

## India's Transformed Defence & Internal Security Posture

Over the last decade, India's defence and internal security posture reflects a decisive shift towards strength, clarity, and self-reliance.

### Strengthening Defence Capacity

- **Defence Expenditure:** Increase from ₹2.53 lakh crore (2013-14) to **₹6.81 lakh crore** (2025-26).
- **Domestic Production:** Tripled to ₹1.50 lakh crore in last 10 years.
  - ⊕ Reforms like **Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020** prioritize "Buy (Indian – Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)".
  - ⊕ **SRIJAN Portal and Positive Indigenisation Lists** aim to eliminate imports.
- **Defence Export:** Grew **thirty-four times over the last decade** to ₹23,622 crore.
  - ⊕ Indian equipment is **now exported to over 100 nations**, including the United States, France, and Armenia.
- **Reforms Initiated**
  - ⊕ Liberalized **FDI in defence** to attract capital and advanced technology.
  - ⊕ Innovation push through **IDEX and Technology Development Fund**.

### Proactive Counter-Terrorism

- India adopted a firm approach, conducting **Surgical Strikes (2016)** and **Operation Sindoor (2025)** after terror attacks.
- **Sudarshan Chakra Mission** (announced 2025) aims for a futuristic, indigenous national security shield by 2035.
- Prime Minister's **"Five New Normals"**.

### Securing the Home Front

- **Left-Wing Extremism** has been significantly controlled; violence and casualties fell by 85%.
- **Financial Inclusion, Foodgrain and Dairy Production** increased significantly.
- **India Semiconductor Mission** is fostering indigenous chip design and production.

## Prime Minister's Five 'New Normals' on Pakistan



Firm response  
to terror attacks



No tolerance for  
nuclear blackmail



No distinction  
between terrorists  
and their sponsors



Zero compromise  
on sovereignty



Terrorism first in  
any talks

## India's urgent need for Comprehensive National Space Legislation

Comprehensive domestic laws are needed **to operationalize international commitments** and provide a stable, predictable, and legally certain environment for its growing space sector, including private entities.

### India's Ambitions and Recent Achievement in Space

- **Rapid Progress:** India has made colossal advancements of Indian space research and technology, establishing itself on par with developed nations like the US and Russia in space research.
  - ⊕ Notable achievements include **cost-efficient Mangalyaan Mission, Chandrayaan-3's soft-landing** near the lunar South Pole, etc.

- **Future Missions:** Gaganyaan mission, the Bharat Antariksh Station, etc.

### India's Existing Regulatory Landscape: Methodical, Incremental Approach

- **Catalogue of Standards for the Space Industry (2023)** ensures safety of operations.
- **Indian Space Policy (2023)** details activities encouraged for non-governmental entities.
- **IN-SPACe Norms Procedure Guidelines (NPG) for Authorisation (2024)** implements the Space Policy, addressing certain ground segment activities and establishing satellites in orbit.

### Imperative for National Space Legislation

- **Operationalizing International Commitments:** While India has ratified key international space treaties like **Outer Space Treaty (1967)**, these **agreements are not self-executing** and require domestic laws for practical implementation
- **Legal Certainty and Predictability:** Policies can guide and inspire but only statutory law can mandate compliance and provide legal certainty.
- **Operational Challenges:** Regulatory transition creates significant operational challenges for the industry, leading to unnecessary delays and confusion from multiple ministry approvals.
- **Industry Perspective:** Dual-use nature of space technologies creates particular complications leading to delays, need to secure IPRs without excessive government control, need of an independent appellate body to prevent conflicts of interest, etc.

### Conclusion

Enactment of a comprehensive national space law with statutory backing for regulatory bodies like IN-SPACe can provide the much-needed legal clarity, predictability, and operational certainty for government and private actors, foster innovation, attract investment, and ensure India's responsible engagement in outer space.

## Kerala Becomes India's First 100% Digitally Literate State

The achievement stems from the **"Digi Keralam" programme**, launched in 2023, with the goal of extending the digital revolution and e-services to all residents, irrespective of age.

It also builds upon Kerala's earlier **Akshaya project**, which made **Malappuram the first e-literate district** in India.

### Digital Literacy

- It is **"the ability of individuals and communities to understand and use digital technologies for meaningful actions within life situations"**.
- Digitally Literate Household** means at least one member (of 5 years of age or older) can operate a computer and use the internet.

### Positive Impacts on Socio-Economic Development

- Improved Government Efficiency:** Projects like Kisan Call Centres, Common Services Centres (CSCs) lead to better service delivery and transparency.
- Global Connectivity:** Provides "window to the world" for accessing information and decision making and also helps in **improved social life and family bonds**.
- Participation in Democratic Processes:** Empowers citizens to engage more actively with governance.
- Accelerated Financial Inclusion:** Fast-tracks schemes like **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**.
- Imparting Basic ICT Skills and Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities** for the evolving digital economy.

### Concerns Related to Digital Literacy in India

- Ethical Use of the Internet:** Improper usage can lead to **spread of misinformation leading to Social discord**, communal riots, radicalization, fake news, etc.
- Protection of Personal Data:** Individuals must be extra careful not to share sensitive personal data like user IDs, passwords, or OTPs to prevent compromise.
- Threats of Cyber Security:** Cyber security is identified as the "biggest challenge," demanding constant vigilance against attacks from remote adversaries.

Kerala's achievement as the first digitally-literate state in India showcases a successful model for inclusive digital transformation.

## Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs Releases Report on Cyber Crime

Report highlights India's significant digital transformation which has unfortunately been accompanied by a dramatic rise in **sophisticated cybercrime**.

### Multi-faced Impact of Cybercrimes

- Financial:** Over 53.93 lakh complaints on the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)** from 2019 to 2024 accounted for around ₹31,594 crore defrauded.
- Social and Psychological Effects:** Victims of cyberstalking, identity theft, sextortion, and deepfake obscene content often suffer anxiety, depression, and trauma.
- National Security:** Human trafficking for **"scam factories"** in **Southeast Asia**, SIM card procurement for fraud, and the use of cryptocurrencies for money laundering are critical issues.
- ⊕ Attacks on **Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)** also pose cyber warfare risks.

Issues	Key Recommendations
<b>Existing law does not</b> differentiate between synthetically generated and user-created content.	<b>MeitY should develop</b> a framework mandating all photos, videos to have a watermark as to prove the origin of the content and make it more difficult to fake or manipulate.
<b>Despite advanced AI, transaction monitoring</b> and data sharing, mule accounts persist in banks.	<b>Create a formal network</b> involving local communities, Panchayats, local groups, NGOs, etc., to watch and report suspicious mule recruitment.
<b>Certain States have withdrawn general consent</b> under the <b>DSPE Act, 1946</b> , forcing case-wise approvals. This delays investigation related to cyber-crimes.	Amend <b>Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946</b> to empower the CBI to investigate the cybercrime cases in the country, without the consent of the State.
Lack of a statutory mandate for <b>compelling data disclosure</b> from foreign service providers (cloud/email/VoIP), where most critical data is stored outside India.	Pursuing legal and diplomatic measures to enable enforceable and timely data disclosure.
<b>Current rules require grievance and nodal officers</b> only for Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs), leaving other IT intermediaries without designated contacts.	<b>Increase the number of nodal officers by appointing regional representatives</b> to facilitate faster and region specific coordination.

## CCPA imposes penalty on Rapido-online ride for Misleading Advertisement

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) took cognizance of the advertisements of Rapido that promised consumers "AUTO IN 5 MIN OR GET ₹50" and "Guaranteed Auto" which after examination were found to be false, misleading and unfair to consumers.

### Ethical Issues with Misleading Advertisements

- **Violation of Rights Based Approach:** Right to be informed, right to choose, and right to safety are violated due to it.
  - ⊕ E.g., **Red Bull gives you wings campaign** offering specific functional benefits was slapped fines for misrepresentation.
- **Against Utilitarianism:** Misleading advertisement can lead to **environmental harm** leading to long-term harm to society.
  - ⊕ E.g., Greenwashing case of Volkswagen's "clean diesel" campaign, which falsely advertised some vehicle as environmentally friendly.
- **Violates Kantian Categorical Imperative:** Misleading ads consider humans as a means to an end i.e., profit maximisation.
- **Promotion of Harmful Social Biases:** E.g., **Fair and Lovely ads** equating beauty with fair skin leading to racial biases.
- **Health and Safety Risk:** e.g., **Johnson's Baby Powder** was advertised despite potential health concerns.
  - ⊕ **JS Mill's harm principle** individual freedom of expression and commerce is acceptable only until it causes harm to others.

### Legal Frameworks to Counter Misleading Advertisement

- **Consumer Protection Act, 2019:** Defines misleading advertisement and devise Punishment for misleading advertisement and empowers CCPA to investigate the same.
- **Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements 2022 by CCPA.**
- **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006:** Penalties for misleading advertisements related to food quality.
- **Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954:** Prohibits advertisement claiming magical properties or unproven benefits.

## Visit of India's External Affairs Minister to Russia

The Minister also co-chaired 26th Session of the **India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC)**.  
➤ IRIGC-TEC is a mechanism set up in May 1992 for regularly monitoring bilateral progress across the sectors of trade and economic cooperation.

### Key Highlights of the Visit

- **Economic:** Timely finalization of **Programme of Economic Cooperation till 2030** and early conclusion of the **India-Eurasian Economic Union FTA**, a key element for **revised bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030** were discussed.
- **Regional issues** such as developments in **Ukraine, West Asia, Afghanistan** were discussed. **EAM reiterated India's approach to emphasize dialogue and diplomacy as essential to resolving differences.**
- **Removing Bottlenecks in Logistics and Promoting Connectivity:** It included the **International North-South Transport Corridor, Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor, Northern Sea Route.**
- **Global and Multilateral Cooperation:** Both sides reaffirmed commitment to reform global governance, deepen collaboration in **G20, BRICS, SCO** & stressed the need to expand and revitalize the **UN Security Council** to reflect present-day realities.

### India-Russia Relations

The relationship is characterized as a "**Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership**" encompassing extensive cooperation across various domains:-

- **Institutional Mechanisms:** Annual Summit between the **Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation** is the **highest institutionalized** dialogue mechanism. Foreign and Defence Ministers of both countries participate through **2+2 Dialogue**.
- **Trade and Economic Relations:** Bilateral trade reached \$65.70 billion in FY 2023-24 surpassing the previous \$30 billion target set for 2025.
- **Deep Defence and Security Cooperation:** Key projects include supply of **S-400, BrahMos missiles, joint exercises (INDRA)**, etc.
- **UNSC Reform:** Russia has consistently expressed support for India's candidature for a permanent seat at the UNSC.
- **Science Technology, and Space Collaboration:** Kudankulam Nuclear Plant, Gaganyaan Mission.

## Also In News



### Registrar General of India

RGI asked States to take steps towards achieving universal registration of births and deaths.

#### About RGI

- Appointed under the **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Key Responsibilities**
  - ⊕ **Housing & Population Census:** Under Census Act, 1948.
  - ⊕ **Civil Registration System (CRS):** Under the **Registration of Births & Deaths (RBD) Act (1969)** which provides for the compulsory registration of births and deaths.
  - ⊕ **Others:** Sample Registration System, National Population Register, Mother Tongue Survey, etc.



### Aadhaar-based Authentication Framework for Cooperative Banks

UIDAI unveiled framework after consultations with **Ministry of Cooperation, NABARD and other stakeholders**.

#### About the Framework

- **Objective:** To enable co-operative banks to leverage Aadhaar-based authentication services for **customer onboarding and Aadhar Enabled Payment System (AePS)** for delivery of financial service to underserved populations.
- **Process:** **Only the State Cooperative Banks (SCB) will be registered with UIDAI** as Authentication User Agencies and eKYC User Agencies.
  - ⊕ A new identification is proposed to be given to **District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs)** called as "**DCB-ID**" which will act as internal identifier for the SCBs.





## Indo – Dutch Strategic Water Partnership

Union Government informed the Rajya Sabha about the ongoing **Strategic Partnership on Water (SWP)** between India and the Netherlands.

### About Indo-Dutch Strategic Water Partnership

- **Signed:** In 2022 between Ministry of Jal Shakti (India) and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (Netherlands).
- **Objective:** To intensify and expand **bilateral cooperation** between India and the Netherlands in water management, focusing on water safety, availability, and quality.
- **Centre of Excellence (CoE):** An **Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence on Water** has been established in collaboration with IIT Delhi and the Government of Netherlands.
- **Key Focus Areas:** Urban water and River Management, Artificial Intelligence and Geospatial Technologies, Water Quality, and River Economy.



## NATO

NATO is considering establishing a logistics base in Sweden.

### About NATO

- It is a **political and military alliance** of countries from Europe and North America.
- **Founded:** In April 1949 with the signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty**
- **Headquarter:** Brussels, Belgium
- **Members:** 32 at present
  - ⊕ The last member to join NATO was **Sweden (2024)**.
- **Objectives:** Formed to provide **collective security** against the Soviet Union then presently its members are committed to protecting each other from any threat.
  - ⊕ **Article 5:** It says that an armed attack against one or more members will be considered an attack against all.



## Uniform Renewable Energy Tariff (URET)

URET Mechanism has been scrapped by **Ministry of Power**.

### About URET

- URET aimed to provide a **uniform tariff to consumers** by averaging competitive bid tariffs of similar renewable energy projects within central pools.
- It aimed to **address potential impacts on procurers** resulting from declining bid-discovered prices.
- **Reasons for Revocation**
  - ⊕ Procurers were reluctant to sign Power Sale Agreements due to the **uncertainty of tariffs over the three-year fixed period**.
    - ◆ This reluctance resulted in **stalled projects**.
  - ⊕ To **facilitate transparent price discovery** between producers and consumers and speed up renewable energy deployment across the country.



## Dal Lake

Dal Lake is hosting first-ever Khelo India water games.

### About Dal Lake

- **Location:** Eastern part of the Srinagar city in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, on the **right bank of Jhelum**.
- It covers an area of 18 square kilometers and is part of a natural wetland which covers 21.1 square kilometers including its floating gardens.
- It is fed by the **"Arrah" river**, flows in a northerly extremity through a dark and deep channel called **Tel Bal**.
- The wetland is divided by causeways into four basins - **Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal, and Nagin**.



## SMILE scheme

Government of India launched a **15-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme** under the SMILE scheme to empower transgender persons through self-employment and livelihood opportunities.

### About SMILE scheme

- It stands for **Support for Marginalized Individual for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme**
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- It encompasses **two subschemes**:
  - ⊕ Central Sector Scheme for **Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons &**
  - ⊕ Central Sector Scheme for **Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging**
- **Measures Taken:** rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, education, skill development, economic linkages, etc.



## International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

India has extended privileges and immunities (legal safeguards) to the IBCA and its officials which are normally granted to representatives of UN organisations.

### About IBCA

- **Genesis:** It was launched in **2023** in India during the event **'Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger'**.
- **Establishment:** By Government of India, through **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- It is a **multi-country, multi-agency coalition** of 95 big cat range countries and non-range countries with an interest in big cat conservation.
- **Objective:** Conservation of **7 big cats - Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma**.
- **Headquartered** in India.
- **Members:** **12 countries** (including India).

## Place in News



## Lebanon (Capital: Beirut)

Recently, UNICEF highlighted acute water scarcity, while UNIFIL reported ongoing Israeli fire along the Blue Line in Lebanon.

- **Lake Qaraoun (Lebanon's largest reservoir)** has dropped to its lowest level on record as per **Litani River National Authority**.
  - ⊕ **Litani River** is the longest and largest river in Lebanon which flows through Beqaa valley and empties into the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- **Blue Line:** It is a demarcation (line of withdrawal) drawn by the United Nations in 2000 to confirm Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon after its occupation.
- It runs about **120 km along Lebanon's southern frontier and Israel's northern border**.

### Political Features

- **Location:** A narrow strip of territory in the Levant region of West Asia.
- **Maritime Boundary:** Mediterranean Sea
- **Boundaries:** Syria (North and East), Israel (South)

### Geographical Features

- It is divided into **four distinct physiographic regions**
  - ⊕ Narrow coastal plain along the Mediterranean Sea,
  - ⊕ Lebanon Mountains (Jabal Lubnān),
  - ⊕ Biqa (Al-Biqā') valley &
  - ⊕ Anti-Lebanon and Hermon ranges.
- **Climate:** Mediterranean climate (winter wet and summer dry)



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI