NEXT IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

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News In Short

150 YEARS OF FOUNDATION OF ARYA SAMAJ

In News

- The Prime Minister addressed the International Arya Mahasammelan 2025 in New Delhi, praising Arya Samaj's 150-year legacy in social reform, education, and Vedic thought.
    - PM Modi urged Arya Samaj to support the **Gyan Bharatam Mission** – digitising ancient manuscripts and engaging youth in preserving India's knowledge heritage.

About Arya Samaj

- Swami Dayanand Saraswati, inspired by Vedic teachings, established Arya Samaj with ten principles in 1875 in Bombay, which were finalized in Lahore in 1877.
- The movement's core principles are based on the infallible authority of the Vedas, emphasizing rationality and a return to Vedic values, encapsulated in its slogan "Back to the Vedas" and motto "Krinvanto Vishwam Aryam" ("Let us ennoble the world").

Major Reforms

- **Religious:** Rejected idol worship, ritualism, and priestly dominance, promoting a direct, rational understanding of religion centered on one God and truth-seeking.
- **Social:** Opposed caste by birth, untouchability, child marriage, and forced widowhood. Advocated inter-caste marriage, widow remarriage, women's education, and social service.
- **Educational:** Established DAV schools and Gurukul Kangri to blend Vedic knowledge with modern science, fostering social mobility and nationalism.

Role in Indian Nationalism and Social Change

- Arya Samaj members, including Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, and others, contributed significantly to India's freedom movement, promoting Swadeshi and social awakening.
- Their efforts emphasized modern education, social justice, and national pride, fueling anti-colonial sentiment while working within reformist ideals.

Relevance of Arya Samaj in Contemporary India

- **Women Led Progress:** Arya Samaj's early advocacy for women's empowerment aligns with national initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam and "Drone Didis".
- **Preserving Gurukul Tradition & Educational Reform:** Arya Samaj revived India's Gurukul system, blending Vedic learning with modern education. This vision parallels the National Education Policy 2020, which stresses value-based and character-oriented education.
- **Vedic Ideals & Global Relevance:** The motto "Krinvanto Vishwam Aryam" mirrors India's development philosophy — national progress for global welfare. Its ideals resonate in initiatives like Mission LiFE, One Sun One World One Grid, and International Yoga Day, spreading sustainable and spiritual living worldwide.

Source: PIB

LAND SUBSIDENCE THREAT IN INDIA'S MEGACITIES

Context

- A recent study titled "Building Damage Risk in Sinking Indian Megacities" has revealed that approximately 878 km^2 of land across five major Indian cities—Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru—is subsiding.

What is Land Subsidence?

- According to the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),** Land subsidence refers to the **gradual sinking, lowering, or collapse of the Earth's surface** due to the removal or loss of subsurface materials, such as soil, groundwater, or minerals.
- It can occur naturally (Karst processes, tectonic activities or Soil compaction) or be induced by human activities (mining or construction activities).
- Across the world, many cities are slowly sinking from tropical megacities like Jakarta in Indonesia and Manila in the Philippines, to **India's own Joshimath, which recently faced land subsidence.**

Key Findings

- **Population and Infrastructure at Risk:** Nearly **1.9 million people** and over 23,000 buildings face severe damage risk if current trends persist for 50 years.
- **Current Damage:** Over 2,400 buildings in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai are already at high risk of damage.
- **Geologic Variation:** Cities built on soft alluvial soils (Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai) are more vulnerable than those on igneous or metamorphic rock formations (Bengaluru).

Causes of Land Subsidence

- **Excessive Groundwater Extraction:** Continuous withdrawal of groundwater causes aquifer compaction, leading to ground-level sinking.
- **Weight of Urban Infrastructure:** The increasing load from high-rise buildings in densely built-up areas accelerates ground deformation.
- **Inefficient Urban Planning:** Unregulated construction on reclaimed or soft soil zones amplifies vulnerability.
- **Climate Stress:** Irregular rainfall patterns and reduced groundwater recharge due to urban sealing worsen the problem.
- **Natural Causes:** Geological faults, tectonic activities, and the dissolution of underground rocks (e.g., limestone in karst areas).
- **Unregulated Dumping of Waste:** Municipal solid waste piles exert heavy pressure on land, especially if dumped on weak or marshy soils.

