (भारत स्टार्टअप नॉलेज एक्सेस रजिस्ट्री) लॉन्च करने के लिए तैयार है, जो भारत के स्टार्टअप पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को समर्थन और बढ़ाने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया एक डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म है।
(GS Paper 3 – आर्थिक विकास, औद्योगिक नीति, और स्टार्टअप्स)
- इंजीनियर्स दिवस पर, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने सर एम विश्वेश्वरैया को इंजीनियरिंग में उनके योगदान के लिए सम्मानित किया।
(GS Paper 1 – भारतीय इतिहास और योगदान)
- भारत ने लाओस, म्यांमार और वियतनाम को मानवीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए ऑपरेशन सद्भाव शुरू किया है, जो सभी तूफान यागी से आई बाढ़ से गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित हैं।
(GS Paper 2 – अंतराष्ट्रीय संबंध)

16 सितंबर
विश्व ओज़ोन
दिवस

उपलब्धियाँ

भारत ने राष्ट्रीय हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन के तहत कांडला बंदरगाह पर अपना पहला स्वदेश निर्मित हरित हाइड्रोजन संयंत्र शुरू किया। यह परियोजना स्वच्छ ऊर्जा परिवर्तन और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। यह जीवाश्म ईंधन पर निर्भरता को भी कम करेगी।

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

- भारतीय राष्ट्रीय महासागर सूचना सेवा केंद्र (आईएनसीओआईएस) ने भारत के अनन्य आर्थिक क्षेत्र (ईईजेड) के लिए "एकीकृत महासागर ऊर्जा एटलस" लॉन्च किया है, जो समुद्री ऊर्जा संसाधनों की विशाल क्षमता का खुलासा करता है।
(GS Paper 3 – विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी)

18 सितंबर 2025

- सरकार पूर्व माओवादी गढ़ बीजापुर (छत्तीसगढ़) के करेगुटा हिल्स में एक नया जंगल युद्ध स्कूल स्थापित करेगी, जहां सीआरपीएफ, डीआरजी, कोबरा और राज्य पुलिस बलों को प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा।
(GS paper 3- आंतरिक सुरक्षा)
- भारत ने सारनाथ को यूनेस्को की विश्व धरोहर सूची (2025-26 चक्र) के लिए आधिकारिक रूप से नामांकित किया है, जिससे संभावित रूप से अस्थायी सूची में 27 साल का इंतजार खत्म हो जाएगा।
(GS paper 1- संस्कृति और विरासत)
- एमएनआरई ने भूतापीय ऊर्जा संसाधनों की खोज और तैनाती में तेजी लाने के लिए भूतापीय ऊर्जा पर राष्ट्रीय नीति (2025) शुरू की।
(Gs paper 2- सरकारी नीतियां)

19 सितंबर 2025

- भारत 2027 में चेन्नई में पाँचवें तटरक्षक वैश्विक शिखर सम्मेलन (CGGS) की मेज़बानी करेगा, जो भारतीय तटरक्षक बल (ICG) की स्वर्ण जयंती के अवसर पर आयोजित किया जाएगा। रोम में चौथे CGGS में लिया गया यह निर्णय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुद्री सहयोग में भारत के नेतृत्व को दर्शाता है।
(GS Paper 2 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंध)
- आंध्र प्रदेश की तिरुमाला पहाड़ियों और एर्रा मट्टी डिब्बालु (लाल रेत के टीले) को यूनेस्को की विश्व धरोहर स्थलों की अस्थायी सूची में शामिल किया गया है, जो उनकी सुरक्षा और संरक्षण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।
(GS Paper 1 भारतीय विरासत एवं संस्कृति)

उपलब्धियाँ

भारत और संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने संयुक्त रूप से "भारतसंयुक्त राष्ट्र वैश्विक पहल" के तहत चार क्षमता निर्माण परियोजनाएँ शुरू कीं। इन परियोजनाओं का उद्देश्य वैश्विक दक्षिण देशों को सतत विकास लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में सहायता करना है। और दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग और भारत की वैश्विक नेतृत्वकारी भूमिका को और मज़बूत करना है।

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

- जल शक्ति मंत्रालय ने पंचायती राज मंत्रालय के सहयोग से नई दिल्ली में सरपंच संवाद राष्ट्रीय गुणवत्ता सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया। 'विकसित ग्राम से विकसित भारत' विषय पर केंद्रित इस सम्मेलन में 22 राज्यों के 75 प्रतिष्ठित सरपंचों ने हिस्सा लिया। (GS Paper 2 शासन, सरकार की नीतियाँ एवं कार्यान्वयन)
- भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) ने अपने आगामी मिशनों में ऑन-ऑर्बिट सर्विसिंग और रीस्पूलिंग (OOSR) तकनीकों में विशेषज्ञता रखने वाली कंपनियों को सक्रिय रूप से शामिल करने की योजना की घोषणा की है, जो अंतरिक्ष स्थिरता और विस्तारित उपग्रह उपयोगिता की दिशा में भारत के प्रयासों में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। बेंगलूर में ऑर्बिटएड एयरोस्पेस की नई अनुसंधान एवं विकास सुविधा के उद्घाटन के अवसर पर बोलते हुए, इसरो के अध्यक्ष डॉ. वी. नारायणन ने यह बात कही। (GS Paper 3 विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी)

20 सितंबर 2025

- बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने मुख्यमंत्री निश्चय स्वयं सहायता भत्ता योजना का विस्तार किया। उन्होंने 2025 में बेरोजगार युवाओं के लिए एक नई वित्तीय सहायता योजना की घोषणा की। इस योजना का उद्देश्य विधानसभा चुनावों से पहले शिक्षित युवाओं को सशक्त बनाना और रोजगार के अवसरों को बढ़ावा देना है। (GS Paper 2 शासन, सरकार की नीतियाँ एवं कार्यान्वयन)
- स्वस्थ नारी सशक्त परिवार अभियान (एसएनएसपीए) का शुभारंभ 17 सितंबर 2025 को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा किया गया। यह भारत में महिलाओं और बच्चों के लिए सबसे बड़ा स्वास्थ्य आउटरीच कार्यक्रम है। इस अभियान का उद्देश्य देश भर में महिलाओं और बच्चों के लिए स्वास्थ्य सेवा की पहुँच, गुणवत्ता और जागरूकता में सुधार लाना है। (GS paper 2 कल्याणकारी योजनाएँ)
- इसरो के अध्यक्ष वी. नारायणन ने घोषणा की कि एआई-सक्षम अर्ध-मानव रोबोट, व्योममित्र, दिसंबर 2025 के अंत तक गगनयान परियोजना के मानवरहित परीक्षण मिशन में उड़ान भरेगा। यह मिशन तीन दिनों के लिए 400 किलोमीटर की कक्षा में मनुष्यों को भेजने और उनकी सुरक्षित वापसी सुनिश्चित करने के भारत के लक्ष्य की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। (GS Paper 3 विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी)

उपलब्धियाँ

भारतीय नौसेना ने प्रोजेक्ट 17A के तहत ब्रह्मोस मिसाइलों से लैस एक स्टील्थ फ्रिगेट, INS हिमगिरी को शामिल किया। स्वदेश निर्मित यह जहाज भारत की समुद्री शक्ति और रक्षा आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ाता है।

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

- केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने 63,000 जनजातीय बहुल गांवों और आकांक्षी जिलों में जनजातीय समुदायों के उत्थान के लिए प्रधानमंत्री जनजातीय उन्नत ग्राम अभियान को मंजूरी दी। (GS Paper 2 शासन, कल्याणकारी योजनाएँ)

21 सितंबर 2025

- भारत ने अपना पहला फास्ट ट्रैक इमिग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम (एफटीआई-टीटीपी) लॉन्च किया है, जिसका उद्देश्य उच्च-नेट-वर्थ व्यक्तियों (एचएनडब्ल्यूआई), सीईओ, व्यापारियों और भारत के प्रवासी नागरिकों (ओसीआई) के लिए त्वरित आव्रजन प्रसंस्करण प्रदान करना है। (GS Paper 2 शासन, सरकार की नीतियाँ)
- जून 2024 में, सिंगापुर में FATE के पूर्ण अधिवेशन में भारत को वैश्विक धन-शोधन रोधी मानकों के साथ "उच्च स्तर का तकनीकी अनुपालन" प्राप्त करने के लिए मान्यता दी गई। भारत को "नियमित अनुवर्ती" श्रेणी में रखा गया, जो FATE द्वारा सर्वोच्च रेटिंग है, जिससे यह यूके, फ्रांस और इटली जैसे G-20 देशों के साथ यह दर्जा प्राप्त करने वाली एकमात्र प्रमुख संघीय अर्थव्यवस्था बन गई। (GS Paper 2 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंध)
- भारत ने अपना पहला फास्ट ट्रैक इमिग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम (एफटीआई-टीटीपी) लॉन्च किया है, जिसका उद्देश्य उच्च-नेट-वर्थ व्यक्तियों (एचएनडब्ल्यूआई), सीईओ, व्यापारियों और भारत के प्रवासी नागरिकों (ओसीआई) के लिए त्वरित आव्रजन प्रसंस्करण प्रदान करना है। (GS Paper 2 - शासन)

22 सितंबर 2025

- भारत ने 76,000 करोड़ रुपये के सेमीकंडक्टर इंडिया मिशन के तहत 10 सेमीकंडक्टर निर्माण और असेंबली परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी है, जबकि चिप डिजाइन में तेजी आ रही है और भारत में वैश्विक चिप डिजाइनरों का 20% हिस्सा है। (GS Paper 3 विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी)
- स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय ने बताया है कि इस महीने की 20 तारीख तक स्वस्थ नारी सशक्त परिवार अभियान के तहत देश भर में 2.83 लाख से ज़्यादा स्वास्थ्य शिविर आयोजित किए जा चुके हैं। 17 सितंबर को शुरू हुए इस अभियान में पूरे भारत में लोगों की भारी भागीदारी देखी जा रही है और लाखों महिलाएं, बच्चे और परिवार व्यापक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का लाभ उठा रहे हैं। (Gs paper 2 - कल्याणकारी योजना)

21 सितंबर

अल्जाइमर दिवस

उपलब्धियाँ

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत राष्ट्रीय अंग एवं ऊतक प्रत्यारोपण संगठन (NOTTO) द्वारा जारी वार्षिक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत ने 2024 में रिकॉर्ड तोड़ 18,900 अंग प्रत्यारोपण किए, जिससे यह कुल अंग प्रत्यारोपण में विश्व स्तर पर तीसरे स्थान पर रहा। इसी रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया है कि भारत जीवित दाता अंग प्रत्यारोपण में विश्व में अग्रणी बन गया है।

22 सितंबर

गुलाब दिवस (कैंसर रोगियों का कल्याण)

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

23 सितंबर 2025

- सरकार ने 22 सितंबर, 2025 से जीएसटी 2.0 लागू किया, जिसे भारत के प्रधान मंत्री ने "जीएसटी बचत उत्सव" नाम दिया है।
(GS paper 3 - अर्थव्यवस्था)
- मुख्यालय एकीकृत रक्षा स्टाफ (मुख्यालय आईडीएस) ने नई दिल्ली में संयुक्त परिचालन समीक्षा और मूल्यांकन (कोर) कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ किया।
(GS paper 3-रक्षा - सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ, रक्षा तैयारी और रणनीतिक पहल)
- सीपीसीबी की 2023 की रिपोर्ट से पता चलता है कि भारत में प्रदूषित नदी स्थलों की संख्या 815 (2022) से थोड़ी कम होकर 807 (2023) हो गई है, और "प्राथमिकता-1" वाले कुछ हिस्सों में तत्काल सुधार की आवश्यकता है।
(GS Paper 3 - पर्यावरण)

24 सितंबर 2025

- कर्नाटक ने अलमट्टी बांध की ऊंचाई 519.60 मीटर से बढ़ाकर 524.256 मीटर करने का प्रस्ताव दिया है, जिससे इसकी क्षमता 173 टीएमसी से बढ़कर 300 टीएमसी हो जाएगी।
(GS Paper 3 - पर्यावरण)
- भारत अक्टूबर 2025 में मध्य प्रदेश में एक मेगा त्रि-सेवा ड्रोन ड्रिल 'कोल्ड स्टार्ट' आयोजित करेगा।
(GS Paper 3 - रक्षा - सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ, रक्षा तैयारी और रणनीतिक पहल)
- केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने विकसित भारत बिल्डथॉन 2025 का शुभारंभ किया। यह राष्ट्रीय नवाचार कार्यक्रम स्कूल छात्रों में रचनात्मकता और समस्या-समाधान कौशल को बढ़ावा देता है और बड़े पैमाने पर व्यावहारिक सीख को प्रोत्साहित करता है।
(GS Paper 2 - शिक्षा, मानव संसाधन विकास, शासन से संबंधित नीतियाँ और पहल)
- भारत के पहले विदेशी रक्षा विनिर्माण संयंत्र का उद्घाटन भारत के रक्षा मंत्री और उनके मोरक्को के समकक्ष अब्देलतीफ लौदी ने बेरेंचिड, मोरक्को में किया।
(GS Paper 3 - रक्षा - सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ, रक्षा तैयारी और रणनीतिक)

23 सितंबर

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय
सांकेतिक भाषा
दिवस

उपलब्धियाँ

नीति आयोग ने अपनी ईवी अवसर रिपोर्ट के साथ भारत इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी इंडेक्स (IEMI) जारी किया। अध्ययन में भारत में 200 अरब डॉलर के ईवी बाजार का अनुमान लगाया गया है। यह राज्यों को ईवी अपनाने में प्रगति पर नज़र रखने और स्वच्छ गतिशीलता को बढ़ावा देने में मदद करेगा।

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

25 सितंबर 2025

- लेह, लद्दाख में राज्य का दर्जा और छठी अनुसूची का दर्जा देने की मांग को लेकर हिंसक विरोध प्रदर्शन में चार लोगों की मौत हो गई और 30 से अधिक लोग घायल हो गए।
(GS Paper 2 भारतीय संविधान, शासन और राजनीतिक मुद्दे)
- केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने भारत के जहाज निर्माण और समुद्री क्षेत्र को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए 69,725 करोड़ रुपये के पैकेज को मंजूरी दी, जो वित्तपोषण, क्षमता, प्रौद्योगिकी और सुधारों को बढ़ाने के लिए 4-स्तंभ दृष्टिकोण पर आधारित है।
(GS paper 3- अर्थव्यवस्था)
- भारत ने रेल-आधारित मोबाइल लॉन्चर से अग्नि-प्राइम मध्य दूरी की मिसाइल का सफल परीक्षण किया, जो अपनी तरह का पहला लॉन्च है। यह रणनीतिक निवारक क्षमता में मोबिलिटी और छिपाव (stealth) को बढ़ाता है।
(GS Paper 3 रक्षा – सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ, रक्षा तैयारी और रणनीतिक पहल)
- पर्यावरणविदों ने ओडिशा की पारिस्थितिक रूप से नाजुक महेंद्रगिरि पहाड़ियों में अनियंत्रित पर्यटन और निर्माण परियोजनाओं पर चिंता जताई है, जिससे जैव विविधता को खतरा हो रहा है।
(GS Paper 3 -पर्यावरण)

26 सितंबर 2025

- आईयूसीएन विश्व संरक्षण कांग्रेस 2025 (अबू धाबी) ने एक प्रस्ताव पारित किया जिसमें तमिलनाडु के पाक खाड़ी में भारत के पहले डुगोंग संरक्षण रिजर्व को समुद्री जैव विविधता संरक्षण के लिए एक वैश्विक मॉडल के रूप में मान्यता दी गई।
(GS Paper 3 -पर्यावरण)
- भारतीय वायु सेना (आईएएफ) ने औपचारिक रूप से अपने अंतिम दो मिग-21 स्क्वाड्रनों - नंबर 23 पैथर्स और नंबर 3 कोबरा - को सेवानिवृत्त कर दिया, जिससे छह दशक के युग का अंत हो गया।
(GS Paper 3: रक्षा – सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ, रक्षा तैयारी और रणनीतिक पहल)

25 सितंबर

सामाजिक न्याय दिवस

उपलब्धियाँ

भारत ने गिफ्ट सिटी, गुजरात में अपने पहले अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वित्तीय सेवा केंद्र का उद्घाटन किया।

26 सितंबर

विश्व गर्भनिर्धारक दिवस

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

- प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में मंत्रिमंडल ने 2021-26 की अवधि के लिए ₹2277.397 करोड़ के परिव्यय के साथ "क्षमता निर्माण और मानव संसाधन विकास" पर डीएसआईआर/सीएसआईआर योजना को मंजूरी दे दी है।
(GS paper 3- विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी)
- भारत अक्टूबर 2025 की शुरुआत में ड्रोन और काउंटर-ड्रोन सिस्टम पर केंद्रित अपना सबसे बड़ा संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास करने के लिए तैयार है। कोल्ड स्टार्ट नाम के इस अभ्यास में सेना, नौसेना और वायु सेना शामिल होंगी।
(GS paper 3- रक्षा सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ, रक्षा तैयारी और रणनीतिक पहल)
- रक्षा मंत्रालय ने 62,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की लागत से 97 तेजस जेट विमानों की खरीद के लिए एचएएल के साथ समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
(GS paper 3 - रक्षा सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ, रक्षा तैयारी और रणनीतिक पहल)

27 सितंबर 2025

- डॉलर के मुकाबले भारतीय रुपए की हालिया कमजोरी लगातार व्यापार असंतुलन और सुस्त निवेश प्रवाह के कारण है, जो वैश्विक वित्तीय सख्ती के कारण और भी बढ़ गई है।
(GS paper 3- अर्थव्यवस्था)
- आयुष मंत्रालय ने एआईआईए गोवा में अपनी तरह का पहला एकीकृत न्यूरो-पुनर्वास केंद्र "प्रयास" लॉन्च किया, जो बाल चिकित्सा न्यूरो के लिए आयुर्वेद, योग और आधुनिक चिकित्सा के सम्मिश्रण में एक मील का पत्थर है।
(GS Paper 3 स्वास्थ्य – स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना)
- भारत सरकार ने मणिपुर, नागालैंड और अरुणाचल प्रदेश के कुछ हिस्सों में सशस्त्र बल (विशेष शक्तियाँ) अधिनियम, 1958 (AFSPA) को अगले छह महीने के लिए बढ़ा दिया है।
(GS paper 3 - रक्षा)

