



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

07th Nov. - 13th Nov., 2025

★★ Useful for ★★

**UPSC ESE, PSUs,
RRB, SSC, Banking &
State Services Exams**

Booker Prize, 2025

Hungarian-British writer **David Szalay** won the prestigious award for his novel **Flesh**.



7th NOVEMBER 2025

150 Years of Vande Mataram

- **Context:** India commemorates the 150th anniversary of its National Song, Vande Mataram, a powerful symbol of unity, sacrifice, and patriotism.

Historical Background

- Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, 'Vande Mataram' was first published in the literary journal Bangadarshan on 7 November 1875.
- Later, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee incorporated the hymn in his immortal novel 'Anandamath' which was published in 1882.
- First sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Congress session, it gained prominence during the 1905 Swadeshi and anti-partition movements, with initiatives like the Bande Mataram Sampradaya in Calcutta and massive processions in Barisal.
- In 1907, Madam Bhikaji Cama raised the tricolour flag for the first-time outside India in Stuttgart, Berlin. The words Vande Mataram were written on the flag.
- On 24 January 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, addressing the Constituent Assembly, affirmed the unanimous decision to adopt Rabindranath Tagore's Jana Gana Mana as India's National Anthem and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's Vande Mataram as the National Song, granting both equal status.

About Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838–1894), the author of Vande Mataram, was one of the most prominent figures of 19th century Bengal.
- He holds a pivotal role in the intellectual and literary history of Bengal during the nineteenth century.
- As a distinguished novelist, poet, and essayist, his contributions significantly influenced the development of modern Bengali prose and the articulation of an emerging Indian nationalism.
- His notable works, including Anandamath (1882), Durgeshnandini (1865), Kapalkundala (1866), and

Devi Chaudhurani (1884), reflect the social, cultural, and moral concerns of a colonised society striving for self-identity.

Abraham Accords

- **Context:** The US President confirmed Kazakhstan has formally joined the Abraham Accords.



About Abraham Accords

- The Abraham Accords refers to a series of normalisation agreements signed in 2020 between Israel and several Arab countries, brokered by the United States under the Trump administration.
- For decades, most Arab nations refused to recognise Israel until the Palestinian issue was resolved.
- The Abraham Accords marked a major shift in Middle East diplomacy by establishing open relations between Israel and certain Arab states without prior resolution of the Israel–Palestine conflict.
- UAE became the first Gulf country to normalise relations with Israel in 2020 as part of the Abraham Accords.
- Countries: Israel, UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco and Kazakhstan.

Significance

- Marked a breakthrough in Arab–Israeli relations after decades of hostility.
- Reduced Israel's regional isolation and expanded its diplomatic presence in the Arab world.
- Strengthened U.S. strategic influence in the Middle East.
- Created new economic and technological partnerships across the region.

INS Ikshak

- **Context:** The Indian Navy has commissioned INS Ikshak, the third vessel of the Survey Vessel Large class, into active service during a ceremony held at the Naval Base in Kochi.



About INS Ikshak

- **Meaning:** Ikshak means “Guide” in Sanskrit — symbolizing its role in hydrographic precision.
- **Built by:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- **Indigenous Content:** Over 80%, showcasing India’s Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and MSME collaboration.
- **Purpose:**
 - Conducts coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, and sea routes.
 - Supports coastal defence, disaster relief, and medical missions.

8th NOVEMBER 2025

India’s GST Collections

- **Context:** In October 2025, India’s GST collections rose to ₹1.95 lakh crore, a 4.6% increase over the previous year, driven partly by Diwali-related spending.

About Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- The GST refers to India’s indirect tax regime, introduced in 2017.
- It is a destination-based tax on the consumption of goods and services.

- It is levied at every stage of production and distribution, but tax is charged only on the value added at each stage, with credits available for taxes paid earlier.
- Ultimately, the final consumer bears the tax, and revenue goes to the authority where the goods or services are consumed (place of supply).

Benefits

- The introduction of GST marks a major indirect tax reform in India by unifying multiple Central and State taxes into a single system, reducing tax cascading and fostering a common national market.
- It lowers the overall tax burden on goods, enhances competitiveness of Indian products both domestically and globally.
- It is expected to boost economic growth and it may increase revenues for both Centre and States through a broader tax base, higher trade volumes, and better compliance.
- Its transparency also simplifies administration.

