



Nobel Prize 2025

Sweden-based Nobel Foundation announced awards for the year **2025**

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03rd Oct. - 09th Oct., 2025

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3rd OCTOBER 2025

National Pulses Mission

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses.

About 'National Pulses Mission'

- It is a six-year initiative which was announced in the FY 2025-26 Budget and will be implemented from 2025-26 to 2030-31, with a financial outlay of Rs 11,440 crore.
- It is a landmark initiative aimed at boosting domestic production and achieving self-sufficiency (Aatmanirbharta) in pulses.
- It is supported by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and state agencies.
- It addresses rising demand through a comprehensive strategy involving research, seed systems, area expansion, procurement, and price stability.
- It will promote high-yield, pest-resistant, climate-resilient varieties, distribute 126 lakh quintals of certified seeds and 88 lakh free seed kits, and expand cultivation by 35 lakh hectares, especially in rice fallow areas.
- It will also develop post-harvest infrastructure, including 1,000 processing units with subsidies, and ensure 100% procurement of Tur, Urad, and Masoor under PM-AASHA.

Key Facts

- India imported a record 7.3 million tonnes of pulses worth \$5.5 billion in 2024-25 due to stagnant domestic production and climatic factors like El Niño-induced drought.
- India's rising incomes and changing dietary patterns have increased consumption faster than production growth.
- The mission is crucial to bridge the gap between rising demand and insufficient domestic supply, conserve foreign exchange, improve rural incomes, and enhance food security.

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet, approved a 6.59% increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat to Rs 2,585 per quintal for 2026-27 marketing year.

About Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. MSP protects the producer- farmers against distress sale during bumper production years.
- MSPs have no statutory backing — a farmer cannot demand MSP as a matter of right.

Crops Covered

- The Centre announces the MSP for 22 mandated crops. These include:
 - 14 kharif crops (paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, tur/arhar, moong, urad, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, niger seed, cotton),
 - 6 rabi crops (wheat, barley, gram, masur/lentil, rapeseed and mustard, and safflower) and
 - 2 commercial crops (jute and copra).
- In addition, MSP for Toria and de-husked coconut is also fixed on the basis of MSPs of rapeseed & mustard and copra respectively.

About Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)

- FRP is the minimum price at which the sugar mills purchase sugarcane from farmers.
- The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces the FRP on the recommendations of CACP.

Biomedical Research Career Programme

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet has approved Phase-III (2025-26 to 2030-31) of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP) to significantly boost India's biomedical research ecosystem and global impact.

Key Facts

- The programme aims to strengthen research systems, reduce regional disparities in scientific capabilities, and establish world-class biomedical research capacity with a strong global presence and impact.
- BRCP is implemented through a partnership between the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India; the Wellcome Trust (WT), United Kingdom; and the India Alliance—a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created for this initiative.

4th OCTOBER 2025

Draft Rules for Online Gaming

- **Context:** The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has released draft rules for online gaming.

Key Highlights

- They are intended to operationalise the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Act, 2025.
- It bans real money gaming (RMG) platforms such as online poker, rummy and fantasy sports while permitting only social games and e-sports.

Major Provisions

- **Online Gaming Authority of India:** It proposes the creation of the Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) as a dedicated regulator to oversee online gaming.
 - The authority will have quasi-judicial powers, including summoning individuals, examining evidence, and issuing binding orders.
 - **Composition:** Chairperson and 5 members from different ministries.
 - **Functions:** To decide whether a game is an “online money game”.
- It includes all forms of online money games e.g., poker, fantasy sports, betting. It allows only “online social games” and e-sports — games meant for recreation, education, or skill development.

