

NEWS TODAY

Mahatma Gandhi's Principles more relevant today amidst cross-border terrorism: All-Party Delegation

Gandhiji's ideas on non-violence and Satyagraha (determination to reach the truth):

- **Scope of non-violence:** He opined that **violence is the creed of no religion**, whereas non-violence in most cases is **obligatory** in all, violence is merely permissible in some cases.
 - ⊕ He opined that **truth can never** be propagated by doing **violence**.
- In his article '**The Doctrine of the Sword**' written in **Young India**, he wrote:
 - ⊕ "I do believe that where there is only a choice between **cowardice and violence** I would advise violence. I would rather have **India** resort to **arms** in order to **defend her honor** than that she should in a cowardly manner become or remain a **helpless** witness to her own **dishonor**."

Current relevance in context of cross-border terrorism

- **Operation Sindoor:** India's response to the terror attack in **Pahalagam** was based on its **right to respond, pre-empt, non-escalatory and deter cross-border terrorism**.
- **Three Key Pillars of India's Security Doctrine:** Includes decisive retaliation on India's terms, zero tolerance for nuclear blackmail and no distinction between terrorists and their sponsors.
- **All Party Delegation:** Outreach to the **international community** to put forth the **truth** of state-sponsored terrorism and promote a **global response against violence**.

Conclusion

India has always followed the path of **Gandhiji's principles** through doctrines like **Vasudaiva Kutumbakam**, **no first use** and **promotion of global peace**.



India And Japan Agree to Deepen Maritime Relations

India and Japan agreed to deepen maritime relations for a sustainable, mutually beneficial future.

Key Areas of Maritime Cooperation

- **Smart Islands:** Andaman Nicobar Islands and Lakswadeep islands to be converted into '**Smart Islands**' through:
 - ⊕ **sustainable technologies** (renewable energy, smart mobility),
 - ⊕ **disaster-resilient infrastructure**, and
 - ⊕ **digital connectivity**, etc.
- **Maritime collaboration and Investment:** India can benefit from **expertise of Japanese shipbuilding, co-development of ports and maritime industrial clusters**.
 - ⊕ India aims to scale up investments with Japan, **targeting more than ₹3 lakh crore by 2027**.
 - ⊕ India also plans a Greenfield investment of **Imabari Shipbuilding in Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Maritime Heritage and Cultural Cooperation:** India sought Japan's cooperation for developing the proposed **National Maritime Heritage Museum (NMHC) at Lothal in Gujarat**.
 - ⊕ NMHC aims to showcase India's rich maritime history and legacy and serves as a world-class centre for heritage tourism, education, and research in the maritime sector.
- **Upskilling human resources:** India's **~154,000 trained seafarers** may supplement **Japan's maritime workforce**.

Significance of India-Japan Maritime Cooperation

- **Vital for Trade and Energy Security:** Energy deficit, India and Japan rely heavily on maritime trade (97% of India's **international trade** and almost all of Japan's trade is sea-based).
- **Strategic Check on China:** Both countries are concerned about **China's growing assertiveness** in the Indian Ocean.
- **Boosting Regional Cooperation:** Their cooperation also strengthens regional frameworks such
 - ⊕ **Quad**
 - ⊕ **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)**
 - ⊕ **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)**
 - ⊕ **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**
 - ⊕ **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**
 - ⊕ **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)**
- **Supporting India's Strategic Vision:** Japan can play a **key role in advancing India's Act East Policy** and '**Maritime India Vision 2030**' and '**Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**'.

Ministry of Science & Technology launched 'Bharat Gen' at the BharatGen Summit

BharatGen Summit is India's largest Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Model (LLM) summit and hackathon.

About Bharat Gen

Public-Private Partnership Initiative:

- It is India's first-of-its-kind, indigenously developed AI-based **Multimodal LLM** for Indian languages.
- Launched** as a **non-profit company** with funding from the Department of Science and Technology.
- Developed** under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**.
- Being implemented through **Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH) Foundation** for IoT (Internet of Things) and IoE (Internet of Everything) at IIT Bombay.

4 primary goals:

- Creation of Bharat-centric foundational LLM models:** Focus on Indian languages, culture and tradition
- Bharat Data Sagar:** To centralise high-quality Bharatiya data necessary for model building
- Startup Ecosystem and Innovation:** empowering entrepreneurs with tools, mentorship, and collaboration to create innovative AI applications for India.
- Skilling and Capacity Building:** Strengthen India's AI talent pool through fellowships, hackathons, and courses, **positioning it as a global innovation hub.**

About Multimodal LLM

- Multimodal LLMs (MLLMs)** are large language models trained on a combination of **text and non-text data**, including **images, audio, and video**.
- These models use **machine learning to understand and interpret human language and other complex data types**.
- Multimodal LLMs **surpass the limitations of unimodal models** (such as earlier versions of ChatGPT), which **often struggle to produce cohesive responses** when inputs span different modalities.