उपलब्धियाँ

भारतजेन एआई का विस्तार आठवीं अनुसूची में सूचीबद्ध 22 भारतीय भाषाओं को समर्थन देने के लिए किया गया। यह परियोजना क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में एआई तक पहुँच को बढ़ावा देकर डिजिटल समावेशन को बढ़ाती है। और भारत के एआई पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र और सांस्कृतिक विविधता को और मजबूत करती है।

27 सितंबर
विश्व पर्यटन
दिवस

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

28 सितंबर 2025

- राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने हैदराबाद में नालसार विधि विश्वविद्यालय के 21वें दीक्षांत समारोह में भाग लिया।
(GS paper 2 – राजनीति और शासन)
- पर्यटन मंत्रालय ने 27 सितंबर, 2024 को राष्ट्रीय जिम्मेदार पर्यटन पहल के हिस्से के रूप में पर्यटन मित्र और पर्यटन दीदी पहल शुरू की।
(Gs paper 2 - सरकारी नीतियाँ)
- केंद्र सरकार वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 की दूसरी छमाही (अक्टूबर-मार्च) में 'सॉवरेन ग्रीन बॉन्ड' जारी करके 20,000 करोड़ रुपये जुटाएगी।
(Gs paper -अर्थव्यवस्था)

29 सितंबर 2025

- सीमा सुरक्षा बल (बीएसएफ), इसरो के सहयोग से, भारत की पश्चिमी और पूर्वी सीमाओं पर निगरानी बढ़ाने के लिए रडार-माउंटेड ड्रोन विकसित कर रहा है।
(GS paper 2- शासन, सुरक्षा)
- भारत के शीत मरुस्थल बायोस्फीयर रिजर्व (हिमाचल प्रदेश) को 37वें आईसीसी-एमएबी सत्र में यूनेस्को के विश्व नेटवर्क ऑफ बायोस्फीयर रिजर्व (डब्ल्यूएनबीआर) में शामिल किया गया है।
(GS paper -3 पर्यावरण)
- भारत ने दुबई में 2025 के फाइनल में पाकिस्तान को हराकर रिकॉर्ड 9वां एशिया कप खिताब जीता।
(GS paper 1 - खेल)

उपलब्धियाँ

जयपुर में एक भव्य कार्यक्रम में मनिका विश्वकर्मा को मिस यूनिवर्स इंडिया 2025 का ताज पहनाया गया। वह अब नवंबर में होने वाली वैश्विक मिस यूनिवर्स प्रतियोगिता में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगी।

29 सितंबर
विश्व हृदय दिवस

समाचार मुख्य अंश

यह पिछले महीने की प्रमुख खबरें और आने वाले समय की झलकियां हैं।

- हाल ही में प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने ओडिशा के झारसुगुड़ा में कंपनी के रजत जयंती समारोह के दौरान बीएसएनएल के 'स्वदेशी' 4जी स्टैक को लॉन्च किया। इस लॉन्च के साथ, भारत औपचारिक रूप से उन चुनिंदा देशों की सूची में शामिल हो गया है जैसे डेनमार्क, स्वीडन, दक्षिण कोरिया और चीन के पास घरेलू दूरसंचार विनिर्माण क्षमताएं हैं।
(GS paper 3- विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी)

30 सितंबर 2025

- भारत के प्रधानमंत्री ने डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के 20 सूत्री गाजा शांति प्रस्ताव का स्वागत किया और इसे पश्चिम एशिया में दीर्घकालिक शांति का मार्ग बताया।
(GS paper 2- अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध)
- भारत वैश्विक दूध उत्पादन में प्रथम स्थान पर बना हुआ है, तथा विश्व की आपूर्ति में लगभग 25% का योगदान देता है।
(GS paper 3- (अर्थव्यवस्था): कृषि)
- वेनेजुएला के राष्ट्रपति अमेरिका की "आक्रामकता" के जवाब में आपातकाल की स्थिति घोषित करने की तैयारी कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि अमेरिकी सेना ने संदिग्ध वेनेजुएला की ड्रग नौकाओं को नष्ट कर दिया है और युद्धपोतों को तैनात कर दिया है।
(GS paper 2- विदेश नीति और वैश्विक मामले)

उपलब्धियाँ

भारत ने 22 अगस्त 2025 को कोलकाता में अपने पहले अंडरवाटर मेट्रो रेल खंड का उद्घाटन किया। अंडरवाटर मेट्रो हावड़ा और कोलकाता को जोड़ती है, जो तेज़, पर्यावरण के अनुकूल और आधुनिक सार्वजनिक परिवहन प्रदान करती है।

FOCUS OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER



Focus of the month

US RELATIONS AND THE H-1B VISA FEE HIKE

Introduction

- The H-1B visa program has long been a vital \$100,000 fee for new H-1B visas for skilled Indian professionals seeking employment opportunities in the United States, particularly within the Information Technology (IT) and technology sectors. A coalition of unions, employers, and religious groups filed a lawsuit on Friday seeking to block Trump's bid to impose a \$100,000 fee. However, the recent increase in H-1B visa fees by the U.S. administration has sparked significant concerns regarding the accessibility of this program and its implications for India-U.S. bilateral relations. The fee hike not only affects individual professionals but also has broader ramifications for the economic and diplomatic ties between the two nations.

Impact on Indian IT Professionals:

- The increase in H-1B visa fees directly impacts the cost of employment for Indian IT workers in the U.S. The H-1B program allows companies to employ foreign workers in specialized jobs, offering 65,000 visas each year, plus an extra 20,000 for those with advanced degrees. These visas are valid for three to six years. Last year, India received the most H-1B visas, with 71% of the total, and China followed with 11.7%. Higher fees translate to increased financial burdens on both employers and employees, which may discourage mid-level professionals from pursuing opportunities abroad. This shift could significantly affect career trajectories, as many skilled workers may opt to remain in India rather than face the financial hurdles associated with migrating to the U.S. Moreover, the increase in fees could lead to a reduction in the overall number of H-1B visas issued, further limiting the ability of Indian professionals to access the U.S. job market. The ramifications of this fee hike extend beyond immediate financial concerns, as it could alter the dynamics of the labour market in both countries.

Bilateral Relations b/w India and US:

The implications of the H-1B visa fee hike extend into the realm of international diplomacy and trade relations.

- India views this increase as a significant barrier to the mobility of its skilled workforce, which may strain the already complex diplomatic ties between the two nations.
- As the U.S. adopts a more protectionist stance toward its domestic labour market, India may perceive this as a challenge to its economic interests and a step back from the collaborative spirit that has characterized their bilateral relationship.

This situation presents an opportunity for India to engage diplomatically with the U.S. government to address these concerns. By fostering dialogue, India can advocate for a more balanced approach that recognizes the mutual benefits of skilled workforce mobility. Strengthening diplomatic channels could lead to negotiations that ensure the continued flow of talent between the two countries, ultimately benefiting both the U.S. economy and India's skilled professionals.

Indian Economy and IT Sector:

- The implications of the H-1B visa fee hike also resonate within the Indian economy, particularly in the IT sector. A decrease in the number of Indian professionals able to migrate to the U.S. could adversely affect IT export revenues, which have become a cornerstone of India's economic growth. If fewer professionals can secure employment abroad, the potential for reverse migration may increase, leading to a boost in domestic employment and skill utilization.



- This shift could have a dual effect: while it may hinder the immediate prospects of Indian professionals seeking opportunities overseas, it could also encourage the development of a more robust domestic IT industry. Furthermore, the H-1B visa fee hike serves as a wake-up call for India to bolster its own IT infrastructure and enhance global competitiveness.

Conclusion

- The H-1B visa fee hike underscores the intricate relationship between the United States and India, highlighting the need for India to navigate this challenge diplomatically while also focusing on its own economic development. As the U.S. continues to grapple with its labour market dynamics, India must advocate for the rights of its skilled professionals while simultaneously investing in its domestic IT sector. The future of India-U.S. relations will depend on the ability of both nations to find common ground that promotes workforce mobility and fosters economic growth. Balancing these interests will be crucial in maintaining a strong and mutually beneficial partnership in the years to come.

Focus of the month

SUPREME COURT ON POSH ACT AND POLITICAL PARTIES

Introduction

- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, commonly known as the POSH Act, represents a significant legislative effort to address and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. The Act mandates the establishment of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) in organizations with more than ten employees to investigate complaints of sexual harassment. While the POSH Act's primary focus is on the formal workplace, its implications extend to various sectors, including political parties. The Supreme Court's interpretations and rulings on the Act have further clarified its scope and applicability, particularly concerning the responsibilities of political parties.

Legal Perspective

- From a legal standpoint, the POSH Act defines the "workplace" broadly, encompassing any place visited by the employee during the course of employment, including transportation provided by the employer. Dismissing the petition, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai questioned the submissions made on behalf of petitioner-advocate M.G. Yogamaya by senior advocate Shobha Gupta and advocate Sriram Parakkat that political parties came within the definition of 'employer' under the Act. The Supreme Court has consistently emphasized the importance of creating a safe and respectful environment for women, which necessitates the strict implementation of the POSH Act across all sectors. The Court's rulings have highlighted the liability of employers, including political parties, to ensure compliance with the Act. The petition had sought a declaration from the court that "political parties are bound to follow the procedure for protection of women in the workplace under the POSH Act".

Governance Implications and Challenges

The application of the POSH Act to political parties has significant governance implications. It necessitates the institutionalization of mechanisms to prevent and address sexual harassment within these organizations. Political parties must establish ICCs, which should be independent and impartial, to investigate complaints.

The implementation of the POSH Act in political parties poses several challenges are:

- There is a need for awareness and sensitization among party members, including leaders and workers, about the definition of sexual harassment and the importance of a safe work environment.
- The political nature of these organizations can create obstacles, as internal investigations might be influenced by political considerations or power dynamics.
- There may be a lack of resources or expertise within political parties to effectively implement the Act.

Overcoming these challenges requires a commitment from political parties to prioritize the safety and dignity of women, ensuring that the ICCs are truly independent and that complaints are handled fairly and transparently.



Broader Social Implications

- The Supreme Court's stance on the POSH Act and its application to political parties has broader social implications. It sends a strong message that no organization, regardless of its nature or influence, is above the law when it comes to protecting women's rights. By holding political parties accountable, the Court promotes gender equality and challenges the patriarchal norms that often exist within these organizations. This, in turn, can lead to a more inclusive and respectful political culture. The effective implementation of the POSH Act in political parties can also empower women, encouraging them to participate more actively in politics without fear of harassment. Furthermore, it sets an example for other sectors, demonstrating the importance of creating safe and respectful workplaces for all.

Conclusion

- The Supreme Court's interpretation of the POSH Act, particularly its application to political parties, is a crucial step towards ensuring the safety and dignity of women in all spheres of life. By holding political parties accountable and promoting awareness, the Court's stance contributes to a broader social transformation, empowering women and fostering a more inclusive political culture. The effective implementation of the POSH Act in political parties is not only a legal requirement but also a moral imperative, essential for upholding the principles of justice and equality.

Focus of the month

NEPAL'S POLITICAL CRISIS

Introduction

- Nepal, a landlocked nation nestled in the Himalayas, has long been a theatre of political upheaval, its history marked by monarchical rule, armed conflict, and a turbulent transition to democracy. This instability is deeply rooted in the country's complex social fabric, ethnic diversity, and the influence of external powers. The recent political landscape has been characterized by frequent government changes, power struggles, and a lack of consensus on key policy issues, thereby posing significant challenges to the nation's progress and stability.

The current crisis

- Nepal is largely defined by a deadlock between political factions, primarily stemming from disagreements over constitutional amendments, federalism, and the distribution of power. The political landscape is fragmented, with numerous parties for influence, often leading to unstable coalition governments. Corruption, weak governance, and a lack of accountability have further exacerbated the situation, eroding public trust and hindering effective policy implementation. Nepalese people, mainly youth, protest against the government it's also known as Genz protest.
- Governance challenges include frequent changes in leadership, policy paralysis, and a lack of long-term vision. Public dissent is growing, with protests and demonstrations becoming increasingly common, reflecting widespread dissatisfaction with the political system. The economy suffers as a result of political uncertainty, with investors hesitant to commit to long-term projects, impacting economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction efforts.

The regional and international dimensions

- Nepal's political instability are significant. India, sharing a long border with Nepal, has historically played a crucial role in the country's political affairs. India's influence is viewed with both appreciation and suspicion, with some Nepalese perceiving it as interference in their internal affairs. China's growing influence in Nepal is also a key factor, with Beijing investing heavily in infrastructure projects and seeking to strengthen its strategic ties. This has created a complex geopolitical dynamic, with both India and China vying for influence in the region.

Policy Options for India

- India has several policy options to navigate the complex situation in Nepal. Diplomatic engagement remains essential, with India needing to maintain open channels of communication with all political actors, fostering dialogue, and promoting consensus-building.



- Economic cooperation can be strengthened through increased trade, investment, and infrastructure development, thereby supporting Nepal's economic growth and creating jobs. India can also play a crucial role in supporting democratic institutions, including free and fair elections, strengthening the judiciary, and promoting good governance.

Conclusion

- The political instability in Nepal poses significant challenges to its development and stability. India's role is critical in fostering a stable and prosperous Nepal, which is essential for regional peace, trade, and security. India must adopt a strategic balancing role, promoting dialogue, supporting democratic institutions, and fostering economic cooperation.

Focus of the month

INDIA'S TRADE STRATEGY AMIDST US UNCERTAINTY AND EU ENGAGEMENT

Introduction

- India's trade landscape is currently at a critical juncture, characterized by both challenges and opportunities. The uncertainties surrounding US trade policies and the growing engagement with the European Union (EU) necessitate a strategic recalibration of India's trade approach. This essay will delve into the complexities of India's trade environment, analysing the challenges posed by the US, the opportunities presented by the EU, and the strategic responses India must adopt to ensure sustainable economic growth and safeguard its economic sovereignty.

Challenges with US Trade

- The relationship between India and the United States, while historically strong, has faced several hurdles in recent years. The imposition of tariffs on certain Indian goods by the US, coupled with uncertainties surrounding the H-1B visa program, has created an environment of import-export uncertainty. These measures have directly impacted Indian exporters, particularly in sectors like pharmaceuticals, textiles, and information technology. Furthermore, the protectionist tendencies in US trade policies pose a significant challenge to India's ambition to increase its exports and integrate further into the global value chains. These issues necessitate a proactive approach from India to mitigate the adverse effects and safeguard its trade interests.

Opportunities with EU

- In contrast to the uncertainties with the US, the EU presents significant opportunities for India. The ongoing negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) hold the potential to boost bilateral trade, reduce tariffs, and enhance market access for Indian goods and services. The EU's large and diverse market offers avenues for diversification, reducing India's dependency on a single market. Moreover, the EU is a major source of foreign direct investment (FDI), and increased engagement can unlock further investment opportunities in various sectors, including infrastructure, renewable energy, and technology. Strengthening ties with the EU can thus contribute to India's economic growth and resilience.

India's Trade Policy Responses

- In response to these challenges and opportunities, India must adopt a multifaceted trade policy. A key focus should be on strengthening domestic production through initiatives like "Make in India," which aims to boost manufacturing and reduce import dependence. Export promotion strategies, including the provision of incentives and the simplification of trade procedures, are crucial to enhance India's competitiveness in global markets.



- Building supply chain resilience is also essential, particularly in sectors vulnerable to disruptions. India's trade strategy must also be informed by geopolitical and economic considerations.
- Strengthening partnerships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as with emerging economies, can create a more balanced and resilient trade portfolio. This diversification will not only enhance economic security but also provide India with greater leverage in international trade negotiations.

Conclusion

- India's trade strategy must be pragmatic and adaptable to navigate the complex global environment. Leveraging the opportunities presented by the EU, while addressing the challenges posed by the US, is crucial. Strengthening domestic capacity, promoting exports, and building supply chain resilience are key priorities. Furthermore, a diversification strategy that balances geopolitical and economic interests will safeguard India's economic sovereignty and ensure sustainable growth. By adopting a strategic and forward-looking approach, India can position itself as a major player in the global trade arena and achieve its economic aspirations.

Focus of the month

NATURAL CALAMITIES IN NORTH AND NORTH-WESTERN INDIA

Introduction

- North and North-West India, a region marked by diverse geographical features, is highly susceptible to a range of natural disasters. The area encompasses the towering Himalayas, the fertile plains of the Indus and Ganges River systems, and the arid landscapes of the Thar Desert. This geographical diversity, while contributing to the region's rich biodiversity and agricultural productivity, also makes it vulnerable to natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes, and droughts. The interplay of tectonic activity, climate patterns, and human activities further exacerbates these risks, necessitating a comprehensive understanding of the threats and effective disaster management strategies.

The region experiences various types of calamities, each with distinct characteristics and impacts:

- **Floods:** The states of Punjab and Haryana, known for their agricultural lands, are frequently affected by floods. These floods are primarily caused by the overflowing of rivers like the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi during the monsoon season. The flat terrain and inadequate drainage systems compound the problem, leading to widespread inundation, damage to crops, and displacement of populations.
- **Earthquakes:** Himachal Pradesh, situated in the seismically active Himalayan region, is prone to earthquakes. The collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates makes this area highly vulnerable. Earthquakes of varying magnitudes occur regularly, posing significant threats to life and infrastructure. The rugged terrain and remote locations often hinder rescue and relief efforts.
- **Droughts:** Rajasthan, characterized by its arid and semi-arid climate, is susceptible to droughts. The region receives low rainfall, and water scarcity is a persistent challenge. Prolonged dry spells can lead to crop failures, water shortages, and economic hardship. The impact of droughts is particularly severe on agriculture and the livelihoods of the rural population.

Several factors contribute to the occurrence and severity of these calamities:

- **Climate Change:** The changing climate patterns have led to increased variability in rainfall, causing more intense and erratic monsoon seasons, which, in turn, lead to increased flooding. Climate change also contributes to the melting of glaciers, increasing the risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in the Himalayan region.
- **Unplanned Urbanization:** Rapid urbanization and infrastructure development in vulnerable areas have increased the exposure of populations and assets to natural hazards. Construction in floodplains and seismically active zones without proper planning and building codes exacerbates the impact of disasters.
- **Deforestation:** Deforestation in the Himalayan region has led to soil erosion and reduced the capacity of the land to absorb water, increasing the risk of floods and landslides.
- **Himalayan Tectonics:** The ongoing tectonic activity in the Himalayas makes the region prone to earthquakes. The collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates results in the accumulation of stress, which is periodically released in the form of earthquakes.

The impact of these calamities is far-reaching and affects various aspects of life:

- **Human Lives:** Natural disasters result in the loss of human lives and injuries. Earthquakes and floods, in particular, can cause significant casualties, while droughts can lead to malnutrition and health issues.



- **Agriculture:** Agriculture, the mainstay of the economy in many parts of North and North-West India, is severely affected by natural disasters. Floods destroy crops, droughts lead to crop failures, and earthquakes can damage irrigation systems.
- **Infrastructure:** Roads, bridges, buildings, and other infrastructure are often damaged or destroyed by natural disasters, disrupting transportation, communication, and essential services.
- **Economy:** The cumulative impact of these disasters leads to economic losses, affecting livelihoods, and hindering development. The cost of relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation can be substantial.

Conclusion

- Addressing the vulnerability to natural calamities in North and North-West India requires an integrated approach. This includes comprehensive disaster management plans, climate adaptation strategies, and community awareness programs. By prioritizing these measures, the region can reduce its vulnerability and build a more resilient future.

Focus of the month

STUBBLE BURNING, AIR POLLUTION AND THE SUPREME COURT'S SUGGESTION

Introduction

- The Supreme Court recently suggested that farmers indulging in stubble burning could face prosecution, even imprisonment, to deter the practice. This remark comes amid worsening winter pollution in North India, especially Delhi-NCR, Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Why farmers resort to it

- Short window (15–20 days) between kharif harvest and rabi sowing.
- High labour cost and unavailability of alternative residue disposal methods.
- Machines like Happy Seeder are costly and consume more diesel.
- Crop diversification away from paddy remains limited due to water policies and MSP assurance.

Existing Legal and Institutional Framework

- **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM):** Formed in 2020, empowered to issue directions for air pollution control. It has exempted farmers from criminal prosecution.
- **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981:** Provides for penalties against polluting activities.
- **National Green Tribunal (NGT):** Has imposed fines on stubble burning incidents in the past.
- **State Laws:** Punjab and Haryana have enacted restrictions, but enforcement is weak due to scale and socio-political sensitivities

Technological Alternatives

1. **Happy Seeder / Super Seeder:** Sows wheat directly into standing stubble but costly and energy intensive.
2. **Pusa Bio-Decomposer (developed by IARI):** A microbial solution that decomposes stubble into manure within 15–20 days; adoption limited due to logistics.
 - Ex-situ use:
 - Biomass power plants, bio-CNG, paper/pulp, packing material, etc.
 - Progress slow due to lack of large-scale infrastructure and market linkage.
3. **In-situ management:** Retaining stubble to enrich soil; requires better dissemination and subsidies.

Administrative and Policy Challenges

- **Subsidy leakage:** Machines distributed under subsidy often lie unused or concentrated in large landholdings.
- **Coordination gap:** Centre, states, and local administration differ on enforcement and financial responsibility.
- **Lack of crop diversification:** Despite repeated advice, paddy continues to dominate due to MSP and assured procurement.

Comparative International Experience

1. **China:** Promotes use of crop residue in biomass power and biogas plants. Strong state support ensures large-scale collection.
2. **European Union:** Encourages crop residue ploughing back into the soil and provides subsidies under the Common Agricultural Policy.
3. **Lessons for India:** Without affordable technology, financial incentives, and market linkages, punitive measures alone cannot succeed.



Way Forward

- **Avoid criminalisation:** Recognise farmers as victims of structural conditions, not culprits.
- **Technological scaling:** Wider adoption of decomposers, mechanisation through FPOs/cooperatives, and investment in bio-energy.
- **Economic support:** Direct cash incentives to farmers for residue management; expand schemes like the Crop Residue Management Fund.
- **Crop diversification:** Shift from water-intensive paddy to maize, pulses, or millets through MSP assurance and procurement support.
- **Urban accountability:** Equal focus on curbing year-round urban pollution sources.
- **Community involvement:** Panchayats, FPOs, and NGOs must be integrated into awareness and implementation.
- **Long-term vision:** Integrating stubble management into India's net-zero 2070 strategy and circular economy framework.

Conclusion

- The Supreme Court's suggestion to prosecute farmers may appear as a quick fix but risks alienating a critical stakeholder group.
- Stubble burning is not merely a law-and-order issue but a complex socio-environmental problem requiring multi-pronged, cooperative, and farmer-centric solutions.

Focus of the month

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY THROUGH RTI

Introduction

- The Right to Information (RTI) Act is one of the most important democratic reforms in India, designed to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment.
- Recently, the Supreme Court of India has stressed the urgent need to revive and reinforce the RTI framework, which has steadily weakened over time..

Supreme Court's Observations

1. Vacancies and Backlogs:

- The Court flagged that eight posts of Information Commissioners remain vacant in the Central Information Commission (CIC), while over 23,000 appeals are pending.
- Many state commissions are either dysfunctional or refusing fresh petitions.

2. Directive to Governments:

- The Centre was instructed to submit an affidavit with clear timelines for filling vacant posts.
- Emphasis was placed on swift appointments to clear backlogs.

3. Criticism of Inaction: The Court warned that without appointments, the purpose of RTI is rendered meaningless, calling out government apathy.

Issues Weakening RTI

1. **Institutional Gaps:** Long delays in filling vacancies and rising pendency have eroded the Act's credibility.
2. **Non-Compliance & Risks to Activists:**
 - Many departments either delay or ignore queries.
 - Activists are vulnerable to harassment, threats, and even violence, discouraging information-seeking.
3. **Erosion of Independence:**
 - Amendments have curtailed the autonomy of the CIC, making it less effective.
 - Appointments often favor retired bureaucrats, sidelining diverse expertise.

Role of RTI In Democracy

- **Transparency and Oversight:** Provides citizens with the power to scrutinize state action.
- **Anti-Corruption Tool:** Information disclosure enables exposure of irregularities and misuse of power.
- **Strengthening Democracy:** Reinforces the principle of participatory governance by dismantling opacity.

Lessons For India

1. Build independent and empowered commissions (UK/Mexico model).
2. Proactively publish key data (Chile, New Zealand).
3. Enforce strict deadlines and penalties (Brazil, US).
4. Spread awareness through campaigns (Sweden, South Africa).



Way Forward

- **Filling Vacancies:** Speed up transparent, merit-based appointments with representation from diverse fields.
- **Enhancing Efficiency:** Digitization of RTI processes and strong tracking mechanisms for delays.
- **Safeguarding Activists:** Enact comprehensive Whistleblower Protection laws.
- **Restoring Autonomy:** Reverse amendments that undermine the independence of Information Commissions.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Educate citizens about their RTI rights and strengthen grassroots participation.

Conclusion

- The Supreme Court's intervention provides momentum to revitalize the RTI Act, but sustained political and institutional commitment is necessary. Transparency in governance is not just a statutory right but a democratic obligation, and restoring RTI is vital to preserving India's participatory ethos.

Focus of the month

GST 2.0 AND INDIA'S GREEN DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Introduction

- At COP26 (Glasgow, 2021), India pledged net-zero emissions by 2070 and presented its Panchamrit targets (enhancing renewable capacity, reducing carbon intensity, cutting fossil fuel dependence).
- Four years later, at the 56th GST Council Meeting (2025), India launched GST 2.0 reforms—rationalising tax rates on renewable energy, green technologies, waste management, and sustainable transport.
- This marks a historic shift: embedding climate action into fiscal policy.

Key Bilateral Engagements

1. **Reduced GST on renewable energy technologies**
 - Solar panels, photovoltaic cells, wind turbines: tax rate lowered, reducing upfront project costs.
 - Solar pumps: cheaper for farmers, lowering irrigation costs.
2. **Green manufacturing boost**
 - Supports the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes in renewable energy and EV sectors.
 - Enhances competitiveness of Indian firms in global supply chains.
3. **Waste management incentives**
 - GST on effluent treatment services: reduced from 12% to 5%.
 - Biodegradable bags: reduced from 18% to 5%.
4. **Sustainable transport push**
 - Buses and minibuses: GST cut from 28% to 18%.
 - Trucks and freight vehicles: made more affordable, aiding logistics decarbonisation.

India and the SCO Framework

1. **Affordable clean energy**
 - Lower tariffs for households and industries → higher adoption rates.
 - Boost to domestic manufacturing
 - GST cuts strengthen supply chains for modules, turbines, and green batteries.
2. **Savings for consumers:** Reduced power bills and transport costs.
3. **Job creation:** Expansion in waste management, renewable energy projects, EV ecosystem and New opportunities in maintenance, operations, and R&D.

Environmental and Social Impacts

- **Renewable adoption:** Lower costs speed up India's journey towards 500 GW renewable capacity by 2030 (a Panchamrit target).
- **Pollution reduction:** Incentives for effluent treatment and biodegradable products → cleaner air and water.
- **Plastic phase-out:** Cheaper biodegradable bags support UNEA Global Plastics Treaty commitments.
- **Urban sustainability:** Cheaper buses encourage public transport, reducing congestion and emissions.
- **Inclusive growth:**
 1. Farmers benefit from lower irrigation costs.
 2. Urban commuters get cheaper, greener transport options.

Strategic Significance

- **Climate diplomacy** - India can showcase GST 2.0 as a climate leadership tool at COP30 (Brazil, 2025).
- **Industrial resilience** - By scaling renewables, India's exports become CBAM-compliant, avoiding future carbon taxes.
- **Supply chain positioning** - Strengthens India's role in global EV, solar, and green hydrogen value chains.
- **Geopolitical leverage** - Positions India as a thought leader in the Global South, showing how fiscal reforms can balance growth and sustainability.



Challenges Ahead

- **Revenue implications** - Reduced GST rates may affect short-term tax collections. Balancing fiscal stability is crucial.
- **Implementation bottlenecks** - Need strong monitoring to ensure cost benefits reach consumers, not just intermediaries.
- **Technology gaps** - Domestic R&D in advanced solar cells, battery storage, and hydrogen is still limited.
- **Equity concerns** - Small firms and MSMEs must adapt to green supply chains without being burdened.
- **Policy coordination** - GST reforms must align with state-level policies, NAPCC missions, and sectoral roadmaps.

Way Forward

- **Fiscal deepening:** Introduce green GST credits for industries that cut emissions.
- **Integration with carbon markets:** Link GST 2.0 reforms with India's proposed Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).
- **Support for MSMEs:** Provide low-cost loans and skill-building for smaller players in green supply chains.
- **Consumer incentives:** Explore GST rebates for households adopting rooftop solar or EVs.
- **Institutional capacity:** Strengthen GST Council's Green Sub-Committee for periodic review of rates.

Conclusion

- GST 2.0 represents a historic convergence of fiscal and climate policy.
- At a time when countries worldwide are experimenting with climate-aligned fiscal tools, India has delivered a homegrown model of green taxation.
- This strengthens India's domestic resilience, global competitiveness, and climate leadership—marking a decisive step towards the 2070 net-zero vision.

Focus of the month

INDIA'S STATES AS ENGINES OF GROWTH

Introduction

- India's ambition of becoming a \$5 trillion economy and a Viksit Bharat (developed nation) by 2047 cannot be achieved solely through central initiatives.
- The states, which hold substantial responsibility for land, labour, agriculture, power, and social services, will define the depth and inclusivity of growth.

Key Bilateral Engagements:

- **Economic federalism:** States influence critical levers—business regulation, land, labour, and fiscal policy.
- **Sectoral impact:** Agriculture, energy, education, and healthcare fall largely under state jurisdiction.
- **Inclusive growth:** Regional disparities (e.g., South and West outperform East and Central states in per capita GSDP) underline the need for state-led action.
- **Sustainability:** States manage forests, water, and local environmental resources, which shape India's green transition.

India and the SCO Framework

- Creating a Business-Friendly Environment
- **Single-Window Clearance:** States should operationalise the National Single-Window System (NSWS) with time-bound approvals and digital certificates.
- **Legal Reforms:** Decriminalisation of minor business laws and establishment of dedicated commercial courts.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Promotion of arbitration and mediation at state-level industrial hubs.
- **Impact:** Greater private investment, especially in manufacturing and MSMEs.

Land Reforms and Digitization

- **Land titling:** Adoption of government-guaranteed land titles, reducing litigation and transaction costs.
- **Integrated Land Authorities:** One-stop digital platforms integrating land data from multiple departments.
- **Forest Clearances:** Delegating approval for projects under 50 hectares to states with safeguards.
- **Impact:** Encourages industrial corridors, mining, and logistics hubs.

Fiscal Stability of States

- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Adoption of long-term fiscal risk reporting (Brazil: 10-year forecasts; UK: 50-year projections).
- **Debt Control:** Prioritising expenditure efficiency to reduce fiscal deficit and debt burdens.
- **Asset Monetisation:** States can replicate the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) for roads, transmission assets, and urban infrastructure.
- **Centre's Support:** Dedicated technical cell in NITI Aayog/Finance Ministry for asset monetisation.

Education, Skills, and Employment

- **Education Quality:** States must strengthen foundational learning (as per ASER 2023 findings on learning outcomes).
- **Skill Development:** ITI reforms, industry partnerships, and apprenticeship models.
- **Digital Platforms:** Integration with National Career Service (NCS) for AI-based job matching.
- **Impact:** Harnesses demographic dividend, reduces mismatch between skills and jobs.
- **Urban Sustainability:** Electric mobility adoption under FAME II and green public transport initiatives.
- Reduces pollution, creates green jobs, aligns with India's Net Zero 2070 pledge (COP26).



Way Forward

- **Consensus Mechanism:** Replicate GST Council model for broader reforms.
- **Centre-State Partnership:** Center should incentivise reforms with fiscal rewards and policy guidance.
- **State Innovation:** States must showcase best practices for replication.
- **Citizen-Centric Growth:** Data-driven monitoring of outcomes in education, health, and employment.
- **Vision 2047:** Align state policies with Amrit Kaal roadmap for a globally competitive, inclusive, and sustainable India.

Conclusion

Prime Minister Modi's four-day trip highlighted India's dual strategy:

- India's federal structure places states at the center of the growth story. By prioritizing, states can unlock transformative growth.
- India's rise as a globally competitive and inclusive economy will be determined not in New Delhi alone, but in every state capital—from Lucknow to Chennai, and from Guwahati to Gandhinagar.

Focus of the month

INDIA'S BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

Introduction

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four-day visit abroad combined bilateral diplomacy with multilateral engagement. His meetings with leaders of Russia, China, and Japan were complemented by participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin.
- The visit came at a time when the global order is undergoing uncertainty due to great power rivalry, regional conflicts, and the erosion of multilateralism.
- India's strategy reflects a balanced approach: leveraging bilateral ties to safeguard national interests while using multilateral forums to voice concerns and build institutional synergy.

Key Bilateral Engagements:

1. India–Russia Relations

- Optics and symbolism: The image of Modi and President Vladimir Putin travelling together highlighted the resilience of Indo-Russian ties.
- Strategic importance: Despite Western sanctions and US pressure, India values Russia for defence cooperation, energy supplies, and geopolitical balancing.

2. India–China Relations

- Complex ties: The post-Galwan relationship is marked by tension, but engagement continues at the highest levels.
- Importance of dialogue: Modi's talks with President Xi Jinping show India's recognition that managing competition requires communication.

3. India–Japan Relations

- Quad alignment: By reaffirming ties with Japan before his China visit, Modi underlined India's commitment to the Quad (India, US, Japan, Australia).
- Economic and strategic dimension: Japan is a major investor in India's infrastructure and technology sectors.
- Balancing act: India seeks to maintain strong ties with Japan (a US ally) while engaging China on regional issues.

Challenges and Criticisms

1. Divergent interests within SCO:

- China and Pakistan often act in tandem, limiting India's room to manoeuvre.
- India's positions on Afghanistan, BRI, and regional security are not always aligned with SCO consensus.

2. Risk of over-stretch:

- Managing Quad commitments while being an active SCO member requires balancing contradictory alignments.

3. Terrorism references diluted:

- Although terrorism was mentioned, references were broad and lacked concrete action mechanisms.

4. Perception challenges:

- India must guard against being seen as shifting opportunistically between blocs rather than pursuing a coherent strategy.



Way Forward

1. Strengthen Strategic Autonomy

- India must continue to pursue multi-alignment rather than alignment with one bloc.
- Deepening ties with Russia for defence and energy, balancing with Japan and Quad partners for technology and security, and engaging with China in regional forums will preserve India's decision-making independence.

2. Institutionalise Anti-Terrorism Cooperation

- India should push for the creation of a permanent anti-terrorism task force within the SCO to monitor, share intelligence, and build consensus on combating terrorism.
- While Russia remains critical for defence supplies, India should also invest in indigenous defence manufacturing and diversify imports to reduce over-dependence.
- On energy, long-term contracts with Russia and Central Asia should be balanced with renewable energy partnerships with Japan, the EU, and the US.
- Beyond high-level diplomacy, India should encourage academic exchanges, cultural diplomacy, tourism, and digital trade frameworks with SCO nations.
- By doing so, India will reinforce its role as a leader of the Global South while aligning with its G20 presidency vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

Conclusion

Prime Minister Modi's four-day trip highlighted India's dual strategy:

- The Prime Minister Modi's visit underscores India's evolving role as a balancer in global geopolitics—maintaining strategic autonomy, countering terrorism narratives, and promoting multipolar solidarity.
- As the world order undergoes flux, India's capacity to combine bilateral depth with multilateral breadth will define its diplomatic success.

EDITORIAL SECTION



India's Foreign Policy: Navigating a Changing World Order

General Studies – II: International Relations

Introduction

Foreign policy is never static; it adapts to shifts in global power equations. For India, the last decade has been about balancing tradition with pragmatism. From being the voice of the Global South to deepening ties with the U.S., Europe, and Asian neighbours, New Delhi's approach reflects both ambition and caution. The ongoing churn in geopolitics — U.S.-China rivalry, Russia-Ukraine war, Indo-Pacific contestations — has made this balance more complex than ever.

