

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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NHRC ISSUES SECOND ADVISORY TO ENSURE WELFARE OF TRANSGENDERS

Context

- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** has issued a second advisory to Secretaries of 11 Ministries, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner and the Chief Secretaries of all the states and union territories **to ensure the welfare of transgender persons.**

About

- Based on NHRC's continued engagements, the Commission has identified a range of persistent and emerging challenges affecting transgender persons.
- The key recommendations are as follows:**
 - Inclusion of distinct categories** such as 'Intersex', 'Transmen' and 'Transwomen' in the upcoming Census of India;
 - Review of laws**, including the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, Juvenile Justice Act and succession laws, to ensure recognition of self-identified gender and protection of the rights of transgender;
 - Ensuring equal inheritance, succession, housing and property rights** for transgender and intersex persons;
 - Admission of transgender students in educational institutions** based on self-identified gender without requiring medical proof;
 - Developing standardised and ethical medical protocols** for gender-affirming healthcare, and regulation of Sex Reassignment Surgery costs;
 - Promoting inclusive workplaces** through gender-neutral facilities, inclusive Human Resource policies, workplace grievance mechanisms and mandatory diversity disclosures; and
 - Simplifying the documentation process** and enabling self-identification-based enrolment for elderly transgender persons in welfare schemes and establishing transgender-inclusive old-age homes.

LGBTQIA+

- LGBTQIA+** is an umbrella term for **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and**

asexual persons, with '+' representing other identities that are not specifically included in these letters.

- Notably, LGBTQIA+** persons do not conform with traditional gender roles and expectations, display sex characteristics that do not fit the typical male or female binary, and their gender identities that differ from the sex they were assigned at birth.

India's Position on LGBTQIA+ Rights

- As per census 2011**, there were 4.87 lakhs persons in India who opted for "other" in gender category.
- Transgender Rights:** NALSA v. Union of India (2014) recognised the right to self-identify gender.
 - It recognises **transgender as the "third gender"** upholding their fundamental rights.
- Decriminalisation:** **Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018)** decriminalised consensual homosexual acts (Section 377 partially struck down).
- Constitutional Provisions:** Article 14 Right to equality, Article 15 No discrimination on grounds of sex and Article 21 Right to life and personal liberty.
 - Legislation:** The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 provides legal recognition of transgender identity.

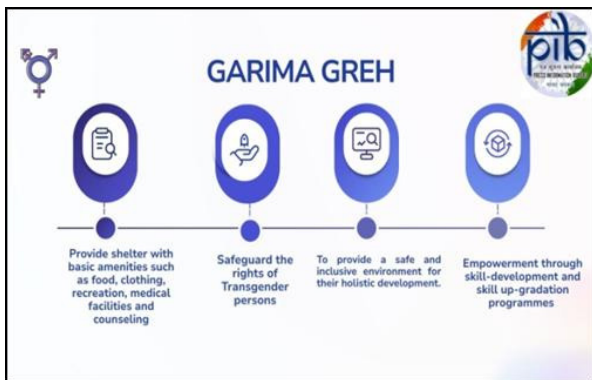
Challenges Faced by the Transgenders

- Societal Issues:** Trans persons face deep-rooted societal prejudices, leading to **ostracisation from families and communities.**
- Lack of Access to Education:** High school dropout rates due to bullying, harassment, and gender-based violence.
- Barriers in Employment:** Trans persons face widespread discrimination in hiring and the workplace.
 - Often forced into informal, unsafe, and exploitative sectors, like begging or sex work, due to lack of opportunities.
- Healthcare Exclusion:** They face lack of gender-affirmative healthcare, discrimination by medical staff, and unavailability of hormonal and surgical services in public hospitals. They bear a high mental health burden due to social rejection and isolation.
- Violence and Abuse:** Prone to verbal, physical, and sexual violence both in public and private spaces.

- **Political Underrepresentation:** Low political visibility and representation in mainstream parties and institutions. Lack of policy-making participation hinders the articulation of their needs.

Government Initiatives

- **The National Portal for Transgender Persons,** launched in 2020, enables online applications for identity certificates and access to benefits.
- **The SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme,** introduced in 2022, provides livelihood, skill training, and shelter support through Garima Greh centres and Ayushman Bharat TG Plus health coverage.