Issues

- **Revenue Shortfalls:** According to PRS Legislative Research, GST revenues remain below pre-GST levels, with the GST-to-GDP ratio falling from 6.5% in 2015-16 to 5.5% in 2023-24.
- **State-Level Disparities:** Industrial and service-driven states — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Haryana — accounted for over 40% of the total revenue.
 - However, 20 states and UTs saw a contraction in GST receipts.
 - While most states experienced declines, five northeastern states — Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Manipur — improved their tax-to-GSDP ratios, whereas Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha saw the steepest drops.
- **Complex Rate Structure:** Despite slab rationalisation, classification disputes and high rates on select goods persist.
- **Post-Compensation Challenges:** The end of GST compensation has reignited concerns over fiscal autonomy for states.

India's First Indigenous CAR-T Cell Therapy

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched NexCAR19 for cancer care.

About NexCAR19

- NexCAR19 is India's first indigenous CAR T-cell therapy, developed collaboratively by ImmunoACT (incubated under IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital), with support from DBT and BIRAC.
- CAR (Chimeric Antigen Receptor) T-cell therapy works by genetically modifying a patient's T-cells — a type of white blood cell with cytotoxic functions — into CAR T-cells that can specifically target and destroy cancer cells.
- NexCAR19 is designed for treating B-cell blood cancers, particularly leukemia and lymphoma, especially in patients whose cancer has relapsed or not responded to first-line therapies.
- NexCAR19 marks India's entry into the global league of advanced cell and gene therapy innovators, reinforcing its commitment to affordable, cutting-edge healthcare and biotech self-reliance.

9th NOVEMBER 2025

Ayni Airbase, Tajikistan

- **Context:** India has shut down its operations at the Ayni airbase in Tajikistan, a key overseas facility that had provided its strategic influence in Central Asia.

About Ayni Airbase

- The airbase, originally built during the Soviet era, was in poor condition following the split of the Soviet Union.
- India invested around \$80 million since 2002 to upgrade it with a 3,200-metre runway, hangars, fuel depots, and air traffic control, largely executed by the Border Roads Organisation.
- It is situated in Tajikistan around 20 km from Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor, which shares a boundary with the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and with China's Xinjiang province.

- Ayni was India's only full-fledged overseas base, and its location offered India a military foothold in central Asia and leverage over Pakistan. It also facilitated evacuation operations after the Taliban's return in 2021.
- It served as a strategic Indian military outpost and initially used during India's support to the Northern Alliance against the Taliban.
- At its peak, around 200 Indian personnel and Sukhoi-30 MKI jets were stationed there.
- Its presence projected influence in the region dominated by major powers like Russia and China.

Reasons Behind Recent Withdrawal

- India withdrew from the Ayni airbase in Tajikistan in 2022 after its bilateral agreement for rehabilitation and development of the facility concluded.
- The Tajik government reportedly declined to renew the lease due to pressure from Russia and China.
- The withdrawal was carried out quietly and only came to light recently.
- Its loss is seen as a setback for India's long-term strategic influence and regional security posture, especially given the significant investments made over two decades.

Global Peace Prayer Festival

- **Context:** The Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF) was inaugurated at Thimphu, by the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Key Facts

- The 16-day festival is a global initiative dedicated to prayers for world peace and healing of humanity amid ongoing global conflicts.
- This was the first-ever Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF) where religious leaders and scholars from three main branches of Buddhism — Mahayana, Theravada, and Vajrayana were present.
- One of the key events of the festival is Jabzhi, a profound Vajrayana Buddhist ritual believed to cleanse negative karma and dispel destructive forces.

- In a spiritual gesture, the Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha, enshrined at the National Museum in New Delhi, arrived in Thimphu as a “goodwill gift” from India for GPP.
- The Global Peace Prayer Festival stands as a universal call for peace on earth, celebrating Bhutan’s unique spiritual heritage and reaffirming the shared Buddhist values that have long guided India–Bhutan relations.