Current Context

- **Multipolar reality:** The world is no longer bipolar or unipolar. India seeks to project itself as a “leading power” in this multipolar setup.
- **U.S. and Quad:** New Delhi has enhanced defence and technology cooperation through Quad (with U.S., Japan, Australia), while maintaining autonomy.
- **Russia factor:** Despite Western sanctions, India continues strong energy and defence ties with Moscow. This “tightrope walk” has been noticed globally.
- **Neighbourhood First & SAGAR:** Focus on South Asia and Indian Ocean littoral states, though challenges persist in Pakistan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka.
- **Global South Leadership:** Hosting the G20 Summit (2023) and championing debt relief for developing nations has enhanced India's diplomatic weight.
- (Ref: The Hindu, Sept 8, 2025; Indian Express Opinion; Business Standard analysis on Indo-Pacific strategy)

Challenges in The Policy

- **Strategic Dilemmas:** Aligning with the U.S. while depending on Russian defence hardware creates contradictions.
- **China Factor:** Border tensions and economic dependence make ties fragile despite BRICS and SCO engagements.
- **Neighbourhood Volatility:** Political instability in South Asia often pulls India into domestic disputes of neighbours.

- **Resource Constraints:** Defence modernization and diplomatic outreach require funds and institutional capacity.

Implications of Inter-State Disputes

- **Strengthening democracy:** Inclusive policies build trust in the system.
- **Balancing act:** While quotas empower, unchecked identity politics can deepen social divides.
- **Link to growth:** A society that includes its weakest builds stronger human capital for the economy.
- **Frequent friction:** Reservation disputes often pit courts, governments, and communities against each other.

Way Forward

- **Evidence first:** A nationwide caste census can guide fairer policy.
- **Smarter quotas:** Periodic reviews and stricter creamy layer rules can help benefits reach the truly needy.
- **Beyond reservations:** Public education, skills training, and healthcare are long-term equalizers.
- **Minority Protection:** Strengthen constitutional safeguards (Articles 29 & 30) with focus on inclusion rather than token gestures.
- **Build consensus:** Political parties should move away from short-term gains and create a national roadmap for equity.

Conclusion

Social justice cannot stop at quotas. It must create an environment where dignity and equal opportunity are real for every citizen. As the Indian Express rightly pointed out, “the future of reservation lies in reform, not rigidity.” India now needs policies that combine the spirit of the Constitution with the realities of a changing society.

- **Source - The Hindu (page no.-5)**
- **Date - 6th September 2025**

EDITORIAL SECTION



Centre-State Relations and Federalism Challenges

General Studies – II: Polity & Governance

Introduction

The federal structure of India, enshrined in the Constitution, seeks to balance unity with diversity. While the Centre ensures national integration, the States safeguard regional aspirations. Yet, recent developments—ranging from disputes over fiscal transfers to confrontations on law and order—have exposed strains in Centre-State relations. These challenges test the resilience of Indian federalism, especially in an era of coalition politics, regional assertions, and rising demands for autonomy.

Current Context

- **The Fiscal Federalism Strains:** The debate over Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation, delayed transfers, and the widening vertical imbalance between Centre and States have sharpened tensions.
- **Governor-State Tussles:** Frequent conflicts over gubernatorial powers, especially in opposition-ruled States, highlight constitutional ambiguities.
- **Central Laws vs. State Autonomy:** Issues like farm laws (withdrawn in 2021), education reforms, and environmental clearances often see States alleging encroachment by the Union.
- **Security and Policing:** States have objected to the misuse of central investigative agencies, arguing it undermines federal spirit.

Challenges in Federalism

- **Asymmetric Power Distribution:** The Constitution provides more powers to the Union (List I dominance), creating structural imbalance.
- **Financial Dependence of States:** Limited taxation powers and reliance on centrally sponsored schemes weaken State autonomy.
- **Judicial Confrontations:** Conflicting interpretations by the Supreme Court and High Courts often lead to prolonged disputes.
- **Political Polarisation:** Divergent party ideologies at Centre and State levels intensify confrontations.

Broader Implications

- **Democratic Deficit:** Over-centralisation risks alienating States, threatening cooperative federalism.
- **Policy Ineffectiveness:** Uniform national policies may fail to address local socio-economic needs.
- **Trust Deficit:** Political misuse of federal institutions erodes public faith in constitutional mechanisms.
- **Regional Aspirations:** Ignoring local voices fuels separatist tendencies, disturbing national unity.

Way Forward

- **Strengthening Cooperative Federalism:** Revive institutions like the Inter-State Council and expand the role of the Finance Commission to mediate disputes.
- **Transparent Fiscal Transfers:** Ensure timely devolution of GST compensation and rationalize centrally sponsored schemes.
- **Clear Guidelines on Governor's Role:** Implement recommendations of the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions to prevent misuse of gubernatorial powers.
- **Dialogue and Consultation:** Encourage pre-legislative consultation with States on matters affecting them.
- **Judicial Clarity:** Establish special benches or tribunals for speedy resolution of federal disputes.

Conclusion

Federalism is the cornerstone of India's unity in diversity. The Constitution envisions both strong Centre and empowered States working in harmony. Rather than adversarial federalism, India must move towards collaborative federalism where dialogue, trust, and consensus-building guide governance. Sustaining this delicate balance is vital not only for political stability but also for inclusive development and democratic deepening.

- **Source - The Hindu (page no.-2)**
- **Date - 2nd September 2025**

EDITORIAL SECTION



Social Justice in India: Reservation and Beyond

General Studies – II: Polity & Governance

Introduction

Social justice has always been at the heart of India's constitutional vision. Reservation policies and welfare schemes were meant to bridge the gap created by centuries of caste and social discrimination. Over the years, they have helped many communities to gain voice and visibility. But in today's society, where aspirations are high and inequalities are shifting, debates around backward classes, minority rights, and new forms of exclusion are becoming sharper.

Current Context

- The demand for caste census has gained momentum again, especially after Bihar's survey in 2023. Many argue that updated data is essential for fair policymaking.
- The 10% EWS quota, upheld by the Supreme Court in 2022, added a new layer to the reservation debate, showing how economic disadvantage cannot be ignored.
- Minority rights remain contested — whether in education, jobs, or cultural protection, these issues continue to stir politics.
- Courts too are active: cases on OBC sub-categorisation and minority scholarships show that the debate is not just political but constitutional.

Challenges

- **Overlapping inequalities:** Poverty and caste often go together, but not always. Policies need to catch this complexity.
- **Reservation saturation:** Demands for more quotas risk crossing the 50% ceiling, creating legal hurdles.
- **Creamy layer concerns:** Within backward groups, the benefits often go to the relatively better-off, leaving the poorest behind.
- **Minority inclusion:** Beyond reservation, minorities face challenges in accessing good schools, fair representation, and equal opportunities.

Implications

- **Strengthening democracy:** Inclusive policies build trust in the system.
- **Balancing act:** While quotas empower, unchecked identity politics can deepen social divides.
- **Link to growth:** A society that includes its weakest builds stronger human capital for the economy.
- **Frequent friction:** Reservation disputes often pit courts, governments, and communities against each other.

Way Forward

- **Dual-Evidence first:** A nationwide caste census can guide fairer policy.
- **Smarter quotas:** Periodic reviews and stricter creamy layer rules can help benefits reach the truly needy.
- **Beyond reservations:** Public education, skills training, and healthcare are long-term equalizers.
- **Minority protection:** Strengthen constitutional safeguards (Articles 29 & 30) with focus on inclusion rather than token gestures.
- **Build consensus:** Political parties should move away from short-term gains and create a national roadmap for equity.

Conclusion

Social justice cannot stop at quotas. It must create an environment where dignity and equal opportunity are real for every citizen. As the Indian Express rightly pointed out, "the future of reservation lies in reform, not rigidity." India now needs policies that combine the spirit of the Constitution with the realities of a changing society.

- **Source - The Hindu (page no.-5)**
- **Date - 12th September 2025**

EDITORIAL SECTION



Border Disputes and Security: Strengthening India's Edges

General Studies – II & III: International Relations, Internal Security

Introduction

Borders are not just geographical demarcations — they're lifelines for security, local livelihood, trade, culture. India, with its long land frontiers (Bhutan, Nepal, China, Pakistan, Myanmar etc.) and a strategic coastline along the Indian Ocean, constantly faces both old and new threats: infiltrations, infrastructure contestation, maritime tensions, and the pressure of development in remote regions. The recent focus on programmes like the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) shows New Delhi's recognition that security and local development must go hand in hand.

Challenges

- **Terrain & Connectivity:** Many border villages are in high altitude, remote zones. Weather, physical remoteness slows infrastructure work, which in turn makes those areas vulnerable to infiltration or neglect.
- **Overlapping Infrastructure & Security Gaps:** While VVP is good, ensuring that roads, power and connectivity reach the required level (quality, maintenance) remains difficult. Poor roads or unreliable power also hamper quick deployment of security forces.
- **Maritime Uncertainties:** Chinese vessels, even research ones, can collect oceanographic or acoustic data which has military implications. The thin "rules of engagement" at sea make surveillance and response tricky.
- **Balance Between Civil & Military Needs:** Border populations often feel left behind — lack of education, health, livelihood — causing resentment. Overemphasis on security without inclusive development risks discontent.

Broader Implications

- **Deterrence & Diplomacy:** Effective border infrastructure and vigilant maritime posture act not only to deter adversaries but also to project India's seriousness in diplomatic negotiations.
- **Regional Security & Neighbour Relations:** Strong borders help reduce cross-border infiltration (terrorism, smuggling), but also need cooperation with neighbours. Conflict unresolved (e.g. LAC) causes instability and harms bilateral trust.
- **Economic & Social Costs:** Neglected border regions often see migration to cities, loss of human potential. Also, maintenance of large security apparatus costs exchequer high amounts; better infrastructure reduces cost by preempting crises.

- **Geopolitical Positioning:** India's ability to monitor, influence in the Indian Ocean, and its strategic readiness will affect its role in global groupings (Quad, IORA, Indo-Pacific frameworks).

Way Forward

- **Quality over Quantity in Infrastructure:** Not just roads and power, but reliable, climate-resilient infrastructure. Solar-hybrid power, weather-proof roads, all-weather airstrips were strategic.
- **Modernise Surveillance & Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA):** Use drones, coastal radars, satellites, underwater sensors. Also invest in capacity to interpret intelligence — not just collect.
- **Community Participation:** Border communities should be partners. Encourage local governance, create livelihood options under VVP, tourism, agriculture cooperatives. This builds resilience and reduces vulnerability.
- **Diplomatic & Multilateral Engagements:** Engage neighbours in border management dialogues. Use bilateral mechanisms with China, Pakistan, Myanmar etc to agree on patrols, trespass protocols. At sea, push for norms (IORA, ICS).
- **Resource & Institutional Strengthening:** Increase budget for Border Roads Organisation (BRO), coastal guard, navy; enhance training for security forces; ensure inter-agency coordination (Home, Defence, External Affairs) is smooth.

Conclusion

Securing India's borders isn't just a defence priority — it's a national imperative involving development, diplomacy, and the everyday lives of people who live at the edge. The Vibrant Villages Programme is a strong step in linking human security with territorial security. But to transform edges into zones of strength, India must complement infrastructure with community engagement, sharpen its maritime awareness, and modernise its institutions. Only then will border security become not just about keeping threats out, but creating prosperity, trust, and stability in the margins.

- **Source - The Hindu (page no.-3)**
- **Date - 4th September 2025**

EDITORIAL SECTION



AI, Cybersecurity & Data Sovereignty: Building India's Digital Backbone

General Studies – II & III: Technology; Internal Security; Polity & Governance

Introduction

India's rapid adoption of artificial intelligence and digital technologies is transforming governance, economy, and society. From digital payments to smart agriculture, the opportunities are enormous. But with rising cyberattacks, data misuse, and questions of sovereignty, the digital revolution also carries vulnerabilities. To secure its digital backbone, India must balance innovation with strong regulation, cybersecurity, and citizen trust.

Current Context

- **Budget 2025-26:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology received an allocation of ₹26,026.25 crore, a 48% jump from the previous year. A major share is for artificial intelligence, semiconductor, and electronics missions. [Hindustan Times, Feb 2025]
- **Indian AI Mission:** The Union Cabinet approved this flagship programme in March 2024, aimed at building indigenous artificial intelligence models, Centres of Excellence, and skilling initiatives. [Press Release, Government of India]
- **Data Protection:** The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 is India's first comprehensive data law, providing a framework for processing personal data and protecting user rights. [Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Aug 2023]
- **Cybersecurity Risks:** In 2023, India reported 204,844 cybersecurity incidents affecting government organisations, a 6.4% rise over 2022. [Economic Times, July 2024]

Challenges

- **Enforcement Gaps:** The Digital Personal Data Protection Act is enacted, but crucial rules are yet to be framed. State capacity for enforcement remains weak.
- **Privacy vs Surveillance:** Critics point to wide exemptions for government agencies, raising concerns over privacy and data misuse. [The Hindu, Aug 2023]
- **Infrastructure Deficit:** Limited high-end compute (graphics processing units), secure cloud systems, and data centres could slow artificial intelligence ambitions.
- **Growing Attack Surface:** As services like health records, banking, and e-governance digitise, the potential for ransomware and phishing grows.

- **Ethical & Bias Issues:** Imported artificial intelligence models may not align with India's linguistic and cultural diversity, risking discrimination in decisions.

Way Forward

- **Quality over Quantity in Infrastructure:** Not just roads and power, but reliable, climate-resilient infrastructure. Solar-hybrid power, weather-proof roads, all-weather airstrips were strategic.
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- **Source - The Hindu (page no.-3)**
- **Date - 4th September 2025**

EDITORIAL SECTION



Urbanization Challenges in India: Infrastructure, Smart Cities, and Governance

General Studies – I & II: Urbanization, Development, Polity & Governance

Introduction

India's urban journey is both a symbol of progress and a reminder of unfinished tasks. Today, 36% of Indians live in cities, a number set to touch 50% by 2050 (UN-Habitat). Urban centres drive ~70% of GDP (Economic Survey 2024), yet basic services often collapse under population pressure. The debate is no longer about whether India will urbanize, but whether its cities can be liveable, inclusive, and well-governed.

Current Context

- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Repeated flooding in Bengaluru and Delhi in 2023–24 revealed fragile drainage and outdated land-use planning.
- **Smart Cities Mission:** Launched in 2015 to modernise 100 cities, but by 2024 only ~70% of projects were completed, often delayed by financing and coordination hurdles.
- **Governance Issues:** Municipalities remain financially weak — property tax contributes just 0.3% of GDP, compared to 2–3% in OECD nations. Fragmentation between municipal bodies, state agencies, and development authorities weakens accountability.

Challenges

- **Weak Infrastructure:** Water supply, sewage, solid waste management, and public transport remain far behind demand.
- **Smart Cities Limitations:** Focused on selected urban pockets while ignoring thousands of smaller towns where migration is rising.
- **Housing & Inequality:** Affordable housing shortages push migrants into informal settlements; over 35% of urban population lives in slums or inadequate housing.
- **Governance Deficit:** Elected mayors lack real power; urban local bodies depend on states for funds and decisions.
- **Environmental Stress:** Urban heat islands, air pollution, and loss of wetlands make Indian cities increasingly unliveable.

Broader Implications

- **Economic drag:** Infrastructure bottlenecks raise costs, reducing India's competitiveness.
- **Social unrest:** Lack of housing and services risks exclusion, health crises, and tensions.
- **Climate vulnerability:** Poor drainage and shrinking green cover amplify floods and heatwaves.
- **Governance credibility:** Citizens lose faith when world-class projects coexist with daily waterlogging and garbage crises.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen Urban Infrastructure:** Scale up AMRUT 2.0 beyond metros; invest in sewage, mobility, waste management in Tier-2/3 cities.
- **Reform Smart Cities Approach:** Shift from showcase projects to holistic, city-wide planning; integrate digital tools with basic services.
- **Empower Local Governance:** Implement 74th Constitutional Amendment in spirit — give mayors real authority and expand municipal revenue sources.
- **Climate-Resilient Cities:** Integrate green infrastructure — wetlands, urban forests, rainwater harvesting — into planning.
- **Citizen Participation:** Ward committees, digital grievance redressal, and open data platforms can make governance transparent and responsive.

Conclusion

Urbanization is inevitable, but its quality will decide India's development path. Unless infrastructure, governance, and inclusion are fixed, cities risk becoming centres of chaos instead of growth. As *The Hindu* put it, "cities must be engines of equity as well as prosperity." The real test is whether India can build not just smart cities, but liveable ones.

- **Source - The Hindu (page no.-6)**
- **Date - 13th September 2025**



EDITORIAL SECTION



Water Resource Management and Inter-State River Disputes in India

General Studies – II & III: Polity, Federalism, Environment, Governance

Introduction

Water is both a lifeline and a flashpoint in India. With 18 percent of the world's population but only 4 percent of freshwater resources (NITI Aayog, 2019), India faces severe pressure on water management. Declining groundwater, erratic monsoons, and rising demand make rivers not just ecological assets but also sites of political contestation. Inter-State river disputes reflect both federal challenges and resource stress.

Current Context

- **Cauvery River dispute (Tamil Nadu – Karnataka):** The Supreme Court continues to monitor; recent monsoon deficit worsened tensions in 2023–24.
- **Mahanadi River dispute (Odisha – Chhattisgarh):** Ongoing Tribunal proceedings over upstream barrages.
- **Ravi-Beas Rivers (Punjab – Haryana):** Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal project still unresolved; Supreme Court has asked the Union Government to find a political solution.
- **NITI Aayog report (2019):** 21 major Indian cities likely to face zero groundwater levels soon.
- **Groundwater extraction:** India is the largest extractor globally, withdrawing approximately 250 billion cubic meters annually (World Bank).

Challenges in Water Resource Management

- **Overdependence on Groundwater:** 80 percent of drinking water and about 60 percent of irrigation comes from groundwater.
- **Fragmented Institutional Framework:** Water is in the State List (Entry 17), but inter-state rivers come under Union List (Entry 56) — leading to overlapping jurisdiction.
- **Political Federalism:** River disputes often escalate during elections, politicising technical issues.
- **Ecological Stress:** River pollution, shrinking wetlands, deforestation in catchment areas.
- **Weak Implementation:** Tribunals take years (average more than 7 years for awards), and even then, enforcement is weak.