Impacts of Land Subsidence

- **Infrastructure Damage:** Cracks in buildings, road deformities, and disrupted pipelines or drainage networks.
- **Flooding Risk:** Lowering of land height, especially in coastal cities like Mumbai and Chennai, heightens flood exposure during heavy rains or storm surges.
- **Economic Costs:** Repair and reconstruction expenses may rise substantially in coming decades.
- **Compounded Hazards:** Land subsidence can intensify the impacts of earthquakes and sea-level rise, posing multi-dimensional threats to urban safety.

Way Ahead

- **Soil testing and simulation models** should be used to predict the likelihood of subsidence. Installing **InSAR (satellite radar interferometry) and ground sensors** could help prevent disasters in densely populated areas.
- **Urban Hydrogeological Zoning:** Mandatory mapping of soil and groundwater characteristics is needed before any large-scale construction.
- **Infrastructure Design:** Strengthen building codes to address differential ground movement and adopt resilient foundation technologies in soft-soil regions.

Source: DH

INDIA – US SIGN 10 YEAR ROADMAP FOR MAJOR DEFENSE PARTNERSHIP

In News

- India and the U.S. signed a landmark **10-year road map** to guide strategic collaboration and cooperation between the two countries across the defence spectrum.
  - The pact was signed following a bilateral meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his US counterpart Pete Hegseth on the sidelines of 12th **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting – Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

Key Features of the 10-Year Roadmap

- It emphasizes joint defence production, intelligence sharing, technology co-development, and enhanced military interoperability.
- Both sides committed to strengthening **multilateral exercises such as Yudh Abhyas, Malabar, and Tiger Triumph**, and to expanding partnerships in disaster response and counter-terrorism.
- The pact encourages **direct defence sales and joint development of advanced equipmen**t like munitions, drones, and surveillance aircraft.
- The agreement supports indigenous manufacturing under **"Make in India, Make for the World,"** and aims to boost India's defence production capabilities and military modernization.

India-US Defence Cooperation

- The United States declared India a **Major Defence Partner (MDP) in 2016.**
- Between **2016 and 2020**, the two sides signed four more agreements, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016, the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018, and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) in 2020.
- In 2024, both countries signed a **Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA)** and **Memorandum of Agreement** regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers, among other bilateral military agreements that have enhanced defence and security cooperation.
- In **2025**, **Indian and American** troops participated in a two-week military exercise Yudh Abhyas at Fort Wainwright in **Alaska**.

- India's defence inventory includes **US-origin ware such as Super Hercules, Globemaster, Poseidon aircraft; Chinooks, Seahawks and Apaches; Harpoons; and M777 howitzers.**

Challenges

- **India's ties with Russia** and its strategic autonomy stance can complicate U.S. expectations.
- **U.S. export controls and IP concerns** may limit full access to cutting-edge systems.
- Differences in **military doctrines and equipment standards** pose interoperability hurdles.

Sources: TH

JOINT LEADERS' DECLARATION: APEC SUMMIT IN SOUTH KOREA

Context

- Recently, the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit (2025)**, held in **Gyeongju, South Korea**, concluded with the adoption of **APEC Leaders' Gyeongju Declaration (2025)**, the **APEC Artificial Intelligence Initiative**, and the APEC Framework for Cooperation on Population Structure Changes.