10th NOVEMBER 2025

Booker Prize, 2025

- **Context:** David Szalay won this year’s Booker Prize for fiction for his novel ‘Flesh,’ is the first Hungarian-British author to win the Booker Prize.

About Booker Prize

- The Booker Prize, is a prestigious literary award conferred each year for the best single work of sustained fiction written in the English language, which was published in the United Kingdom and/or Ireland.
- It was first awarded in 1969 to promote reading and literature.
 - The inaugural Booker Prize was awarded to PH Newby for Something to Answer For.
- The Booker Prize Foundation has an in-house team who select a multicultural group of creative artistes, experts and critics.
- Several Indian writers as well as writers of Indian-origin have won the Prize. These include VS Naipaul in 1971 for In A Free State, Salman Rushdie for Midnight’s Children in 1981, Arundhati Roy for The God of Small Things (1997), Kiran Desai for The Inheritance of Loss (2006), Aravind Adiga for The White Tiger (2008).



About International Booker Prize

- This prize is awarded annually to the best works of long-form fiction or collections of short stories,

translated into English and published in the United Kingdom (UK) or Ireland.

- It was established in 2005.
- In 2022 Geetanjali Shree for her Hindi novel, Tomb of Sand received the prize.
- In 2025, Banu Mushtaq and Deepa Bhashti won it for the translated anthology of Mushtaq’s short stories from Kannada into English, Heart Lamp.

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Report

- **Context:** The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was conducted by the Labour Bureau for the July-September 2025 quarter.

Key Highlights

- **Unemployment Rate:** Overall it dropped to 5.2% in July-September, 2025 from 5.4% in the previous quarter.
 - **Rural:** It declined to 4.4% during the period from 4.8%.
 - **Urban:** Increased from 6.1% to 6.2% for males, and from 8.9% to 9.0% for females.
- **Employment Pattern:**
 - **Rural areas:** Dominated by self-employment – increased to 62.8% (from 60.7%). Majority engaged in the agriculture sector – 57.7% (up from 53.5%), due to seasonal operations.
 - **Urban areas:** Regular wage/salaried employment rose slightly to 49.8% (from 49.4%). The workforce was concentrated in the tertiary sector – 62.0% (up from 61.7%).
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):**
 - **Overall LFPR:** 55.1% (steady from 55.0% last quarter).
 - **Rural LFPR:** 57.2% (up from 57.1%).
 - **Urban LFPR:** 50.7% (up from 50.6%).
 - **Female LFPR:** Increased to 33.7% (from 33.4%).
 - **Rural female LFPR:** 37.5% (up from 37.0%).
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** For persons of age 15 years and above in the country during the quarter was 52.2%.
 - In rural areas, WPR was 54.7% as compared to WPR of 47.2% recorded in urban areas for the same quarter.

11th NOVEMBER 2025

PM Modi's visit to Bhutan

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bhutan strengthened the special ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.



Key Highlights

- Inauguration of 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project constructed under a bilateral agreement between both Nations.

Announcements:

- Understanding on the resumption of work on the main dam structure of 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project.
- Grant of land in Varanasi for building a Bhutanese Temple/Monastery and Guest House.
- Decision to establish an Immigration Check Post in Hatisar across Gelephu.
- INR 4000 crore Line of Credit (LoC) to Bhutan.

MOUs Signed:

- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy.
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.
- MoU between PEMA Secretariat, Bhutan and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) India on Building Institutional Linkage.

India-Bhutan Relations

- Diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan were established in 1968.
 - The basic framework of India-Bhutan relations has been the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949.
 - The treaty was revised in 2007 giving Bhutan more autonomy while reaffirming mutual respect for sovereignty and close cooperation.
 - In 2024, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was conferred the Order of the Druk Gyalpo, Bhutan's highest civilian decoration, the first foreign leader to be given the award.
- **Developmental Partnership:** India remains Bhutan's foremost development partner, supporting its national priorities since its 1st Five-Year Plan (1971).
 - **Annual Plan Talks (Bilateral Development Cooperation Talks):** Institutionalised mechanism for deciding priorities and modalities of assistance.
 - **Sectors Covered:** Roads, infrastructure, digital connectivity, hydropower, agriculture, education, health, HR development, urban development, etc.
- **Trade Relations:** India has consistently been Bhutan's top trading partner- both as an import source and as an export destination.
 - Since 2014, India's trade with Bhutan has more than tripled — from USD 484 million in 2014-15 to USD 1,777.44 million in 2024-25, accounting for over 80% of Bhutan's overall trade.
 - 2016 India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit, establishes a free trade regime between the two countries and also provides Bhutan duty free transit of goods to/from third countries.
- **Energy Cooperation (Hydropower and Renewables):** India has constructed 4 major HEPs in Bhutan: Chukha (336 MW), Kurichhu (60 MW), Tala (1020 MW), Mangdechhu (720 MW).
 - **Currently, there are two HEPs under construction:** 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-I HEP and 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II HEP.