- **The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment** has issued “Equal Opportunities Policy for Transgender Persons” to ensure that the Transgender community has equal access to employment opportunities etc.
- **National Council for Transgender Persons:** It serves as a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to safeguard and promote the rights of transgender persons in India.
 - ♦ The council also has five representatives of transgender community, representatives of NHRC and NCW, representatives of State Governments and UTs and experts representing NGOs.
- **Transgender Protection Cells and National Portal Integration:** Setting up district-level cells under District Magistrates to monitor offenses, ensure timely FIR registration, and conduct sensitisation programs, reinforcing legal protections.

Conclusion

- Recent years have witnessed significant legal and policy reforms for the transgender community in India.

- As India advances toward a more equitable future, ensuring that transgender persons live with dignity, autonomy, and opportunity remains central to its democratic and human rights commitments.

Source: AIR

INDIA AND ITALY TIES UPGRADED TO SPECIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Context

- India and Italy **upgraded their ties to a special strategic partnership.**

Major Highlights

- The **two sides inked 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)**, including agreements to boost partnerships in critical minerals, agriculture, maritime transport and marine products.
- **India and Italy rolled out a defence industrial roadmap** for the co-development and co-production of military hardware and platforms, including helicopters and marine armament.
- They committed to **cooperate on the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).**
- Both nations vowed to expand **annual trade to Euro 20 billion by 2029**, from the current bilateral trade of €14 billion (\$15.2 billion).

Brief on India-Italy Bilateral Ties

- **Diplomatic relations** with Italy were established in 1947 and were elevated to **Strategic Partnership in 2023** as they celebrated the 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations.
- **Indo-Pacific Region:** In 2021, the ‘**India-Italy-Japan**’ trilateral was launched, with an aim to work towards the security, stability, prosperity and multilateralism of the Indo-Pacific region.
 - ♦ It is the second trilateral that India has, in the Indo-Pacific region, involving a European country, after the ‘India-France-Australia’ trilateral.
- **Joint Action Plan:** Prime Minister and his Italian counterpart unveiled the **Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29** as they met on the sidelines of the **G20 Summit.**
 - ♦ It is a **five-year strategic action plan** outlining their vision for collaboration in a **range of key sectors** i.e. Defence, Economy, Connectivity, Science and Innovation, Migration and Mobility, Space and Energy transition.

- **Global Forums:** Italy joined both the significant initiatives, launched on the margins of the G20 Summit, the **'Global Biofuel Alliance'** and the **'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor'**.
 - ♦ Italy has also joined the **'International Solar Alliance' (ISA)**, in 2021, which was the year of the Italian Presidency of G20 and co-Presidency of COP26.
- **Economic:** Italy is India's 4th largest trading partner in the EU. In 2025, bilateral trade reached € 14.25 billion with India's exports at € 8.55 billion and a balance in favour of India of € 2.85 billion.
 - ♦ The free trade agreement between the European Union and India paves the way for increased trade and investment in both directions.
- **Indian Diaspora:** Indian nationals in Italy are the **largest Indian community in the European Union**.
 - ♦ They are the seventh largest foreign community in Italy, comprising 3.25% of the foreign nationals residing in Italy.
 - ♦ The Migration and Mobility Agreement (MMA) was signed in 2023 to facilitate safe and legal migration of workers.
- **Future outlook :** Recent developments show that there is a renewed interest in the relationship from both sides.
 - ♦ India and Italy can leverage their strategic positions in the Indian Ocean and in the Mediterranean, respectively, to promote connectivity, stability, energy security, freedom of navigation.

Significance of Italy for India

- **Strategic and Political Importance:** Italy is an important member of the European Union, G7, and NATO, making it a valuable partner for India in engaging with Europe and the wider Western world.
- **Trade and Economic Significance:** Italy is among India's major trading partners in Europe. Italian companies are known for advanced manufacturing, luxury goods, fashion, design, and precision engineering, which complement India's industrial growth.
- **Defence and Security Cooperation:** Italy has expertise in naval systems, aerospace technology, defence manufacturing, and shipbuilding.
 - ♦ Defence cooperation can strengthen India's maritime security and indigenous defence production capabilities.