PM highlights India's aviation boom at International Air Transport Association's (IATA) 81st Annual General Meeting

Status of India's aviation sector:

3 pillars of Aviation sector:

- A vast market,
- Strong demographic and talent pool in AI, clean energy, etc and
- Supportive policy ecosystem

Women share: 15% of India's pilots are women, significantly higher than the global average of 5%.

Aligning aviation laws with global standards: Like ICAO regulations, the Delhi Declaration (regional cooperation) and the Chicago Convention's principles for open skies and global connectivity.

Value-chain leader in global aviation: From design to delivery, India encourages companies to embrace "Make in India" and "Design in India" like Maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO).

Government initiatives for boosting Aviation sector:

- Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN):** The number of operational airports in the country has doubled from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024 and aims to increase to 350-400 by 2047.
- Digi Yatra app:** Contactless air travel.
- Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill:** Aim to align India's aviation sector with global standards and ensure accountability in case of financial default.

About IATA:

- Origin:** April 1945 in Havana, Cuba, (successor to International Air Traffic Association) post Chicago Convention (1944)
- Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada, with executive offices in Geneva, Switzerland.



Ministry of Heavy Industries Notifies Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI)

Key Highlights of the Scheme



» Objective

- ⊕ Boost domestic manufacturing of electric passenger cars (e-4W) in India.
- ⊕ Establish India as a global hub for automotive innovation and manufacturing.

» Eligible Projects: Expenditure incurred on new Plant, Machinery, Charging Infrastructure, Equipment and associated utilities across India.

- ⊕ Expenditure made on second hand/ refurbished plant, machinery etc., will not qualify

» Eligibility for Applicants

 Particulars	 Requirement
Global Group* Revenue (from automotive manufacturing)	Minimum ₹10,000 crore (latest audited)
Global Investment of Company or its Group* Company(ies) in fixed assets	Minimum ₹3,000 crore (latest audited)

Note: A group company refers to entities that hold at least 26% voting rights in each other.

» Benefits to Applicants:

- ⊕ **Customs Duty Concessions:** Concession upto 5 years linked to meeting domestic value addition (DVA) milestones.
- ⊕ **Import Benefits:** Allowed to import fully-built electric cars or CBUs (a vehicle that is completely assembled) with certain conditions.

» Obligations for the Applicant

- ⊕ Approved applicants must **set up an e-4W manufacturing facility** in India and it must be operational within **3 years** from approval.
- ⊕ **Minimum investment:** ₹4,150 crore.
- ⊕ **DVA Targets:** Minimum 25% DVA by 3 years and 50% by 5 years.
- ⊕ **Mandatory Bank Guarantee:** Applicant's commitment to setup manufacturing facility(ies) and achievement of DVA shall be backed by a bank guarantee from a scheduled commercial bank in India.

INDIA'S AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

Driving the Future of Mobility

KEY FACTS

3rd LARGEST India is the 3rd largest automobile market in the world







₹ Market size: ₹12.5 lakh crore (current)

Expected: ₹24.9 lakh crore by 2030
50% Growth Expected

7.1% GDP Contributes 7.1% to India's GDP

 India can lead the global shift from ICE vehicles to Electric Vehicles (EVs)

Growth Drivers of India's Auto Sector

-  **PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components (PLI-Auto).**
-  **PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cells (PLI-ACC).**
-  **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME).**
-  **State EV Policies**

Also In News



Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

At ECOWAS's 50th anniversary; UN and global diplomats hail ECOWAS as Africa's model for regional integration.

About ECOWAS:

- » **Origin:** In 1975, 15 States signed Lagos Treaty
- » **Headquarters:** Abuja, Nigeria.
- » **Members:** Benin, Cabo Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.
- » **Aim:** To promote cooperation and integration for establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to:
 - ⊕ Raise the living standards of its peoples,
 - ⊕ To maintain and enhance economic stability,
 - ⊕ Foster relations-among Member States and
 - ⊕ contribute to the progress and development of the African continent.



World's largest Grain storage Plan in cooperative sector

Review meeting on the scheme plan aims to **increase the income of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** as well as **create rural employment opportunities.**

About Scheme:

- » **Ministry:** Ministry of Cooperation.
- » **Implementing Agencies:** National Cooperative Development Corporation, NABARD, Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation, etc.
- » **Significance**
 - ⊕ **Food Security:** Decentralized storage will reduce food grain wastage, enhancing national food security.
 - ⊕ **Access to credit:** Farmers will be able to store their produce in godown constructed at PACS & avail finance for the next cycle of crop.



Shangri-La Dialogue

The annual Shangri-La Dialogue is being held in Singapore.