- **Space Cooperation:** South Asia Satellite Ground Station inaugurated in 2019 by both Nations.
 - The two sides collaborated on the India-Bhutan SAT, the first satellite jointly developed by India and Bhutan, launched in 2022.
 - Both sides signed a Joint Plan of Action on Space Cooperation in 2024.
- **Fin-Tech:** RuPay Card: Launched in two phases (2019 and 2020) for full interoperability.
 - In 2021, India's Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) application was launched in Bhutan with the objective of promoting cashless payments between the two nations.
- **Indian Diaspora in Bhutan:** About 50,000 Indians are presently working in Bhutan in the sectors such as infrastructure development, hydropower, education, trade and commerce signifying close people to people ties between the two countries.

Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)

- **Context:** Recently, the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) was launched on the sidelines of the COP30 Climate Summit in Belém, Brazil.

About Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF)

- It is an investment fund designed as a permanent, self-financing vehicle through which net returns aim to be awarded to up to 74 developing tropical forest countries for keeping their existing old-growth forests intact.
- It aims to recognise and encourage Tropical Forest Countries to continue protecting and conserving Tropical Forest at the right scale and speed, especially given significant opportunity and implementation costs.
- It aims to raise \$25 billion from wealthy nations and philanthropists, and an additional \$100 billion in private investment, based on satellite remote sensing data forest cover. It focuses at least 20% of payments flow directly to Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- It is hailed as a groundbreaking initiative that empowers the Global South to lead tropical forest

conservation, provides enduring financial incentives for forest protection, and redefines intact tropical forests as valuable ecological assets.

About Conference of the Parties (COP) of UNFCCC

- It is the highest decision-making body that reviews implementation and adopts necessary decisions for effective execution.
- The venue and presidency rotate among the five UN regional groups — Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central & Eastern Europe, and Western Europe and Others.
- It meets annually, typically in Bonn (Germany) unless hosted elsewhere by a Party nation.
- The first COP was held in Berlin, Germany (1995).

12th NOVEMBER 2025

Export Promotion Mission

- **Context:** Amid pressure on goods exports to the US due to high 50% tariffs, the Union Cabinet has approved a six-year Export Promotion Mission with an outlay of ₹ 25,060 crore.

About Export Promotion Mission

- In the Union Budget for 2025-26, the Finance Minister announced an Export Promotion Mission.
- It would facilitate easy access to export credit, cross-border factoring support, and support to MSMEs to tackle non-tariff measures in overseas markets.
- **Ministries:** Driven jointly by the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, and the Ministry of Finance.
- Under EPM, priority support will be extended to sectors impacted by recent global tariff escalations, such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will act as the implementing agency, with all processes from application to disbursal.
- It will be managed through a dedicated digital platform integrated with existing trade systems.

Major Components of EPM

Financial Support:

- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE):** Provides 100% coverage by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC).
 - For additional credit facilities up to ₹ 20,000 crore to eligible exporters (including MSMEs).
 - Enables collateral-free credit, improving liquidity and competitiveness.
- **Integration of Schemes:** Interest Equalisation Scheme (interest subvention for exporters).
 - Market Access Initiative (MAI) (support for trade fairs, market promotion).
 - Both merged under a digitally driven EPM framework.

Non-Financial Support:

- **Addressing Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs):** Funding for compliance, certifications, and technical standards.
- **Market Acquisition and Branding:** Assistance for international exhibitions, packaging, and branding.
- **Logistics Cost Reduction:** Support for supply chain efficiency and trade facilitation.