Implications of Inter-State Disputes

- **Federal Tensions:** Disputes erode cooperative federalism, creating Union-State and State-State frictions.
- **Agricultural Impact:** Farmers in downstream states face irrigation crises; crop security at risk.

- **Urban Crisis:** Cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, and Delhi have seen severe protests over water scarcity.
- **Security Angle:** Internal conflicts weaken India's governance capacity in managing resources.

Institutional Mechanisms

- **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956** – Framework for tribunals.
- **Amendments in 2002 and 2019** – Aimed at expediting disputes; 2019 Bill proposed a single standing tribunal with multiple benches.
- **National Water Policy (2012)** – Prioritises drinking water, irrigation, and ecological needs.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (2019)** – Targets functional household tap water by 2024–25.

Way Forward

- **Integrated River Basin Management:** Treat river basins as ecological units, not political boundaries.
- **Strengthen Dispute Resolution:** Operationalise a permanent tribunal with time-bound decisions.
- **Technology and Data:** Real-time river flow data and transparent sharing can reduce mistrust.
- **Water-Use Efficiency:** Promote drip irrigation, crop diversification away from water-intensive crops such as paddy and sugarcane.
- **Community Participation:** Encourage participatory irrigation management and local water harvesting.
- **Climate Resilience:** Incorporate flood control, drought preparedness, and wetland restoration.

Conclusion

Water is not merely a natural resource but a foundation of India's federal stability and development. Effective water management requires a shift from conflict to cooperation, from politics to sustainability. As The Hindu editorial noted, "rivers must be seen as shared natural heritage, not as divisible assets." A cooperative, ecological, and outcome-driven approach alone can ensure jal, jivan, and nyaya (water, life, and justice) for all.

- **Source - The Hindu (page no.-5)**
- **Date - 9th September 2025**

EDITORIAL SECTION



India Needs More Women Judges in the SC

General Studies – II: Governance

Introduction:

As of August 2025, there are 34 sanctioned judges in the Supreme Court but only one women judge (Justice B.V. Nagarathna). In the history of India since 1950 there were only 11 women judges out of 287 judges. This shows Severe gender imbalance in the highest constitutional court. collegium appointment still do not treat gender as a criteria for selection.

Why women representation in judiciary matters?

- **Fairness and diversity:** Women bring unique experience and perspectives can improve the quality of justice especially for the women facing injustice.
- **Public trust:** Court will appear as more representative of society.
- **Gender sensitive judgements:** Presence of women has been linked to progressive rulings in case related to sexual violence, gender rights, workplace harassment etc.
- **Symbolic impact:** Encourages women in the legal profession that can strengthen pipeline to the higher judiciary.

Historical Background of Women Judges in Supreme Court

- The first woman judge was Justice Fathima Beevi in 1989.
- So far there is only 11 women judges in the history of Supreme Court.
- In the history of Supreme Court there is no women CJI only one that is Justice
- Nagarathna is expected to become CJI and that too for just 36 days.
- There is also absence of caste or religious diversity among women judges.

Area of problems

Scant appointments:

- 2021 was the historic with 3 women appointed together taking women strength above 10% briefly.
- Rarely one or two women at a time in Supreme Court.

Why more women judges are needed

1. **Substantive justice:** women bring different social context that lead to more inclusive reasoning.
2. **Democratic legitimacy:** Supreme Court is supposed to be “for all citizens” that is representation for all can strengthens legitimacy.
3. **Judicial outcomes:** Research shows women judges presence impact interpretation in gender, family and labour law cases.

Way forward

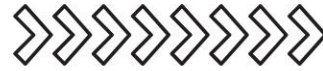
1. **Institutionalised gender quota:** Just as regional or caste representation is considered gender should be formal criterion.
2. **Transparent collegium**
 - Public disclosure of reasons for appointment.
 - Clear criteria for diversity and merit
3. **Encourage pipeline for women lawyers:**
 - More direct elevation from bar.
 - Support women at High Court level to build seniority

Conclusion

As there is very less representation of woman in Supreme Court or in any other judicial body it becomes crucial and needed to increase the representation of women in Supreme Court or in any other judicial body. More women are needed in Supreme Court and other public spheres to foster inclusivity, strengthen public trust and improve judicial outcomes by bringing diverse perspective and experiences to legal reasoning and policy making. The presence of women judges will enriches jurisprudence, especially in gender sensitive cases, and promote greater legitimacy for entire justice system. While reservation is one method to achieve this, the broader goal is to dismantle historical barriers and ensure equitable representation to create a truly representative and effective judiciary that reflect the society it serves

- **Source :** The Hindu (Page no.6)
- **Date :** 3rd September

EDITORIAL SECTION



The Way Forward on Katchatheevu, Palk Strait Disputes

GS Paper- II; International Relations

Introduction

India has historically shaped regional and global diplomacy through the Panchsheel principles, the Non-Aligned Movement, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and most recently with its "Neighborhood First Policy". This stance has generally promoted peace and interdependence in South Asia. However its unresolved issues with Sri Lanka, as fisheries in Palk Strait and sovereignty of Katchatheevu island pose challenges.

The Core Issue: Fisheries Dispute in Palk Strait

1. **Root Cause:** Indian vessels using mechanised bottom trawling in Sri Lankan waters
2. **International Norms Violated**
 - **UNCLOS:** Stresses equitable use and conservation of marine
 - **FAO Code of Conduct (1995):** Deems bottom trawling a destructive

Impact

- **Ecological damage:** Destruction of coral beds, habitat loss, and depletion of fish stocks
- **Social Conflict:** A livelihood conflict within Tamil community
- **Trawler Operators:** Profit-driven, damaging sustainable.
- **Artisanal Fishers:** Use sustainable methods but are forced into contested waters as their near-shore resources are depleted by trawlers.

The Katchatheevu Issue

1. **Fact:** Katchatheevu is a settled legal issue, not the root of the fisheries dispute.
2. **1974 India-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Treaty:**
 - Legally binding under international law principle of pacta sunt servanda.
 - Unilateral repudiation would undermine the global order, akin to China's actions on settled frontiers.
3. **Historical & Legal Justification:**
 - The 1974 settlement was not a "gift" but based on historical evidence showing Sri Lankan administrative control dating back to Portuguese, Dutch, and Jaffna kingdom rule.
 - **Precedent:** The *Minquiers and Ecrehos* case (ICJ, 1953) and the *Rann of Kutch Arbitration* (1968) emphasize administrative control over historical claims.

The Way Forward

1. Government-to-Government:

- Uphold trust and treaty obligations.
- Respect international law and settled boundaries.

2. Sub-National Engagement:

- Involve Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka's Northern Provincial Council in dialogue.

3. Practical Cooperative Measures:

- Implement equitable quotas for fishing days and catch (model: Baltic Sea Fisheries Convention).
- Establish a joint research station on Katchatheevu for marine biologists to monitor resources.
- Promote deep-sea fishing in India's EEZ to reduce pressure on nearshore waters and illegal crossings.

4. **Overarching Goal:** Shift from confrontation to cooperation, ensuring the issues become symbols of collaboration, not conflict.

Conclusion

India and Sri Lanka share not only maritime boundaries but also centres of cultural, religious, and kinship ties. The fisheries issue requires fairness to both communities, raising the artisan livelihood and ecological sustainability. The Katchatheevu issue, meanwhile, is legally settled. It should no longer be the real problem of managing resources. By adopting a collaborative fisheries regime, investing in deep sea alternatives, and respecting historical legal agreements, the pictures of Tamil Nadu and Northern province of Sri Lanka could move from confrontation to cooperation. In the long arc of diplomacy, smaller disputes must not overshadow the larger vision: peace, prosperity and mutual respect in South Asia.

- **Source :** The Hindu (page no 8)
- **Date :** 11th September

EDITORIAL SECTION



Excess rain is no excuse for damage: Caused by Neglect Sluices

GS Paper- 3 (Disaster Management)

Introduction

The heavy rains and flooding across the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana this season underlying how extreme weather interacts with governance. These recurring floods in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are not merely a result of excess rainfall but a consequence of a complex interplay between extreme weather events and governance deficit in infrastructure maintenance and disaster preparedness.

Changing Monsoon Pattern

- **Shift in monsoon behavior:** Consecutive years of extreme precipitation indicator change.
- **High intensity and short duration:** Rainfall is concentrated in short, intense burst (27% of Andhra's annual rain in 2 days in 2024, Vizianagaram with 46% excess).
- **Timing:** Extreme rainfall now occur in late August or early September, straining already near capacity.

Reservoir Management Challenge

- **Lack of flood cushion:** Reservoir like Srisailem (94% full) and Nagarjuna Sagar
- **Reactive, not proactive Management:** The current system lacks anticipatory release of water based on real time hydrological forecast

Neglect of critical Infrastructure

- **Minor Tributaries and Drainage Channels :** Often ignored in policy, they become critical choke point Budameru rivulet with capacity of 7000 cusecs, received (35000 cusecs)
- **Poor Maintenance :** Intense like the unrepaired gate at Prakram Barrage and sinking or collapsing floodbanks along the Godavari near Bhadrachalam directly hamper effective flood control
- **Urban Flooding Drivers :** Encroached stormwater channels, partially desilted partially desilted.

Governance and Policy Deficits

- **Relief over Resilience:** Mature disaster management apparatus saves lives, but the focus is skewed towards immediate relief (₹1 crore per district released in
- **Incomplete projects:** Critical works like strengthening food banks and completing
- **Lack of accountability:** Protects highlight issues of opaque relief fund uptake and
- **Not continuous Maintenance:** Infrastructure upkeep is not installed from political .

Way forward

- **Anticipatory Reservoir Management:** In corporate real time hydrological modelling to proactively draw down water level before a predicted deluge, creating a “flood cushion”
- **Holistic urban planning:** Prioritising and protect drainage network and move beyond “cosmetic desilting drives” to comprehensive, scientific drainage system and also reserving permeable land for water absorption
- **Avoid Fatalism :** while extraordinary rain can overwhelm any system, using this as an excuse to avoid reform is it dangerous path.

Conclusion

Extreme rainfall cannot be prevented but its consequences can be moderated by anticipating it. Reservoir management, for example, needs to incorporate real time hydrological modelling so that water level are drawn down before a deluge, Creating flood cushion. Urban planning must prioritise drainage networks and reserve permeable land for water absorption, moving beyond cosmetic desilting drives. Flood banks and sluices require, continues not episodic, maintenance and there unkeep should be insulated from political cycles Neither state is wrong to argue that extraordinary rains can overwhelm even robust systems, but both risk fatalism if they use this as an excuse to avoid them.

- **Source:** The Hindu (Page no.6)
- **Date :** 4th September

EDITORIAL SECTION



India's Maritime Reforms Need Course Correction

GS PAPER – 2 (GOVERNANCE)

Introduction

The passage of Indian Ports Bill, 2025 in the Rajiya Sabha, on August 18, marks a pivotal moment in India's maritime legislative history. Intended to repeal and replace the Act of 1908, it comes alongside the newly enacted Coastal Shipping Act, 2025 the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, and the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, a legislative package that the government hails as critical to streamlining maritime governance and bringing India's shipping regulation in line with global practices.

Critical Analysis of the Indian Ports Bill, 2025

Positive Intent: Hailed as a facilitative law for ease of business and sustainable port development.

Key Criticisms:

1. Centralization of Power:

- The Maritime State Development Council (chaired by the Union Minister) can direct states to follow central guidelines.
- State Maritime Boards cannot adjust their frameworks without central approval.
- Seen as "federal subordination" rather than cooperative federalism, forcing states to align with central schemes like Sagarmala and PM Gati Shakti.

2. Vague Regulatory Powers: Could impose unmanageable compliance burdens on smaller operators.

3. Flawed Dispute Resolution: Clause 17 bars civil courts from hearing port disputes.

- Forces parties into internal committees created by the authorities, raising concerns about impartiality and potentially deterring private investment.

Critical Analysis of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025

Positive Steps:

1. Modernizes registration, safety, and environmental rules.
2. Expands vessel definitions to include offshore units.
3. Aligns liability and insurance with international conventions.

Key Criticisms:

1. Dilution of Ownership Safeguards:

- Old Act (1985) required full Indian ownership.
- New Act permits "partly" Indian ownership, including by Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) and foreign entities, with thresholds left to government notification.

2. Risk of 'Flag of Convenience':

- This creates a risk of India becoming a jurisdiction where foreign owners effectively control ships flying the Indian flag.
- Bureaucratic Burden: Mandatory registration for all vessels, regardless of size, burdens small operators.

Critical Analysis of the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025

- **Stated Aim:** To strengthen cabotage rules (reserving domestic coastal trade for Indian-flagged vessels).

Key Criticisms:

1. Excessive Discretion: The Director General of Shipping has sweeping powers to license foreign vessels on vague grounds like "national security," inviting arbitrary application.

2. Burden on Small Operators: Fishing industry and small operators struggle with mandatory voyage and cargo reporting requirements without clear data usage guidelines.

3. Undermining Local Autonomy: The centrally mandated National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan sidelines state

The Way Forward

- **Process Flaw:** The Bills were passed without referral to a Parliamentary Standing Committee, lacking scrutiny and political consensus.

- **Core Tensions:** The reforms risk sacrificing federal balance, fair competition, and long-term maritime security for the sake of modernization and ease of business for a few large players.

Recommendations for Course Correction:

1. Specify in Law: Ownership thresholds and licensing rules must be clearly defined in the law itself, not left to executive discretion.

2. Restore Federal Balance: Ensure meaningful participation and autonomy for coastal states in planning and regulation.

3. Ensure Impartial Adjudication: Revise dispute resolution mechanisms to include independent judicial review.

4. Protect Small Operators: Differentiate compliance requirements to avoid crushing small-scale and traditional operators

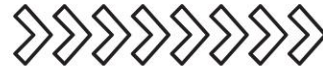
Conclusion

None of this is to deny the need for an updating legal framework. India certainly must modernise its maritime legislation. But reforms should not come at the expense of federal balance and fair competition. Ownership thresholds and licensing Rules ought to be clearly specified in law, not left to executive discretion. As it stands, too many of the provisions are arbitrary from dispute resolution that lacks judicial independence to excluding state from any meaningful role in planning. These measures may be a beginning, but without significant amendments, the risk delivering ease of doing business for a few while eroding the federal compact and weakening India's long term maritime security.

- **Source :** The Hindu (page no 6)

- **Date :** 4th September

EDITORIAL SECTION



Property Rights, Tribals and The Gender Parity Gap

GS PAPER -2 SOCIAL JUSTICE

Introduction

The Supreme Court of India on July 17, 2025, in *Ram Charan and Ors. Vs Sukhram and Ors.*, the bench of Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Joymalya Baghi equated the exclusion of daughter in ancestral property to be a negation of their fundamental rights to equality. Thus, looking at the issues of a tribal woman's property rights through the lens of gender equality becomes significant. It is a matter of deep gender injustice that most tribal women do not have pieces of legislative giving them statutory rights in ancestral property.

The Core Legal Case: *Ram Charan vs Sukhram (2023)*

- **Facts:** Legal heirs of a Scheduled Tribe (ST) woman, Dhaiya, sought partition of their maternal grandfather's property in Chhattisgarh.
- **Lower Courts' Ruling:** The Trial Court and First Appellate Court dismissed the plea, citing that no custom exists in the Gond tribe for female heirs to inherit ancestral property.
- **High Court's Landmark Judgment:** The Chhattisgarh High Court granted equal share to the female heir's legal heirs.
- **Reasoning:** Denying a female heir her right under the "garb of customs" exacerbates gender discrimination, which the law must weed out.
- **Significance:** This represents a progressive judicial interpretation prioritizing gender justice over uncoded customary practices.

Historical Legal Precedents and Contrasts

1. **Madhu Kishwar vs State of Bihar (1996):**
 - The Supreme Court, in a majority judgment, refused to strike down customary laws that excluded tribal women from inheritance.
 - The Court feared it would cause "chaos" in the existing legal framework.
 - This highlights the shift in judicial philosophy from 1996 (caution) to 2023 (activism for gender justice).
2. **Prabha Mira vs Martha Ekka (2022 -Jharkhand HC):**
 - The Court ruled in favor of the property rights of Oraon tribe women.
 - It placed the burden of proof on the party claiming the discriminatory custom, which they failed to provide.
 - This set a precedent for requiring proof of "antiquity and continuity" for a custom to be legally valid.

The Current Scenario and Challenges

- **Legal Framework:** Tribals in Scheduled Areas are governed by their customary laws in matters of marriage, succession, and adoption.
- **Statistical Evidence:** The All India Report on Agriculture Census 2015-16 shows only 16.7% of ST women possess land, compared to 83.3% of ST men.
- **Arguments Against Women's Inheritance (and their Counter):**
 1. **Communitarian Ownership:** Land is community property, with no individual owners. · Counter: Proceeds from land sales/acquisitions rarely go to the Gram Sabha, benefiting individuals.
 2. **Fear of Land Alienation:** Tribal women marrying non-tribals may lead to land passing out of the community.
- **Counter:** This denies a fundamental right based on a generalized fear and fails to consider legal safeguards.
- **Test for Customary Law:** For a custom to be legally valid, it must pass tests of antiquity, certainty, reasonableness, and conformity with public policy.

The Way Forward

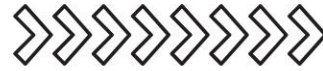
- **Judicial Affirmation:** The SC in *Kamala Neil vs Special Land Acquisition Officer (2022)* took an affirmative stand, signaling a move towards gender parity.
- **Legislative Reform** Since Section 2(2) of the Hindu Succession Act, 2005, excludes Scheduled Tribes, there is a strong case for enacting a separate Tribal Succession Act. Codification of tribal laws, similar to laws for Hindus, Muslims, and Christians, can bring clarity and substantially resolve the issue of gender discrimination.
- **Role of Judiciary:** Continue to apply the test of reasonableness and public policy to strike down discriminatory customs that violate constitutional rights.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's July 2025 judgment marks a historic turning point in advancing gender justice for tribal women. Yet, lasting reform requires more than judicial intervention, it needs legislative codification, social sensitization, and integration of constitutional values into tribal governance frameworks. Recognizing tribal women as equal stakeholders in ancestral property is not just a matter of law, but of justice, dignity, and true nation-building.

