



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

12th Sep. - 18th Sep., 2025

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RRB, SSC, Banking &
State Services Exams**

Sushila Karki

Former Chief Justice appointed as the
Interim **Prime Minister** of Nepal



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12th SEPTEMBER 2025

Sushila Karki

- **Context:** Nepal President Ram Chandra Poudel appointed former Chief Justice Sushila Karki as the country's first woman Prime Minister.

Key Facts

- Nepal President dissolved Parliament announcing fresh elections for March 5, 2026.
- This decision followed intense Gen Z-led protests that ousted Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, triggered by corruption, misrule, and a controversial social media ban.
- Chief Justice Sushila Karki's appointment, backed by protesters, came after extended consultations involving legal experts, political leaders, and the Army.



India-Nepal Relations

- Nepal shares a border with 5 Indian states of Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- The age-old civilizational and cultural ties that exist between India and Nepal are exemplified by the strong people to people link between both the countries.
- Nepal is a priority partner of India under its 'Neighbourhood First' Policy.
- India and Nepal have long-standing and extensive mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of defence and security.
- Both nation's armies share excellent and harmonious relationships based on mutual trust and respect.
- The strong relations between both the armies have been further cemented via the Gorkha Regiment.
- India's development partnership with Nepal includes extensive human resource cooperation, offering over 1,500 scholarships annually for studies in diverse fields such as medicine, engineering, agriculture, and traditional arts.

- India is Nepal's largest trade and investment partner, accounting for 33.5% of Nepal's total FDI (USD 670 million) and 64.1% of its overall trade (USD 8.85 billion in FY 2022–23).
- Nepal ranks as India's 17th largest export destination, with Indian exports totaling USD 8.015 billion and Nepalese exports to India at USD 839.62 million.
- India receives 67.9% of Nepal's exports, mainly edible oil, coffee, tea, and jute, while Nepal imports petroleum products, iron and steel, cereals, vehicles, and machinery from India.
- India also imports surplus electricity from Nepal.

48th Annual Conference on Oceans Law and Policy (COLP48)

- **Context:** The 48th Annual Conference on Oceans Law and Policy (COLP48) was held under the theme "Developing World Approaches to Ocean Governance: Perspectives from the Indian Ocean Rim".

About COLP48

- This is the first time in the nearly five-decade history of COLP that the conference was hosted in the Indian subcontinent.
- The conference was organised by the Stockton Center for International Law, U.S. Naval War College and the Gujarat Maritime University, with support from the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- This conference is traditionally organized by the Center for Oceans Law and Policy at the University of Virginia School of Law (USA).
- It aims to promote dialogue on legal and policy issues related to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), maritime boundaries, freedom of navigation, and sustainable use of marine resources.
- **Participants:** Government officials, representatives from international organizations (like IMO, ISA, ITLOS), naval/maritime experts, energy and shipping industry leaders, and scholars.

About Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

- The Indian Ocean covers approximately one-fifth of the total ocean area of the world.
- The Indian Ocean is bounded by Iran, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh to the north; the Malay Peninsula, the Sunda Islands of Indonesia, and Australia to the east; the Southern Ocean to the south; and Africa and the Arabian Peninsula to the west.
- The Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean, linking the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.
- The region carries nearly 50% of global container traffic and 80% of seaborne oil trade. It is a hub of blue economy activities: shipping, fisheries, seabed mining, and tourism.
- The IOR is the lifeline of global energy flows: oil and gas from West Asia transit to East Asia via its sea lanes. Countries like India, China, Japan, and South Korea are energy-import dependent, making stability of the IOR vital.

SSLV Technology

- **Context:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a formal agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. for the transfer of technology for production of small satellite launch vehicles (SSLV).

Key Highlights:

- It marks a significant step in industry participation in the space sector.
- It is the 100th transfer of technology agreement facilitated by the space sector promoter INSPACe.
- ISRO will complete the entire technology transfer process within 24 months from the date of signing the agreement.
- During this period, the ISRO will provide training and technical support to the HAL for acquiring the know-how of the SSLV.
- The agreement would allow the HAL to independently build the SSLV for both domestic and international markets.

About Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV)

- The SSLV is a three-stage all-solid vehicle designed to launch satellites weighing up to 500 kg into Lower Earth Orbit (LEO).
- SSLV was developed by ISRO as a quick turnaround, on-demand launch vehicle that is amenable to industrial production and is targeted to cater to the global small satellite launch vehicle market.

'Never Alone': AI-Based Mental Health Programme

- **Context:** All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), launched an AI-based mental health and wellness program called "Never Alone" to tackle student suicides and improve mental health awareness.

About 'Never Alone' Programme

- It was launched on World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September).
- It offers 24/7 virtual and offline consultations with mental health experts through a web-based app accessible via WhatsApp.
- The program aims to minimise stigma surrounding suicide and increase awareness among students.
- The app provides personalised and secure mental health screening for just 70 paise per student per day for institutions with 5 thousand students.
- As per the data of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in 2022, over 1.7 lakh people died by suicide in India, with young adults aged 18-30 years accounting for 35 percent of all suicides.

13th SEPTEMBER 2025

New York Declaration

- **Context:** India has voted in favour of a resolution in the UN General Assembly that endorses the 'New York Declaration' on the peaceful settlement of the Palestine issue and implementation of the two-state solution.

Key Highlights

- The resolution was introduced by France and was adopted with an overwhelming 142 nations voting in favour, 10 against and 12 abstentions. Those voting against included Argentina, Hungary, Israel and the United States.
- In the declaration, the leaders agreed to take collective action to end the war in Gaza, to achieve a just, peaceful and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- The resolution is based on the effective implementation of the two-state solution, and to build a better future for Palestinians, Israelis and all peoples of the region.

India's Stand on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

- India was the first non-Arab country to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1974.
- In 1988, India was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Palestine. India consistently voted in favour of Palestinian resolutions at the UN.
- India supports a two-state solution – peaceful coexistence of Israel and Palestine within secure and recognized borders.
- India advocates East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine (based on UN resolutions). It strongly supports Palestine's membership in international organizations (e.g., UNESCO, UNGA observer state status in 2012).
- Prime Minister Modi paid a historic visit to Palestine in 2018, the first for an Indian Prime Minister.
- India has provided various forms of developmental cooperation assistance to Palestine over the years amounting to approximately US\$ 141 million.
- India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Fund has also funded four projects in Palestine worth US\$ 5 million.

AdFalcivax

- **Context:** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has granted non-exclusive rights for its multi-stage malaria vaccine, AdFalcivax, to five pharmaceutical companies.

Key Facts

- AdFalcivax is India's first indigenous multi-stage malaria recombinant vaccine developed by the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), under the ICMR.
- The vaccine is designed to prevent Plasmodium falciparum infection in individuals and reduce community transmission.
- Plasmodium falciparum is the deadliest malaria parasite, difficult to control and responsible for widespread devastation.
- AdFalcivax targets the parasite before it enters the bloodstream, stopping the infection at the transmission stage.
- The vaccine uses Lactococcus lactis, a genetically engineered food-grade bacterial host, as its core technology.



Sébastien Lecornu

- **Context:** President Emmanuel Macron named close ally Sébastien Lecornu as the new French Prime Minister, a day after a confidence vote in parliament removed François Bayrou from the post.

Key Facts

- France operates under the Constitution of the Fifth Republic, drafted in 1958. It establishes a semi-presidential system, with power shared between the directly elected President and the appointed Prime Minister.
- France has a bicameral legislature, consisting of:
 - National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale), the directly elected lower house, with members (deputies) chosen through a two-round electoral system for five years. It holds primary law-making power and can bring down the government through no-confidence motions.



- Senate (Sénat), the upper house, indirectly elected by local officials. It reviews legislation but does not control the government.
- The President of France has the power to appoint the Prime Minister. However, even though the President chooses the PM, the PM must have support in the National Assembly (the lower house of Parliament).
- If the President's party has a majority, he/she usually appoints a PM from his own party.
- If the opposition controls the Assembly, the President must appoint a PM from that group (this is called cohabitation).
- The National Assembly can remove the PM through a vote of no-confidence. If this happens, the PM must resign.
- The PM does not have a fixed term. He continues in office as long as he has both the President's support and the confidence of the National Assembly.

Albania becomes first nation to appoint an AI-generated Minister

- **Context:** Albania has become the first nation to appoint an AI-generated "minister" tasked with tackling corruption.

Key Facts

- Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama announced the digital minister to his cabinet.
- The digital assistant is named 'Diella' meaning 'Sun' and has been given responsibility of taking all decisions related to the public tenders, making them 100% corruption-free.
- The AI minister will also have the right to assess tenders and hire talents from across the world.
- Diella was initially introduced in January as an AI-powered digital assistant, designed to resemble a woman dressed in traditional Albanian attire.
- It was meant to help citizens navigate the official e-Albania platform, which offers access to documents and services.

- Public tenders in Albania have historically been at the centre of corruption scandals. The country has become a hub for international criminal networks laundering profits from drug and arms trafficking, with corruption reportedly reaching into senior levels of government.

About Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- It refers to the hypothetical intelligence of a machine that possesses the ability to understand or learn any intellectual task that a human being can.
- It is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that aims to mimic the cognitive abilities of the human brain.
- Artificial intelligence allows machines to model, or even improve upon, the capabilities of the human mind.

14th SEPTEMBER 2025

PM Modi's Manipur Visit

- **Context:** The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects in Imphal, Manipur.

Key Highlights

- **Infrastructure and Connectivity:**
 - Launch of the Manipur Urban Roads Project with an investment of over ₹3,600 crore to boost road connectivity and improve urban infrastructure in Imphal.
 - The Jiribam-Imphal railway line, worth ₹22,000 crore, will soon connect Imphal to the national rail network.
 - Imphal Airport has been expanded with ₹400 crore investment, and helicopter services inaugurated to enhance air connectivity.
 - Civil Secretariat building (worth ₹538 crore) and Police Headquarters (₹101 crore) inaugurated to improve governance.
- **Digital and IT Initiatives:**
 - Manipur Infotech Development Project aiming to boost IT and startup ecosystem in the state.

- **Women Empowerment:**

- Inauguration of four new Ima Markets (women-only markets) reinforcing Manipur's women-led economy tradition.
- Construction of working women's hostels at nine locations to empower women and support education and employment.

- **Sports and Culture:**

- Support for National Sports University and Khelo India initiatives.
- Promotion of polo through the Marjing Polo Complex, which includes the world's tallest polo statue.

Background

- An ethnic conflict broke out in May 2023, between the Meitei people who dominate the Imphal valley and the Kuki-Zo people who dominate the surrounding hills. The violence has claimed above 250 lives and displaced over 60,000 people.
- The conflict originated from the Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, which the Kukis opposed. By getting ST status, the Meiteis want to;
 - Access to constitutional safeguards such as reservations in jobs, education, and political representation.
 - Rights to purchase land in the hill areas, which are currently reserved for tribal communities (mainly Kuki-Zo and Naga groups).
- A political crisis erupted in the State after the resignation of the Chief Minister and the subsequent imposition of President's Rule.

Exercise Siyom Prahar

- **Context:** The Indian Army successfully concluded Exercise Siyom Prahar in Arunachal Pradesh, validating drone technology's role in modern warfare.

Key Highlights

- The central focus of the exercise was the development and validation of new Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for future battlefields. These included methods of fusing drone-derived intelligence with

conventional firepower, refining joint targeting processes and ensuring rapid decision-making in dynamic combat environments.

- The outcomes of the exercise are expected to provide lessons for operational integration, employment concepts and force multiplication.

