

Manthan HEADLINES



English

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



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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.



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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





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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



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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



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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.



Stay Tuned!