- Both e-sports and social games will require compulsory registration with the authority. A certificate of registration will be valid for up to five years.
- Companies must register their games with the Authority.
 - They must provide details of revenue model and user safety features.
 - Proof that revenue comes from ads, subscriptions, or access fees — not from wagers or stakes.
- Offering online money gaming services may attract up to three years' imprisonment and fines of up to Rs. 1 crore.
 - Advertising such platforms could lead to two years' imprisonment and fines up to Rs. 50 lakh.
 - Violations are non-bailable offences and entire company staff can be held liable for facilitating breaches.
- e-sports will fall under the Ministry of Youth Affairs, while social games will be regulated by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

NATO Pipeline System (NPS)

- **Context:** Recently, Poland announced plans to join NATO Pipeline System (NPS) with a € 4.7 billion investment.

About NATO Pipeline System (NPS)

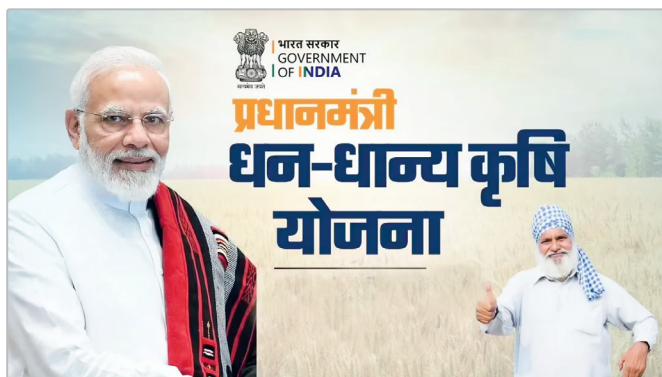
- It was established during the Cold War, and supplies fuel and lubricants to NATO forces with modern flexibility.
- It spans about 10,000 km across 12 countries, has a storage capacity of 4.1 million cubic meters, and connects depots, air bases, airports, refineries, and transport points.
- While most networks are managed nationally, the Central Europe Pipeline System (CEPS) is a multinational system overseen by NATO's Support and Procurement Agency.

About NATO

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a political and military alliance which was founded in 1949 and is a group of 32 countries from Europe and North America that exists to protect the people and territory of its members.
- It is founded on the principle of collective defence, meaning that if one NATO Ally is attacked, then all NATO Allies are attacked.

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)

- **Context:** The Centre announced 100 Aspirational Agriculture Districts to be developed under the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) across 29 states and UTs. Uttar Pradesh leads with 12 districts, followed by Maharashtra (9), Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (8 each) and Bihar (7).



About Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)

- The Union Cabinet approved the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) in July 2025. It is designed on the lines of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP).
- It is a transformative agricultural initiative announced in the Union Budget 2025–26. With an annual outlay of 24,000 crore over six years, PMDDKY aims to boost growth in 100 agri-districts by converging 36 existing Central schemes across 11 Ministries, alongside state programmes and private sector partnerships.

- Instead of launching new schemes, it focuses on coordinated, saturation-based delivery to last-mile farmers, minimizing duplication and maximizing impact.
- The PMDDKY aims to boost rural development with five key goals: increase agricultural productivity, promote crop diversification and sustainability, expand post-harvest storage at local levels, improve irrigation infrastructure, and enhance farmers' access to agricultural credit.

About Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

- It was launched in 2018 to develop backward and remote areas, and has significantly improved key development indicators.
- Building on its success, the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched in 2023 to expand essential government services across 500 blocks in areas like health, education, sanitation, agriculture, financial inclusion, and infrastructure.

5th OCTOBER 2025

ISSA Award 2025

- **Context:** India has been awarded the prestigious International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025 for 'Outstanding Achievement in Social Security' at the World Social Security Forum in Kuala Lumpur.

About International Social Security Association (ISSA)

- It is the world's leading international organization for social security institutions, government departments and agencies.
- The ISSA, founded in 1927 under the International Labour Organization, promotes excellence in social security administration worldwide.
- It supports over 320 member institutions from 160+ countries by providing a professional community, developing standards and research, offering practical services, fostering innovation, and advocating for comprehensive social security systems globally.

- International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award recognized India's expansion of social security coverage from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025, now reaching over 940 million citizens.

National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI)

- **Context:** The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is planning to launch the National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI) — a national mission aimed at reversing the steady decline in India's camel population.