INS Aravali

- **Context:** The Indian Navy commissioned INS Aravali at the commissioning ceremony in Gurugram in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

About INS Aravali

- It was named after the Aravali Range and would serve as a hub of technology and collaboration, linking platforms and partners across oceans.
- Its motto is "Maritime Security through Collaboration," and it aims to strengthen the Navy's operational readiness and maritime security.
- It will enhance information and communication capabilities.
- It embodies the Prime Minister's vision of MAHASAGAR — Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.
- It strengthens India's role as the Preferred Security Partner in the Indian Ocean Region.

15th SEPTEMBER 2025

First Bamboo-based Bio-refinery

- **Context:** Prime Minister Modi inaugurated India's first bamboo-based bio-refinery at Golaghat district in Assam.

Key Facts

- Five lakh tonnes of green bamboo would be sourced annually from four northeastern States, including Arunachal Pradesh and Assam to produce ethanol, acetic acid, furfural, and food-grade liquid carbon dioxide.
- The bioethanol plant is expected to give a ₹200-crore boost to Assam's rural economy.

About Biorefinery

- A biorefinery is an industrial facility that converts biomass (plant material, agricultural residues, forestry waste, algae, organic waste, etc.) into a wide range of value-added products such as:
 - Biofuels (ethanol, biodiesel, biogas, biohydrogen);
 - Biochemicals (organic acids, solvents, bioplastics, enzymes);
 - Biomaterials (fibers, bio-composites, biodegradable plastics);
 - Bioenergy (electricity, heat, syngas).
- A biorefinery is like a green alternative to an oil refinery, converting renewable biomass into fuels, energy, and chemicals in an efficient, sustainable, and eco-friendly way.

2025 World Boxing Championships

- **Context:** Jaismine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda have won gold at the World Boxing Championships 2025 held in Liverpool, UK.

Key Highlights

- The event was hosted at M&S Bank Arena, Liverpool, UK, and brought over 550 boxers from more than 65 countries across all continents.
- The 2025 edition was historic, as it combined both men's and women's events under World Boxing, the new global boxing federation, for the first time at the elite level.
- Kazakhstan topped the medal table with 7 gold, ahead of Uzbekistan and India.

Pink Tax

- **Context:** As per International Finance Students Association's (IFSA) research 'The Gender Tax: Assessing the Economic Toll on Women,' almost 67% of Indian individuals have never heard of the Pink Tax.

About Pink Tax

- Pink tax is neither a real tax, nor is it a government-imposed fee.

- It's just a pricing phenomenon wherein women pay more for buying a product exclusively made for them or enjoying a service tailor-made for them. Pink toys, haircuts, dry-cleaning, razors, shampoos, body lotions, deodorants, facial care, skincare items, beauty care, clothing, T-shirts, jeans, salon services etc. suffer the tax.
- The term "Pink Tax" is believed to have originated in California, the U.S. in 1994.
- While there are no specific laws in India to address the issue of Pink Tax, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission ruled that companies must follow fair pricing policies and avoid gender-based price discrimination.
- In July 2018, the Union Government exempted sanitary napkins and tampons from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Prior to this rule, these hygiene items were levied 12% GST.

16th SEPTEMBER 2025

Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025

- **Context:** The Supreme Court has upheld the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 while striking down few provisions and balancing state regulation with minority rights.

Key Amendments of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025

- **Composition of the Central Waqf Council:** The Union Minister in-charge of waqf is the ex-officio chairperson.
- **Council members include:**
 - Members of Parliament (MPs).
 - Persons of national eminence.
 - Retired Supreme Court/High Court judges.
 - Eminent scholars in Muslim law.
 - Removes the Muslim requirement for MPs, former judges, and eminent persons.
- It mandates two non-Muslim members in the Council.

