

Manthan HEADLINES



English

Weekly Compilation
[27th Oct - 01st Nov, 2025]





HOME

Journalists imprisoned in Belarus and Georgia win EU's top human rights award

Context:

• Two imprisoned journalists Andrzej Poczobut in Belarus and Mzia Amaghlobeli in Georgia-have won the 2025 Sakharov Prize.

Winners (2025):

• Andrzej Poczobut (Belarus) and Mzia Amaghlobeli (Georgia) - both imprisoned journalists.

About the Prize:

- Established in 1988 by the European Union.
- Named after Andrei Sakharov, Soviet dissident and Nobel Peace laureate.
- Purpose: Honours individuals or groups defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Selection Process:

• Winners are chosen by the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament, led by its president and including leaders of all political groups.

Award Details:

- Endowment: €50,000.
- Ceremony: Held annually in December at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

Notable Fact:

- Several laureates, including Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Denis Mukwege, and Nadia Murad, later received the Nobel Peace Prize.
- María Corina Machado (Venezuela) 2024 Sakharov Prize winner also won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize.







Arunachal: BRO's Project Arunank celebrates 18th Raising Day at Naharlagun

In News:

• Project Arunank of BRO celebrated its 18th Raising Day in Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh.

About Project Arunank:

- Established: 2008
- Implementing Agency: Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- Purpose: Strengthen road connectivity in remote and strategic areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

Key Achievements:

- Built 696 km of roads and 1.18 km of major bridges.
- Completed blacktopping of 278 km Hapoli-Sarli-Huri Road.
- Developed strategic routes like TCC-Maza and TCC-Taksing Roads.

Technological Innovations:

• Use of Steel Slag, Geo Cells, and GGBFS Concrete for durable, eco-friendly infrastructure.

Environmental Initiatives:

Planted 23,850 trees under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

Welfare Measures:

Improved conditions and benefits for Casual Paid Labourers.

Future Plans:

- Expand road networks, build new bridges and tunnels.
- Enhance high-altitude connectivity using advanced and sustainable technologies.

Source: ANI





Indian Air Force participates in multinational exercise Ocean Sky 2025 in Spain

Context:

• The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Ocean Sky 2025, hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base, Spain.

About the Exercise:

- A multinational air combat exercise involving Spain, Germany, Greece, Portugal, India, and the U.S.
- Aims to enhance mutual learning, interoperability, and air combat proficiency.
- Strengthens defence cooperation among participating nations.
- India is showcasing its Su-30MKI fighter jets in the exercise.

Significance:

- Promotes joint operational readiness and strategic partnerships in the Euro-Atlantic region.
- Provides exposure to advanced air combat tactics and multinational coordination.

India-Spain Defence Ties:

- In August 2025, India received the final batch of 16 Airbus C-295 transport aircraft from Spain.
- The C-295 project is India's first private sector military aircraft production venture.
- A collaboration between Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus Spain.
- A Final Assembly Line is being established in Vadodara, Gujarat, to manufacture the remaining 40 of 56 aircraft in India.

Source: ANI





Home > News

India launches MAHA-MedTech mission to boost self-reliance in Medical Technology

Context:

• ANRF, in collaboration with ICMR and the Gates Foundation, has launched the MAHA-MedTech Mission to boost innovation in medical technology.

About the Maha MedTech Mission

- Aims to accelerate innovation in India's medical technology sector.
- Provides funding support to:
 - Academic & R&D institutions
 - Hospitals
 - Startups & MSMEs
 - MedTech industry & collaborations
- Focus: Develop and commercialize impactful MedTech solutions.
- Goal: Reduce import dependence and ensure affordable, high-quality healthcare technologies for all.

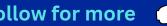
India's MedTech Sector

- A fast-growing "sunrise" industry, valued at USD 11-14 billion, projected to reach USD 30-50 billion by 2030.
- 4th largest medical devices market in Asia (after Japan, China, South Korea).

Recent Government Initiatives

- PLI Scheme for Medical Devices (2020)
- PRIP Scheme (2023) Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech.
- National Medical Device Policy (2023)
- Medical Device Parks for cost-efficient manufacturing and R&D.

Source: PIB









Home / Companies / News

Supreme Court allows Centre to reconsider Vodafone Idea's AGR dues issue

In News

 The Supreme Court has permitted the Union Government to review and reconsider additional AGR dues against Vodafone Idea (Vi), which is under financial stress.

About AGR

- Meaning: AGR refers to the usage and licensing fee telecom operators pay to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- Purpose: It determines the share of revenue that telecom companies must pay to the government.

Background

- Origin: Concept introduced under the National Telecom Policy, 1999.
- Shift in Model: India moved from a fixed license fee system to a revenue-sharing model.
- Revenue Sharing: Telecom operators agreed to share a percentage of AGR as
 - Licence Fees, and
 - Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) with the government.

Source: TOI





National Biodiversity Authority released ₹55 Lakh to Farmers of Red Sanders in Tamil Nadu

In News

• The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) released ₹55 lakh to 18 farmers cultivating Red Sanders under India's Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework.

About Red Sanders

- Common Name: Red Sandalwood
- Type: Medium-sized tree (10-15 m tall) found in dry deciduous forests.
- Uses: Valued hardwood used for furniture, instruments, carvings, and tools.

Habitat & Distribution

- Endemic to: Eastern Ghats, mainly in Andhra Pradesh.
- Also cultivated in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha, and other states.

Significance

Holds ecological, economic, and cultural importance.

Protection Status

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Protected species.
- CITES: Trade strictly regulated.
- IUCN Red List: Classified as Endangered.

Source: PIB





Stay Tuned!