Key Facts

- India is witnessing a rapid and alarming decline in its camel population, especially in the traditionally camel-rearing states of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- According to the 20th Livestock Census, India's camel population stood at 2.52 lakh in 2019, down from about 11 lakh in 1977 and 4 lakh in 2013.
- Nearly 90% of these camels are concentrated in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- The NCSI would bring together the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the Ministries of Environment, Rural Development and Tourism, and State governments, to ensure coordinated action.

Camels in India

- India mainly has one species of camel: Dromedary Camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) – one-humped camel, adapted to desert conditions.
- Chinkara and Camel are the two State Animals of Rajasthan.

Exercise KONKAN-25

- **Context:** India and the United Kingdom conducted the 2025 edition of Exercise KONKAN, an annual bilateral maritime exercise that began in 2004.

Key Facts

- The exercise comprised a Harbour Phase, involving professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, and

operational discussions, and a Sea Phase featuring complex drills in anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare, along with carrier-based flying operations.

- The 2025 edition marks the first-ever participation of both nations' Carrier Strike Groups (CSGs) — the UK's HMS Prince of Wales and India's INS Vikrant.
- Exercise KONKAN reinforces the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership under the India-UK Vision 2035, highlighting a shared commitment to a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific.

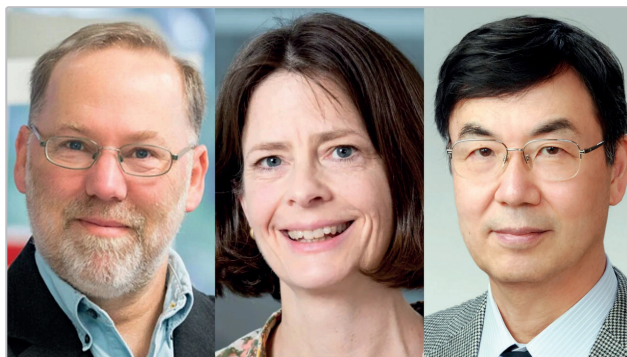
Other India-UK Bilateral Exercises

- AJEYA WARRIOR (Army), Exercise Indradhanush (Air Force), and Exercise Cobra Warrior (multinational air exercise hosted by the UK).

6th OCTOBER 2025

Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology

- **Context:** The Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology was announced for three scientists, for their discoveries on peripheral immune tolerance.



Key Facts

- The three scientists Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
- The immune system protects the body from pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. It consists of organs, cells, and molecules that work together to recognize and eliminate harmful substances.

- **Major Components of the Immune System:**
 - **Organs:** Bone marrow, thymus, spleen, lymph nodes, tonsils.
 - **Cells:** White blood cells (leukocytes)—lymphocytes, macrophages, neutrophils, etc.
 - **Molecules:** Antibodies, cytokines, complement proteins.
- These have a role in identifying and eliminating foreign bodies that may bring with it disease.
 - However, the immune system also identifies cells that have gone rogue – such as in cancerous tumours – or that have mutated in a way that they harm the bodies they constitute.
 - Telling apart benign cells from harmful invaders is the key challenge the immune system must negotiate.

About Nobel Prize

- Since 1901, the Nobel Prize has been awarded in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace, while a memorial prize in economic sciences was added in 1968.
 - In 1895 Alfred Nobel gave the largest share of his fortune to a series of the Nobel Prizes.
 - From Stockholm, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences confers the prizes for physics, chemistry, and economics, the Karolinska Institute confers the prize for physiology or medicine, and the Swedish Academy confers the prize for literature.
 - The Norwegian Nobel Committee based in Oslo confers the prize for peace.
 - The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo (Norway), while all other prizes are awarded in Stockholm (Sweden).
 - The Nobel Foundation is the legal owner and functional administrator of the funds and serves as the joint administrative body of the prize-awarding institutions.
- It is not concerned with the prize deliberations or decisions, which rest exclusively with the four institutions.

- **Process of Selection:**
 - Nominations are invited from qualified individuals (scientists, professors, former laureates, etc.).
 - Selection Committees review and recommend the winners.
 - The final decision is made by the respective Nobel institutions.

MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards

- **Context:** President Droupadi Murmu presented the MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2022–23 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Key Facts

- Instituted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 1993-94, the MY Bharat-NSS Awards are conferred annually to acknowledge outstanding voluntary community service.
- For 2022–23, a total of 50 awards were presented – 10 NSS Units, 10 Programme Officers, and 30 NSS Volunteers – for their exemplary service and leadership.
- Each winning NSS Unit received Rs. 2 lakh and a trophy, Programme Officers received Rs. 1.5 lakh, a certificate, and a silver medal, while Volunteers were honoured with Rs. 1 lakh, a certificate, and a silver medal.

About National Service Scheme (NSS)

- NSS, launched in 1969 during the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, is one of the flagship youth programmes of the Government of India. It aims to foster the personality and character development of students through voluntary community service, inspired by the Gandhian ideals of selfless service.
- The motto of NSS – “Not Me, But You” – reflects its core philosophy of prioritising community welfare above individual interest.

- Currently, the NSS has nearly 40 lakh active volunteers across the country. The volunteers engage in diverse activities addressing issues of social relevance such as literacy and education, health and family welfare, environmental conservation, women's empowerment, disaster relief, Swachhata (cleanliness) drives, and programmes supporting economic and rural development.

7th OCTOBER 2025

2025 Nobel Prize in Physics

- **Context:** John Clarke, Michel Devoret and John Martinis will share the 2025 Nobel Prize in physics for their discovery of a phenomenon called quantum mechanical tunneling in an electrical circuit.

Key Facts

- They showed that the process of tunneling can occur not only in subatomic particles but also in an electrical circuit made of superconductors.
- Tunneling literally is the ability of particles to pass through physical walls. Such strange behaviour cannot be observed at the macroscopic level but these scientists showed that it was possible to organise a multitude of single particles and coerce them to exhibit "tunnelling" properties.

About Quantum Mechanics

- Quantum mechanics was first formally described by German physicist Werner Heisenberg in 1925.
- One-hundred years later the United Nations declared 2025 the international year of quantum science and technology to celebrate the centenary of the breakthrough.
- Quantum technology is a rapidly advancing field that leverages the principles of quantum mechanics to develop new technologies with unprecedented capabilities.
- Quantum mechanics is the branch of physics that studies the behavior of particles at the quantum level, where classical physics no longer applies.

PM-SETU Yojana

- **Context:** The Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs- PM – SETU.

Key Facts

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme to transform 1,000 Government ITIs across India into modern, industry-aligned training institutions.
- PM-SETU will follow a hub-and-spoke model, with 200 hub ITIs linked to 800 spoke ITIs.
- **The scheme will:**
 - Introduce new, demand-driven courses and revamp existing ones in collaboration with industry;
 - Set up Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) with credible Anchor Industry Partners to manage clusters and ensure outcome-based training;
 - Create pathways for long-term diplomas, short-term courses, and executive programs;
 - Strengthen 5 National Skill Training Institutes in – Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Chennai (Tamilnadu), Hyderabad (Telangana), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), as Centres of Excellence with global partnerships.
- Under the first phase of PM-SETU, 15 hub-and-spoke ITI clusters have been identified across the country.
- Each cluster will serve as a centre of excellence in skills, equipped with advanced infrastructure, modern trades, and industry-led training, creating model ecosystems that can be replicated nationwide.

World Para Athletics Championships 2025

- **Context:** India won a record 22 medals, including six gold, nine silver and seven bronze in World Para Athletics Championships 2025.

About World Para Athletics Championships

- It is the premier global championship for para-athletics (track & field for athletes with impairments) outside of the Paralympic Games.