Key Highlights APEC Summit (2025)

- **Adoption of Leaders' Declaration (Gyeongju Declaration):** APEC leaders endorsed a joint declaration reaffirming their commitment to:
  - Free and open trade across the Asia-Pacific region;
  - Strengthening supply chain resilience;
  - Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
  - Advancing digital transformation and climate action.
- **US – China Engagement:** It signaled a thaw in bilateral tensions, with both leaders agreeing to resume trade dialogue and reduce tariffs on select goods.
- **Climate and Sustainability Focus:** The declaration included commitments to:
  - Accelerate clean energy transitions;
  - Support climate-resilient infrastructure;
  - Enhance cooperation on carbon markets and green financing.
- **Digital Trade and Innovation:** Countries emphasized the need to:
  - Harmonize digital trade standards;
  - Promote cross-border data flows;
  - Support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in accessing digital tools;

About Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- It is a regional economic forum established in **1989** to strengthen the interdependence of economies across the Asia-Pacific region.
- It uses the term 'economies' instead of 'countries or nations' to emphasize its focus on **economic and trade collaboration** rather than political or territorial representation.
- It operates through **cooperation and consensus**, emphasizing **voluntary participation** rather than binding treaties.
  - All member economies have an **equal voice**, and decisions are made collectively through dialogue.
- **Member Economies (21 Members):** Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; **Singapore (APEC Secretariat & Headquarter);** Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; and Viet Nam.

What Does APEC Do?

- APEC works to ensure that **goods, services, investments, and people move easily across borders**. Its main objectives are:
  - **Trade Facilitation:** Simplifying customs procedures and reducing barriers to cross-border movement.
  - **Regulatory Alignment:** Harmonizing regulations and standards to make exporting and importing more efficient.
  - **Economic Integration:** Promoting freer trade and investment through cooperation and innovation.

India's Interest in APEC

- India has consistently expressed interest in joining APEC, viewing it as a gateway to enhanced trade, investment, and regional cooperation.
- India's MEA has hosted discussions and published reports like **'APEC and India: An Appraisal'**, emphasizing India's potential contributions to the group's goals of inclusive and sustainable growth.

Why Isn't India a Member Yet?

- APEC's consensus-based decision-making, which requires unanimous support from existing members.
- Concerns over India's trade liberalization pace and regulatory environment.
- Geopolitical balancing, especially amid US–China tensions.

Strategic Implications

- It limits India's direct influence in shaping **Asia-Pacific trade norms.**
- It affects India's positioning in regional blocs like the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**, where APEC members play a dominant role.

Source: TH

INDIA WILL BE A $30 TRILLION ECONOMY IN 25 YEARS

Context

- The Minister of Commerce and Industry has said that in **20-25 years from now India will be a $30 trillion economy.**

About

- **GDP:** The size of an economy refers to the **annual gross domestic product or GDP.**
  - The GDP is the **total market value of all goods and services** produced within a country.
  - In the 2024 financial year India's GDP was **$3.9 trillion.**
- **Calculation of GDP:** In a global context, a country's GDP is stated in **US dollar terms** so that all economies can be compared easily.
  - The GDP calculated is **nominal GDP** — not the real GDP in which the effect of inflation is negated).
  - **The projection of GDP requires two things:** The projection of India's nominal GDP in rupee terms as well as the projection of rupee-dollar exchange rate.
  - Both matter because if the 2024 exchange rate had remained at ₹65 per dollar (as in 2014), India's ₹330 trillion GDP would equal $5 trillion. But with the rate at ₹84 per dollar, it amounts to only $3.9 trillion.

Projected Growth

- Data reveals that **India's nominal GDP** has registered a CAGR (compounded annual growth rate) of **11.9%** since the financial year 2000.
- Further, the Indian rupee has depreciated against the dollar at a CAGR of **2.7% since 2000.**
- So, if one presumes that India's growth will be exactly the same and the rupee will depreciate exactly in the same manner over the coming 25 years, then **India's GDP will cross $30 trillion in 2048.**

India's projected GDP in $ trillions

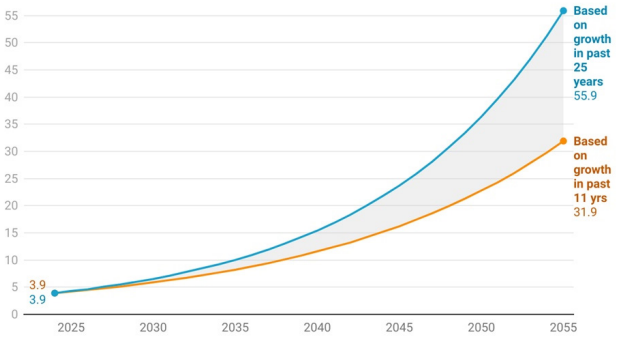


Chart: Udit Misra • Source: CMIE • Created with Datawrapper

Challenges

- **Slowing Growth Momentum:** Nominal GDP growth has fallen from 11.9% (2000–2014) to 10.3% (2014–2024), reflecting weaker economic momentum.
- **Rupee Depreciation:** Faster depreciation (3.08% CAGR since 2014) reduces India's GDP value in dollar terms even if rupee GDP grows steadily.
- **Export Competitiveness:** Limited diversification and reliance on a few sectors reduce India's ability to sustain export-led growth.
- **Infrastructure Deficits:** Logistics, power, and urban infrastructure gaps increase costs and limit industrial expansion.
- **Human Capital Challenges:** Skill mismatch, low female labour participation, and underinvestment in health and education reduce labour productivity.
- **Fiscal and Financial Pressures:** High fiscal deficits and rising debt constrain public investment capacity.
- **Global Economic Headwinds:** Geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and protectionist trends could affect trade and capital flows.

Government Initiatives

- **Make in India (2014):** Promotes domestic manufacturing and aims to raise the manufacturing share in GDP to 25%.

- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes:** Encourage large-scale manufacturing across 14 sectors to boost exports and job creation.
- **National Industrial Corridor Programme:** Develops modern industrial infrastructure and connectivity.
- **PM Gati Shakti (2021):** A National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity integrating roads, railways, ports, and logistics.
- **Bharatmala and Sagarmala:** Enhance road and port connectivity to reduce logistics costs.
- **Skill India Mission:** Enhances workforce capabilities through vocational training.
- **Start-Up India & Stand-Up India:** Fosters entrepreneurship and innovation.
- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and negotiations:** With the UK, EU, UAE, etc., to expand export markets.
- **'Act East' and 'Indo-Pacific' strategies:** Strengthen economic and strategic integration with Asia-Pacific.

Way Ahead

- Growth momentum has weakened in the last decade, small variations in growth or exchange rates can cause large long-term effects.
- As economies expand, growth rates naturally moderate, but India is still too small compared to the US and China to afford such moderation.
- To make the $30 trillion projection credible, India must sustain and accelerate its growth rate.

Source: IE

RISING ENERGY DEMAND OF AI DATA CENTRES

Context

- India is exploring the use of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to meet the surging electricity demand from AI-driven and data-intensive data centres.

Rising Power Demand from Data Centres

- **The demand for data centres in India** is being driven by the need for data storage due to India's **Digital India push, data-localisation policies, expanding internet users and the 5G rollout** which is expected to enable adoption of data intensive technologies such as IoTs and AI.
- **Global electricity supplied** to data centres is projected to rise from ~460 TWh in 2024 to over 1,000 TWh by 2030 and to about 1,300 TWh by 2035.
- **Power Demand by Data Centres:** AI workloads use large numbers of **Graphic Processing Units (GPUs)** with individual racks consuming **80-150 KW** compared to **15-20 KW** for traditional enterprise servers.
  - This computational intensity drives an insatiable demand for electricity, making AI the most significant driver of increased energy consumption within the data centre sector.
- This rising demand has led major tech companies like Google and Microsoft to **turn to nuclear power solutions** for reliable and carbon-free energy.

