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Date: 31-10-2025

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News In Short

SARDAR PATEL'S VISION & MEANING OF NATIONAL UNITY

Context

- On October 31st, the Prime Minister of India led the nation in commemorating **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)** at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat, marking the **150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**

About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- **Born: 31st October 1875** in the Leuva Patel Patidar community at **Nadiad, Gujarat.**
- **Education**: A **law graduate,** later, went to **England** to study further, and became a **barrister**, and began his legal practice in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat, after returning to India.

Contribution to India's Independence Movement

- Sardar Patel met with **Mahatma Gandhi in October 1917**, which inspired him to dedicate his life to India's freedom struggle.
- He began his public career in **1917** as the **Sanitation Commissioner of Ahmedabad**, and later served as **Chairman of the Municipal Committee (1924–1928)**.
- He joined the **Indian National Congress (INC)** and initially led the **Satyagraha movement in Gujarat** to protest against British oppression.
- Later, he took an **active role in the Quit India Movement (1942)** and worked closely with Gandhiji to mobilize people for independence.

Sardar Patel & Satyagraha

- **Kheda Satyagraha (1918)**: It sought **remission of land revenue** following a devastating crop failure. The three-month-long peaceful protest compelled the British government to grant relief, despite intense official oppression, including arrests and confiscations.
- **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928):** Sardar Patel led the farmers' resistance with discipline and unity, when the British authorities increased land revenue by **22% to 60%**.
  - The success of the movement earned Patel the title **'Sardar'**, conferred upon him **by Mahatma Gandhi,** and elevated him as a key leader in India's **Civil Disobedience Movement** and a symbol of organized resistance.

Architect of National Integration (Post Independence)

- Sardar Patel became the **first Home Minister** and **Deputy Prime Minister** of India.
- One of his most significant contributions was the **integration of over 560 princely states** into the Indian Union.
- He was considered the **de facto Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army** during the crucial period of political integration of India and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947.
- His vision culminated in later milestones — **merger of Goa (1961), Sikkim's accession (1975), and the abrogation of Article 370 (2019), fulfilling his dream of complete unity.**

Legacy of Sardar Patel

- **The Iron Man of India:** Sardar Patel's life was a remarkable example of determination, unity, and leadership. His strong belief in 'Unity in Diversity' and his leadership for a common cause made him the **Iron Man of India**.
  - **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)** was **instituted in 2014** to celebrate the monumental role in unifying over 560 princely states into the Indian Union after independence.
- **Recognition and Bharat Ratna Award:** Sardar Patel was awarded by **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian honor, in **1991**, **41 years after his death in 1950**.
- Sardar Patel's legacy teaches that **unity is not inherited — it must be rebuilt in every generation.** It demands constant defence against forces of **indifference, ignorance, and regionalism.**
  - As India grows and diversifies, Patel's message endures: **Our strength lies not in sameness, but in solidarity.**
- Patel's vision of unity was about **federation — a union of minds and hearts bound by shared heritage**.

Source: TH

CURRICULUM ON AI TO BE INTRODUCED IN ALL SCHOOLS

Context

- Recently, the Ministry of Education announced that an **Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum** would be introduced from **Class 3 onwards for the next academic year (2026-27).**

About

- The Department is supporting institutions such as **CBSE, NCERT, KVS, and NVS, along with States and Union Territories.**
- **Aim:** Designing a meaningful and inclusive curriculum under the **broad ambit of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education.**
- **Artificial Intelligence and Computational Thinking (AI & CT)** will reinforce the concept of learning, thinking, and teaching, and will gradually expand towards the idea of "AI for Public Good."
- **Training:** Teacher training through NISHTHA and other institutions, designed to be grade-specific and time-bound.
- **Resource Material:** Development of resource materials, handbooks, and digital resources by December 2025.
- **Collaboration between NCERT and CBSE** through a **Coordination Committee** under NCF SE will ensure seamless integration, structuring, and quality assurance.

Arguments in Favour

- **Building AI Literacy Early:** Early introduction helps children understand how AI works, its capabilities, and its limitations.
  - In a world increasingly shaped by AI, AI literacy becomes as essential as digital or financial literacy.
- **Preparing Students for the Future Workforce:** Familiarity with AI concepts, tools, and applications can enhance employability in the long run.
- **Making Learning More Engaging and Personalized:** AI tools can personalize education — identifying individual learning gaps, recommending resources, and offering adaptive feedback.
- **Bridging the Digital and Social Divide:** Structured AI education can reduce rather than widen inequalities, provided access and training are inclusive.
- **Strengthening Foundational Human Skills:** AI-based learning, if guided properly, can enhance problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration rather than replace them.