- **Renewable Energy and Climate Cooperation:** Italy is an important partner in clean energy transition and climate action. Both countries cooperate in solar energy, green hydrogen, sustainable mobility, and climate-resilient technologies.
- **Maritime and Connectivity Importance:** Italy's strategic location in the Mediterranean Sea makes it important for India's trade access to Europe and North Africa.



Conclusion

- Italy is significant for India as a strategic European partner with strengths in technology, manufacturing, defence, clean energy, and global diplomacy.
- Stronger India-Italy cooperation can help India diversify economic partnerships, enhance technological advancement, strengthen maritime security, and deepen engagement with Europe.

Source: TH

INDIA-SOUTH KOREA DEFENCE COOPERATION

Context

- The recent visit of India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to South Korea, reflects the growing strategic importance of India-South Korea defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Key Highlights of the Visit

- **Agreements were exchanged** between both the nations on;
 - ♦ promoting **cooperation in the field of Defence Cyber**;
 - ♦ training between **India's National Defence College and Korea National Defence University**; and

- ♦ **UN Peacekeeping Cooperation**, making the partnership stronger and multidimensional.
- Both the nations signed two significant MoUs for co-developing **Self-propelled air defence systems and Directed energy weapon systems**.
- **Larsen & Toubro and Hanwha** signed an agreement to strengthen defence technology cooperation and capacity building.
- They also deliberated on a roadmap for the **India-Korea Defence Innovation Accelerator Ecosystem (KIND-X)**, aimed at integrating the innovation ecosystems of the two countries.

Significance of South Korea for India

- **Advanced Manufacturing:** South Korea is a global leader in **semiconductors, EV batteries, electronics, and shipbuilding**, helping India strengthen its manufacturing and technological capabilities.
 - ♦ Companies such as **Samsung, Hyundai Motor Company, LG Electronics, and Kia Corporation** support India's Make in India initiative through investment and technology transfer.
- **Strategic and Defence Cooperation:** India and South Korea share common interests in maintaining a **free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region**.
 - ♦ South Korea's advancing aerospace sector, including the **KF-21 fighter programme and the FA-50 light combat aircraft**, has opened new avenues for collaboration in fighter technologies, engines, avionics, missile integration, and maintenance systems.
- **Economic Synergy:** South Korea is an **important source of FDI** and a major trading partner for India under the **India–ROK CEPA**.
- **Maritime Cooperation:** South Korea's **expertise in shipbuilding and submarine technologies** supports India's maritime and naval modernisation ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region.

Brief on India- South Korea Relations

- **Cultural and Historical Relations:** The two countries share deep historical ties, notably the legendary marriage of an **Indian Princess from Ayodhya (Queen Heo Hwang-ok)** to King Kim Suro of the Gaya kingdom in **48 CE**.
 - ♦ The growing cultural exchanges through **K-pop, K-dramas, and Indian cinema** strengthen people-to-people ties.

- **Diplomatic Cooperation:** India and South Korea elevated their ties to a **Special Strategic Partnership** in **2015**.
 - ♦ Both countries aim to increase **bilateral trade to US\$ 50 billion by 2030** and are negotiating an upgrade of the CEPA agreement.
 - ♦ **India's Act East Policy** and **South Korea's regional strategic vision** increasingly complement each other.
- **Economic Cooperation:** Bilateral trade between India and South Korea stood at nearly **US\$ 27 billion in FY2025** under the India–ROK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
 - ♦ **South Korea** is India's **13th largest FDI investor** between **2000- 2024**, standing at **US\$ 5.85 billion**.
- **Diaspora:** The Indian community in South Korea is estimated at around **17,000 people as of 2025**, including professionals, researchers, students, and businesspersons.

Challenges in India–South Korea Cooperation

- **Technology Transfer Concerns:** Differences regarding **intellectual property rights and technology transfer** may create hurdles in advanced defence collaboration.
- **Geopolitical Sensitivities:** South Korea's **economic dependence on China** sometimes limits the extent of strategic alignment with India.
- **Competition in Defence Exports:** Both countries are emerging defence exporters, which may **create competitive pressures** in certain global markets.
- **Bureaucratic and Procedural Delays:** Complex procurement procedures and regulatory hurdles may slow implementation of joint projects.

