

NITI Aayog unveils a report on India's Advanced Manufacturing Roadmap to Global Leadership

Institutions like the GST Council and NITI Aayog continue to provide platforms for dialogue, reinforcing the foundational **principle of "self-rule with shared-rule"** that underpins India's democratic success.

India's Constitutional Framework: A Balance of Powers

➤ Federal Features:

- **Written Constitution:** A foundational document with well-defined procedure for amendment.
- **Dual Polity:** A system of government at both the Union and State levels.
- **Bicameralism:** Council of States (Rajya Sabha) representing the interests and aspirations of the states. It also acts as a check on potential majoritarianism in the Lok Sabha.
- **Division of Powers:** Legislative powers between Union and States through three lists in the under the Schedule VII.

➤ Unitary Features:

- **Strong Centre:** Division of powers is tilted in favor of the central government. E.g., Primacy to Parliamentary legislations on subjects listed under Concurrent List.
- **Single Constitution and Citizenship:** Uniform laws and rights apply to all citizens across the country.
- **Parliamentary Authority over States:** Article 3 empowers Parliament to change the territories, areas, and boundaries of states by law, without requiring the states' consent.
- **Others:** Integrated Judiciary, All India Services, Emergency powers, Parliament can make laws to meet obligations arising from international treaties, etc.

Contemporary Challenges to the Federal Structure

- **Fiscal Centralisation:** E.g., Implementation of GST impacting financial autonomy of States.
- **Administrative and Political Centralisation:** E.g., use of the **Disaster Management Act** during the COVID-19 pandemic to impose nationwide lockdowns with 'minimal state consultation'.
- **Others:** Reservation of Bill by Governors for Presidential Assent, devolution of taxes and revenues by Finance Commission, etc.

Conclusion

Institutions such as NITI Aayog embodying the 'Team India' spirit, bringing together the Centre and States as equal partners in nation-building, can help address emerging developmental challenges by evolving as a dynamic balance between unity and regional autonomy.

India Maritime Week 2025 Secures Investment of ₹12 Lakh Crores

PM also unveiled following initiatives to strengthen India's Maritime Sector towards becoming a global maritime leader under the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.

- **Indigenous shipbuilding capacity:** Oil and Gas PSUs launched **59 shipbuilding orders** worth ₹47,800 crore.
- **Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)** has set a target of **216 vessels by 2047** with an investment of ₹1 Lakh Crores.

Achievements of India's Maritime Sector

- **Centrality to India's economy:** India's nearly **95% of trade by volume** and about **70% by value** moves through maritime routes.
- **Port Capacity Doubled:** To **2,762 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA)** in 2024-2025 from nearly 1,400 MMTPA in 2014.
- **Reduced average vessel turnaround time:** From **93 hours (2014)** to just **48 hours (2025)**, enhancing global competitiveness.
- **India's seafarer workforce:** It has surged from **1.25 lakh in 2014 to over 3 lakh (12% of Global workforce)** in 2025, making India one of the **world's top three suppliers** of trained seafarers.
- **Legislative boost:** Through various acts such as **Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, Coastal Shipping Act, 2025, Indian Ports Act, 2025** etc. to boost maritime sector.

Key Initiatives Taken to Boost India's Maritime Sector

- **The Maritime India Vision 2030:** Identifies **10 pivotal themes** to shape India's journey toward becoming a global maritime powerhouse, **e.g. port infrastructure, logistics efficiency, etc.**
- **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047:** Aiming over INR 70 lakh crore of investments for **shipbuilding, cruise tourism, skill development, etc.**
- **Sagarmala Programme:** Focuses on cutting logistics costs, creating employment, etc.
- **The Green Tug Programme:** To deploy **100 eco-friendly tugs by 2040**.
- **Maritime Security Framework:** Free, open and inclusive through strategic frameworks including **MAHASAGAR, Act East Policy, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, etc.**

India – US sign 10 Year framework for Major Defense Partnership

The framework, signed on the sidelines of the **12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus (ADMM-Plus)** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, intends to provide a **unified vision and policy direction** to deepen defence cooperation.

➤ Previously, similar defense frameworks were signed for 2005-15 and 2015-25 periods.

India-US Defence Cooperation

➤ Institutional & Foundational Framework:

⊕ **Apex Dialogue:** 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

⊕ **Foundational Pacts:**

- ◆ **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA):** Signed in 2016, enabling mutual logistics support.
- ◆ **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA):** Signed in 2018, allowing India to acquire secure communication equipment.
- ◆ **Industrial Security Agreement (ISA):** Signed in 2019.
- ◆ **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA):** Signed in 2020, facilitating the exchange of geospatial information.

➤ Strategic and Policy Pillars:

- ⊕ **Status:** US designated as a **Major Defence Partnership (MDP)** in 2016.
- ⊕ **Trade Facilitation:** US granted India **Strategic Trade Authorization (STA Tier-1)** status in 2018.

➤ Defence Industry and Technology:

- ⊕ **Trade Volume:** Defence procurement exceeds US\$20 billion.
 - ◆ India's inventory includes significant US-origin defense items like C-130J, C-17, P-8I aircraft, and Apache, Chinook, and Seahawk helicopters.
- ⊕ **Technology Push:** **Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap (2023)** to fast-track technology and co-production.
- ⊕ **Innovation Ecosystem:** Launched **INDUS X (Defense Acceleration Ecosystem)** to link start-ups and industry.
- ⊕ **New Initiatives Announced:** **Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA)** to increase industry partnerships and production of autonomous systems in the Indo-Pacific region.

➤ Operational Interoperability:

- ⊕ **Bilateral Exercises:** Yudh Abhyas (Army), Vajra Prahar (Special Forces), Cope India (Air Force).
- ⊕ **Multilateral Exercises:** Malabar (navies of India, USA, Japan, Australia).

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Remembered on His 150th Birth Anniversary

About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875 – 1950)

- He was born on **31st October, 1875** in Gujarat in a Peasant family.
 - ⊕ His birth anniversary is now observed as the **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)** for uniting hundreds of princely states and laying the **foundation of an integrated India**.
- He is also known as the **Iron Man of India**.
- He was a **lawyer** who later turned to **public service** during India's independence struggle.

Key Contributions of Sardar Patel

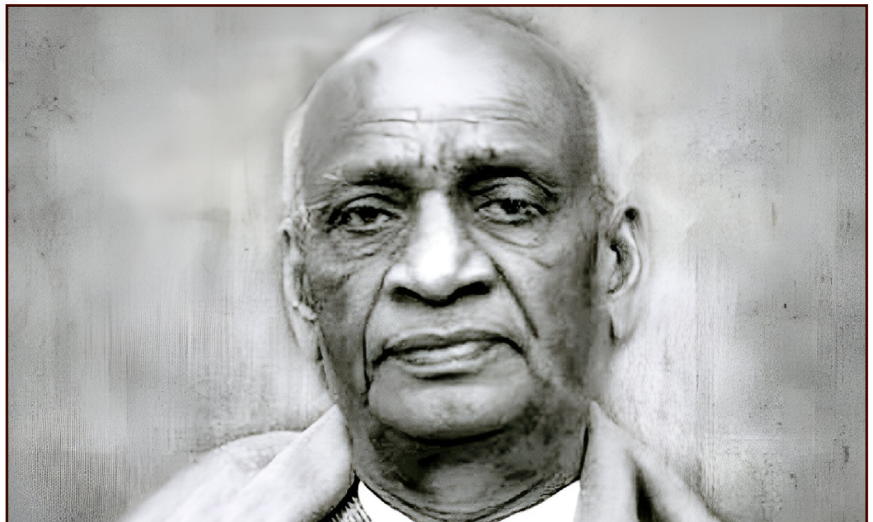
Pre Independence:

- **Leadership in Early Gandhian Movements:** Emerged as a national leader in **1918** by participating in the **Kheda Satyagraha and Ahmedabad Mill Strike**.
- **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928):** Led a non-violent protest by peasants against **unjust land revenue hikes**; where he was given the title of '**Sardar**' by the women of Bardoli.
- **As President of the Indian National Congress (Karachi Session, 1931):** Adopted resolutions on **fundamental rights and national economic policies**.

Post-Independence

- **Architect of Political Integration:** Swiftly unified **500+ princely states** through diplomacy. E.g. Junagadh (plebiscite), Hyderabad (Operation Polo), etc.
- **Internal Stability:** As the **first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India**, he **stabilized administration during India's partition**, maintaining order amid communal violence and refugee inflows.
- **Steel Frame of India:** He established the **All India Services**, ensuring a professional, neutral administrative structure for national unity.

Key Values: Integrity, Leadership, Patriotism, Courage, Determination, etc.



US President announced that the U.S. would be resuming Nuclear Weapons Testing

The US will resume testing nuclear weapons after a gap of 33 years, which was last conducted in 1992 just before the announcement of the end of the Cold War.

Nuclear Arms Control Treaties

Treaty	Year	Parties / Signatories	Purpose & Key Provisions
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)	1968 (in force 1970)	191 countries (except India, Israel, Pakistan, South Sudan)	To prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology and promote cooperation.
Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty	1987	US & the erstwhile USSR	Eliminated ground-launched missiles (500–5,500 km range).
Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I)	1991 (expired 2009)	US & USSR (later Russia)	Limited deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 6,000 and 1,600 delivery vehicles.
Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)	1996	187 signatories, 178 ratified, 9 countries have not signed including India, Bhutan, Pakistan etc.	Prohibits all nuclear explosions (test or otherwise) for any purpose.
New START Treaty	2010 (came in force 2011), till 2026	US & Russia	Limits deployed strategic warheads to 1,550 and delivery systems to 700.
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)	2017 (in force 2021)	95 signatories and 74 states parties, India, Pakistan etc., have not signed.	Bans possession, development, use, or threat of nuclear weapons. (legally binding)

Prime Minister Highlighted Contribution of Arya Samaj on 150 Years of Its Foundation