Arguments Against

- **Rapidly Changing Technology:** AI technology evolves faster than educational systems can adapt.
  - Designing and updating AI syllabi regularly across thousands of schools is administratively challenging.
- **Digital and Infrastructure Divide:** A large number of schools in India lack basic infrastructure and many lack computers, electricity, or internet access.
  - Introducing AI education without addressing these gaps will widen educational inequalities, benefiting only urban or privileged students.
- **Untrained and Overburdened Teachers:** Most teachers lack AI literacy themselves and may struggle to teach AI concepts effectively.
  - Training teachers at scale would require massive investment and time.
- **Risk of "Dis-education" and Loss of Learning Motivation:** Over-reliance on AI tools may reduce students' curiosity and learning effort.
  - This could lead to erosion of deep learning, creativity, and critical thinking, replacing effort with shortcuts.
- **Unproven and Biased Technology:** AI systems are often trained on biased or incomplete data, producing unreliable or discriminatory outputs.
  - Allowing children to depend on such systems can distort understanding and reinforce stereotypes.

Way Ahead

- **Adopt a Phased, Age-Appropriate Model:** Focus on AI literacy in early classes, and AI skills (coding, data use) only at higher levels.
- **Strengthen Teachers and Infrastructure:** Provide continuous teacher training in digital literacy and AI awareness.
- **Integrate Ethics and Safety Safeguards:** Include modules on responsible AI use, bias, and data privacy.
  - Enforce child protection norms and guardrails for AI tools used in schools.
- **Promote Creativity and Lifelong Learning:** Use AI to enhance problem-solving, innovation, and collaboration, not as a substitute for effort.
  - Cultivate a mindset of adaptability and continuous learning to prepare students for a tech-driven future.

Source: TH

US-CHINA MEETING

Context

- The summit between the U.S. and China in Busan, South Korea ended with **several outcomes for bilateral ties between the two countries.**

Major Outcomes

- The U.S. has reduced **tariffs on China to 47%,** making India (and Brazil) at 50%, the highest tariffed country.
- China has agreed to **keep exports of rare earth minerals (used in a range of key global industries) flowing to the world** as part of a one-year agreement.

Significance of the Summit

- **The G-2:** US President called the meeting **"G-2"**, borrowing from groupings like G-20 and the G-7, the latter of which constitutes some of the world's most advanced economies.
  - For China, the acknowledgement was a recognition of its power status.
  - No US President has publicly acknowledged China's status in such terms, making it a major win for Beijing.

The G-2

- **The G-2** or the idea of creating an **exclusive U.S.-China** club to work on global issues was floated as a concept about **15 years ago** around the summit between U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao in **2009**.
- During this time trade, climate change and nuclear proliferations were pressing concerns for the U.S.
  - Subsequently as U.S.-China tensions increased, the administration dropped the idea entirely by 2011.

- **Stance of US President:** Given the previous interactions the US President had with some world leaders in the past, an accommodative stance towards the Chinese President was a sign of **limitations in dealing with the world's second-largest economy.**
- **Delay on Restrictions of Rare Earth Metals:** The summit suggests that US has been able to delay the matter of China restricting its rare earths exports, which was an important concern given the chokehold China has on global supply.

Rare Earth Metals

- Rare earths, a group of **17 metallic elements,** are used to produce magnets and other components that are a **must** for manufacturing everything from missiles to aircraft to cars and refrigerators.
- Amid the tariff tug-of-war, China had instituted limits on its exports to show the leverage it possessed, impacting global industries.

Implications for India

- **Relevance of QUAD:** This uncertainty questions the relevance and future of the Quad, the key strategic framework where India partners the US, Japan, and Australia to counterbalance China's influence in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Tariffs on India:** With China's tariffs reduced to 47%, India now has the highest tariff rate at 50% among major Asian economies.
  - This erodes India's competitiveness and pressures India to accelerate trade negotiations with the US.
- **The use of the term "G-2"** signals potential U.S.–China accommodates a concern for India, which champions multipolarity, not bipolar or shared hegemony.
  - A G-2 framework could lead to division of global influence into "spheres of influence", which would challenge India's independent role in world affairs.

Way Ahead

- India must rethink its **foreign policy approach** in light of this **power equation to maintain strategic autonomy.**
  - **Engage the US** for defence and technology cooperation, market access and investment, Indo-Pacific maritime security.
  - **Engage China** pragmatically in trade and regional economic frameworks where interests align, climate, infrastructure, and multilateral diplomacy.
  - **Deepen partnerships** with powers such as Japan, Australia, South Korea, ASEAN, and European partners (France, EU) to diversify strategic options.
- **Strengthening domestic economic competitiveness** is key to sustaining India's external leverage.

Source: TH

US WAIVER TO INDIA ON CHAHBAHAR PORT

Context

- India has received a **waiver on the United States' sanctions against Iran's Chabahar port for a period of six months.**

Background

- **India and Iran signed an MoU in 2015** to jointly develop the **Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar.**
- **Aim:** To develop a major commercial hub helping India access the markets of Afghanistan, the Central Asian states, and Russia.
- **Sanctions:** The port's prospects came under a cloud due to Western sanctions against Iran but in 2018, the first Trump administration gave a waiver to Indian operations.
  - With the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban in 2021 has exposed anyone associated with the Chabahar project to U.S. sanctions.

Chabahar Port

- Iran's Chabahar port is located on the **Gulf of Oman** and is the **only oceanic port of the country.**
- It is situated in the **city of Chabahar** in **Sistan and Baluchestan Province.**
- Chabahar has two ports; **Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.**
  - The former is an old port with limited water front to accommodate feeder vessels.
  - The Shahid Beheshti Port is being developed in four phases. On completion of all 4 phases, port capacity will 82 million tons per year.
- The port gives access to the **energy-rich Persian Gulf nations'** southern coast and bypasses Pakistan.
- **Kandla port in Gujarat** is the closest port at 550 nautical miles, while the distance between Chabahar and Mumbai is 786 nautical miles.

Significance of Chabahar Port for India

- **Geopolitical Significance:** It is strategically located at the **crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East.** It provides India with direct sea access to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.
  - The port also offers an **alternative route from the Strait of Hormuz** for cargo traffic between Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. This diversification strengthens India's strategic position in the region.
- **Gateway to INSTC:** Chabahar port will boost India's access to Iran, the key gateway to the I**nternational North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** that has sea, rail and road routes between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.
- **Countering China:** Chabahar port is beneficial to India in countering Chinese presence in the Arabian Sea which China is trying to ensure by helping Pakistan develop the Gwadar port.
- **Trade Benefit:** With Chabahar port becoming functional, there will be a significant boost in the import of iron ore, sugar and rice to India.
  - The import cost of oil to India will also see a considerable decline.

Source: TH

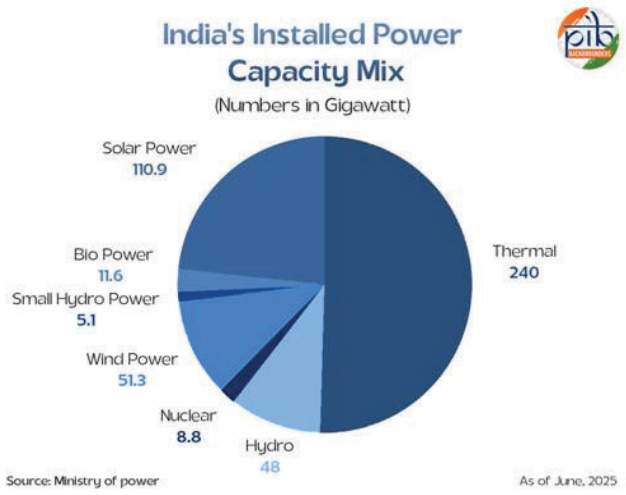
INDIA TARGETS RECORD 6 GW WIND ENERGY ADDITION BY FY 2026

Context

- The Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced that **6 gigawatts (GW)** of new wind capacity is expected to be added by the end of financial year **2025–26.**

Wind Energy in India

- India currently has the **fourth highest wind installed capacity** in the world with total installed capacity of **51.67 GW** (as of August 12, 2025) of which **4.15 GW** was added during **FY 2024-25.**
- Wind power generated 78.21 billion units of electricity during April 2024 to February 2025, contributing **4.69% of total electricity generated** in the country.
- As per National Institute of Wind Energy, the estimated wind potential of the country is **1,164 GW at 150 meters** above ground level.



Significance of Wind Energy

- **Clean Energy Source:** Wind energy produces zero greenhouse gas emissions during operation, contributing significantly to India's **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Net Zero 2070 target.**
- **Rural and Coastal Development:** Wind farms are largely located in rural or coastal areas, leading to infrastructure development, local employment, and community-level income.
- **Sustainable Development:** Support inclusive growth by providing electricity to remote areas.
  - Encourage innovation and investment in clean technologies.
  - Meet growing energy demand sustainably for a fast-developing nation.