Concluding remarks

- India–South Korea defence ties are evolving into a broader strategic partnership driven by shared Indo-Pacific security concerns, technological cooperation, and regional stability.
- Beyond defence-industrial collaboration, both countries are increasingly focusing on maritime security, emerging technologies, and strategic resilience, making the partnership an important pillar of the Indo-Pacific order.

Source: TH

POWER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT DURING PEAK DEMAND

Context

- India's electricity demand has risen sharply during the summer of 2026, with peak demand touching a record **256.1 GW in April**.

What is Peak Demand?

- Peak demand refers to the **highest level of electricity consumed** on the grid during a specific period, usually measured over a **15-minute interval**.
- Characteristics of Peak Demand:**
 - Peak demand generally occurs for **2–4 hours during a day**.
 - In summer**, peaks usually occur from **late afternoon to late evening** due to heavy use of air conditioners and cooling devices.
 - In winter**, peaks occur **during morning and evening** hours because of heating and lighting needs.

How States Manage Electricity Demand?

- Contractual Supply through Long-Term PPAs:** State DISCOMs sign **long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)** with power generators.
 - These agreements ensure **stable electricity supply** at fixed capacity and prices.
 - Around **85–90%** of India's electricity demand is met through such contracts.
- Power Exchange Purchases:** During sudden demand spikes or supply failures, States purchase electricity from short-term power exchanges.
 - Around 10–15% of electricity** is traded through these exchanges, which help balance real-time mismatches between supply and demand.

Challenges Faced by States Due to Rising Demand

- Growth in Electricity Consumption:** India's peak electricity demand has increased by nearly **37%** during the last **five years**.
 - Peak demand** increased from about **183 GW in 2020** to more than **250 GW in 2026**.
 - Rising household electrification, increasing air-conditioner usage, growing electric vehicle adoption, and expanding agricultural power consumption are major drivers of rising demand.

- Financial Stress on DISCOMs:** DISCOMs are often locked into **long-term PPAs** with fixed **supply capacities** that may not fully meet sudden peak demand.
 - Additional electricity** required during peak periods must be purchased from short-term markets at significantly **higher prices**.
 - Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** continue to face challenges related to high distribution losses, ageing infrastructure, and overloaded transformers.
- Stress in Distribution Infrastructure:** Overloaded transformers, ageing feeders, and poor maintenance weakens last-mile electricity delivery systems.
 - In many states distribution systems are operating close to their technical limits. Several northern States continue to report transformer failure rates as high as **20%**.

Demand-Side Measures Adopted by States

- Many States issue advisories **requesting consumers to reduce electricity consumption** during evening peak hours.
- Several States are promoting **energy-efficient appliances** to reduce peak electricity demand.
- Agricultural load scheduling** is also being adopted in some States to reduce pressure on the grid during peak hours.
- States are increasingly adopting **Time-of-Day (ToD) tariffs**, under which electricity prices vary according to the time of consumption.
- Smart metering systems** are being introduced to encourage efficient electricity usage and improve demand forecasting.
 - Examples: Delhi** has increasingly relied on **smart metering and ToD tariffs** to reduce evening electricity demand caused by cooling loads.

Role of Renewable Energy in Managing Peak Demand

- Solar and wind power plants** have low operating costs and help reduce the overall power procurement cost for DISCOMs.
- Gujarat and Karnataka** effectively meet daytime electricity demand because solar power generation aligns with commercial and agricultural consumption patterns.
 - However, these **States continue to face steep** evening demand after sunset when solar generation declines sharply.

- **Tamil Nadu** benefits significantly from wind power generation during the monsoon season.
 - ♦ The State depends more heavily on market purchases during periods of low wind generation and high urban evening demand.

Need for Energy Storage Technologies

- Renewable energy alone cannot ensure reliable round-the-clock electricity supply because solar and wind generation are intermittent in nature.
 - ♦ Hence, there is a need for **energy storage technologies** to store **excess renewable energy** during high generation periods and supply during peak demand hours, thereby ensuring grid stability.
- **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS):** Battery Energy Storage Systems store excess renewable electricity and supply it during periods of high demand.
 - ♦ BESS improves **grid flexibility, reliability, and renewable energy integration.**
- **Pumped Hydro Storage (PHS):** Pumped Hydro Storage systems store energy by **pumping water to elevated reservoirs** and generating electricity during peak demand periods.