Climate Risk Index (CRI), 2026

- **Context:** The new Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026 report has been released by Germanwatch. The analysis was presented at the ongoing COP30 in Belem, Brazil.

Key Findings

- India was ninth on the list of countries most affected by extreme weather events between 1995 and 2024.
- In the last three decades, India faced around 430 extreme weather events which resulted in inflation-adjusted losses of around \$170 billion.
- India ranked third behind Bangladesh and the Philippines.
- It has placed India, along with the Philippines, Nicaragua, and Haiti in the “continuous threats” category. This means that these countries are exposed to repeated and frequent extreme weather events.

National Water Awards, 2024

- **Context:** Maharashtra has secured the first position in the Best State category of the 6th National Water Awards for 2024.

Key Facts

- Gujarat and Haryana have been placed second and third respectively.
- Instituted in 2018 by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), the National Water Awards aim to encourage sustainable water management and support the government's 'Jal Samridh Bharat' vision.
- This year, 46 winners have been selected across ten categories, including Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, and Best Institution.

13th NOVEMBER 2025

World Economic Outlook, 2025

- **Context:** The International Monetary Fund's April 2025 World Economic Outlook highlights the world's largest economies, offering insight into global financial power and development.

Key Highlights

- The United States maintains its position as the world's largest economy with a GDP of \$30.50 trillion. China follows at \$19.23 trillion, showcasing its continued expansion across industry, technology, and infrastructure. Germany holds the third position, remaining Europe's strongest economic engine.
- India ranks fourth with a GDP of \$4.19 trillion. Its fast-growing economy is supported by large-scale urban development, expanding services, and rising global investment. Although its GDP per capita remains lower compared to other major players, India's growth trajectory presents significant future potential and increasing global influence.

- Many of the countries listed combine economic prosperity with exceptional cultural heritage. The United States offers iconic cities and diverse natural landscapes. China blends ancient history with modern innovation, while Germany attracts visitors with its castles, festivals, and strong technological base. Nations such as France, Italy, and Japan continue to draw travellers with rich traditions and scenic beauty.
- The 2025 top ten include the United States, China, Germany, India, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Canada, and Brazil. Each nation demonstrates the interplay between economic might and cultural richness, offering diverse experiences and contributing significantly to global trade, tourism, and innovation.

Key Data

- The United States tops the 2025 GDP list with \$30.50 trillion.
- India ranks fourth with a GDP of \$4.19 trillion.
- China's GDP per capita stands at \$13,657 in 2025.
- Germany remains the largest economy in Europe at \$4.74 trillion.

FIH Hockey World Cup, 2026

- **Context:** The 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup will bring together the world's top men's and women's teams in a unique dual-host format across Belgium and the Netherlands.

Key Facts

- Scheduled for mid-August, the event marks the first time Belgium will host the championship and the third time both tournaments will run simultaneously in shared venues.



- The competition will be held from 15 to 30 August 2026, with matches split evenly between the new Belfius Hockey Arena in Wavre and the iconic Wagener Stadium in Amsterdam.
- Belgium and the Netherlands, both major forces in international hockey, will serve as bases for their respective national teams, drawing strong home support during the group stages.
- Sixteen men's teams and sixteen women's teams will participate under a revised format. Nations will first compete in four initial groups.
- The top two from each pool will then progress to a second set of groups, carrying forward their earlier result against the same opponent. This stage determines semi-finalists and classification pathways from fifth place onward.
- Lower-ranked teams after the first phase will compete in alternate groups for the remaining positions.

Quantum Diamond Microscope

- **Context:** India has developed its first indigenous Quantum Diamond Microscope (QDM) for dynamic magnetic field imaging, marking a major milestone in the field of quantum sensing.

Key Facts

- The technology allows for three-dimensional magnetic field imaging at the nanoscale, offering widefield visualization of dynamic magnetic activity similar to an optical microscope.
- This innovation holds immense potential in neuroscience, materials research, and the non-destructive testing of semiconductor chips, where it can map buried current paths and multilayer structures in 3D.
- QDM offers a transformative solution for high-resolution, 3D magnetic mapping across integrated circuits, microelectronics, and energy storage systems.