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INDIA AND MAURITIUS: BOOST TO STRATEGIC TIES

Context

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India met with **Mauritian counterpart in Victoria, Mahe** on the sidelines of **Seychelles' Golden Jubilee National Day** celebrations.
- They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in maritime security, development partnership, capacity building, trade, connectivity and people-to-people ties.

India-Mauritius Relations

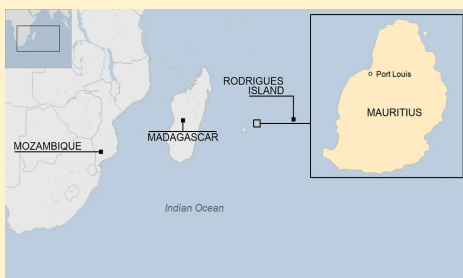
- India and Mauritius share an exceptionally close relationship based on:
 - Shared history and civilizational links;
 - Indian diaspora connection;
 - Maritime and strategic convergence in the Indian Ocean;
 - Development partnership;
 - Common democratic values;
- Mauritius occupies a central position in India's vision of **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)** and the **Neighbourhood First Policy**.

Historical Background

- Mauritius was uninhabited until European colonisation. A large number of Indians migrated as **indentured labourers** after the abolition of slavery in 1834.
 - Today, around **two-thirds of Mauritius' population is of Indian origin**, making the diaspora a major pillar of bilateral relations.
 - Diplomatic relations were established immediately after **Mauritius attained independence in 1968**.

Republic of Mauritius

- It is an island nation located in the Indian Ocean, approximately 2,000 kilometers off the southeastern coast of Africa.
- Capital: Port Louis**



Major Pillars of India-Mauritius Relations

- Political Relations:** India and Mauritius maintain regular high-level political exchanges.
 - Recently, both sides reiterated commitment towards expanding development partnership, enhancing maritime cooperation, strengthening regional stability in the Indian Ocean, and deepening economic engagement.
- Strategic and Maritime Cooperation:**
 - Maritime Security:** Joint surveillance of Mauritian EEZ; hydrographic surveys by the Indian Navy; coastal radar systems; and information sharing on maritime domain awareness.
 - Defence Cooperation:** India assists Mauritius through training of Mauritian defence personnel, supply of defence equipment, deployment of Indian military advisors, joint exercises and patrols.
 - SAGAR Doctrine:** Mauritius is a cornerstone of India's **SAGAR Vision, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), and Vision MAHASAGAR**.
- Economic and Commercial Relations**
 - Bilateral Trade (FY 2024-25):** USD 887.25 mn (Total trade)
 - Indian Exports to Mauritius: USD 676.34 mn
 - Mauritian Exports to India: USD 210.91 mn
 - Trade has grown by 329% in the last 17 years, from USD 206.76 million in 2005-06 to USD 887.25 million in 2024-25.
 - Main Indian Exports:** Petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, food products, machinery, textiles, and automobiles
 - Mauritian Exports:** Scrap metals, agricultural products, textiles, and seafood products.
- Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA):** It was signed in **2021**. It is **India's first trade agreement with an African country**.
 - It aims to liberalise trade in goods and services, promotion of investment, expansion of financial services, and greater market access.
- Financial and Investment Relations:** Historically, Mauritius has been a major source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India.

- ♦ **Key reasons** are favourable tax regime; and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).
- ♦ **DTAA Revision (2016)** was aimed at **treaty shopping**, round-tripping of funds, and tax evasion.

Do You Know About Treaty Shopping

- It typically involves the **attempt to indirectly access the benefits of a tax treaty** between two jurisdictions by a person who is not a resident of one of those jurisdictions, often through complex structures and arrangements.

Development Partnership:

- ♦ **Metro Express Project:** India's flagship infrastructure project in Mauritius. It significantly improved urban mobility.
- ♦ **New Supreme Court Building:** It was constructed with Indian grant assistance. It symbolises democratic cooperation.
- ♦ **ENT Hospital:** It was built with Indian support. It enhances healthcare infrastructure.
- ♦ **Social Housing Projects:** Several small-scale projects have been implemented across Mauritius in sectors such as education, health, community infrastructure, and sports.
- ♦ **Other Important Projects:** Civil Service College; Forensic Science Laboratory; Digital and ICT initiatives.