About Shangri-La Dialogue

- **Genesis:** Inspired by **post-Cold War multilateralism** and evolving defence diplomacy **post-9/11**, the dialogue was established in 2002.
- **Naming:** After the **Shangri-La hotel** where the 1st summit took place
- **Organised by:** International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London, with support from the Singapore government.
- **Format:** A "1.5 Track" multilateral defence dialogue (mix of official and unofficial participation)
- **Purpose:** It enables **government ministers, defence chiefs and policy makers** from **Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe and the Middle East** to discuss the **regional security issues** and to **share policy responses**.



National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

The **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)** has invited proposals to set up **District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs)** in underserved districts under the NAPDDR.

About NAPDR

- **Objective:** To address substance abuse through prevention, de-addiction, and rehabilitation.
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Key Strategies**
 - ⊕ **Preventive education and awareness**
 - ⊕ **Treatment and rehabilitation** for addicts and families
 - ⊕ **Capacity building** at various levels
- **Financial Support Provided To:**
 - ⊕ **States/UTs** – for awareness and capacity-building programs
 - ⊕ **NGOs/VOs** – to run:
 - ◆ Integrated Rehabilitation Centres (IRCA's)
 - ◆ Community Peer-led Interventions (CPLI)
 - ◆ Outreach and Drop-in Centres (ODIC)
 - ◆ District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs)
 - ⊕ **Govt. Hospitals** – for setting up **Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs)**
- **Tenure:** 2018-2025



Mount Etna

Recently, **Mount Etna** volcano located on **Sicily island, Italy** erupted.

About Mount Etna

- It is the **highest Mediterranean island mountain**, the **most active stratovolcano in the world** and **Europe's largest** active volcano.
 - ⊕ **Stratovolcanoes (composite volcanoes)** are formed by lava **cooler** and more **viscous** than basalt, leading to **more explosive** eruptions.
- **Features:** Summit craters, cinder cones, lava flows and the Valle de Bove depression.
- One of the world's **longest documented** records of **historical volcanism** (~2700 years).
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

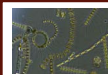


Kheer Bhawani Temple

The **Kheer Bhawani festival**, celebrated annually on the **Jyeshtha Ashtami**, is being held at the **Kheer Bhawani temple** in **Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir**.

About Kheer Bhawani Temple

- **Location:** Near Srinagar
- **Prime Goddess:** Dedicated to **Goddess Ragnya Devi**, an incarnation of **Goddess Durga**.
- Built by **Maharaja Pratap Singh** around **1912**, which was later embellished and **renovated** by **Maharaja Hari Singh**.
- A **hexagonal spring** is present at the centre of the temple, known for its **sacred water**.
- The temple and festival are **named** after the **sweet dish 'kheer'**, distributed as **prasad** to the devotees.



Phytoplankton

A study finds that **excess iron stimulates phytoplankton blooms**, increasing the rate of nutrient consumption and leading to a faster transition to nutrient-poor conditions in the oceans.

About Phytoplanktons

- They are **microscopic organisms** that live in both **salty and freshwater environments**.
- Contain **chlorophyll** and require **sunlight** and **inorganic nutrients** like **iron, nitrates, phosphates, sulfur** to live and grow.
- **Types:** Bacteria, protists, single-celled plants (Cyanobacteria, diatoms, dinoflagellates, green algae, etc.)
- **Significance:**
 - ⊕ **Food Chain:** Act as **primary producers**.
 - ⊕ **Biological carbon pump:** Responsible for most of the transfer of **carbon dioxide** from the atmosphere to the ocean.
- **Risks:** Overgrowth may lead to harmful algal blooms (red tides), releasing toxins that are dangerous to both marine and human life.



United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Mission

Border Security Force (BSF) contingent comprising 25 women personnel deployed with the UN peacekeeping mission in **Congo**.

What is UN Peacekeeping?

- **Genesis:** UN Peacekeeping began in **1948** with the establishment of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in the Middle East to monitor ceasefires.
- **Three basic principles:** Consent of the parties, Impartiality, Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.
- **Components of UN Peacekeeping include** Facilitating Political Processes, Protecting Civilians, election support, etc.
- **Since the 1950s, India** has sent over 290,000 peacekeepers to more than 50 missions worldwide, making it the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping efforts.

Place in News



Paraguay (Capital: Asunción)

Political Features:

- **Location:** It is a landlocked country in **south-central South America**.
- **Land Boundaries:** **Bolivia** (northwest and north), **Brazil** (northeast and east), and **Argentina** (southeast, south, and west).

Geographical Features:

- **Important Rivers:** Paraguay, Apa, Paraná, and Pilcomayo rivers.
 - ⊕ **Rivers** provide access to the Atlantic Ocean and serve as sites for the **hydroelectric power plants** that have made it one of the world's largest exporters of hydropower.
- **The Tropic of Capricorn** passes through it.
- **Highest Peak:** Cerro Pero



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI