



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Coverage of*

**31 Oct. - 06 Nov., 2025**

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31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2025

## Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

- **Context:** On October 31st, the Prime Minister of India led the nation in commemorating Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat, marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

### Major Facts about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- **Born:** 31st October 1875 in the Leuva Patel Patidar community at Nadiad, Gujarat.
- **Education:** A law graduate, later, went to England to study further, and became a barrister, and began his legal practice in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, after returning to India.
- Sardar Patel met with Mahatma Gandhi in October 1917, which inspired him to dedicate his life to India's freedom struggle.
- He began his public career in 1917 as the Sanitation Commissioner of Ahmedabad, and later served as Chairman of the Municipal Committee (1924–1928).
- He joined the Indian National Congress (INC) and initially led the Satyagraha movement in Gujarat to protest against British oppression.
- Later, he took an active role in the Quit India Movement (1942) and worked closely with Gandhiji to mobilize people for independence.
- Sardar Patel became the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- One of his most significant contributions was the integration of over 560 princely states into the Indian Union.
- He was considered the de facto Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army during the crucial period of political integration of India and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947.
- His vision culminated in later milestones — merger of Goa (1961), Sikkim's accession (1975), and the

abrogation of Article 370 (2019), fulfilling his dream of complete unity.

- **The Iron Man of India:** Sardar Patel's life was a remarkable example of determination, unity, and leadership. His strong belief in 'Unity in Diversity' and his leadership for a common cause made him the Iron Man of India.
- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) was instituted in 2014 to celebrate the monumental role in unifying over 560 princely states into the Indian Union after independence.
- **Recognition and Bharat Ratna Award:** Sardar Patel was awarded by Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honor, in 1991, 41 years after his death in 1950.
- Sardar Patel's legacy teaches that unity is not inherited — it must be rebuilt in every generation. It demands constant defence against forces of indifference, ignorance, and regionalism. As India grows and diversifies, Patel's message endures: Our strength lies not in sameness, but in solidarity.
- Patel's vision of unity was about federation — a union of minds and hearts bound by shared heritage.

## Exercise Trishul

- **Context:** India has launched Exercise Trishul 2025, a major tri-service military exercise across Gujarat and Rajasthan, involving the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

### Key Facts

- Exercise Trishul 2025 is the largest tri-service exercise since the Operation Sindoor strikes six months ago.
- The Kutch region of Gujarat, near the Sir Creek border—a long-standing flashpoint with Pakistan—forms the core area of operations.
- More than 20,000 troops, supported by T-90S and Arjun tanks, attack helicopters, missile systems, Rafale and Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, as well as a fleet of frigates and destroyers, are conducting joint operations along the western front.

1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

## 150 Years of Arya Samaj

- **Context:** The Prime Minister addressed the International Arya Mahasammelan 2025 in New Delhi, praising Arya Samaj's 150-year legacy in social reform, education, and Vedic thought.

### About Arya Samaj

- Swami Dayanand Saraswati, inspired by Vedic teachings, established Arya Samaj with ten principles in 1875 in Bombay, which were finalized in Lahore in 1877.
- The movement's core principles are based on the infallible authority of the Vedas, emphasizing rationality and a return to Vedic values, encapsulated in its slogan "Back to the Vedas" and motto "Krinvanto Vishvam Aryam" ("Let us ennoble the world").

### Major Reforms

- **Religious:** Rejected idol worship, ritualism, and priestly dominance, promoting a direct, rational understanding of religion centered on one God and truth-seeking.
- **Social:** Opposed caste by birth, untouchability, child marriage, and forced widowhood. Advocated inter-caste marriage, widow remarriage, women's education, and social service.
- **Educational:** Established DAV schools and Gurukul Kangri to blend Vedic knowledge with modern science, fostering social mobility and nationalism.
- Arya Samaj members, including Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, and others, contributed significantly to India's freedom movement, promoting Swadeshi and social awakening.
- Their efforts emphasized modern education, social justice, and national pride, fueling anti-colonial sentiment while working within reformist ideals.

## Digital Marine Fisheries Census 2025

- **Context:** The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 Household Enumeration and the VYAS – BHARAT and VYAS-SUTRA app.

### Key Facts

- **Fully Digital and Geo-Referenced Census:** The MFC 2025 departs from traditional paper-based methods used in earlier editions.
- The fifth edition covers around 1.2 million fisher households across 5,000 marine fishing villages in 13 coastal States and Union Territories, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- **Digital Architecture:** The digital process is powered by three multilingual Android applications developed by the ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI):
  - **VyAS–NAV:** For validation of fishing villages and harbours.
  - **VyAS–BHARAT:** For household and infrastructure enumeration.
  - **VyAS–SUTRA:** For real-time supervision and monitoring of data collection.
- **Expanded Socio-economic Data:** For the first time, the enumeration includes detailed information on crucial indicators like total family income, homeownership, outstanding liabilities, and sources of credit.

## India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- **Context:** The Cyprus Foreign Minister visited India and expressed strong interest in joining the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC), citing Cyprus's strategic location, EU membership, and robust shipping sector.

### About Cyprus

- It is an island nation in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, known for its rich history, natural beauty, and cultural diversity.

- It is located about 40 miles south of Turkey and 60 miles west of Syria.
- It gained independence from Britain in 1960, but tensions between Greek and Turkish Cypriots have led to a de facto partition since 1974.

### Cooperation with India

- India and the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) share over six decades of strong bilateral relations based on friendship, mutual respect, and cooperation in international fora.
- Both countries support each other in global organizations — India backs Cyprus's reunification under UN resolutions, while Cyprus supports India's UN Security Council bid and civil nuclear initiatives.
- Both sides reviewed the India-Cyprus Joint Action Plan (2025–2029) and discussed regional developments and multilateral cooperation, especially as Cyprus prepares to assume the EU Council Presidency in 2026.
- Cyprus also backed the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, highlighting its potential to unlock major economic opportunities.

### About India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- The IMEC was announced during the G20 Summit held in New Delhi in 2023 "to stimulate economic development through enhanced connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe."
- It is a proposed corridor spanning ship, ship-rail, and road networks to connect India to the Gulf region and the Gulf region to Europe.

**2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

### ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, 2025

- **Context:** India's women's cricket team created history by clinching their first-ever ICC Women's ODI World Cup title after defeating South Africa in the final.

### Key Highlights

- **India's Journey:**

- India had previously reached the finals in 2005 and 2017, losing to Australia and England, respectively.
- India thus became the fourth team to win the Women's World Cup (under the captaincy of Harmanpreet Kaur), after Australia, England, and New Zealand.

- **About the Tournament:**

- The 2025 tournament was the 13th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup. It is held after a gap of 4 years.
- India and Sri Lanka hosted a total of 8 teams.

- **Winners of last 4 editions:**

- ♦ **2013:** Australia
- ♦ **2017:** England
- ♦ **2022:** Australia
- ♦ **2025:** India

- **Key Highlights of the 2025 Final:**

- **Coach (India):** Amol Muzumdar
- **Captain (South Africa):** Laura Wolvaardt
- **Player of the Match:** Shafali Verma
- **Player of the Tournament:** Deepti Sharma

- **Awards:**

- ICC declared a prize-money kitty of USD 4.48 million (≈ ₹ 39 crore) for the champions.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a cash reward of ₹51 crore for the Indian women's team after their win.

### Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit (2025)

- **Context:** Recently, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit (2025), held in Gyeongju, South Korea, concluded with the adoption of APEC Leaders' Gyeongju Declaration (2025), the APEC Artificial Intelligence Initiative, and the APEC Framework for Cooperation on Population Structure Changes.

## Key Highlights of APEC Summit, 2025

- **Adoption of Leaders' Declaration (Gyeongju Declaration):** APEC leaders endorsed a joint declaration reaffirming their commitment to:
  - Free and open trade across the Asia-Pacific region;
  - Strengthening supply chain resilience;
  - Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
 Advancing digital transformation and climate action.
- **US – China Engagement:** It signaled a thaw in bilateral tensions, with both leaders agreeing to resume trade dialogue and reduce tariffs on select goods.
- **Climate and Sustainability Focus: The declaration included commitments to:**
  - Accelerate clean energy transitions;
  - Support climate-resilient infrastructure;
  - Enhance cooperation on carbon markets and green financing.
- **Digital Trade and Innovation: Countries emphasized the need to:**
  - Harmonize digital trade standards;
  - Promote cross-border data flows;
  - Support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in accessing digital tools;

## About Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- It is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to strengthen the interdependence of economies across the Asia-Pacific region.
- It uses the term 'economies' instead of 'countries or nations' to emphasize its focus on economic and trade collaboration rather than political or territorial representation.
- It operates through cooperation and consensus, emphasizing voluntary participation rather than binding treaties.
- All member economies have an equal voice, and decisions are made collectively through dialogue.

- **Member Economies (21 Members):** Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore (APEC Secretariat & Headquarter); Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; and Viet Nam.

3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

## CMS-03: India's Heaviest Communication Satellite

- **Context:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the Indian Navy's advanced communication satellite GSAT-7R (CMS-03) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

## About GSAT-7R Satellite

- GSAT-7R an indigenously developed satellite, weighing approximately 4,400 kg, is India's heaviest communication satellite to be launched from the country to date. It is designed to replace Gsat-7 (Rukmini), which was launched in 2013 and is primarily dedicated to the Indian Navy.
- ISRO launched the rocket aboard its most powerful launch vehicle, the LVM3, on its M5 mission. The satellite had been successfully inserted into a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO).
- The satellite carries advanced payloads in multiple frequency bands, UHF, S-band, C-band and Ku-band, and includes several indigenous technologies such as a 1,200-litre propulsion tank and collapsible antenna systems.
- Its payload includes transponders capable of supporting voice, data, and video links over multiple communication bands.
- **Significance:** With state-of-the-art indigenous components, the GSAT-7R will provide robust and secure telecommunication coverage across the Indian Ocean Region.

4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**About Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**

- The GTO allows satellites to be positioned into geostationary orbits, where they can maintain a fixed position relative to the Earth's surface.
- This is crucial for communication and weather satellites that need to monitor specific areas continuously.

**Lucknow: India's 2nd UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy**

- **Context:** UNESCO designated Lucknow as a Creative City of Gastronomy, recognizing its rich and diverse culinary heritage, particularly its famed Awadhi cuisine.

**Key Highlights**

- This makes Lucknow the second Indian city after Hyderabad (2019) to earn this honor in the gastronomy category of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- UNESCO acknowledged Lucknow's contributions to creative industries and its culinary innovation, including iconic dishes like kebabs and biryani.
- With this, Lucknow joins a global network of 408 cities across 100+ countries celebrated for excellence in fields like design, music, literature, and now, architecture.

**About UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy**

- The UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy designation celebrates cities with rich culinary traditions and innovative food cultures that contribute meaningfully to sustainable urban development.
- This recognition is part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), which promotes cooperation among cities that prioritize creativity in areas like music, literature, design, and gastronomy.

**■ DO YOU KNOW: \_\_\_\_\_**

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was established in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

**High Seas Treaty**

- **Context:** The High Seas Treaty, ratified by over 60 countries, will take effect in January 2026.

**Key Facts**

- The High Seas Treaty process began in 2004 when the UN General Assembly formed a working group to address gaps in UNCLOS (1982) regarding Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).
- **By 2011, countries agreed to negotiate four key areas:** Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs), Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and capacity building with technology transfer.
- After four Intergovernmental Conferences between 2018 and 2023, a final agreement was reached in March 2023, and the treaty was formally adopted in June 2023 and ratified in September 2025.

**About Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement**

- The BBNJ Agreement, or High Seas Treaty, is a global framework under UNCLOS to protect marine biodiversity in international waters.
- It establishes a global framework to govern marine biodiversity in international waters.
- It designates Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs) as the common heritage of humankind, ensuring fair benefit-sharing.
- **Key Features:**
  - The treaty introduces Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs), including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), to enhance climate resilience and food security by integrating scientific and indigenous knowledge.
  - It mandates Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for activities with potential cumulative or transboundary effects.
  - It supports progress toward several Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG14 (Life Below Water).

**• Significance:**

- It aims to protect marine biodiversity and regulate sustainable use of ocean resources, tackling threats like climate change, overfishing, and pollution.
- It promotes sustainable use through international cooperation, prohibits sovereign claims over high seas resources, and ensures fair benefit-sharing.
- The treaty adopts an inclusive, ecosystem-based approach, integrating traditional and scientific knowledge.

## Russia's 'Doomsday Missile'

- **Context:** Russia has launched its newest nuclear submarine 'Khabarovsk' designed to carry the underwater nuclear drone 'doomsday missile'.

### About 'Doomsday Missile'

- It is also known as Poseidon and It can travel at high speeds, greater than those of existing submarines and torpedoes.
- It can operate at great depths and across intercontinental distances, which could make it difficult to intercept.
- It is capable of intercontinental travel and immense destruction.
- It can travel deep underwater across long distances with a nuclear power source. It can reach coastal targets and serve as a strategic deterrent.

**5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

## Amul: The top co-operative in the world

- **Context:** Amul's parent company, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd, is ranked as the top co-operative in the world in the ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025 rankings.

### Key Highlights

- The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.
- Amul has a three-tier cooperative structure, encompassing more than 18,600 village dairy cooperatives and 36 lakh milk producers, the majority of whom are women.
- Amul is a brand owned entirely by farmers. They manage everything from milk collection and manufacturing to marketing.
- The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked second in the ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025 rankings.
  - IFFCO has maintained its No. 1 rank for several years, which is a testament to IFFCO and its management's cooperative principles.
  - Founded in 1967, IFFCO is one of the world's largest cooperative fertiliser producers.

### About Cooperatives

- A cooperative (or co-op) is an organization or business that is owned and operated by a group of individuals who share a common interest, goal, or need.
- These individuals, known as members, participate in the cooperative's activities and decision-making process, typically on a one-member, one-vote basis, regardless of the amount of capital or resources each member contributes.
- The main purpose of a cooperative is to meet the economic, social, or cultural needs of its members, rather than to maximize profits for external shareholders.
- The UN SDGs recognize cooperatives as crucial drivers of sustainable development, particularly in reducing inequality, promoting decent work, and alleviating poverty.

## About 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011

- It established the right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right (Article 19).
- It included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on the Promotion of Cooperative Societies (Article 43-B).
- It added a new Part IX-B to the Constitution titled "The Co-operative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).
- It authorizes the Parliament to establish relevant laws in the case of multi-state cooperative societies (MSCS) and state legislatures in the case of other cooperative societies.

## Gogabeel Lake

- **Context:** Gogabeel Lake has been officially designated as India's 94th Ramsar site.

### About Gogabeel Lake

- Gogabeel Lake is a naturally formed oxbow wetland situated in the riverine landscape of the Katihar district of Bihar.
- Its strategic location between the Ganga and Mahananda rivers makes it a critical hydrological and ecological buffer zone.
- The addition of Gogabeel Lake highlights India's commitment to the Ramsar Convention, which was signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands worldwide.

6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

## Starlink

- **Context:** Maharashtra has become the first Indian state to formally collaborate with Starlink to deliver satellite-based internet connectivity across remote and underserved regions.

## Key Highlights

- Under the partnership, satellite internet will be deployed in government institutions, public infrastructure and underserved districts.
- The move is part of the state's Digital Maharashtra mission and aims to strengthen digital connectivity in areas with limited network access.

## About Starlink

- Starlink, owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, provides internet through a constellation of low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellites that beam signals directly to users on the ground.
- Unlike traditional broadband that depends on cables or mobile towers, Starlink's system can reach regions where laying fibre or building towers is difficult or uneconomical.
- **Significance:**
  - Satellite internet can support essential services such as online education, telemedicine, digital payments, and e-governance.
  - It can also maintain communication during disasters when ground infrastructure fails.

## Project Suncatcher

- **Context:** Google launches Project Suncatcher to test AI data centres in space.

## Key Highlights

- The initiative envisions a constellation of compact satellites, each carrying Google's custom-built Tensor Processing Unit (TPU) chips (processors designed specifically for machine learning and AI applications).
- Each satellite will feature high-efficiency solar panels for power and will be connected through free-space optical communication beams, enabling them to relay data between satellites and back to Earth.
- In its initial phase, Google intends to launch two prototype satellites by early 2027 to test TPU operations in orbit.

## QS Asia University Rankings

- **Context:** The QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026 has been released.

### Key Highlights

- It features a record 1,526 universities from 25 locations, including 557 new entries.
- It is designed to offer a more region-specific view of higher education and incorporates unique indicators such as 'Staff with a PhD' and 'Exchange Students', with adjusted weightings to reflect Asian academic priorities.
- It evaluates universities based on academic and employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, research output and impact, staff with PhDs, international faculty and students, and student exchange programs.
- **Ranking:** QS notes that East and Southeast Asian countries are outperforming India in research impact, faculty resources, and internationalisation, with South Korea and Malaysia showing strong upward mobility due to strategic investments in higher education.
- Universities in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Malaysia dominated the top ranks, with The University of Hong Kong taking first place.
- **India Specific Data:** It reveals a sharp decline in rankings for nine of the top 10 Indian institutions, including seven IITs, despite improvements in their overall scores.
  - IIT Delhi, India's highest-ranked institution, fell from 44th to 59th, while IIT Bombay dropped 23 places to 71st—its lowest in recent years.
  - The only Indian institution to improve was Chandigarh University, rising to 109th.