- **Composition of Waqf Boards:**
 - Empowers state governments to nominate one person from each group.
 - Non-Muslim members required: two.
 - Must include at least one member each from Shias, Sunnis, and Backward Muslim classes.
 - Requires two Muslim women members.
- **Composition of Tribunals:**
 - Removes the expert in Muslim law.
 - District Court judge (Chairman).
 - Joint Secretary rank officer.
- **Appeals Against Tribunal Orders:**
 - **Act:** Decisions of Tribunals are final, with no appeals allowed in courts.
 - **Amendment:** Allows appeals against Tribunal decisions to the High Court within 90 days.
- The Act replaces the Survey Commissioner with the District Collector or other senior officers to oversee the survey of Waqf properties.
- It states that any government property identified as waqf will cease to be so.
- Waqf institutions earning over 1 lakh will undergo audits by state-sponsored auditors.
- A centralized portal will be created for automating Waqf property management, enhancing efficiency and transparency.
- Practicing Muslims (for at least five years) can dedicate property to the Waqf, restoring pre-2013 rules.
- Women must receive inheritance before the Waqf declaration, with special provisions for widows, divorced women, and orphans.

About Waqf

- Waqf refers to properties dedicated solely for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law. In this, sale or other use of the property is prohibited. The ownership of the property is transferred from the person making the Waqf (called waqif) to Allah, making it irrevocable.

The creator is a wakif, and the property is managed by a mutawalli.

- Traces back to the Delhi Sultanate when Sultan Muizuddin Sam Ghaor dedicated villages to the Jama Masjid of Multan.
- The Mussalman Waqf Validating Act of 1913 protected the institution of Waqf in India.

National Makhana Board

- **Context:** PM Modi launched the National Makhana Board in Purnea, Bihar, approving a development package of about ₹475 crore for the makhana sector.

About Makhana

- Makhana (*Euryale ferox*), also known as fox nut, is an aquatic crop cultivated in stagnant ponds and wetlands.
- This plant is found in freshwater ponds throughout South and East Asia.
- The edible part of the Makhana plant consists of small, round seeds that have an outer layer ranging from black to brown.
- This has led to it being referred to as the 'Black Diamond.'
- For optimal growth and development, Makhana requires a temperature range of 20-35°C, relative humidity of 50-90%, and annual rainfall between 100-250 cm.
- In India, Bihar produces about 90% of the country's makhana, particularly the regions of Mithilanchal and Seemanchal.
- In smaller quantities it is cultivated in the states of Assam, Manipur, West Bengal, Tripura, and Odisha, as well as in neighboring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Japan, and Korea.
- In 2022, 'Mithila Makhana' was conferred a Geographical Indication tag.



Androth

- **Context:** The Indian Navy has received 'Androth' an indigenously built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC).

About The ASW-SWC

- Named after Androth island (the largest island of the Lakshadweep archipelago), the warship is the second of eight ASW-SWCs being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- Constructed in line with the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) classification rules, the project — with over 80% indigenous content — embodies the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

First India-Iran-Uzbekistan Trilateral Meeting

- **Context:** The first India-Iran-Uzbekistan trilateral meeting was held in Tehran focusing on enhancing cooperation against extremism and terrorism and promoting the use of Chabahar Port by Uzbekistan for trade with India.

Key Facts

- They also emphasized deeper connectivity via the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).
- India-Iran-Armenia also held a trilateral focusing on INSTC and Chabahar use. Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have shown interest in using Chabahar, while India is pursuing an early harvest FTA with the Eurasian Economic Union to boost trade and access rare earth minerals from the region.

About Chabahar Port

- Chabahar is a deep-water port in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province. It is the Iranian port that is the closest to India, and is located in the open sea, providing easy and secure access for large cargo ships.
- The port is also part of the proposed International North-South Transport Corridor.

The International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which was initiated by Russia, India, and Iran, is a multi-modal transportation project linking the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and onward to northern Europe via St. Petersburg in Russia.

17th SEPTEMBER 2025

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- **Context:** On 17 September 2025, the PM Vishwakarma Scheme completed two years.

Key Highlights

- It is a Central Sector Scheme that provides end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools. The Scheme covers artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 trades.
- **Key Benefits:**
 - Recognition of artisans and craftspeople through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.
 - Skill Upgradation: Basic Training of 5-7 days and Advanced Training of 15 days or more, with a stipend of ₹500 per day.
 - **Credit Support:** Collateral free 'Enterprise Development Loans' of upto ₹3 lakh in two tranches of ₹1 lakh and ₹2 lakh with tenures of 18 months and 30 months, respectively, at a concessional rate of interest fixed at 5%, with Government of India subvention to the extent of 8%.
 - Marketing Support in the form of quality certification, branding, onboarding on e-commerce platforms such as GeM, advertising, publicity and other marketing activities to improve linkage to value chain.

Sarnath

- **Context:** India officially nominated Sarnath for the UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2025-26 cycle.

Key Facts

- It is situated near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. One of the four major Buddhist pilgrimage sites (others: Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Kushinagar).

- **Historical Importance:**

- After attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath (around 528 BCE).
- This event is called “Dhammachakrapravartana” or “Turning of the Wheel of Dharma”.
- It marked the beginning of the Buddhist Sangha (community of monks).

- **Monuments and Structures:**

- **Dhamek Stupa** – built by Ashoka, commemorates the Buddha’s first sermon.
- **Chaukhandi Stupa** – marks the spot where Buddha met his first disciples.
- **Ashokan Pillar** – erected by Emperor Ashoka; its lion capital is now the National Emblem of India.
- **Monasteries and remains** – ruins of ancient viharas, temples, and sculptures.

- Emperor Ashoka visited Sarnath in 3rd century BCE. He built stupas, monasteries, and inscribed edicts promoting Dharma.

Chhath Mahaparva

- **Context:** India is exploring a multinational nomination of ‘Chhath’ for inscription in UNESCO’s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



About Chhath

- Chhath Mahaparva, dedicated to the Sun God and Goddess Chhathi Maiya, is among India’s oldest festivals.

- It is celebrated extensively in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and by diaspora communities in Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, UAE, and the Netherlands.
- The four-day festival, known for its ecological and egalitarian ethos, fosters reverence for nature, sustainability, inclusivity, and community spirit.

UNESCO Intangible Heritages in India

- India already has 15 elements inscribed (e.g., Yoga, Kumbh Mela, Durga Puja).
- Sangeet Natak Akademi coordinates India’s nominations.
- For inclusion, state parties must submit a nomination dossier under the 2003 UNESCO Convention.
- Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Includes song, music, drama, skills, crafts, and the other parts of culture that can be recorded but cannot be touched.

18th SEPTEMBER 2025

Global Innovation Index (GII), 2025

- **Context:** The 18th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, was released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation’s (WIPO).

Key Highlights

- R&D growth fell to 2.9% in 2024, a slowdown from the 4.4% increase in the year prior and the lowest growth since the financial crisis of 2010. Growth is projected by WIPO to slow further in 2025 (2.3%).
- Switzerland remains the world’s top innovation leader for the 15th consecutive year, followed by Sweden, the United States, South Korea, and Singapore in the top five ranks.
- China, for the first time, enters the top 10, ranked 10th globally, leading among middle-income economies.
- India has made a steady climb from 48th in 2020 to 38th in 2025, and importantly, holds the #1 spot among lower-middle-income economies and in the Central and Southern Asia region.

- India performs best in Knowledge and Technology Outputs (22nd) and Market Sophistication (38th), while its weakest rankings are in Business Sophistication (64th), Infrastructure (61st), and Institutions (58th).
- India stands out for its ICT services exports, a vibrant VC landscape, late-stage VC and startup financing, unicorns and intangible assets – reflecting tech-driven growth.

About 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.
 - 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.
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- GII established in 2007, it is published annually and provides performance metrics and ranks around 140 economies on their innovation ecosystems

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)

- **Context:** The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) faces strong opposition from environmental activists.

About East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP)

- It is a 1,443 km oil pipeline that will transport oil produced from Uganda's Lake Albert oil fields to the port of Tanga in Tanzania where the oil will then be sold onwards to world markets.
- It is backed by Total Energies, China's CNOOC, and the governments of Uganda and Tanzania.
- The pipeline cuts through 44 protected areas and 7 key biodiversity zones, endangering species and local livelihoods.
- The project will emit over 34 million tons of CO₂ annually, threatening global climate goals and local ecosystems.