- Prior to 2017, it was called the IPC Athletics World Championships. Since 2011, the championships are held biennially (every two years) to provide high-level competition in non-Paralympic years.
- The first edition was in Berlin, Germany, 1994.
- Athletes compete in different classes depending on their impairment type and severity (e.g. visual impairment, limb deficiency, cerebral palsy, wheelchair classes).
- In the 2025 Championships, the mascot is named Viraaj — a figure embodying strength, resilience, and spirit of para-athletes.
- **Water harvesting:** MOFs can extract water from dry air, offering a potential solution for water-scarce regions.
- **Pollutant Removal:** They can filter out harmful substances like PFAS from water, addressing environmental contamination.
- **Carbon capture:** MOFs are effective in capturing carbon dioxide, aiding in efforts to mitigate climate change.
- **Hydrogen storage:** Their porous nature allows for the safe storage of hydrogen, crucial for clean energy applications.

8th OCTOBER 2025

Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2025

- **Context:** Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar Yaghi are awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025.

Key Facts

- It was awarded for discovering and creating a class of materials, called metal-organic frameworks (MOF).
- MOFs are crystalline structures in which metal ions serve as nodes and organic molecules as connectors. The resulting structure can have enormous internal surface areas — thousands of square metres per gram — and their pores can be customised to attract or hold specific molecules.
- MOFs form a three-dimensional network with large, porous cavities; this design allows gases and liquids to flow through, making MOFs highly adaptable for various applications.
 - By carefully choosing the building blocks, researchers can control the size and shape of the cavities and the chemical environment within.
 - As a result, MOFs are among the most versatile materials ever created.

The unique properties of MOFs have led to their application in various fields:

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet on Economic Affairs approved four multi-tracking projects under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan. These projects span across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh, adding about 894 km to the Indian Railways network.

About PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP)

- It was launched in 2021 for providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones and improving logistics efficiency across India.
- It is not under a single ministry but is coordinated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **PM Gati Shakti is driven by seven engines:** Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport and Logistics Infrastructure.
- 57 Central Ministries/Departments including 8 Infrastructure, 22 Social and 27 Economic and other Ministries/Departments have been onboarded on PMGS NMP.



Polar Silk Road

- **Context:** The Chinese ship “Istanbul Bridge” became the first commercial vessel to sail from Ningbo-Zhoushan (China) to Felixstowe (UK) via the Arctic in 18 days, marking the operational launch of the Polar Silk Route.

About Polar Silk Road

- The Polar Silk Road is a part of China's broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), envisioned as a “blue economic corridor” through the Arctic Ocean.
- It focuses on developing navigable Arctic sea routes connecting East Asia, North America, and Western Europe via the Northern Sea Route (NSR) along Russia's coast.
- It establishes a new shipping corridor between Asia and Europe — shorter and more cost-effective than the Suez Canal route.

9th OCTOBER 2025

Nobel Prize in Literature, 2025

- **Context:** The 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai for his “compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art.”

Key Facts

- His major works include Satantango (1985), The Melancholy of Resistance (1989), War & War (1999), Seiobo There Below (2008), and Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming (2016).

Do you Know?

In 1913, **Rabindranath Tagore** became the first and only Indian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature for Gitanjali.

PM-KUSUM Programme

- **Context:** The Union government is planning to promote the PM-KUSUM in African and island nations through the International Solar Alliance.

PM-KUSUM Scheme

- It is a flagship scheme launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in 2019.
- It aims to provide financial support (subsidies of up to 30% or 50% of the total cost for standalone solar pumps) to farmers for installing solar-powered irrigation systems like solar pumps and grid-connected solar plants.
- It will deliver affordable and reliable solar energy to the agricultural sector, reducing irrigation costs and cutting pollution caused by diesel use.
- The scheme aims to add about 34,800 MW of solar capacity by March 2026.
- **Scheme Components**
 - **Component A:** Setting up 10,000 MW of decentralized, grid-connected solar power plants (ground/stilt-mounted) on barren or cultivable land, by individuals, groups, or cooperatives.
 - **Component B:** Installation of 14 lakh standalone (off-grid) solar agriculture pumps, replacing diesel pumps for irrigation.
 - **Component C:** Solarization of 35 lakh grid-connected agriculture pumps, including feeder-level solarization, enabling farmers to use solar energy and sell excess power.