About Arya Samaj

- **Founded:** In 1875 by **Swami Dayanand Saraswati** in **Bombay**.
- **Religious Reforms:** Denounced **idolatry and ritualistic worship**, preached respect and reverence for other human beings.
 - ⊕ Believed in **infallible authority of Vedas** and Swami Dayanand Saraswati gave **slogan of 'Back to Vedas'**.
- **Social Reforms:** Opposed **caste as hereditary, untouchability** and advocated **Vedic education for all castes**; against **child marriage, forced widowhood** and **campaigned for women's education**.
- **Educational Reforms:** E.g. **Dayanand Anglo Vedic (DAV) Trust and Management** in 1886 to **impart scientific and modern education**.
- **Freedom Movement:** Prominent members included freedom fighters such as **Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, Ram Prasad Bismil, Madan Lal Dhingra, Swami Shraddhanand, Sachindra Nath Sanyal**, etc.

Contemporary Relevance of Arya Samaj Principles

- **Social Equality:** Its opposition to casteism and untouchability echoes **India's constitutional values** of equality and justice.
- **Gender Empowerment:** Advocacy of women's education and rights aligns with schemes like **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** and **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**.
- **Education & Rationalism:** DAV institutions continue its legacy of **scientific and moral education**; supports **scientific temper** under Article 51A (h).
- **Other:** Ethical living over rituals, aiding **interfaith harmony**; living in **harmony with nature**, etc.

Also In News



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

2025 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was recently held in the South Korean city of Gyeongju.

About APEC (Secretariat: Singapore)

- **Founded:** In 1989
- **Members:** 21 economies (Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, the United States etc.)
- **India:** Not a member (observer status).
- **Objective:** To build a **dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community** by championing **free and open trade and investment**, promoting economic integration, cooperation, etc.



Baltic Sea

Poland Intercepts another Russian Plane over the Baltic Sea.

About Baltic Sea

- Situated in **Northern Europe**.
- **Bordering countries:** Sweden, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Estonia, Germany, Denmark, and Russia.
- **Kiel Canal** connects the **North Sea to the Baltic Sea**.
- Connected to the **Atlantic Ocean through the Danish Straits**.
- Often cited as the **world's largest brackish inland water body**
 - ⊕ As its **water salinity levels are lower than that of the World Oceans** due to the **inflow of fresh water from the surrounding land** and the sea's shallowness.



Alfven Waves

A recent study revealing distinct **Red and Blue Doppler shifts** confirms the presence of the **Alfven waves** in the **Sun's Corona**.

About Alfven Waves

- They are **magnetic waves that travel along the Sun's magnetic field lines**, causing the **plasma to oscillate sideways**.
- It occurs in a **plasma state (or conducting fluid)**, resulting from the **interaction of the magnetic fields and electric currents** within it.
- They are believed to **carry energy from the Sun's surface into the corona**, contributing to its **extremely high temperatures**.
- **Significance:** Coronal heating, Solar Wind Acceleration, Improved Space Weather Forecasting etc.



Savings Rate

Chairperson to the EAC-PM says that India's investment rate needs to rise to 34-35% to get 7% growth, which is largely financed through savings and foreign investment.

About Savings Rate

- It is the amount of GDP that is saved by households, businesses, and the government.
- Calculated as the difference between disposable income and final consumption expenditure.
- In 2024, India's savings rate was 30.2% (as a percentage of GDP).



Creative City of Gastronomy

The 43rd session of **UNESCO's** General Conference named **Lucknow** as the **Creative City of Gastronomy** as part of its **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**.

- **Second Indian city** in this category **after Hyderabad**.
- **Other Indian cities include:** Gwalior (Music), Jaipur (Crafts & Folk Art), Chennai (Music), etc.

About UCCN

- **Origin:** Created in **2004** to **strengthen cooperation with and among cities** that have recognized **creativity as a strategic factor of sustainable development**.
- **Covers 7 creative fields:** Crafts & Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Music and Media Arts.



Exercise in News (Ex Trishul)

India launched **Exercise Trishul**, a major **tri-Service drill** along western border with Pakistan across Gujarat and Rajasthan.

About Exercise Trishul

- **Objective:** To comprehend **joint operational capability and strategic preparedness** of the Indian Army, Navy, and the Air Force.
- The exercise will serve as a **platform to demonstrate how indigenous defense systems are being integrated into India's operational framework**.



Iberian Lynx

World's first-ever white Iberian Lynx was spotted in Spain.

About Iberian Lynx

- **IUCN status:** Vulnerable
- **IUCN Green Status of Species:** Largely Depleted.
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Habitat:** Mosaic of dense scrub for shelter and open pasture for hunting.
- **Rabbit abundance** is the essential component of Iberian lynx habitat.



- **Behaviour:** Mainly crepuscular (generally sleep during day) and **nocturnal but can also be active at daytime**.
- **Major Threats:** Rabbit population collapses, habitat loss and fragmentation, disease transmission, low genetic diversity, poaching etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI