



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

28th Nov. - 04th Dec., 2025

★★ Useful for ★★

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

Sanchar Saathi App

The Government of India revoked order mandating pre-installation of the cyber-security app



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28th NOVEMBER 2025

Tex-RAMPS Scheme

- **Context:** The Government of India has approved the Textiles Focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning and Start-up (Tex-RAMPS) Scheme, to Strengthen Research, Innovation and Competitiveness in the Textiles Sector.

About Tex-RAMPS Scheme

- It brings together research, data, and innovation to empower India's textile sector and position the nation as a global leader in sustainability, technology, and competitiveness
- It is designed to address critical gaps in research, data systems, innovation support and capacity development.
- It will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Ministry of Textiles.

Key Features

- **Research and Innovation:** Advancing smart textiles, sustainability, and emerging technologies to strengthen innovation capacity.
- **Data, Analytics and Diagnostics:** Building robust systems for employment studies, supply chain mapping, and evidence-based policy.
- **Integrated Textiles Statistical System (ITSS):** Creating a real-time analytics platform for structured monitoring and decision-making.
- **Capacity Development and Knowledge Ecosystem:** Enhancing state-level planning, sharing best practices, and organizing workshops and sectoral events.
- **Start-up and Innovation Support:** Promoting incubators, hackathons, and academia-industry collaboration to foster high-value textile entrepreneurship

Benefits

- Enhance India's competitiveness in global markets
- Strengthen research and innovation ecosystems

- Improve data-driven policymaking
- Generate employment opportunities
- Foster deeper collaboration between States, industry, academia, and government institutions

Vikram-I: Skyroot's First Orbital Rocket

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Indian space startup Skyroot's Infinity Campus and Skyroot's first orbital rocket, Vikram-I, with the capability to launch satellites to orbit.

About Vikram-I

- It is built by Skyroot Aerospace and is named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme.
- It is India's first private orbital-class launch vehicle designed to serve the small satellite market with rapid, cost-effective launches.
- It is a four-stage, 20 metre rocket which produces 1,200 kN thrust with an all-carbon composite structure.
- It combines solid-fueled stages with a hypergolic liquid upper stage for precise manoeuvres.
- It can deploy up to 350 kg into low Earth orbit (LEO) and 260 kg into a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO), with specific payload capacities based on mission profiles, such as 290 kg for a 500 km SSO and 480 kg for a 500 km LEO at a 45-degree inclination.
- Key innovations include 3D-printed engines, advanced avionics, and low-shock separation systems

About Skyroot

- Skyroot is India's leading private space company, founded by Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka, both alumni of the Indian Institutes of Technology and former scientists of ISRO turned entrepreneurs.
- In November 2022, Skyroot launched its sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S, becoming the first Indian private company to launch a rocket to space.
- The rapid rise of private space enterprises is a testament to the success of the transformative reforms carried out by the Government in the last few years, reinforcing India's leadership as a confident and capable global space power.

India-Indonesia BrahMos Deal

- **Context:** Defence Ministers of India and Indonesia co-chaired the third India-Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi.



Key Highlights

- Both sides made notable progress on the proposed BrahMos supersonic missile deal.
- Indonesia has maintained strong interest in acquiring BrahMos, especially to bolster maritime security in the Malacca Strait and the broader Indo-Pacific.
- Indonesia will be the second country to procure the weapon system from India, after the Philippines which has procured it in 2022.
- Progress in joint exercises — Super Garuda Shield, Garuda Shakti, Samudra Shakti, MILAN, and upcoming air manoeuvre drills — was reviewed, alongside plans to expand officer exchanges and training programmes.
- The meeting reaffirmed the robust foundation of defence ties driven by the Defence Cooperation Agreement and the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee.

About BrahMos

- The missile has been jointly developed with Russia and is named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva in Russia.
- The supersonic missile can cruise at around Mach 3 (more in the case of supersonic speeds) and has a range of up to 290 kilometres (up to 500 or 800 kilometres in its advanced variants).

- It is also equipped to deliver a 200 to 300 kilogram high-explosive warhead.
- **Fire-and-Forget:** No further operator input required after firing.
- Its ongoing development towards greater range, speed, and stealth capabilities sees BrahMos sitting at the top as one of the world's leading cruise missile systems.

29th NOVEMBER 2025

International Maritime Organisation Council

- **Context:** India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for 2026-27 with the highest vote tally.

About International Maritime Organization

- It is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.
- IMO was established in 1948 following a UN conference in Geneva and came into existence in 1958.
- Its role is to create a fair, universally adopted regulatory framework that prevents operators from cutting costs at the expense of safety and sustainability, while fostering innovation and efficiency.
- Its measures cover all aspects of shipping from design and construction to operation and disposal, ensuring the industry remains safe, energy-efficient, and environmentally sound.
- IMO has 175 Member States and three Associate Members, and its headquarters are in London, United Kingdom.
- India joined the IMO in 1959.
- The IMO is administered by a biennially convened Assembly of all member states and a 40-member Council elected for two-year terms. The Assembly functions as the organisation's highest governing authority.

S-500 Air Defence System

- **Context:** The Prime Minister of India and the President of Russia are set to meet at the upcoming India–Russia Annual Summit, where both sides are expected to discuss India's interest in next-generation S-500 Prometey air defence system.

Key Facts

- The S-500 Prometey is Russia's most advanced long-range, surface-to-air and anti-space defence system, designed to intercept a wide spectrum of modern and future airborne threats.
- Developed by Almaz-Antey, Russia's premier air-defence and missile-interception manufacturer.
- S-500 can intercept aircraft, missiles, and hypersonic threats at distances up to 600 km.
- It is operational at altitudes up to 200 km, allowing interception of ballistic missiles in mid-course, hypersonic glide vehicles and low-Earth-orbit (LEO) satellites.
- It has a reaction time 3-4 seconds, nearly twice as fast as the S-400.

Strategic Significance for India

- **Major Upgrade to India's Air Defence Shield:** Acquiring the S-500 would significantly strengthen India's tiered missile defence network, complementing:
 - PAD/AAD ballistic missile defence
 - S-400 regiments
 - Indigenous systems (Akash-NG, MR-SAM)
- **Countering China and Pakistan:** Helps counter China's hypersonic missiles like DF-17 and strong defence against Pakistan's ballistic missile arsenal.

Operation Sagar Bandhu

- **Context:** In the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah, which caused widespread devastation across Sri Lanka, India swiftly launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to support relief and rescue efforts.

About Operation Sagar Bandhu

- It is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operation launched by India to provide emergency aid to Sri Lanka. Under the operation, India dispatched:
 - Relief material
 - Medical supplies
 - Emergency equipment
 - Critical HADR assets



- The operation reflects India's commitment to its Neighbourhood First Policy and the broader maritime vision of MAHASAGAR.

30th NOVEMBER 2025

Hornbill Festival

- **Context:** The 26th edition of Nagaland's famed Hornbill Festival, known as the "Festival of Festivals," began at the Naga Heritage Village in Kisama, Kohima, coinciding with the state's Statehood Day (December 1st).



About Hornbill Festival

- It is held annually in the first week of December at Kisama near Kohima, and is a vibrant cultural showcase of all Naga tribes.
- It was conceived in 2000 to promote unity and preserve ethnic heritage.
- It highlights both traditional and contemporary Naga culture through music, crafts, cuisine, and folklore.
- Its venue, the Naga Heritage Village, was created to safeguard cultural traditions and boost tourism, and features seventeen indigenous Morungs (youth dormitories), each representing a distinct tribe.
- The festival has transformed Nagaland's tourism landscape, offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience the diversity and distinctiveness of Naga life in one place.

UNESCO Executive Board for 2025–29

- **Context:** India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for the 2025-29 term.

About UNESCO Executive Board

- It is one of the three constitutional organs of the U.N. agency (the others being the General Conference and the Secretariat) and it is elected by the General Conference.
- It acts under the authority of the General Conference.
- It examines the programme of work for the organisation and corresponding budget estimates submitted to it by the Director-General.
- It consists of 58 Member States each with a four-year term of office.
- **Functions:**
 - It prepares the Conference agenda, reviews the programme of work and budget proposals, and submits recommendations.
 - It advises on admitting new States outside the UN, the appointment of the Director-General, and oversees the execution of programmes by examining reports on organizational activities.

- It can convene extraordinary sessions of the General Conference and summon international or non-governmental conferences in education, sciences, humanities, and knowledge dissemination.

Importance for India:

- India's re-election reflects the international community's confidence in longstanding commitment to multilateralism and to UNESCO's mandate across education, culture, science, communication and information.
- India's continued presence on the Executive Board underscores growing global support for its vision of inclusive, human-centric development and for strengthening cooperation among nations.

1st DECEMBER 2025

The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- Context: The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 1, 2025.

Key Highlights

- The Bill seeks to amend the Central Excise Act, 1944. The Act provides for the levy and collection of central excise duties on goods manufactured or produced in India.
- Central excise duties on many items were repealed with the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, except for certain items such as tobacco and tobacco products.
- Tobacco and tobacco products continue to face a three-layered taxation structure comprising GST, GST compensation cess, and central excise duty.

Key Provisions of the Bill

- The Bill increases central excise duty on unmanufactured tobacco, manufactured tobacco, tobacco products, and tobacco substitutes.
 - Unmanufactured tobacco (such as sun-cured tobacco leaves) from 64% to 70%.

- **Chewing tobacco:** From 25% to 100%.
- **Hookah or gudaku tobacco:** From 25% to 40%.
- **Smoking mixtures for pipes and cigarettes:** From 60% to 325%.
- **Cigarettes:** Current duty under the Act ranges from ₹200 to ₹735 per 1,000 cigarettes. The Bill proposes a significant increase to ₹2,700 to ₹11,000 per 1,000 cigarettes.

Sanchar Saathi App

- **Context:** Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed phone makers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app on devices sold from March 2026 onwards.

About Sanchar Saathi

- In 2025, the Department of Telecommunications launched the Sanchar Saathi Mobile App for both Android and iOS to help users report and protect against mobile related fraud and theft.



Key Features

- **Chakshu:** Users report suspected fraud via calls, SMS, or WhatsApp, targeting scams like fake KYC updates.
- **IMEI Tracking and Blocking:** Tracks and blocks lost/stolen phones nationwide across all telecom networks.
- **Verify Mobile Handset Genuineness:** Checks if a device is authentic using IMEI or barcode scan.
- **Report Masked International Calls:** Flags calls from abroad disguised as local (+91 followed by 10 digits).
- **Know Your Internet Service Provider:** Searches wireline ISPs by PIN code, address, or name.

2nd DECEMBER 2025

Rage Bait: Oxford Dictionary's Word of the Year

- **Context:** The Oxford Dictionary has chosen "rage bait" as its Word of the Year 2025, reflecting the growing influence of digital culture.

About Rage Bait

- It is defined as online content deliberately designed to provoke anger or outrage to boost traffic and engagement
- It differs from "brain rot" (2024's word) by being intentional and targeted.
- It resembles clickbait but relies on negative provocations, often amplified by social media algorithms that reward provocative posts, leading to practices like "rage farming."
- It now spans fabricated stories, polarising political posts, and conspiracy theories, feeding an engagement-driven ecosystem that is hard for users — especially younger generations — to resist.

Do you Know ?

- Oxford chose "rage bait" as Word of the Year 2025 through a combination of public voting and expert analysis by lexicographers, who track emerging words, language trends, and culturally significant events.
- The final shortlist also included "bio hack" (methods to improve health) and "aura farming" (efforts to appear charming or cool).

Paulos Mar Gregorios Award

- **Context:** Dr. Tessy Thomas, known as the "Missile Woman of India," has been honored with the eighth Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios Award 2025 for her significant contributions to science and women's empowerment.

About Dr. Tessy Thomas

- Dr. Thomas is a renowned scientist at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the first woman in India to lead a missile project.
- She played a pivotal role as the Project Director for the Agni-IV and Agni-V long-range ballistic missile systems.
- Her work earned her the nickname "Agniputri" (one born of fire).



About Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios Award

- The Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios Award is instituted by the Sophia Society of the Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Church and is presented biennially.
- It is given in memory of the late Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios, a world-renowned philosopher, scholar, theologian, and the first Metropolitan of the Delhi Diocese.
- Fields in which this international award has been given earlier include inter-faith dialogue and cooperation, education, holistic health practices, and community self-renewal.
- The award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a citation, and a medallion.

3rd DECEMBER 2025

Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

- **Context:** RBI's 2025 list confirms that State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank continue as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D SIBs).

About D-SIBs

- D-SIBs are banks considered "too big to fail."
- Their collapse can trigger system-wide financial instability, so they are placed under special regulation and higher supervision.

- Concept introduced globally after the 2008 Global Financial Crisis.
- Based on Basel-III guidelines, RBI released the D-SIB framework in 2014, it identifies banks based on: Size (Total exposures), interconnectedness, substitutability (difficulty of replacing services) and complexity.
- Banks are placed in different buckets (0 to 4) depending on systemic importance.
- Higher the bucket means higher additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET-1) capital requirement.

Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG) Framework

- **Context:** The Government of India has undertaken the Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG) initiative to benchmark national performance against international indices and guide evidence-based policy reforms.

Key Facts

- The Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG) is an inter-ministerial mechanism for monitoring progress across 26 global indices published by 16 international agencies.
- These Indices are spanning four broad themes: economy, development, governance, and industry.
- Each index has been assigned to a specific nodal ministry, responsible for reviewing methodologies, engaging with publishing organisations and ensuring that India's latest official data is used in the computations.
- The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) at NITI Aayog will serve as the central coordinating body for this exercise.

4th DECEMBER 2025

Indian Navy Day

- **Context:** Navy Day is celebrated on the 4th of December every year to recognise the achievements and role of the Indian Navy.

Key Fact

- It was on this day in 1971, during Operation Trident, that the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels, including PNS Khaibar.
- This year, the Navy Day is being celebrated with a spectacular Operational Demonstration at Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Do you Know?

- The Indian Navy operates as a modern blue-water force with over 67,000 personnel and about 150 ships and submarines.
- Before 1972, Navy Day shifted multiple times, first observed on the Royal Navy's Trafalgar Day (October 21), then on 1 December, and later on 15 December.

Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL): 27th Navratna Status

- **Context:** Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) has been accorded 'Navratna' status.

Key Facts

- It becomes the 27th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to be accorded the status.
- The 3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity petroleum refinery is situated at Numaligarh in Golaghat district of Assam.
- It had an annual turnover of ₹25,147 crores, housing net profits of ₹1,608 crores for FY 2024-25.
- India's central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) are classified into three major categories – Miniratna, Navratna and Maharatna CPSEs.

- The main aim of assigning the "ratna" statuses was to give operational freedom and decision-making power to the state-run entities.

Classification

- **Miniratna Status:** CPSEs are put in two sub-categories under the Miniratna status – Miniratna-I and Miniratna – II.
 - **Category-I status:** CPSEs which reported profits in three consecutive years, have a pre-tax profit of ₹30 crore or more in at least one of the three years, and have a positive net worth are classified as a Miniratna-I PSU.
 - **Category-II status:** PSUs with a profit for the last three successive years and have a positive net worth are classified as Miniratna-II companies.
- **Navratna status:** PSUs that have a Miniratna-I status and have obtained an "Excellent" or "Very Good" MoU rating in three out of the last five years and have a composite score of 60 or more in six selected performance indicators are eligible.
- **Maharatna status:** A PSU is eligible for being granted a "Maharatna" status, in case it meets the following criteria:
 - Should have a "Navratna" status
 - Should be listed on the Indian stock exchanges
 - Should be compliant with minimum shareholding norms
 - Average annual turnover of more than ₹25,000 crore and average annual net worth of over ₹15,000 crore in the last three years
 - Average annual net profit of over ₹5,000 crore in the last three years along with significant global presence.
 - BHEL, BPCL, Coal India, GAIL, HPCL, Indian Oil, NTPC, ONGC are some of the Maharatna PSUs.