Need for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

- AI-driven data centres **need sustainable and clean energy solutions** to meet their rapidly rising power demand.
- While renewable energy has been the first choice for companies, it comes with inherent challenges of intermittency and inadequate storage. Here **Nuclear power offers a viable solution** by providing a clean, round-the-clock power supply.
  - **SMRs are preferred because** they combine enhanced safety through **flexibility and scalability** for incremental capacity addition, adaptability to remote or off-grid applications, and **cost-effective construction** enabled by prefabrication.

What are Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)?

- Small modular reactors (SMRs) are advanced nuclear reactors with a power capacity of up to **300 MW(e) per unit,** roughly one-third the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power plants.
  - **Small** – physically a fraction of the size of a conventional nuclear power reactor.
  - **Modular** – making it possible for systems and components to be factory-assembled and transported as a unit to a location for installation.
  - **Reactors** – harnessing nuclear fission to generate heat to produce energy.
- **There are four four main types** of SMR i.e., light water, high temperature gas, liquid metal, and molten salt.

- At present, only two Small Modular Reactor projects have become operational worldwide;
  - **Russia's Akademik Lomonosov floating power unit**, equipped with two 35 MWe modules and in commercial use since 2020, and
  - **China's HTR-PM demonstration project,** which was grid-connected in 2021 and achieved full commercial operations in 2023.

What are the Concerns?

- **Regulatory Challenges:** The current nuclear regulatory framework is primarily designed for large-scale reactors.
  - The possibility of using SMRs to produce materials for nuclear warheads and co-locating them with military sites raises **non-proliferation concerns**.
- **Legal Hurdles:** India's **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010,** channels operators' liability to equipment suppliers, deterring foreign investors due to financial risk concerns.
- **High Initial Costs:** Although SMRs are designed to be more cost-effective in the long run, the initial capital investment is significant.
- **Waste Management:** Handling and disposing of nuclear waste remains a significant challenge.
- **Supply Chain and Manufacturing:** Developing a robust supply chain for the components of SMRs and ensuring quality manufacturing processes are critical for their success.

Global SMR regulatory reforms

- To address these challenges, countries around the world are reforming their SMR regulations in six main ways:
  - **Technology-neutral frameworks** replacing large reactor-specific rules;
  - **Streamlined licensing** including fleet approvals and combined construction-operating licences;
  - **Modular manufacturing accommodation** with factory fabrication certification;
  - **International harmonisation** through International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards and mutual design recognition;
  - **Risk-informed requirements** adjusting emergency planning zones and staffing proportional to smaller facility risks; and
  - **Accelerated deployment** pathways for follow-on units.

India's efforts towards SMRs

- Research and development on SMRs are ongoing at the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** in Mumbai.
  - **The Bharat Small Reactor (BSR)** is a notable project under this initiative which aims to re-engineer existing reactors to incorporate additional safety features and enhance their efficiency.
- India had announced a **Rs 20,000 crore** R&D mission for development of **small modular reactors (SMRs).**
  - India is also targeting the deployment of at least five of these indigenously developed reactors by 2033.
- **India and France** have launched a cooperation program focused on SMRs and advanced modular reactors (AMRs).

Way Ahead

- Data centres are central to India's digital economy and AI future, but their energy intensity poses a sustainability dilemma.
- SMRs present a strategic opportunity: ensuring reliable, green power while boosting domestic nuclear manufacturing and international collaborations.
- However, legislative reforms, addressing liability concerns, and ensuring safety and public trust will be critical to translating this vision into reality.

Source: TH

CARBON CAPTURE FOR NET-ZERO INDIA

Context

- Ocean-based carbon capture can help India reach net-zero by 2070, turning its seas into engines of carbon removal and blue growth.

What is Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS)?

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) defines CCUS as a **group of technologies for capturing of CO2 from large and stationary CO2 emitting sources,** such as fossil fuel based power plants and other industries.
- CCUS also involves the **transport of the captured CO2** to sites, either for utilization in different applications or injection into geological formations or depleted oil & gas fields for permanent storage and trapping of the CO2.

India's Emission Reductions Commitments

- India has launched the **LiFE mission (Lifestyle for Environment)** and **updated its NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions)** under the Paris Agreement.
- Under its updated NDC 2022, India pledges:
  - **45% reduction in emissions intensity** (amount of CO_2 per unit of GDP) by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.
  - **50% of installed electricity capacity** will come from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
  - Creating a **carbon sink** of **2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent** ($GtCO_2e$) by increasing forests and tree cover.

Ocean-based Negative Emission Techniques

- **Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE):** Increases seawater's natural ability to absorb CO through addition of alkaline minerals like lime or olivine. It provides stable carbon storage for over 100,000 years.
- **Biological Carbon Capture:** It involves phytoplankton, seaweed, and microalgae that absorb CO through photosynthesis.
- **Ocean fertilisation** promotes the growth of phytoplankton by adding required micronutrients, such as phosphorus, iron, or nitrogen, to specific macronutrient-rich regions of the ocean, facilitating long-term deep-ocean carbon storage.
- **Marine protected areas,** including coral reefs and mangroves (8.3 percent of the ocean), are vital for ocean health.
  - **Mangroves** store up to **1,000 tonnes** of carbon per hectare.

India's Potential for Ocean-Based CCUS

- India, with **2.6 gigatonnes of annual CO_2 emissions**, stands as the world's **third-largest emitter** after the US and China.
- India's **11,098.8 km coastline** and **2 million sq. km** Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) offer vast opportunities for ocean-based carbon sequestration.
  - **Seaweed farming** over 20% of India's ocean area could remove 0.6–1 gigatonne of CO_2 annually.
  - OAE, when combined with aquaculture, can provide highly durable and stable carbon storage while enhancing marine productivity.
- **Captured carbon can be repurposed** for biofuels, pharmaceuticals, green hydrogen, fertilizers, biopolymers, and construction materials, promoting circular carbon economies and blue growth.

What are the Challenges?

- **Ecological Concerns:** Altering ocean chemistry or nutrient balance may affect marine biodiversity.
- **Regulatory Gaps:** India lacks comprehensive marine carbon governance frameworks.
- **High Capital Costs:** Early-stage ocean CCUS projects require long-term funding and risk mitigation.

Way Ahead

- **Policy Integration:** Embed ocean-based CCUS in India's National Carbon Capture Policy and Blue Economy Mission.
- **Research and Development:** Establish pilot projects on ocean alkalinity enhancement and biological carbon farming under the Deep Ocean Mission.
- **Private Sector Mobilisation:** Provide fiscal incentives and carbon credits for blue carbon restoration and marine CDR startups.
- **International Collaboration:** Partner with global CCUS hubs in Japan, Norway, and the EU for technology transfer and knowledge exchange.

Source: ORF

NEWS IN SHORT

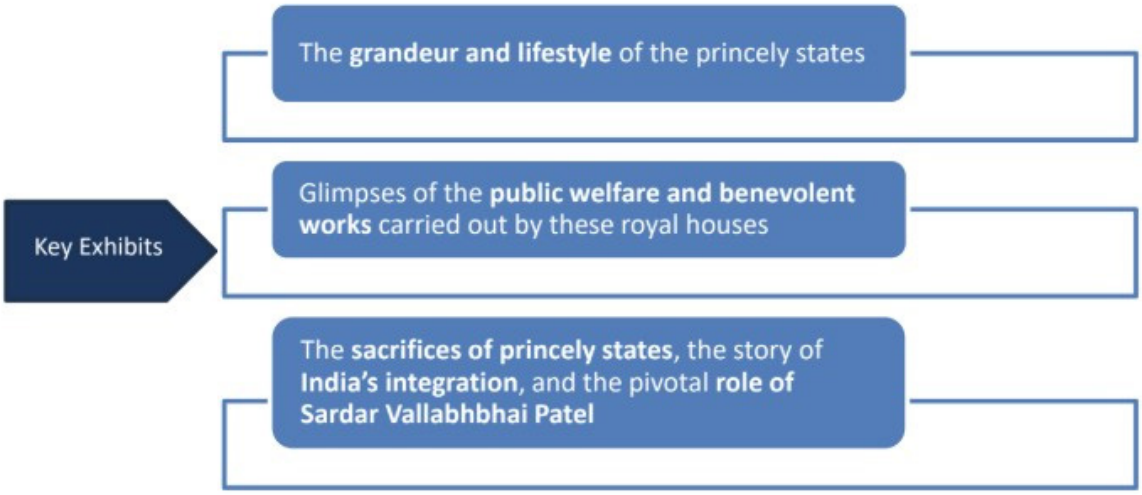
MUSEUM OF ROYAL KINGDOMS OF INDIA

Context

- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the **Museum of Royal Kingdoms of India** near the **Statue of Unity in Gujarat.**

About

- **Aim:** To preserve the memory of the past while inspiring future generations with the timeless spirit of unity and sacrifice.
- This museum, costing ₹367 crore, will have four thematic galleries.
- This museum will be built o**n five acres of land near the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar.**



Historical Background

- At the time of India's Independence on 15 August 1947, the subcontinent comprised **British-administered territories and over 550 princely states** and kingdoms.
- Under the leadership of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, then Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, the rulers of the princely states were persuaded to accede to India through the **Instrument of Accession.**
- **By 1949**, nearly **all princely states** had joined the Indian Union, laying the foundation for a unified and sovereign Republic.
- **This peaceful unification** stands as a testament to India's spirit of diplomacy, inclusivity, and nation-building.

Source: PIB

GEORGIA NEW HUB FOR INDIAN MEDICAL STUDENTS

In News

- Amid the ongoing war in Ukraine, Georgia has rapidly emerged as a preferred destination for Indian medical aspirants, with education-related remittances rising to $50.25 million in 2024–25—a fivefold increase since 2018–19.
  - Its popularity stems from affordable medical courses, simple residency laws, and proximity to Europe.

Georgia

- It is located at the eastern edge of the Black Sea and bordered by Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkey.
- It includes three ethnic enclaves—Abkhazia, Ajaria, and South Ossetia—and its capital is **Tbilisi**.
- It has a rich cultural heritage and was a powerful kingdom in the medieval period.
- It declared sovereignty in **1989** and full independence in **1991**.

Do you know?

- The RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme allows Indians to send up to $250,000 abroad annually for education and other purposes.

Source :IE

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY SETS 3 GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

Context

- The Union Health Ministry has achieved **three Guinness World Record titles** under the nationwide **"Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan" (SNSPA) campaign.**

About

- **The Records Achieved are:**
  - Most people register for a health care platform in one month.
  - Most people sign up for a breast cancer screening online in one week.
  - Most people sign up for vital signs screening online in one week (at state level).

Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

- The PM launched the nationwide campaign "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan" from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, in conjunction with Poshan Maah.
- The campaign focuses on **improving the health and nutrition of women, adolescent girls, and children.**
- This recognition from Guinness World Records stands as a testament to India's collective effort—combining government systems, digital health innovation, and community participation.

Source: TH

'AABHAR' ONLINE STORE

In News

- Indian Railways is supporting the **new 'Aabhar' online** store showcasing gift items made by indigenous tribes, handloom weavers, and **One District One Product (ODOP)** and Geographical Indication (GI) product makers to promote local talent and craftsmanship.

'Aabhar' online store

- The **online store** hosted by the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM**) sources gift items exclusively from the Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIE), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), and various Central and State Handicraft and Handloom Emporiums.
- It is promoted with the **'Vocal for Local**' campaign and the store would offer a variety of articles and hampers that could be used in official events, ceremonies, and functions.
- It is aimed at fostering social inclusion and supporting rural artisans, women-led enterprises, and traditional industries.

Do you know?