Cultural and Diaspora Relations

- **Diaspora:** Indian origin people comprise nearly 70% of the island's population of 1.2 million (28% Creole, 3% Sino-Mauritian, 1% Franco-Mauritian).
- **Shared Cultural Traditions:** Hindi, Bhojpuri, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Urdu are widely practised.
 - ♦ Indian festivals such as Diwali, Holi, and Maha Shivaratri are celebrated on a national scale.
- **Cultural Institutions:** Mahatma Gandhi Institute; Rabindranath Tagore Institute; and World Hindi Secretariat (headquartered in Mauritius).
- **Capacity Building and Human Resource Development:** India supports Mauritius through ITEC scholarships, ICCR scholarships, training programmes for civil servants, skill development initiatives, and cooperation in digital governance and public administration.
- **Cooperation in Multilateral Forums:** Both countries cooperate closely in United Nations (UN), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA),

International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and Global South initiatives.

- ♦ Mauritius has consistently supported India on several international issues.
- ♦ India has backed **Mauritius's territorial claim over the Chagos Archipelago**, a matter of dispute with the United Kingdom.

Significance of Mauritius for India

- **Strategic Importance:** Gateway to the western Indian Ocean; critical for securing Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs); and important for India's Indo-Pacific strategy.
- **Economic Importance:** Trade and investment hub; and link to African markets.
- **Geopolitical Importance:** Helps counter extra-regional influence in the Indian Ocean; and enhances India's role as a net security provider.

Challenges in Bilateral Relations

- **Competition from external powers**, especially China.
- Concerns regarding strategic projects and sovereignty issues.
- Need for diversification of trade.
- Regulatory issues in financial cooperation.
- Climate change vulnerabilities affecting Mauritius.

Way Forward

- There is a need to deepen maritime and defence cooperation, expand CECPA implementation, promote blue economy collaboration, enhance digital and fintech partnerships, strengthen renewable energy cooperation, increase people-to-people and educational exchanges, and accelerate implementation of infrastructure projects.

Source: DD News

PM MODI VISIT TO SEYCHELLES

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Seychelles** as the **Guest of Honour** during the country's **50th Independence Day celebrations**.

Key Highlights of the Visit

- **Development Partnership:** India extended a **₹1,250 crore Line of Credit** for priority infrastructure projects in Seychelles.

- **Maritime Security:** India handed over a **Fast Patrol Vessel, 10 utility vehicles, and 5 Laser Radial boats** to strengthen Seychelles' coastal security and surveillance capabilities.
- **Digital Connectivity:** An agreement with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** will enable the rollout of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** in Seychelles, facilitating seamless digital payments and boosting tourism.
- **Capacity Building:** Both countries agreed to expand cooperation in **technical education, healthcare, agriculture, skill development, and space applications** under the **SESEL (Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages)** framework.
- **Blue Economy:** Cooperation will focus on **marine resource management, sustainable fisheries, ocean science, and the sustainable use of marine resources.**

India-Seychelles Relations

Diplomatic Relations:

- Diplomatic ties were established in **1976**, after Seychelles gained independence.
- Around **10% of Seychelles' population is of Indian origin**, strengthening cultural and people-to-people ties.

Development Partnership:

- India has supported Seychelles through **Lines of Credit, grant assistance, and High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs).**
- Cooperation spans **infrastructure, housing, transport, education, healthcare, and capacity building.**
- In **2026**, India announced a **USD 175 million Special Economic Package** for Seychelles.
- Both countries also adopted the **SESEL Joint Vision** to deepen cooperation in sustainability, economic growth, and security.

Trade and Economy:

- Bilateral trade (April 2024–February 2025) stood at **USD 72.92 million.**
 - ♦ **India's exports:** USD 68.64 million
 - ♦ **India's imports:** USD 4.28 million

Energy Cooperation:

- Seychelles became a **founding member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** after ratifying its Framework Agreement in **2017.**

- In **2024**, a **solar-powered cold storage facility** was commissioned on **Praslin Island** with ISA support.