Renewable Energy Targets of India

- As part of the updated NDC submitted to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in 2022:
  - India has committed to reducing **its emissions intensity by 45% by 2030** (compared to 2005 levels),
  - **achieving 50% of cumulative electric power capacity** from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030,
  - and **promoting a sustainable way of living** through the 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) movement.
  - These targets also contribute to **India's long-term goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2070.**
- **The National Electricity Plan (NEP)** envisions significant growth in **renewable energy generation by 2032**, with solar power expected to **contribute 50% of that growth.**

Challenges in Wind Energy in India

- **Site Constraints:** High-wind potential sites are mostly concentrated in a few states, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, limiting geographic spread.
  - Land availability issues, forest clearances, and social resistance delay project timelines.
- **Intermittency of wind generation** challenges grid stability and requires investment in energy storage and forecasting systems.
- **Policy Uncertainty:** Frequent changes in bidding guidelines, offtake mechanisms, and RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation) targets create uncertainty.
- **Data Gaps:** Wind resource data is still inadequate or outdated for many inland regions.

Government Initiatives

- **National Wind Energy Mission:** Focuses on the development and expansion of wind energy in India. The target for wind energy capacity is set at 140 GW by 2030.
- **Domestic Manufacturing and Policy Push:**
  - Presently, India's wind industry has **70% local content.** Target to increase this to **85% by 2030** to strengthen domestic manufacturing.
  - **Tax Incentives:** GST on wind equipment reduced from **12% to 5%**, cutting turbine costs by approximately ₹25 lakh per MW.
- **Global Manufacturing Ambition:** With initiatives like the **ALMM (Approved List of Models and Manufacturers)**–Wind framework, India aims to meet 10% of global wind demand by 2030 and up to 20% by 2040, positioning itself as a global hub for turbines and components.
- The Union Cabinet approved a **₹7,453 crore Viability Gap Funding scheme** for 1 GW of offshore wind projects (**500 MW** each off **Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**) and port upgrades.

Way Ahead

- **Integrate energy storage systems** (battery and pumped hydro) with wind farms for continuous and reliable supply.
- Establish **Centres of Excellence for Wind Technology** in partnership with institutions like NIWE to promote R&D in offshore, hybrid, and advanced turbine design.
- Promote **hybrid tenders combining wind, solar, and storage** to maximize grid efficiency and land utilization.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

JUSTICE SURYA KANT TO TAKE OVER AS 53RD CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

In News

- Justice Surya Kant took over as 53rd Chief Justice of India and he will assume office on November 24, 2025, succeeding Chief Justice BR Gavai.

Appointment of Chief Justice of India

- The Chief Justice of India and the other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the **President** under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Indian Constitution.
- The **Chief Justice of India** is typically the senior-most Supreme Court judge deemed fit for the role.
  - The Union Law Minister seeks the outgoing CJI's recommendation, which is then forwarded to the Prime Minister, who advises the President for final appointment.
- **For other judges**, the collegium recommends candidates, with written opinions from senior judges.

Eligibility

- To be eligible, a person must be an Indian citizen and either:
  - have been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession
  - have been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts
  - be deemed a distinguished jurist by the President.

Do you know?

- Article 217, which deals with the appointment of High Court judges, says the President should consult the CJI, Governor, and Chief Justice of the High Court concerned.
  - Further, the tenure of a CJI is until they attain the age of 65 years, while High Court judges retire at 62 years.

Process

- India follows the collegium system for appointing judges, involving the five senior most Supreme Court judges.
- Though not mentioned in the Constitution, it evolved through key judgments like the First and Third Judges Cases, shifting appointment power from the executive to the judiciary.
- The government may conduct background checks and raise objections, but the collegium's decision usually prevails.
  - Seniority is the guiding norm, and the Law Minister forwards the collegium's recommendation to the Prime Minister, who advises the President for final appointment.

Source :TH

CYPRUS READY TO BE PART OF IMEC

In News

- The Cyprus Foreign Minister visited India and expressed strong interest in joining the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC), citing Cyprus's strategic location, EU membership, and robust shipping sector.

About Cyprus

- It is an island nation in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, known for its rich history, natural beauty, and cultural diversity.
- It is located about 40 miles south of Turkey and 60 miles west of Syria.
- It gained independence from Britain in 1960, but tensions between Greek and Turkish Cypriots have led to a de facto partition since 1974.

Cooperation with India

- India and the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) share over six decades of strong bilateral relations based on friendship, mutual respect, and cooperation in international fora.
  - **Ties, established in 1962**, have expanded across political, economic, and defence spheres.
- Both countries support each other in global organizations — India backs Cyprus's

reunification under **UN resolutions,** while Cyprus supports India's UN Security Council bid and civil nuclear initiatives.