- **The 'One Station One Product' (OSOP)** scheme was launched by the railways to **promote local and indigenous products** and provide additional income opportunities for **marginalized communities.**

Source :TH

CENSUS SELF-ENUMERATION TRIAL TO BEGIN

In News

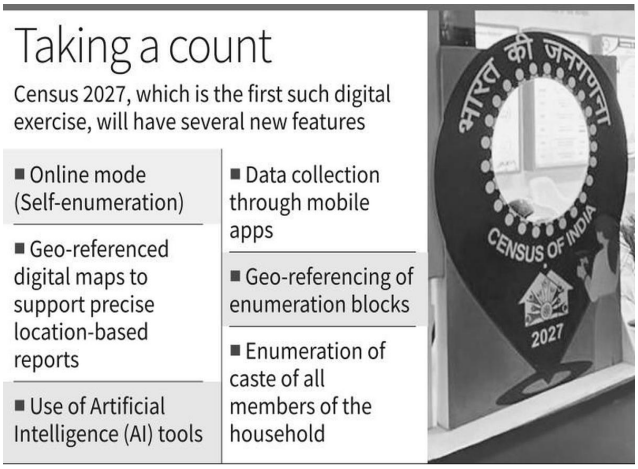
- The government began testing the self-enumeration module for the first phase of Population Census 2027, marking India's first digital and caste-based census.

Background

- **Census 2021** that was postponed indefinitely initially due to COVID-19 pandemic is now being known as Population Census 2027.
- The exercise excludes updates to the **National Population Register (NPR)**, which was last revised in 2015–16.
  - The NPR, created in 2010, is considered the first step toward a National Register of Citizens (NRC). Unlike previous Census exercises, the methodology for caste enumeration is still under review, and only the HLO phase is being tested.
- The pre-test for the planned 2021 Census took place in 2019, covering more than 26 lakh people in 76 districts of 36 States and Union Territories. Around 6,000 enumerators and 1,100 supervisors from State governments were engaged in 2019.

Self-enumeration trial

- India's first digital and caste-enumerating Population Census begins its pre-test phase with enumerators assisting select citizens in **self-enumeration via a dedicated portal.**
- This phase, known as the **Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO),** will be tested in two stages—self-enumeration and field verification across sample areas in all States and UTs.



- It will include 30 household-related questions on housing, amenities, and assets.
  - Enumerators will use a digital layout map and mobile app linked to the Census Management and Monitoring System to collect and verify data efficiently.

Source :TH

DIGITAL MARINE FISHERIES CENSUS 2025

Context

- The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 Household Enumeration and the VYAS – BHARAT and VYAS- SUTRA app.

About

- **Fully Digital and Geo-Referenced Census:** The MFC 2025 departs from **traditional paper-based methods** used in earlier editions.
  - The fifth edition covers around **1.2 million** fisher households across 5,000 marine fishing villages in **13 coastal States and Union Territories**, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- **Digital Architecture:** The digital process is powered by three multilingual Android applications developed by the ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI):
  - **VyAS–NAV:** For validation of fishing villages and harbours.
  - **VyAS–BHARAT:** For household and infrastructure enumeration.
  - **VyAS–SUTRA:** For real-time supervision and monitoring of data collection.
- **Expanded Socio-economic Data:** For the first time, the enumeration includes detailed information on crucial indicators like total family income, homeownership, outstanding liabilities, and sources of credit.

Source: PIB

KENDRIYA GRIHMANTRI DAKSHATA PADAK

Context

- The **Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak** has been awarded to 1,466 personnel for the year 2025.

About

- The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak was instituted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **It recognises excellence** in operations, exceptional investigative service, intelligence work marked by courage and determination, and meritorious contributions in forensic science by serving government scientists.
- It is conferred annually on **October 31**, marking the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,** India's first Home Minister and the architect of national integration.
- **Key Areas of Recognition:** Special Operations, Investigation, Intelligence, and Forensic Science.
- The medal is conferred on members of the **Police Forces, Security Organisations, Intelligence Wings/Branches, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Central Police Organisations (CPOs)**, and Forensic Science units at the Central, State, and Union Territory levels.

Source: AIR

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