Multilateral Cooperation:

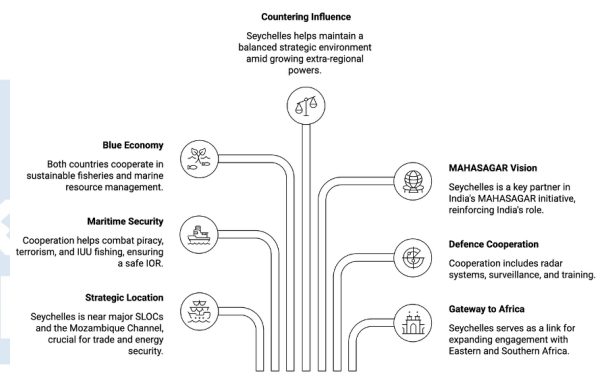
Both countries cooperate closely in:

- **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**
- **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** (India is a Development Partner)
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**
- **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**

People-to-People Ties:

- The Indian diaspora has played an important role in strengthening cultural exchanges, business relations, and long-standing goodwill between the two countries.

Why is Seychelles important for India?



Major Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

- Growing threats from **piracy, terrorism, drug trafficking, and arms smuggling.**
- **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**, which threatens marine biodiversity and coastal livelihoods.
- Rising **sea levels and extreme weather events**, making island nations highly vulnerable to climate change.
- Increasing **strategic competition among major powers** over ports and maritime infrastructure.
- Vulnerability of key **Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs)** and maritime chokepoints, affecting global trade and energy security.

Conclusion

- India and Seychelles share a **comprehensive strategic partnership** built on development cooperation, maritime security, trade, renewable energy, the Blue Economy, and regional connectivity.

- As trusted partners in the **Indian Ocean Region**, both countries continue to strengthen cooperation to promote **security, sustainable development, and inclusive growth**.

Source: TH

UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REPORT ON ON GAZA

Context

- A **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** commission of inquiry says, Israel has deliberately targeted Palestinian children, resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Gaza.

About the UN Commission of Inquiry?

- It is the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including **East Jerusalem, and Israel**.
- It was established by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in **May 2021**. It is mandated to submit **annual reports**.

What is Genocide?

- The word "genocide" was first coined by **Polish lawyer Raphaël Lemkin in 1944**.
 - It was first recognised as a **crime under international law in 1946** by the United Nations General Assembly.
- It was codified as an independent crime in the **1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the Genocide Convention)**.
 - The Convention has been ratified by 153 States (as of April 2022).
 - India** signed the Convention in 1949 and **ratified in 1959**.
- According to the Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with **intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group**, as such:
 - Killing members of the group;
 - Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
 - Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
 - Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;

- Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.
- According to the Convention** the crime of genocide may take place in the context of an armed conflict, international or non-international, but also in the context of a peaceful situation.
- Genocide is defined** in the same terms in the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Article 6)**.

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

- The Rome Statute** is the founding international treaty that established the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.
- It was adopted in **1998** in Rome and entered into force in **2002**.
- The Statute grants the ICC jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the most serious crimes of international concern, namely **genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression**.

What are Crimes Against Humanity?

- Under Article 7 of the Rome Statute**, crimes against humanity are specific acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population, with knowledge of that attack.
- It lists a range of acts that may constitute crimes against humanity, including **murder, enslavement, deportation or forcible transfer of populations, unlawful imprisonment, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence, persecution** of identifiable groups on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious or gender grounds etc.

What are War Crimes?

- Article 8 of the Rome Statute** defines war crimes as serious violations of international humanitarian law committed during an armed conflict.
 - The Court exercises jurisdiction particularly where such crimes are committed as part of a plan or policy or on a large scale.
- War crimes include** grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, such as wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury, unlawful destruction or seizure of property, compelling prisoners of war to serve hostile forces, denying prisoners a fair trial, unlawful deportation or confinement, and taking hostages.