- Both sides reviewed the **India-Cyprus Joint Action Plan (2025–2029)** and discussed regional developments and multilateral cooperation, especially as Cyprus prepares to assume the EU Council Presidency in 2026.
- Cyprus also backed the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, highlighting its potential to unlock major economic opportunities.

India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- The IMEC was announced during the G20 Summit held in New Delhi in 2023 "to stimulate economic development through enhanced connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe."
- It is a proposed corridor spanning ship, ship-rail, and road networks to connect India to the Gulf region and the Gulf region to Europe.

Source :TH

US-CHINA SIGN RARE EARTHS DEAL

In News

- US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping concluded their meeting in South Korea with an agreement to maintain the **flow of China's rare earth exports to the US.**

What are rare earth elements?

- **Overview:** The term "rare" refers to their low concentration in extractable deposits, making mining and processing economically and environmentally challenging.
- **Types:** They are a group of 17 metallic elements, plus scandium and yttrium, known for their high density, melting points, conductivity, and thermal conductance.
- **Source:** They are mainly sourced from bastnasite, loparite, and monazite, and are classified into light (Cerium group) and heavy (Yttrium group) based on atomic numbers.
- **Distribution:** China dominates the global rare earth market, producing 60% of mine output and over 90% of refined products and magnets.
- **Applications:** They are essential in small quantities for a wide range of advanced technologies, including electronics, vehicles , defense systems, renewable energy, and medical devices.
- **Environmental impact:** Processing rare earths relies on toxic chemicals that can pollute soil, air, and water.
  - Many ores also contain radioactive elements like thorium and uranium, requiring acid treatments that add health and safety risks.
    - While cleaner extraction methods exist, they are expensive and not widely used, creating a conflict between meeting demand and reducing environmental damage.

India's Status and Steps

- India holds the world's third-largest reserves of rare earth elements (REEs), estimated at 6.9 million metric tons, primarily in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Kerala, with monazite sands in Kerala being especially rich.
- The government amended the Mines and Minerals Act in 2023 to classify REEs as critical minerals and launched the National Critical Mineral Mission in 2025.

Source :IE

LARGE MAGELLANIC CLOUD (LMC)

Context

- Using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), researchers identified five carbon-rich compounds surrounding a nascent star called **ST6 in the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC).**

About the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)

- LMC is a **dwarf irregular satellite galaxy** of the Milky Way, located about 160,000 light-years from Earth in the constellation Dorado.
- **Structure:** It is known for its large, glowing nebulae, such as the **Tarantula Nebula,** which indicate active star birth.
- **Star Content:** It contains about **30 billion stars**, with many young, star-forming regions.
- **Composition:**
  - The LMC has **fewer heavy elements** like carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen than the Milky Way.
  - Such metal-poor conditions mimic those of the early universe, providing a natural laboratory for studying primitive cosmic chemistry.

Source: IE

NAURADEHI SANCTUARY

Context

- Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary is set to become the third home for cheetahs after Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.

About Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located on a plateau spanning Sagar and Damoh districts in the **Bundelkhand region** of **Madhya Pradesh.**
- It is characterised by **deciduous forests of sal, teak, mahua, bamboo** and **bel trees.**
- It contains extensive grasslands that support a **substantial prey base** including antelopes, wild boar, and other herbivores.

What is Project Cheetah?

- Project Cheetah is India's cheetah relocation programme. It aims to bring back independent India's only extinct large mammal.
  - The cheetah was **officially declared extinct** by the Indian government in **1952.**
- The first batch of **eight cheetahs** arrived in **2022 from Namibia** and another batch of **12 cheetahs** from **South Africa** arrived in 2023 in **Kuno National Park.**
- Two male cheetahs were moved from Kuno National Park to **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in 2025**, making it the second home for cheetahs in India as part of Project Cheetah.

Source: THE PRINT

EXERCISE TRISHUL

Context

- India has launched **Exercise Trishul 2025**, a **major tri-service military exercise** across **Gujarat and Rajasthan**, involving the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**.

About the exercise

- **Exercise Trishul 2025** is the **largest tri-service exercise** since the **Operation Sindoor strikes** six months ago.
- The **Kutch region of Gujarat**, near the **Sir Creek border**—a long-standing flashpoint with Pakistan—forms the core area of operations.
- More than **20,000 troops,** supported by T-90S and Arjun tanks, attack helicopters, missile systems, **Rafale and Sukhoi-30MKI fighters**, as well as a **fleet of frigates and destroyers**, are conducting joint operations along the western front.

Source: IT