Way Ahead

- India needs substantial investment in energy storage technologies such as **BESS and PHS** to manage renewable energy variability and evening peak demand.
- **Smart grid technologies and digital monitoring systems** should be expanded to improve grid flexibility and reliability.
- States need to **strengthen transmission and distribution infrastructure** to improve last-mile electricity delivery.

Source: TH

MAHARASHTRA COMPLETES DOCUMENTATION OF OVER 23,000 WETLANDS

Context

- National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has completed the **documentation and Ground-truthing of Maharashtra's 23,415 wetlands.**

What is a Wetland?

- A wetland is an ecosystem in which the land is covered by **water—salt, fresh, or somewhere in between—either seasonally or permanently.** It functions as its **own distinct ecosystem.**
- **It includes water bodies** such as lakes, rivers, underground aquifers, swamps, wet grasslands, peatlands, deltas, tidal flats, mangroves, coral reefs, and other coastal areas as well.
- These wetlands can be classified into three segments such as **inland wetlands, coastal wetlands, and human-made wetlands.**

Wetlands in India

- India includes **high-altitude wetlands** of the Himalayas, **floodplains** of rivers such as Ganges and Brahmaputra, **lagoons and mangrove marshes** on the coastline, and **reefs** in marine environments.
- India has around **4.6%** of its land as wetlands, **99 Wetlands of India** are under the **List of Wetlands of International Importance called as Ramsar Sites.**
- India boasts the **largest Ramsar site network in Asia** and the **3rd largest** in the world in terms of number of sites.
 - ♦ **Tamil Nadu** holds the highest number of **Ramsar sites in India in 2026** with **20 sites.**

Importance of Wetlands

- **Biodiversity Hotspots:** Wetlands are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth, supporting a wide variety of plant and animal species.
- **Water Filtration and Purification:** They act as natural filters, trapping and removing pollutants and sediments from water.
- **Flood Control and Water Regulation:** Function as natural buffers against floods by absorbing and slowing down excess water during heavy rainfall or storm events.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** The waterlogged conditions in wetlands slow down the decomposition of organic matter, leading to the accumulation of carbon in the soil.
- **Economic Benefits:** Wetlands support various economic activities, including fisheries, agriculture, and tourism.

Ramsar Convention

- It is an international treaty aimed at conserving wetlands around the world. It was adopted in **Ramsar, Iran, in 1971** and entered into force in **1975**.
- Countries that are parties to the convention commit to designating wetlands of international importance within their territories. These sites are referred to as **Ramsar Sites**.
- **Criteria:**
 - ♦ supporting vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or
 - ♦ threatened ecological communities or,
 - ♦ if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds or,
 - ♦ It is an important source of food for fishes, spawning grounds, and nursery.
- **India** has been a party to the Convention since **1982**.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

VEERA PASI

Context

- Recently, a statue of **Veera Pasi**, often remembered as a “**forgotten hero**” of the Revolt of 1857, was unveiled in Raebareli.

About Veera Pasi

- Veera Pasi (born Shivdeen Pasi) was a valiant 19th-century warrior and army commander from Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh, who played a **heroic role in the 1857 Uprising**.
- Born on **November 11, 1835, in Lodhwari village**, he was orphaned early and lived with his sister.
 - ♦ In the local dialect, a brother living with his sister’s family was affectionately called “**Veerna**,” which eventually evolved into the name Veera.
- He became a trusted commander and associate of **Rana Beni Madhav Baksh Singh**, ruler of the **Shankarpur Estate in Awadh**.
 - ♦ When British forces captured Rana Beni Madhav Singh, Veera Pasi displayed remarkable courage by launching a **rescue operation** and freeing him from prison.

Source: IE

JUDGES (INQUIRY) ACT, 1968

Context

- The **Judges Inquiry Committee** investigating allegations concerning Justice Yashwant Varma submitted its report to Lok Sabha Speaker.
 - ♦ It was presented in accordance with the **statutory requirements under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**.

Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

- The constitution provides that a judge can be removed **only by an order of the president**, based on a **motion passed by both houses of parliament**.
- The procedure for removal of judges is elaborated in the **Judges Inquiry Act, 1968**.
 - ♦ It provides the statutory framework for the removal of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts of India.
- **Grounds of Removal:**
 - ♦ **Proved Misbehaviour:** Actions or conduct that violate judicial ethics, commit professional misconduct, or bring the judiciary into disrepute.
 - ♦ **Incapacity:** A physical or mental inability that prevents the judge from efficiently discharging the duties of their office.
- **The Act sets out the following steps for removal from office:**

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

▶ A **removal motion** signed by 100 members (in case of Lok Sabha) or 50 members (in case of Rajya Sabha) is to be given to the Speaker/Chairman.

▶ If the motion is admitted, then a **three-member committee to investigate** into the charges is constituted.

▶ If the committee finds the judge to be guilty of the charges (**misbehaviour or incapacity**), the House in which the motion was introduced, can take up the consideration of the motion.

Special majority: Majority of total membership of the House & majority of not less than two thirds members present and voting.

▶ Once, the House in which removal motion was introduced passes it with **special majority**, it goes to the second House which also has to pass it with a special majority.

▶ After the motion is passed, an **address** is presented to the President for removal of the judge. The President then passes an order removing the judge.



Source: AIR

PM MODI RECEIVES AGRICOLA MEDAL

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the prestigious **Agricola Medal** by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at its headquarters in Rome, Italy.
 - ♦ The medal was presented by **FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu**.

About Agricola Medal

- The Agricola Medal is the **highest honour** conferred by the **Director-General of the FAO**.
- The medal is named after **Georgius Agricola**, a German scholar widely considered the “**father of mineralogy**” and a pioneer in agricultural and mining sciences.
- It is awarded to distinguished world leaders and individuals for exceptional and long-term **contributions to global food security, sustainable agriculture, poverty reduction and improved nutrition**.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- FAO is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve food security.
- **It was founded** on 16 October 1945.
- **Members:** The FAO comprises 195 members, including 194 countries and the European Union.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy.

Source: AIR

UN CUTS INDIA'S 2026 GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.4%

Context

- The United Nations, in its report World Economic Situation and Prospects, has reduced India's GDP growth forecast for **2026 from 6.6% to 6.4%** due to weak global economic conditions, geopolitical tensions, and trade uncertainty.

Key Highlights of the Report

- The UN stated that **India will continue to remain one of the world's fastest-growing major economies** despite the downward revision.
 - ♦ India is expected to **outperform many advanced and emerging economies** in terms of growth.

- **Reasons for Downgrading Growth Forecast:**
 - ♦ Weak global demand is **affecting international trade and investment flows**.
 - ♦ Geopolitical tensions are creating **uncertainty in global markets**.
 - ♦ Rising **trade restrictions and protectionist measures** are slowing global economic activity.
 - ♦ **Volatile energy prices** are increasing economic uncertainty.
 - ♦ **Higher global borrowing costs** are affecting developing economies.

Source: ET

PRAGATI 2026 EXERCISE

Context

- The **multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026** commenced at **Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya**.

About

- PRAGATI stands for **Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation** in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Apart from host India, soldiers from “**12 friendly nations**” are participating in the PRAGATI 2026 military exercise. They are Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.
- The exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain.

Source: AIR

INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE 2026

Context

- ‘**Taiwan Travelogue**’ has won the prestigious **International Booker Prize 2026**, becoming the first novel translated from **Mandarin Chinese to receive the award**.

About

- Written by Taiwanese author Yang Shuang-zi and translated by Taiwanese-American translator Lin King, the novel explores themes of forbidden love, identity and food culture.

International Booker Prize

- Formerly known as the **Man Booker International Prize**, this honor is presented annually for a work of fiction, either a novel or a collection of short stories that was originally written in a language other than English, then translated into English and published in the U.K. and/or Ireland.
- The prize highlights the crucial role of translators, with **£50,000 shared equally between the author and translator**.
- **Past Winner:** In 2025, *Heart Lamp* by Banu Mushtaq, translated by Deepa Bhashi, won the prize. It was the first book translated from Kannada to receive this honor.

Do you know?

- The **Booker Prize** is a separate award given annually for the best novel **written in English**, published in the UK or Ireland.
 - ♦ **Past Indian Booker Prize winners:** Arundhati Roy (*God of Small Things*), Kiran Desai (*Inheritance of Loss*), and Aravind Adiga (*White Tiger*).

Source: TH