- **The statute also criminalises** a broader range of serious violations of the laws and customs of war.

Legal Significance of the Report

- A UN Commission cannot impose criminal liability or sanctions. However, its findings may serve as documentary evidence before international courts such as:
 - ♦ **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, which adjudicates disputes between States.
 - ♦ **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, which prosecutes individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression.
- For instance, in **South Africa's genocide case against Israel** before the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, the court has said that Palestinians in Gaza have **plausible rights** under the UN Genocide Convention that require protection.

Source: UN, TH, IE

- **Forms of IPR** : Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Industrial Designs, Geographical Indications, Layout Design of Integrated Circuits, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights, Protection of undisclosed information/ Trade Secrets.

Form of IPR	What it protects	Criteria	Duration
PATENTS	Inventions	Novelty Inventive Step Industrial Application	20 years from the date of filing the Patent
COPYRIGHTS	Expression of Ideas (Literary, Dramatic, Musical works, Computer Program per se, etc.)	Originality Fixation	Literary works: Lifetime of author + 60 years Cinematography films/records/ photographs/government works : 60 years Broadcasting : 25 years
TRADEMARKS	Identification symbols, logos, slogans, words/ letters	Distinctive Graphically representable Not deceptive	Indefinite Renewal after every ten years
INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS	External appearance of an article	Novel Original Significantly distinguishable	Initially for 10 years Renewal for 5 more years (maximum protection : 15 years)
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS	Goods of specific geographical origin	Quality Reputation Unique characteristics which are essentially attributable to the geographical area of origin	Indefinite Renewal after every ten years
LAYOUT DESIGN OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS	Lay out of components in the integrated circuits	Original Distinctive Capable of distinguishing from any other lay-out design.	10 years
PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES & FARMERS' RIGHTS	New varieties Farmers' varieties Extant varieties Essentially derived varieties	Novelty Distinctiveness Uniformity Stability Denomination	Trees and vines : 18 years Extant varieties & others : 15 years

BLACK MARKET FOR 'FAKE PATENTS'

Context

- A worrying new trend of **'fake patents'**, in which **education companies sell thousands of patents registered in the U.K.** to academics from India and elsewhere, has raised concerns among research integrity experts.

About

- Some firms sell U.K. design registrations to Indian academics **to artificially boost institutional rankings and individual CVs.**
- These registrations, often granted in 11 days **without novelty checks, are misrepresented as international patents** despite lacking original research or physical prototypes.

Intellectual Property (IP) Rights

- Intellectual Property (IP) is generally defined as the **'Product of Mind'**.
 - ♦ It is a property that results from the **creations of intellect in industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields.**
- **Intellectual Property Right (IPR)** is the **legally enforceable exclusive right** granted to the owner of the intellectual property for a limited period.
 - ♦ IPR **rewards creativity & human endeavor** which fuel the progress of humankind.

Is an Indian Patent valid in other Countries?

- **Patent rights are territorial rights**, which will be **valid within the territory of the Country which has issued Patent.**
- Hence, an Indian Patent, which is granted by the Indian Government, will be **valid only in India.**

Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT):

- Patent Laws differ from Country to Country and there is nothing like "World Patent" or "International Patent". However, there is an international filing system known as **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) system.**
- When a PCT application is filed, an inventor of a member country of PCT can simultaneously obtain priority for his/her invention in all the PCT member countries.
- **India joined PCT in 1998.**
- All activities related to PCT are coordinated by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) situated in Geneva.**

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- It is a **self-funding agency of the United Nations**, that serves the world's innovators and creators, ensuring that their ideas travel safely to the market and improve lives everywhere.
- **History:** WIPO was established in **1967** by the **WIPO Convention.**

- **Members:** The organization has **194** member states including both developing and developed nations like India, Italy, Israel, Austria, Bhutan, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, Pakistan, the U.S. and the U.K.
 - ♦ India joined WIPO in **1975**.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.