- **Source :** The Hindu (page no 6)
- **Date :** 13th September

EDITORIAL SECTION



India Signalled a Change in Foreign Policy Stance at the SCO Summit

GS PAPER- 2 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Introduction

India's foreign policy has historically oscillated between balancing great power politics and safeguarding its strategic autonomy. The 2025 SCO Summit in China witnessed a landmark moment: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first bilateral engagement with Chinese President Xi Jinping since the 2020 military standoff. The visit not only revived dormant dialogues but also underscored India's shifting posture in a multipolar world marked by U.S. sanctions, instability in West Asia, and contestations within Eurasia.

Significance of Indian Prime Minister's Visit to China

1. **Seven-year gap:** PM Modi had not travelled to China since 2017, making this a major diplomatic breakthrough.
2. **First bilateral since standoff:** Meeting with Xi Jinping was the first since the 2020 military confrontation along the LAC.
3. **Three-year SCO absence:** Modi's return to SCO after three years shows India's willingness to re-engage with a grouping seen as anti-Western.
4. **Optics of bonhomie:** Images with Xi and Putin evoked memories of the inactive Russia-India-China trilateral, signalling recalibration.

Revival of India-China Bilateral Engagement

1. **Troop disengagement:** Both leaders endorsed the normalisation process initiated in October 2024.
2. **Boundary resolution:** Agreed to fast-track talks between Special Representatives.
3. **Connectivity revival:** Resumption of direct flights and visa facilitation announced.
4. **Economic ties:** Leaders stressed on building trade relations to stabilise world commerce.
5. **Mutual trust rhetoric:** Modi stressed ties based on "mutual trust, respect and sensitivity", while Xi used the metaphor of "Dragon and Elephant" coming together.

External Drivers of India's Foreign Policy Recalibration

- **U.S. tariffs and sanctions:** American restrictions and mistrust of the Trump administration nudged India to diversify partnerships.
- **Strategic compulsion:** India managed to side-step concerns like China's support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, UNSC/NSG opposition, and shielding of terrorists.
- **Multipolar optics:** India's engagement at SCO signals balancing between West and Eurasia.

Key Outcomes of the 2025 SCO Summit

1. **Tianjin declaration:** Strong language against cross-border terrorism, including condemnation of the Pahalgam attack (India) and Balochistan attacks (Pakistan).
2. **West Asian crisis:** SCO united on humanitarian crisis in Gaza and condemned U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran.
3. **China's push:** Xi proposed an SCO Development Bank.
4. **India's push:** Modi proposed a Civilisational Dialogue among SCO members.
5. **India's reservation:** Continued opposition to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) paragraph.

Missed Diplomatic Opportunities at the Summit

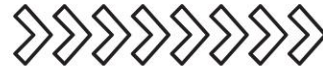
- **Skipped SCO Plus:** Indian Prime Minister did not attend the extended "SCO Plus" Summit, limiting engagement with neighbourhood and Global South leaders.
- **Regional bonding gap:** While optics were strong, substantive regional outreach was diluted.

Conclusion

The SCO Summit underscored India's willingness to recalibrate its foreign policy in a changing world order. Modi's visit after years of distance marked a thaw with China, greater Eurasian engagement, and assertion of India's independent foreign policy despite U.S. pressures. However, missed opportunities in broader outreach and unresolved trust deficits with China remain cautionary notes.

- **Source :** The Hindu (page no 6)
- **Date :** 3rd September

EDITORIAL SECTION



India and Japan Showed that their Ties Were Stable Amid a Global Churn

GS PAPER – 2 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Introduction

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Japan for the 15th India- Japan Annual Summit (2025) with PM Shigeru Ishiba, where the two sides adopted a 2035 vision statement, raised Japanese investment targets in India to \$68 billion, signed 170 MoUs, updated their 2008 security partnership. India and Japan share special strategic and global partnership, build on civilization ties, share democratic values, and converge geopolitical interest. The 15th Annual Summit (Tokyo 2025) reaffirmed the stability and depth of this partnership at a time of global turbulence, trade frictions, technological contestations, security threats.

Key Outcomes of the 15th Annual Summit

Economic Cooperation

- Japanese business raised investment target in India to \$68 billion, with 170 MoUs signed.
- 2035 Vision Statement: Eight priority areas including mobility, green technology, and economic security.
- Progress on Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (Bullet Train) project, leader visited Japanese facilities.

Security and strategic dialogue

- Upgraded 2008 security partnership to include annual NSA level dialogue.
- Good convergence on QUAD, Indo-Pacific Cooperation and UNSC reform.
- Joint condemnation of North Korea's missile programme and cross border terrorism.

People to people and Connectivity

- "Next - Gen State Prefecture Partnership" for grassroots engagement.
- Boosting direct flight connectivity.

Geopolitical Context and Subtext

- **Global trade frictions:** Summit took place after American tariff hikes that threaten India and Japan's export markets.
- **China's Factor:** India preparing for talks with Xi Jinping to normalise ties after 4 years standoff and Japan is concerned over East China Sea tensions and its own trade disputes with the US.
- **QUAD Dimension:** Emphasis on upcoming QUAD summit despite uncertainty in US politics.
- **Message of stability:** Both leaders to judge acted India- Japan ties are steady, forward looking and resilient amidst global churn.

Strategic significance of India Japan ties

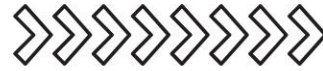
- **Economic Security:** Building resilient supply pins and semiconductor capacity counters Chinese dominance.
- **Energy and Green Transition:** Partnership in clean energy, mobility, and climate friendly technologies.
- **Defence and security:** Regular military exercise, naval cooperation, and shared Indo Pacific vision.
- **Global governance:** Common push for US reform, rule-based order, and open sea lanes.

Conclusion

The Summit renewed focus on economic security, technology, and Indo-Pacific cooperation trajectory, a stable, next generation partnership that balances geopolitics and grass roots connectivity. The message that Mr. Narendra Modi and Mr Ishiba sent out was that amidst geopolitics turmoil caused by global powers, India -Japan relationship remains stable and continues to grow.

- **Source :** The Hindu (page no 6)
- **Date :** 1st September

EDITORIAL SECTION



Waqf Act, 2025: Judicial Restraint in Action

GS Paper II - Polity and Governance, Separation of Powers, and Role of Judiciary

Introduction

- In April 2025, the Indian Parliament enacted sweeping amendments to the Waqf Act, seeking to overhaul the management of waqf properties, enhance transparency, introduce strict rules, and expand governmental oversight.
- While supporters commend the reforms as a necessary corrective to decades of mismanagement and encroachments, critics warn that several provisions risk undermining religious freedoms, property rights, and historical waqf practices.
- The Supreme Court's response so far reveals something important: judicial restraint is alive, even as constitutional questions loom large.

- Changes in the composition and nomination of Waqf Boards and the Central Waqf Council, including non-Muslim members in significant numbers

These amendments touch sensitive constitutional turf:

- 1) Articles 14 (equality)
- 2) Articles 25-26 (religious freedom)
- 3) Article 300A (property rights).

- **Source : The Hindu (page no 8)**
- **Date : 14th September**

Legislative Ambit vs Constitutional Git

The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 introduces several contentious clauses:

1. A requirement that a person must have practised Islam for at least five years in order to create a waqf.
2. Empowering district collectors or executive officers to adjudicate whether disputed land is waqf or government property.

EDITORIAL SECTION



Judicial Restraint: What the Court Has Done

GS Paper II - Polity and Governance, Separation of Powers, and Role of Judiciary

Introduction

Rather than striking down the amendments wholesale, the Supreme Court has taken a measured, cautious approach: It refused to stay the entire Act, emphasising the strong presumption in favour of constitutionality for laws passed by Parliament. It stayed certain key provisions, particularly the "five-year practice" requirement and the clause giving a Collector executive powers over deciding waqf property disputes. This stay is conditional - to last until proper rules or mechanisms are framed or until adjudicatory bodies (tribunals) are in place. For other provisions (like inclusion of non-Muslims in Waqf Boards), the Court has allowed them to remain, though with limitations and guidelines (caps on number, preference in exofficio membership etc.). The Chief Justice has emphasised that unless a "very strong case" is made, courts should refrain from interfering with legislative decisions.

Why This Strikes a Balance

This approach shows judicial restraint: the court is neither rubber-stamping the legislation nor acting as a super-legislature.

- **Preservation of legislative sovereignty:** The Court's reluctance to nullify the law entirely respects Parliament's role in shaping policies.
- **Protection of constitutional rights:** By staying specific clauses that appear arbitrary or overbroad, the Court preserves the rights of those who may be unfairly impacted or whose rights are under threat.
- **Rule of law & procedural fairness:** By insisting on mechanisms for determining who is a "practitioner of Islam for five years", and that disputes over waqf status be adjudicated through tribunals (judicial or quasijudicial), the Court is upholding principles of due process.
- **Separation of powers:** The Court has drawn lines, for instance, that executive officers (like Collectors) cannot decide contested questions of property rights without judicial oversight.

This protects individuals from potential executive overreach.

Risks & What Remains Uncertain

Even a cautious judicial approach cannot fully allay concerns:

- The delayed arrival of rules or tribunals may leave people in limbo; damage (loss of property, administrative harm) may already occur.
- Some clauses that remain valid may still cause harm in practice if implemented badly or overzealously.
- The court's interim orders protect against immediate danger, but the larger constitutional challenges (on equality, free conscience, religious identity) are yet to be finally settled. There is risk that, under the guise of reform, rights of minority institutions might be eroded without adequate safeguards.

Way Forward: Institutional Safeguards & Legislative Care

To ensure governance without trampling constitutional values:

1. **Transparent rule-making:** Before contentious clauses (like "practised Islam for five years") come into effect, states must frame clear, fair, objective rules.
2. **Functional tribunals:** Waqf tribunals need to be impartial, accessible, and timely, so that disputes are resolved judicially rather than administratively.
3. **Community consultation:** Minority bodies should have a say in how waqf properties are registered, managed, and how boards are constituted.
4. **Continuous judicial oversight:** The Supreme Court's restraint should not turn to neglect: vigilance is needed to ensure interim orders aren't rendered hollow by administrative laxity.

- **Source :** The Hindu (page no 6)
- **Date :** 12 September

EDITORIAL SECTION



Equalising Food Consumption: A Step Towards Inclusive Food Security

GS Paper II - Governance, Social Justice, and Government Policies & Interventions

Introduction

In a country that produces enough food to feed its population, the paradox of hunger and malnutrition persists. India has made significant strides in agricultural productivity and food availability, yet millions remain undernourished or deprived of nutritious food. The recent Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) shows that while non-foop consumption is rising (indicating rising incomes and changing lifestyles), food expenditure share has declined. This is good as a trend, but the distribution matters: not everyone is moving upwards together, and the poorest still spend a large share of their income on food. Moreover, dietary quality is unequal. For example, cereals have become a nearly universal staple-enabled by the Public Distribution System (PDS)-but protein sources like pulses remain far less accessible to poorer households. The consumption of pulses among the bottom 5% in expenditure is significantly lower than among the top 5%.

Challenges

Subsidy Design & Targeting: Universal or near-universal subsidies on cereals have helped reduce hunger; yet, subsidies for nutrient-dense foods (pulses, millets, vegetables) are much smaller or absent.

- **Price Volatility:** Prices of protein foods, fresh produce tend to fluctuate more; low-income households suffer the most.
- **Supply Chain & Infrastructure Gaps:** Poor cold-storage, transport, market access make perishable nutritious foods expensive and less available in remote or poor areas.
- **Cultural, Social Barriers:** Dietary habits, social norm constraints (e.g. which households eat what), awareness about nutrition etc.

- Nutritional Security vs Just Food Security: Access to calories is not enough; micronutrients, balanced diets are essential.

Policy Imperatives and solutions

1. Re-structure Subsidies & Public Distribution
 - Expand PDS to cover pulses/protein sources, perhaps as key entitlements. Introduce "nutritious food baskets" in subsidised schemes (beyond just cereals).
 - Rationalise cereal subsidies (where over-entitlements exist) and redirect savings to nutrition-rich food.
2. Improve Supply Chains for Perishables
 - Invest in cold chains, local markets, better transport for fruits, vegetables, dairy, fish.
 - Support small producers and farmers for more diversified agricultural production (not just cereals).
3. Price Stabilization & Market Regulation
 - Buffer mechanisms for pulses/ vegetables to reduce volatility.
 - Minimum support or procurement along with import policy to ensure stable supply of protein foods.
4. Nutrition Awareness & Behavioural Change
 - Public health campaigns to promote dietary diversity.
 - School meals, ICDS etc. should include diverse foods, not just staples.
5. Data-Driven Geographic & SocioEconomic Targeting
 - Use survey / deprivation indices to identify districts/populations with low consumption/nutrition.
 - Design differential support in areas which are lagging.
6. Link Food with Health & Education Policies
 - Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination: agriculture + health + nutrition + social welfare.
 - Ensure that malnutrition, stunting, hidden hunger are tracked and addressed.

- **Source : The Hindu (page no 10)**
- **Date : 15th September**

EDITORIAL SECTION



India Needs to Focus More to Reach SDG-3: A Crucial Goal

GS Paper II - Governance, Social Justice, and Health

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 set out an ambitious agenda for global development by 2030. Among the 17 goals, SDG-3 - "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" stands at the heart of sustainable progress. Health is both a prerequisite and an outcome of development. Yet, India's journey toward achieving SDG-3 reveals a mixed picture: remarkable gains in some areas, but persistent gaps in others that demand urgent attention.

Progress Made - But Not Enough

India has made undeniable strides in public health over the past two decades. Infant and maternal mortality rates have fallen, life expectancy has risen, and the reach of primary healthcare has expanded under initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, National Health Mission, and Poshan Abhiyaan. The government's focus on universal health coverage, along with efforts to tackle communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS, reflect steady progress. However, the 2024 UN SDG Progress Report shows that India is off track on several indicators of SDG-3. Rising cases of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), malnutrition, mental health neglect, air pollution-related deaths, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure in rural areas remain key obstacles..

The Gaps in India's Health Story

- 1. Non-Communicable Diseases on the Rise:** Over 60% of deaths in India now occur due to NCDs like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and respiratory illnesses. Lifestyle factors, pollution, and lack of preventive care are major contributors.
- 2. Public Health Spending Remains Low:** India spends only around 2% of GDP on healthcare, far below the global average. This underinvestment leads to dependence on private healthcare and high out-of-pocket expenses, pushing millions into poverty each year.
- 3. Inequalities in Access:** The urban-rural and rich-poor divide continues to define India's health outcomes. Many rural areas still face shortages of doctors, medicines, and diagnostic facilities.

4. Malnutrition and Maternal Health: Despite progress, 35% of Indian children under five are stunted, and anemia affects nearly 57% of women (NFHS-5). These figures directly threaten SDG-3 targets of reducing preventable deaths and improving nutrition.

5. Mental Health - The Silent Crisis: Mental health disorders are on the rise, especially among youth, but stigma and lack of infrastructure persist. India needs more psychiatrists, counsellors, and awareness programs.

Why SDG-3 Matters

Health is the foundation upon which every other goal stands - from education and employment to gender equality and poverty reduction. A healthy population means productive citizens, stronger human capital, and sustainable economic growth. Failure to meet SDG-3 targets will ripple across the other 16 goals, undermining India's entire 2030 Agenda.

Conclusion:

India's success in achieving SDG-3 will define its broader progress on the path of sustainable development. The pandemic underscored the value of resilient public health systems and preventive care. As 2030 draws nearer, India must treat SDG-3 not merely as a health goal, but as a national development imperative. A healthy India is not just a moral commitment - it is the foundation for an equitable, prosperous, and sustainable future.

EDITORIAL SECTION



Judicial Innovation vs Legislative Paralysis

GS Paper II - Polity and Governance

Introduction

In a democracy governed by the rule of law, the legislature, executive, and judiciary are meant to function as co-equal pillars. Yet, in India and many democracies today, the scales appear tilted - where judicial innovation often steps in to fill the void left by legislative paralysis. What should ideally be a relationship of balance has increasingly become one of substitution. When the Court Becomes a Problem-Solver In recent years, India's higher judiciary has taken up issues ranging from environmental protection and gender equality to privacy, same-sex rights, and political accountability. Whether it was the Vishaka Guidelines on sexual harassment, the decriminalisation of Section 377, or directives on pollution and interlinking of rivers - the courts have creatively expanded constitutional principles to protect citizens' rights in the absence of timely legislative action. This is judicial innovation - the proactive use of constitutional interpretation to meet evolving social needs. It reflects the judiciary's responsiveness when the legislature hesitates or delays action on pressing moral and policy questions.

The Other Side: Legislative Paralysis

On the other hand, legislative paralysis has become a defining feature of modern governance. Polarised politics, endless disruptions in Parliament, and short-term populism often prevent lawmakers from debating and passing socially progressive laws. Issues like data protection, electoral reforms, and gender justice have languished for years without decisive legislative action. In this vacuum, the judiciary's activism, though well intentioned, becomes both a necessity and concern - necessary for justice, but concerning for democracy.

A Constitutional Tightrope

Judicial innovation keeps constitutional morality alive, but it also risks judicial overreach. Courts are not elected; their legitimacy stems from law, not popular will. When judges start framing detailed policy guidelines or managing executive functions, they risk blurring institutional boundaries. The famous caution of Justice J.S. Verma - "Judicial activism must not become judicial adventurism" - still resonates. At the same time, constant judicial intervention is a symptom, not the cause. It reflects how the legislature has often failed to rise to the expectations of a changing society.

Restoring Balance

The solution lies not in curbing the judiciary's spirit but in reviving the legislature's capacity. Parliament must reclaim its deliberative role, hold informed debates, and legislate on emerging issues with clarity and empathy. Judicial creativity should complement, not compensate for, legislative inertia. Institutional respect must flow both ways - with courts showing restraint and lawmakers showing responsibility.

Conclusion

The tension between judicial innovation and legislative paralysis is ultimately a struggle over democratic accountability. When the legislature fails to act, the judiciary innovates; when the judiciary innovates too far, democracy is strained. A mature democracy demands that both institutions perform their roles with conviction - lawmakers making the law, and judges interpreting it - for only then can the spirit of the Constitution truly thrive.

EDITORIAL SECTION



India China moving beyond Galwan

General Paper-2; Topic- International relations, India and its Neighbourhood – Relations

Introduction

India and China appear to be moving towards a new modus vivendi to maintain peace and tranquility along their disputed 4,000-kilometer border.

- The Modi government agreed to build on the 2005 agreement of Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question.

Past border disputes:

- In 2020, the older arrangements, shaped by the agreements of 1993, 1996, 2005, and 2013- broke down in Ladakh after the Chinese massed troops in Tibet.
- They established blockades at six points on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to prevent Indian troops from patrolling the border.
- A clash at Galwan in June 2020 led to the deaths of 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers, the first such losses on the LAC since 1975.
- The Sino-Indian clash(2022) at Yangtse, north-east of Tawang, suggests that new measures may be needed across the LAC, and not just in Ladakh.

Outcomes

- Delhi has decided that it can now “move ahead” from the PLA transgressions, Galwan clashes and the standoff.
- PM Modi travel to Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Meeting where he also met with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Conclusion

India and China are taking gradual steps towards rebuilding trust and stabilizing bilateral ties after the Galwan Valley clashes in 2020. The two countries have engaged in diplomatic efforts, border disengagement agreements, and high-level meetings to restore peace and cooperation.

News Highlights

- Mr. Wang was in Delhi at the invitation of NSA Ajit Doval for the 24th Special Representatives talk on the boundary question.
- India and China agreed to resume border trade at three points, restart direct flights, expand the Kailash Manasarovar yatra slots for pilgrims and relax visas.
- Positive discussions on the lifting of export restrictions by China on fertilizers, rare earth products and boring machinery.
- The two sides agreed to expedite the process of boundary resolution of the 3,500 km India-China border.

- **Source : The Hindu (page no 6)**
- **Date : 23th September**

EDITORIAL SECTION



Nepal's Interim Leadership: Holding the Line Against Illegitimate Demands

(GS Paper II – International Relations & Polity)

Introduction

Nepal stands yet again at a political crossroads. The interim administration in Kathmandu has assumed office in the aftermath of a fractious dissolution of Parliament, an episode symptomatic of the deeper malaise within Nepal's post-monarchy political evolution. What was envisioned as a stable democratic order under the 2015 Constitution has too often been derailed by opportunistic alliances, constitutional brinkmanship, and an undercurrent of populism that challenges institutional integrity.

- The present leadership, tasked only with steering the nation toward fresh elections, finds itself besieged by demands that seek to reshape the republic itself from reviving monarchical symbols to questioning the federal secular framework.
- In choosing restraint over appeasement, the interim leadership is, in effect, testing the resilience of Nepal's democracy.

The Anatomy of Fragile Constitutionalism

- Nepal's constitutional experiment is young and deeply layered. It rests upon a hard-won equilibrium between competing identities ethnic, linguistic, and regional and between visions of a secular republic and a traditional monarchy.
- This quilibrium remains fragile. Each political crisis since 2015 has chipped away at the faith of ordinary citizens in the institutions meant to embody this balance.
- The current interim setup is, therefore, not merely a caretaker administration; it is the custodian of a constitutional legacy. •By resisting calls to revisit the structure of federalism or to defer elections in the name of "stability," it is upholding a crucial democratic ethic that legitimacy flows only through constitutionally sanctioned processes.
- Judicial interventions in recent years, including Nepal's Supreme Court reinstating the dissolved House of Representatives (2021), have established a precedent for constitutional accountability.
- The interim leadership's cautious adherence to these norms sustains this continuity of rule of law.

Balancing Popular Grievances and Constitutional Integrity

- What complicates Nepal's governance dilemma is the co-existence of legitimate social grievances with politically opportunistic demands.
- Madhesi and Janajati communities continue to voice concerns of under-representation and exclusion within the federal structure.
- Addressing these issues requires nuanced dialogue and incremental reforms, not structural dismantling.
- Here, the interim government's restraint reflects a deeper understanding that democratic consolidation is not achieved through quick concessions but through patient institution-building
- To preserve faith in the political process, the administration must ensure transparency in electoral preparation, strengthen the Election Commission's autonomy, and create space for civic participation.

India, China, and the Strategic Periphery

- Every tremor in Nepal's domestic politics reverberates across the Himalayas. India's calibrated response to the current situation underscores its recognition of Nepal's sovereign choices and the limits of external influence.
- A stable, democratic Nepal is indispensable to India's own neighborhood vision anchored in connectivity, cultural affinity, and people-to-people ties.
- China's engagement through the Belt and Road Initiative and political outreach has expanded, particularly when Kathmandu's leadership has appeared unstable.
- The interim government's capacity to conduct balanced diplomacy avoiding the optics of dependency while safeguarding autonomy will be pivotal in determining Nepal's long-term regional posture.

Guarding the Democratic Idea

- The larger significance of Nepal's interim leadership lies beyond immediate political arithmetic.
- In choosing to hold firm against unconstitutional pressures, it is affirming the moral essence of constitutionalism that institutions must outlast individuals and ideologies.
- For India and the South Asian region, Nepal's experience serves as a reminder that democracy in post-colonial societies is not a static achievement but a continuous negotiation between power and principle.

In Reflection

- When India's Constituent Assembly drafted the Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar warned that the success of any democracy ultimately depends on the spirit of its people and their leaders.
- Nepal today stands at that same test. Its interim government's quiet defiance of illegitimate demands is a reaffirmation of constitutional morality, a principle enshrined in Article 1 of the Constitution of Nepal, which declares that "sovereignty and state authority lie in the people."

- **Source : The Hindu (Page no.10)**
- **Date: 19th September 2025**

EDITORIAL SECTION



Fighting Smoke with Strategy: India's Battle Against Stubble Burning

GS Paper III – Environment, Agriculture, Science & Technology; GS Paper II – Governance & Centre-State Relations)

Introduction

- Every winter, a familiar haze blankets northern India. The smog that engulfs Delhi and its adjoining states is not merely a seasonal inconvenience, it is a public health emergency, a governance challenge, and a test of India's environmental commitment.
- At the heart of this crisis lies the practice of stubble burning, the large-scale incineration of crop residue by farmers in Punjab, Haryana, and parts of Uttar Pradesh to clear fields for the next sowing cycle.
- Despite years of campaigns, penalties, and incentives, the problem persists. What makes this issue particularly complex is that it lies at the intersection of agriculture, economics, and governance, demanding not just technological solutions but empathetic policymaking.

Understanding the Root of the Smoke

- The Green Revolution, while ensuring food security, also entrenched a paddy-wheat cropping pattern that left farmers with little time between harvests.
- The mechanization of agriculture, through machines like the combine harvester, created a new problem, large volumes of non-reusable stubble. Farmers, facing tight sowing windows and high costs of residue management, found burning to be the quickest and cheapest option.
- The result is a toxic mix: particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), black carbon, and greenhouse gases that degrade soil quality, contribute to global warming, and aggravate respiratory ailments across the Indo-Gangetic plain. •According to studies by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), nearly 20 million tonnes of paddy residue are burned annually in north India, contributing to almost 30-40% of Delhi's winter pollution.

Policy Efforts and Technological Interventions

Over the past few years, India has attempted a series of measures to curb the menace:

- **Promotion of In-Situ Management:** Machines such as the Happy Seeder, Super Straw Management System (SMS), and Zero Till Drill have been promoted through subsidies under the Crop Residue Management (CRM) Scheme. These allow farmers to sow wheat directly without removing the stubble.
- **Ex-Situ Solutions:** Efforts are underway to convert crop residue into bioenergy, compressed biogas, or industrial raw material. Projects under the SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiative have begun integrating paddy straw into bio-CNG plants.

Research and Innovation

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed PUSA Decomposer, a microbial solution that accelerates stubble decomposition within 15–20 days.
- Despite these measures, inconsistent enforcement and limited awareness have restricted large-scale adoption.

The Governance Dimension: Coordination or Confrontation?

- Stubble burning underscores a recurring challenge in India's federal structure-centre- state coordination in environmental governance.
- While environmental protection is a shared responsibility under the Constitution's Seventh Schedule, states often cite limited financial capacity and political compulsions.
- A more integrated framework, linking agricultural subsidies to sustainable practices, could bridge this gap.
- Collaborative models, where panchayats are empowered to implement residue management at the local level, would also enhance accountability.

Towards a Sustainable Future

The solution lies not in blame, but in balance between environmental responsibility and farmers' economic realities. Experts recommend:

- **Crop Diversification:** Encouraging maize, pulses, and oilseeds through assured procurement to break the paddy-wheat cycle.
- **Decentralized Bioeconomy:** Establishing rural bioenergy hubs to create value from residue waste.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Attracting investment in biomass processing, logistics, and supply chains.
- **Behavioral Change Campaigns:** Sustained awareness programs, led by local influencers and cooperatives, can make sustainability a social movement rather than a state directive.

Conclusion: A Fight Beyond Fire

- India's struggle against stubble burning is not just about cleaner air, it is about rethinking agricultural sustainability, governance responsiveness, and technological inclusivity.
- The path forward demands what Mahatma Gandhi once called "constructive cooperation" where state machinery, scientific innovation, and farmers' agency move together, not in parallel.
- In spirit, it echoes Article 48A of the Indian Constitution, which directs the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
- Upholding this constitutional vision requires not coercion, but conviction, a shared belief that the smoke over our fields need not define the future of our skies.

- **Source :** The Hindu (page no 10)
- **Date :** 19th September 2025

EDITORIAL SECTION



From Brain Drain to Brain Gain: Reducing Dependence on U.S. Jobs

GS Paper II – International Relations; GS Paper III – Economy, Employment, Startups)

Introduction

- For decades, India's brightest minds have migrated to the United States in search of better opportunities, higher pay, and advanced research ecosystems.
- The phenomenon of "brain drain" became synonymous with India's global talent story, particularly in the fields of technology, medicine, and research.
- Yet, the global economic slowdown, shifting visa policies, and the rise of India's domestic innovation ecosystem are prompting a quiet reversal, an evolution from brain drain to brain gain. This shift is not merely demographic.

Tracing the Legacy of Brain Drain

- In the post-independence decades, limited domestic opportunities and inadequate research funding compelled many highly educated Indians to emigrate.
- By the 1990s and 2000s, the IT revolution accelerated this outflow. Indian engineers and scientists became the backbone of Silicon Valley, with Indians constituting over 70% of H-1B visa holders in recent years.
- While this contributed to India's global reputation for intellectual excellence, it also exposed vulnerabilities, especially dependence on foreign economies for employment and innovation.
- The recent tightening of U.S. immigration rules and the rise of AI-led automation have forced a reassessment of this dependence.

The Turning Tide: Brain Gain in Motion

A quiet but notable trend has emerged over the past decade, reverse migration. Indian professionals, once settled abroad, are increasingly returning to lead startups, research labs, and policy think tanks at home.

Three factors have accelerated this reversal:

1. The Startup Boom:

India's startup ecosystem, now the third largest in the world, has become a magnet for talent. Sectors like fintech, edtech, healthtech, and climate innovation are offering opportunities that rival Silicon Valley without the constraints of visa dependency.

2. Government Support:

Policies such as Startup India, Digital India, and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme have created a conducive environment for entrepreneurship. Initiatives like the National Research Foundation (NRF) and Atal Innovation Mission are encouraging research-led employment at home.

3. Global Uncertainty and Local Aspiration:

- Rising job insecurities abroad, coupled with growing national pride and economic optimism, have motivated many skilled Indians to reinvest their expertise domestically.
- This reverse flow of talent is reshaping India's innovation landscape, turning "brain drain" into a networked "brain circulation."

Economic and Strategic Dimensions

- India's dependence on U.S. job markets, particularly through the IT services sector, has historically created both opportunity and vulnerability.
- A slowdown in U.S. tech spending or changes in visa regimes directly affect Indian employment and remittances.
- However, with India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) model through UPI, ONDC, and Aadhaar, gaining global recognition, the country is beginning to export ideas rather than talent.
- The emphasis on "Make in India" and "Create in India" marks a structural shift from being a global back-office to a hub of innovation.
- Strategically, India-U.S. relations are evolving beyond employment dependence to technology partnerships in critical areas like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and clean energy.
- The U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) aims to build joint research capacities, helping India retain its skilled workforce while engaging globally.

Challenges in Reversing the Flow

While optimism surrounds the narrative of brain gain, significant hurdles persist:

- Research Infrastructure:** India still spends less than 1% of its GDP on R&D, compared to 2.7% by the U.S.
- Workplace Ecosystem:** Bureaucratic hurdles, limited academic freedom, and slow corporate hierarchies often frustrate returnees.
- Skill Market Mismatch:** The rapid evolution of AI and automation has created gaps between university training and emerging industry needs.

Bridging these requires systemic reforms that value intellectual capital as much as industrial output.

The Way Forward: Building a Talent Sovereign Nation

To convert potential into permanence, India must:

- Invest in Research Universities with competitive funding and international collaboration.
- Promote Talent Retention Policies, including tax incentives for returnees and global professionals who establish ventures in India.
- Strengthen Skill Ecosystems through re-skilling and mentorship programs linked to the private sector.
- Reimagine India's Diaspora Policy, not as an exit story, but as a global network of innovation and investment.

Conclusion: Towards a Confident Global India

- India's journey from brain drain to brain gain symbolizes more than economic transformation, it signals a psychological shift from dependency to self-assurance.
- As Article 51(c) of the Indian Constitution envisions, India must "foster respect for international law and treaty obligations." In the same spirit, it must also foster respect for its own talent ensuring that the next generation of innovators do not have to leave to lead. The true victory will be when opportunity, not aspiration, anchors the Indian mind to Indian soil.

- Source : The Hindu (page no 8)
- Date : 22nd September 2025

EDITORIAL SECTION



Border States and India's Trade Potential: Bridging the 0.13% Gap

GS Paper III – Economy / Infrastructure / Internal Security)

The Missed Opportunity at the Margins

- India shares its borders with seven countries, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Afghanistan (through PoK).
- Yet, trade through land borders accounts for barely 0.13% of India's total global trade, as per official estimates.
- The problem is not of geography but of governance of underdeveloped infrastructure, security sensitivities, and the absence of coherent policy coordination between the Centre and border states.
- Unlocking this untapped potential could transform not only local economies but also India's role in regional supply chains.

A Borderline Reality: Strategic Edges, Economic Voids

- The border regions from Punjab's Wagah to Mizoram's Zokhawthar are zones of immense strategic and economic importance.
- Yet, these areas face chronic underinvestment and poor logistical integration. Border trade has remained hostage to:
- **Security Constraints:** Heightened tensions with Pakistan and China have restricted trade corridors and limited movement of goods.
- **Infrastructure Deficits:** Lack of modern Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), warehousing, and cold-chain logistics hampers the seamless movement of commodities.
- **Political Fragmentation:** Absence of consistent policy alignment between state governments and the Centre has slowed cross-border cooperation initiatives.
- As a result, border states that could be dynamic trade corridors have been reduced to fragile economic buffers.

Push and Emerging Corridors

In recent years, the government has recognized border trade as both a strategic and developmental tool. Several initiatives are gradually reshaping the economic geography of India's peripheries:

1. Integrated Check Posts (ICPs):

The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) has operationalized ICPs at Attari, Petrapole, Moreh, and Dawki, improving customs efficiency and trade facilitation.

2. Act East Policy: The Northeast is being reimagined as a bridge to Southeast Asia. Projects like the India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway and Kaldan Multimodal Transit Transport Project aim to turn Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland into trade hubs rather than endpoints

3. Border Area Development Programme (BADP):

Beyond infrastructure, this scheme focuses on livelihood generation, connectivity, and the integration of border villages into mainstream markets.

4. Bangladesh and Bhutan Corridors:

India's trade with Bangladesh, now its largest trading partner in South Asia shows the potential of stable borders. Border haats in Meghalaya and Tripura have revived traditional local commerce and people-to-people ties.

Despite progress, the scale remains modest compared to potential. For example, trade at the Petrapole–Benapole border, one of the busiest land ports, still faces delays averaging 30–40 hours per truck due to limited digitization and logistical

Economic and Security Interlinkages

- Border trade is not only an economic issue it is also a security stabilizer. Economic engagement can help reduce alienation in border communities and discourage illicit trade, insurgency financing, and smuggling.
- However, India must manage this integration carefully. Open trade routes along sensitive borders with China and Pakistan require stringent surveillance and intelligence coordination.
- Thus, border trade policy must evolve as a “dual-purpose instrument” promoting prosperity while reinforcing security.

Bridging the 0.13% Gap: What Needs to Change Conclusion

To convert borders from barriers into bridges, India must adopt a multi-pronged approach:

- **Infrastructure Modernization:** Establish fully digitized, multimodal ICPs with logistics parks and warehousing near major border points.
- **Institutional Coordination:** Strengthen coordination between the Ministry of Home Affairs, Commerce, and state governments for coherent policy implementation.
- **Economic Diplomacy:** Deepen sub-regional cooperation through frameworks like BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) and BIMSTEC.
- **Community-Led Models:** Expand border haats and village-level cooperatives to promote inclusive, small-scale trade.

The Broader Vision: From Peripheral to Pivotal

- Border states can serve as the frontiers of India's next phase of economic globalization. As global supply chains diversify away from China, India's strategic location offers a unique advantage if connectivity, policy, and trust can align.
- A border that once symbolized division can now represent opportunity.
- Realizing this transformation requires what economists term “connective federalism” where the Centre provides the strategic framework, and states translate it into localized economic action.

Conclusion: Securing Prosperity at the Edge

- The journey from 0.13% to meaningful integration is not just about trade, it is about redefining borders as engines of growth rather than lines of limitation.
- Economic engagement across borders builds stability, reduces extremism, and strengthens India's regional influence.
- In this lies the essence of Article 301 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees freedom of trade and commerce throughout the territory of India, a principle that must now extend to the country's borders.
- For India, the true frontier of development may no longer be within its heartland but along its edges where connectivity, cooperation, and confidence converge to redefine national strength.

• **Source: The Hindu (Page no. 10)**

• **Date: 25th September 2025**

EDITORIAL SECTION



Criminal Defamation and Democratic Debate: Ensuring Proportionality in Penalties

GS Paper II – Polity: Fundamental Rights, Freedom of Speech & Expression, Role of Judiciary)

Introduction

Free speech is the lifeblood of democracy. Yet, in India, it continues to exist within a fragile balance where the right to speak freely often collides with the right to reputation.

- The recent debates surrounding criminal defamation provisions under Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) have reignited a crucial question: can the threat of imprisonment for defamation coexist with the spirit of democratic debate?
- In an era where public discourse is increasingly polarized, the proportionality of punishment in criminal defamation cases is being questioned not merely as a matter of law, but as a matter of democratic conscience.

The Legal Landscape: A Colonial Legacy

- Criminal defamation in India traces its roots to the Indian Penal Code of 1860, a colonial statute intended to curb dissent against the British Raj.
- While most democracies, including the United Kingdom, have decriminalized defamation, India continues to retain it as a penal offence punishable with imprisonment up to two years, a fine, or both.
- The Supreme Court's judgment in *Subramanian Swamy v. Union of India* (2016) upheld the constitutionality of Sections 499-500 IPC, reasoning that the right to reputation is an integral part of Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty).
- However, the Court also reaffirmed that Article 19(1)(a), the freedom of speech and expression remains a fundamental pillar of democracy and must not be unduly restricted.

Proportionality and Judicial Interpretation

- The doctrine of proportionality, increasingly invoked in Indian constitutional jurisprudence, demands that any restriction on a fundamental right must be:
 1. Legitimate,
 2. Rationally connected to that purpose,
 3. Least restrictive, and
 4. Balancing of competing interests.
- Criminal prosecution, on the other hand, chills free expression, deters investigative journalism, and burdens the criminal justice system with cases that do not threaten public order.

The judiciary's challenge, therefore, is to maintain this delicate balance: ensuring that speech is responsible, but never fearful.

Democratic Implications: Fear and Free Thought

- In practice, criminal defamation has often been misused as a tool to silence dissent, intimidate journalists, and dissuade critics from questioning those in power.

- Defamation suits have been filed against political opponents, editors, and activists, not necessarily to secure justice, but to weaponize the process itself.
- This “**process-as-punishment**” dynamic undermines democratic debate, particularly in matters of public interest. When individuals fear imprisonment for expressing criticism, the result is self-censorship, a democracy where citizens speak cautiously, not courageously.
- The Law Commission of India (Report No. 267) has also recommended reconsidering the need for criminal defamation, suggesting that civil remedies can provide adequate redressal while preserving the spirit of free discourse.

Global Comparisons and Best Practices

- Globally, most mature democracies have shifted towards civil defamation laws. The United Kingdom abolished criminal defamation in 2009; the United States relies on robust free speech protections under the First Amendment; and several European nations have reformed their penal provisions to align with the European Convention on Human Rights.
- India's retention of criminal defamation, therefore, stands as an anomaly among liberal democracies, an outdated legal relic at odds with its constitutional promise.

The Way Forward: Reform with Responsibility

To ensure proportionality in penalties while safeguarding reputation, India could adopt a multi-tiered reform approach:

1. Decriminalization of Defamation: Amend the IPC to remove imprisonment as a punishment, replacing it with civil liability and non-custodial remedies.
2. Strengthening Civil Defamation Mechanisms: Streamline the civil justice system for quicker, more efficient redressal through fast-track courts or tribunals.
3. Public Interest Safeguards: Introduce statutory protection for speech made in good faith on matters of public concern or against public figures.

Conclusion: The Soul of a Free Republic

- A democracy that criminalizes dissent risks hollowing out its own moral foundation. The Indian Constitution guarantees not just the right to speak, but the right to question.
- Ensuring proportionality in defamation penalties, therefore, is not an act of leniency, it is an affirmation of constitutional morality.

- Source : The Hindu (Page no.6)
- Date : 24th September 2025

EDITORIAL SECTION



Equality in Public Spaces: No Room for Religious Restrictions

GS Paper II – Polity and Governance

Introduction

Public spaces, by their very definition, are meant to be neutral grounds where every citizen, irrespective of faith, gender, or social identity, can exercise their rights equally.

- Yet, the recurring debates and incidents around religious attire, access to places, or expression of belief in public institutions reveal that this neutrality is often contested.
- The challenge lies not merely in preserving secularism as a constitutional value but in ensuring its lived reality across streets, schools, and workplaces.

The Constitutional Compass

- Article 14 guarantees equality before law, while Articles 15 and 16 prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- Article 25 further secures the freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion, subject however, to public order, morality, and health.
- Together, they form the bedrock of India's secular democracy, which neither privileges nor penalizes any faith.
- However, conflicts emerge when individual religious expression such as wearing hijabs, turbans, or religious symbols intersects with institutional regulations.
- The Karnataka hijab case, for instance, highlighted this tension between personal freedom and uniformity in public institutions.
- The Supreme Court's split verdict in *Aishat Shifa vs. State of Karnataka* reflected the nuanced balance between constitutional morality and individual autonomy, leaving the question still open to judicial and societal deliberation.

Public Spaces and the Secular Ethos

- The idea of secularism in India is not about exclusion of religion from public life but about equal respect for all faiths. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar envisioned public spaces as arenas of shared citizenship where identity does not restrict participation.
- When religious symbols or practices become reasons for exclusion, the principle of equality is compromised, and secularism risks turning into an empty ideal.

- Furthermore, public institutions, schools, courts, government offices are microcosms of democracy.
- They must model inclusivity and impartiality. The imposition of bans or restrictions based on religion in these spaces creates a chilling effect on freedom and undermines the constitutional promise of fraternity, as enshrined in the Preamble.

Judicial Balancing and Proportionality

- The judiciary has often acted as a guardian of equality in public life. In *Bijoe Emmanuel vs. State of Kerala* (1986), the Supreme Court protected students who refused to sing the national anthem on religious grounds, reaffirming that conscientious belief deserves respect.
- Similarly, in *Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India* (2018), the Court emphasized that constitutional morality must prevail over social morality. These principles underscore that state or institutional restrictions must always meet the test of reasonableness and proportionality.

The Way Forward: Fostering Inclusive Citizenship

- India's diversity demands not uniformity, but unity through accommodation. Sensitization at institutional levels, clear anti-discrimination policies, and the strengthening of grievance redressal mechanisms are essential.
- Policymaking must be guided by constitutional morality rather than populist impulses.
- True equality in public spaces means ensuring that every citizen whether in a classroom or a courtroom feels equally at home.
- The challenge, therefore, is not only legal but deeply social: to nurture a collective consciousness that recognizes that the strength of India's democracy lies not in sameness, but in the dignified coexistence of difference.

• **Source : The Hindu (Page no. 6)**

• **Date : 23th September 2025**

EDITORIAL SECTION



Traditional Medicine: India's Path to Preventive Healthcare

GS-II → Governance & Health Policy (Ayushman Bharat, health system reforms, policy support for traditional medicine)

GS-III → Science & Technology / Health & Nutrition (research, preventive medicine, integration with modern healthcare, wellness economy)

Introduction

- India's healthcare vision has long been guided by the philosophy of balance of body, mind, and nature.
- The renewed global attention on Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) reaffirms the potential of traditional medicine not as an alternative, but as an essential complement to modern healthcare systems.
- As India transitions towards a preventive healthcare model, traditional medicine stands as both a cultural legacy and a strategic health asset.

Reimagining Healthcare Beyond Cure

- The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the limitations of curative healthcare systems and revived interest in preventive and holistic wellness.
- Traditional medicine, with its focus on diet, lifestyle, and immunity, aligns perfectly with the goals of Ayushman Bharat, universal, affordable, and preventive healthcare.
- India's policy framework now recognizes this synergy through initiatives like the National AYUSH Mission and the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

Policy and Institutional Integration

- Governance in the health sector is moving toward convergence rather than compartmentalization.
- The government's effort to integrate AYUSH services into primary health centres and district hospitals reflects an understanding that traditional and allopathic systems can function symbiotically.
- The National Health Policy 2017 also advocates mainstreaming AYUSH within national health programs, especially in preventive and promotive care.
- However, integration requires strong scientific validation. Evidence-based research, clinical trials, and standardization of herbal formulations are crucial for global acceptance and domestic credibility.

- The AYUSH Grid, a digital platform, and collaborations between CSIR, ICMR, and AYUSH research councils are steps in this direction.

Economic and Strategic Potential

- The global wellness industry is projected to reach USD 7 trillion by 2030, and India's traditional medicine sector can play a leading role in this "soft power" economy.
- Export of herbal medicines, wellness tourism, and Ayurveda-based nutraceuticals can generate sustainable rural livelihoods and global recognition.
- Moreover, India's outreach through the International Day of Yoga has already shown how health diplomacy can enhance national image and influence.

Challenges and the Way Forward

- The primary challenges remain the lack of standardization, inadequate quality control, and the proliferation of unverified products.
- Bridging the research gap between modern pharmacology and traditional wisdom is imperative.
- A stronger regulatory mechanism under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for AYUSH products, coupled with public awareness about their safe use, can ensure credibility and trust.
- India's path to preventive healthcare lies in harmonizing modern science with traditional knowledge.
- When guided by evidence, inclusivity, and sustainability, traditional medicine can transform healthcare from a curative enterprise into a culture of well-being, realizing the constitutional goal of "Health for All" in its truest sense.

- **Source:** The Hindu (Page no 6)
- **Date:** 23th September 2025

EDITORIAL SECTION



The Saudi-Pakistan Deal Upends India's Strategic

GS Paper II – International Relations

Introduction

- The evolving Saudi-Pakistan partnership marks a significant shift in the strategic architecture of South Asia and the Gulf, prompting India to reassess its regional and global calculus.
- Historically, India's engagement with the Gulf was shaped by energy security, trade, and the welfare of its diaspora.
- Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, maintained a delicate balance, cultivating ties with both India and Pakistan.
- However, the recent Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) signed in Riyadh between Riyadh and Islamabad indicates a deeper, more institutionalized alignment that goes beyond conventional cooperation.
- The agreement encompasses joint defense production, intelligence sharing, and multi-billion-dollar investments in Pakistan's energy and infrastructure sectors, reportedly exceeding USD 25 billion.

Strategic Motivations Behind the Deal

This renewed engagement is rooted in multiple strategic considerations.

- Saudi Arabia, faced with growing regional instability particularly in Yemen, Iran, and Syria seeks to diversify its strategic partnerships in South Asia while projecting influence over a critical maritime and continental corridor.
- Strengthening Pakistan serves as a counterbalance to Iranian influence in the region and enhances Riyadh's leverage within the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- For Pakistan, the deal represents both an economic lifeline amid domestic fiscal pressures and a diplomatic victory, reinforcing its position within the Islamic world and restoring elements of its waning regional influence.

Implications for India

For India, the ramifications are multi-dimension:

- **Economic Concerns:** The deal could divert Saudi capital away from India, affecting potential investments in green energy, industrial corridors, and technology-driven sectors.
- **Diplomatic Challenges:** It may complicate India's outreach under the Think West Policy, which seeks to consolidate relations with Gulf monarchies on economic and security foundations.
- **Strategic Considerations:** The partnership could embolden Pakistan's position on Kashmir, influence OIC narratives, and challenge India's efforts to balance Gulf-Israel partnerships, particularly under the I2U2 framework (India-Israel-UAE-US).

Rethinking India's Strategic Respons

India's response must prioritize pragmatic engagement over reactive diplomacy. Steps include:

1. **Strengthening Regional Partnerships:** Deepening ties with the UAE, Qatar, and other Gulf states to maintain economic and strategic balance.
 2. **Diversifying Energy and Investment Sources:** Ensuring Saudi and Gulf investment is complemented by collaborations with other global partners.
 3. **Global Strategic Cooperation:** Deepening defense, technology, and economic ties with the United States and France to offset any imbalance.
 4. **Enhanced Presence in the Gulf:** Leveraging labor diplomacy, technology-driven partnerships, and initiatives aligned with Saudi Vision 2030 to solidify India's influence.
- India must also project itself as a predictable, reliable, and capable partner, offering technological expertise, investment opportunities, and diplomatic steadiness

Conclusion: Strategic Consistency in a Fluid World

- While the Saudi-Pakistan deal is not an immediate threat, it underscores the fluidity of global alliances.
- India's strength lies in consistency, credibility, and proactive diplomacy.
- By combining economic resilience with nuanced strategic engagement, India can ensure that no regional partnership however significant undermines its long-term strategic interests.
- This alignment serves as a reminder that India's foreign policy must be agile, forward-looking, and capable of converting challenges into opportunities, thereby safeguarding national interests and contributing to regional stability.

- **Source:** The Hindu (Page no. 10)
- **Date:** 25th September

EXCELLENCE
ACHIEVED

SEPTEMBER

POLICIES

PUBLIC

ANNEXURE

Policies

1. IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS ACT, 2025

Enacted: September 1, 2025

The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, modernizes India's immigration framework by replacing outdated laws such as the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920. This comprehensive legislation aims to streamline immigration processes, enhance security, and promote ease of doing business.

The features of this Act are:

- **Centralized Digital System:** Introduction of a unified digital platform for visa processing, registration, and monitoring of foreign nationals.
- **Mandatory Registration:** Foreign nationals must register with the Bureau of Immigration within 24 hours of arrival.
- **Enhanced Compliance:** Stricter penalties for non-compliance, including fines and deportation.
- **Employer Responsibilities:** Organizations hosting foreign nationals are required to report their details and activities to authorities.
- **Security Measures:** Implementation of advanced biometric and surveillance technologies to track and monitor foreign nationals.

The Act aims to facilitate legitimate travel and business activities while ensuring national security and compliance with international standards. It also simplifies procedures for foreign investors and professionals, aligning with India's economic growth objectives.

2. INDIAN PORTS BILL, 2025

The Indian Ports Bill, 2025, replaces the colonial-era Indian Ports Act, 1908, establishing a modern legal framework for port governance in India. It aims to promote integrated port development, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure environmental sustainability.

Key Provisions:

- **Maritime State Development Council (MSDC):** Establishment of MSDC to coordinate between the Centre and coastal states, preparing a National Perspective Plan for integrated port development.
- **State Maritime Boards:** Empowerment of state governments to manage non-major ports, ensuring localized and efficient administration.
- **Environmental Regulations:** Implementation of measures to manage pollution, safety, navigation, and disaster response at ports.
- **Dispute Resolution Mechanism:** Formation of Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs) at the state level to address port-related issues, with appeals lying before the High Court.
- **Compliance with International Standards:** Alignment with global conventions like MARPOL for environmental protection.

ANNEXURE

Policies

The bill aims to enhance India's maritime infrastructure, boost trade and logistics, and position the country as a global maritime hub. It fosters cooperative federalism and ensures sustainable port operations.

3. RECENT LABOR LAW REFORMS IN INDIA (SEPTEMBER 2025)

Overview: In September 2025, significant developments in India's labor laws were observed, focusing on enhancing worker rights and modernizing employment practices.

Key Updates:

- **Increased Work Hours in Odisha:** The Odisha cabinet approved a policy to increase daily working hours for employees in shops and factories, aiming to boost productivity. This includes provisions for appropriate overtime benefits to ensure fair compensation.
- **Simplification of Labor Laws:** The central government has been working towards consolidating multiple labor laws into simplified frameworks, aiming to reduce compliance burdens and enhance worker protections.

These reforms aim to balance the needs of employers and employees, promoting economic growth while safeguarding workers' rights. They reflect India's commitment to modernizing its labor market in line with global standards.

4. NATIONAL POLICY ON GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

September 15, 2025

India launched its inaugural National Policy on Geothermal Energy to tap into subterranean heat as a sustainable energy source.

Key Features:

- **Research and Development:** Promotion of R&D in geothermal technologies.
- **Inter-Ministerial Collaboration:** Encouragement of coordination among ministries for effective implementation.
- **Global Best Practices:** Adoption of international standards in geothermal energy development.

This policy marks a significant step towards diversifying India's renewable energy portfolio and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

5. NEW TDS RULES (EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025)

The government introduced new Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) rules to simplify tax compliance and provide relief to taxpayers.

ANNEXURE

Policies

Key Changes:

- **Increased TDS Thresholds:** The TDS threshold on bank interest has been raised to ₹1,00,000 for senior citizens and ₹50,000 for others.
- **Higher Dividend Exemption:** The exemption limit for dividend income has been doubled.

These reforms aim to enhance liquidity for small investors and reduce the compliance burden on taxpayers.

6. JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) BILL, 2025

India introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025, to decriminalize 288 provisions across 42 laws.

Key Features:

- **Decriminalization:** Removal of criminal penalties for minor offenses.
- **Simplification:** Simplification of compliance requirements for businesses.
- **Promotion of Ease of Doing Business:** Enhancement of India's position in global ease of doing business rankings.

This legislation aims to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and encourage entrepreneurship.

7. GST REFORMS 2025

Effective Date: September 22, 2025

The government implemented reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system to simplify the tax framework and provide relief to taxpayers.

Key Features:

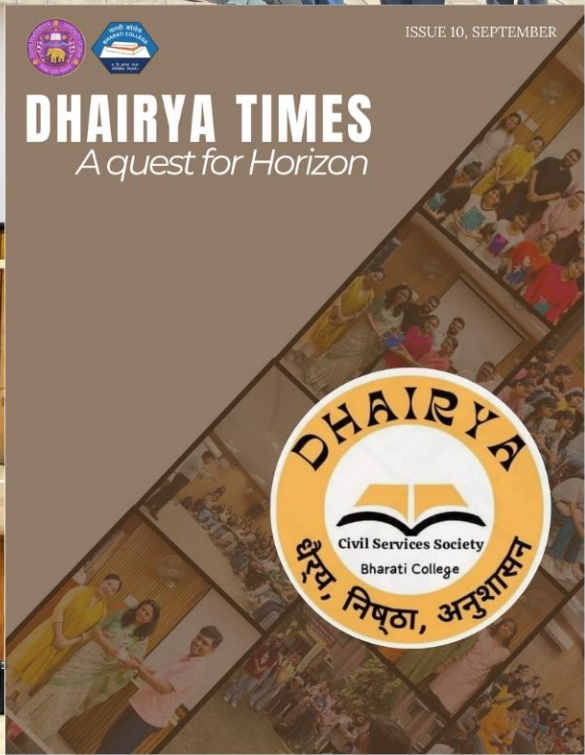
- **Simplification:** Streamlining of GST compliance procedures.
- **Relief Measures:** Introduction of measures to reduce the tax burden on common citizens.
- **Growth Orientation:** Focus on creating a growth-oriented GST framework.

Impact: These reforms aim to make the GST system more taxpayer-friendly and promote economic growth.

QUESTION FOR WRITEUP

"Trump's return to the White House is a jolt to push the European Union to invest in its own defence and economic and technological revival." Comment.





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