Challenges in India's IP Regime

- **Patent Backlog:** Despite increasing filings, patent examination and grant delays remain a significant issue.
- **IP Infringement:** Weak enforcement mechanisms, leading to rampant counterfeiting and piracy.
- **Low Patent Commercialization:** Many patents filed in India do not get commercialized due to lack of industry-academia collaboration.
- **Global Competitiveness:** India's innovation is dominated by foreign applicants, reflecting low domestic R&D investments.

India's initiative

- **National IPR Policy 2016** encompassing all IPRs into a single vision document setting in place an institutional mechanism for implementation, monitoring and review of IP laws.
 - ♦ The policy encourages innovation and creativity by providing stronger protection and incentives for inventors, artists, and creators.
- **Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM):** It has been set up to coordinate the implementation of the National IPR Policy.
- **National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM),** a flagship program to impart IP awareness and basic training in educational institutes.
- **Scheme for Facilitating Startups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP):** It is introduced to foster innovation and entrepreneurship by providing a supportive ecosystem for startups to protect and manage their IP assets.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):** It was set up by **NITI Aayog in 2016** to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in India. AIM has created **four programs** to support these functions:
 - ♦ Atal Tinkering Labs
 - ♦ Atal Incubation Centers
 - ♦ Atal New India Challenges and Atal Grand Challenges
 - ♦ Mentor India.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING (DIKSHA)

Context

- The Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) has emerged as India's "**One Nation, One Digital Platform**" for school education, providing **curriculum-linked digital learning resources** to students and teachers nationwide.

About

- **DIKSHA** platform was launched in **2017**. It is developed by the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** in collaboration with the **Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)**.
- It supports learning from **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** to senior secondary education and has been adopted by education boards across almost all States and Union Territories.
- DIKSHA offers videos, 2D and 3D animations, augmented reality (AR) content, simulations, virtual laboratories, **QR-coded Energised Textbooks**, and interactive learning materials.
- It promotes inclusive and personalised learning through **DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System)** format, text-to-speech, Indian Sign Language (ISL) videos, adaptive assessments, and competency-based question banks.
- The platform also supports teacher capacity building through the **NISHTHA** programme and follows a **federated architecture**, enabling States to manage content while **CIET-NCERT** ensures quality. It also provides offline access to learning resources.

Source: TOI

ISRAEL, LEBANON SIGN US-BROKERED FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Context

- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced a US-mediated framework agreement between Israel and Lebanon aimed at achieving lasting peace and security.

Background

- The announcement follows months of escalating conflict between Israel and **Hezbollah**, the Iran-backed Lebanese armed group.

- The initiative forms part of broader US efforts to de-escalate tensions in **West Asia**, following its recent memorandum of understanding with **Iran**.

Key Features

- The framework proposes a **ceasefire**, subject to Hezbollah halting attacks on Israel and withdrawing its fighters from southern Lebanon.
- It seeks to **dismantle Hezbollah's military infrastructure** in southern Lebanon and restore the authority of the **Lebanese government** in the area.
- The United States will establish a **Military Coordination Group for Lebanon** to support implementation and has announced **US\$100 million in humanitarian assistance**.

Concern

- Hezbollah is not a party to the agreement**, raising doubts over its implementation.



Source: TH

OPERATION AMISTAD

Context

- After devastating earthquakes struck Venezuela, India launched **Operation Amistad** to support relief and rescue efforts.

About

- Amistad, meaning "Friendship" in Spanish, is India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission.
- India was among the first countries to respond, reflecting its commitment to the principle of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**—"The World is One Family." It also marks one of India's **longest-range humanitarian relief missions**.
- As part of the operation, the Indian Air Force deployed **two C-17 Globemaster aircraft** carrying a 41-member rescue team, an Indian Army Field Hospital, over 35 tonnes of relief

supplies and medical equipment, including **two BHISHM Cube portable hospitals**.

Source: AIR

RURAL INTERNAL AUDIT PORTAL

Context

- The Union Minister for Rural Development launched the '**Rural Internal Audit Portal**' during the Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan in New Delhi.

About

- Rural Internal Audit Portal** is a first-of-its-kind unified digital platform for end-to-end management of internal audits covering both risk-based and compliance audits.
- It is conceived by the Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts (CCA), Ministry of Rural Development, and developed in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Key Features

- End-to-End Digital Audit Management:** Provides full online management of the audit lifecycle, from planning through to audit execution, report preparation, approvals and record keeping.
- Action Taken Reports and Para Settlement:** It enables auditees to submit ATRs with supporting documents to facilitate digital review and settlement of audit observations.
- Centralized Audit Repository:** A secure digital store for audit records, reports, observations and compliance history for future reference and analysis.
- Role Based Governance Framework:** Secured, role specific access to Auditors, Auditees, Approving Authorities, Programme Divisions, States, Districts and Certified Internal Auditors.
- Geospatial Monitoring with Map View:** Provides map based visualization for audit coverage, audit team deployment, compliance status and for pinpointing never audited audit units.

Source: PIB

DELHI EV POLICY 2.0

Context

- The Delhi Cabinet approved the Delhi Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2.0, which comes into force from 1 July 2026, with the objective of making Delhi a pollution-free city by 31 March 2030.

About

- The Government plans to invest about **₹15,000 crore** over the next four years to promote electric mobility.
- The policy envisages **expansion of charging infrastructure, vehicle scrapping facilities** and other measures to accelerate the transition to electric mobility across the city.

Phased Transition to Electric Vehicles

- **Three-Wheelers:** From 1 January 2027 only electric autorickshaws will be registered in Delhi; registration of new petrol and CNG autorickshaws will cease.
- **Two-Wheelers:** From 1 April 2028 registration of new petrol and CNG two-wheelers will be discontinued, and only electric two-wheelers will be registered.

Financial Incentives & Subsidies

- **Road Tax & Registration:** The policy proposes **100%** road tax and registration fee waivers for Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) priced up to ₹30 lakh.
- **Hybrid Support:** Strong hybrid vehicles priced up to **Rs 30 lakh** were proposed to receive a **50 per cent waiver** on road tax and registration charges. EVs and hybrids costing above ₹30 lakh will not receive any tax exemptions.
- **Buyers of electric three-wheelers** will be eligible for incentives of ₹50,000, ₹40,000 and ₹30,000 in the first, second and third years, respectively.
- **Buyers of N1 category electric trucks** will receive a purchase incentive of up to **₹1 lakh**.
- The policy also provides a **scrapping incentive of ₹1 lakh** for owners of BS-IV four-wheelers or below standard who scrap their vehicles and switch to electric vehicles.

Source: TH

NASA ROVER DETECTS POTENTIAL SIGNS OF ANCIENT LIFE ON MARS**Context**

- In a new study in Science Advances, an international team of researchers has reported **finding organic matter on Mars**.

Mars

- Mars is the **fourth planet** from the sun and has a **distinct rusty red appearance and two unusual moons**.
 - ♦ Phobos: ~6000 km above Mars; Deimos: ~20 000 km above Mars.
- Mars also has the largest volcanoes in the solar system, **Olympus Mons** being one of them.
- **Gravity:** 3.711 m/s² (about one third of Earth's gravity)
- **Atmosphere:** The temperature on Mars ranges between **20 degrees Celsius and -153 degrees Celsius**.
 - ♦ The planet has a rocky surface with **canyons, volcanoes, dry lake beds, and craters, all covered in red dust**.
 - ♦ It has about **one-third the gravity of Earth** and the atmosphere is much thinner than Earth's, containing more than **95% carbon dioxide and less than 1% oxygen**.
- The planet turns on its axis **more slowly than Earth**, and being farther from the Sun, takes longer to revolve around the Sun.
 - ♦ A day on Mars is 24.6 hours and a year is 687 Earth days long.
- **Major Mars Missions:** Mariner 4 (NASA), Viking 1 (NASA), Mars Express (European Space Agency), **Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission) (ISRO)**, Hope Probe (Emirates Mars Mission) and current flagship rover **Perseverance**, which is collecting samples for a future Mars Sample Return mission.

Source: TH

