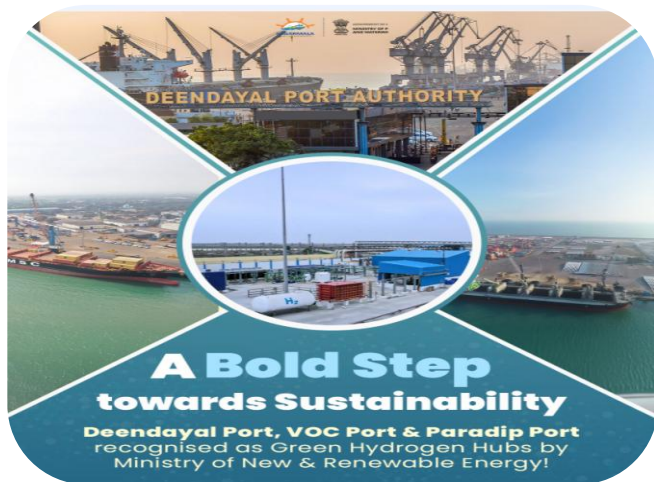


# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**> 14 OCTOBER 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. MNRE Recognises Three Major Ports as Green Hydrogen Hubs under National Green Hydrogen Mission.



On 10th October 2025, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) officially designated Deendayal Port (Gujarat), V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tamil Nadu), and Paradip Port (Odisha) as Green Hydrogen Hubs under India's National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), marking a strategic step towards large-scale clean energy development and export.

- These three ports were identified as strategic hubs to facilitate large-scale production, industrial utilisation, and export of green hydrogen, creating regional centres of energy innovation and sustainability.
- The initiative aligns with India's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, promoting green hydrogen as a key clean fuel to reduce industrial carbon footprints.
- Hydrogen projects established in these hubs will be eligible for benefits under Central and State Government schemes, including streamlined approvals, access to infrastructure, and financial incentives to encourage investment.

### Key Points:-

- (i) These ports are expected to attract industrial participation, foster innovation in clean fuel technologies, and promote domestic and foreign green investments in hydrogen-based industries.
- (ii) On 27th June 2025, MNRE issued updated guidelines for Hydrogen Valley Innovation Clusters (HVIC) and Green Hydrogen Hubs, allowing recognition under Component B2 without direct financial assistance while enabling access to government incentives.
- (iii) Deendayal Port (Gujarat) serves as a western gateway with strong hydrogen project potential; V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tamil Nadu) functions as a southern industrial hub; and Paradip Port (Odisha) supports large-scale energy projects, industrial growth, and green investment opportunities in eastern India.

### 2. Inaugural India Water & Rivers Forum 2025 Held in New Delhi to Promote Water Security and Corporate Stewardship.



In October 2025, CSRBOX and The Godavari Initiative (TGI) jointly organised the inaugural India Water & Rivers Forum 2025



in New Delhi, aimed at catalyzing collective action for water security and advancing corporate water stewardship across India's industries.

- The forum brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society to foster coordinated efforts for strengthening water resilience at the basin level and promoting sustainable water management practices.
- The event aimed to enhance accountability and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) stewardship across industries, encouraging companies to adopt responsible water usage strategies.
- The forum was held in collaboration with leading global organisations, including the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) CEO Water Mandate, Water Resilience Coalition, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), and World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

#### Key Points:-

- The 2nd edition of the India ESG Outlook Report 2025, published by CSRBOX, was launched at the forum.
- The report provided an in-depth analysis of India's ESG landscape, highlighting key trends, gaps, and opportunities for sustainable business transformation, noting the continued dominance of fossil fuels across sectors.
- Founded in 2014 and headquartered in Ahmedabad, CSRBOX is a leading Indian social impact organisation providing impact advisory, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) implementation, and sustainability solutions to over 350 companies in India.

### 3. CCRAS Launches SPARK 4.0 to Promote Research Skills Among Ayurveda Students.



On 10th October 2025, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) announced the 4th edition of its flagship initiative, 'SPARK (Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken) 4.0', aimed at fostering scientific curiosity and research skills among undergraduate Ayurveda students across India.

- SPARK 4.0 provides a national platform for evidence-based inquiry in Ayurveda, enabling undergraduate students to undertake short-term, independent research projects under the guidance of faculty mentors.
- The program will award 300 Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) students from NCISM-recognized colleges a studentship of Rs. 50,000 (Rs. 25,000 per month for two months) along with a certificate upon successful completion of the research project.

#### Key Points:-

- Registration for SPARK 4.0 opens on 15th October 2025, and the last date for submission of applications is 15th November 2025, allowing eligible students to apply

within this one-month period.

(ii) The initiative is designed to spark curiosity, promote scientific thinking, and enhance research capabilities among Ayurveda undergraduates, preparing the next generation of scholars and innovators in the field.

#### 4. NITI Aayog Releases “Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI Economy” to Position India as Global AI Talent Hub.



On 10th October 2025, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, released a comprehensive report titled “Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI (Artificial Intelligence) Economy.” The roadmap aims to transform India into a global centre for AI talent and address the evolving dynamics of work, workers, and the workforce in the AI era.

- The roadmap was developed by NITI Aayog’s Frontier Tech Hub in collaboration with NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) and BCG (Boston Consulting Group), guided by an Expert Council comprising leaders from IBM, Infosys, Tech Mahindra,

Teleperformance, and other major technology firms.

- The document envisions a mission-mode strategy to enhance AI literacy in education, establish a national reskilling engine for technology and Customer Experience (CX) professionals, and position India as the global hub for AI-driven workforce development.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The roadmap highlights both challenges and opportunities in the AI-driven economy, projecting possible job displacements by 2031 but forecasting the creation of nearly 4 million new AI-related jobs across sectors within the next five years.

(ii) NITI Aayog has proposed the launch of a National AI Talent Mission, a coordinated national effort designed to build a strong pipeline of AI professionals and transform India into the world’s leading AI workforce capital.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 1. Union Minister Piyush Goyal Visits Qatar to Strengthen Bilateral Trade, Investment, and Digital Cooperation.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), Government of India (GoI), undertook a two-day official visit to Qatar from 6th to 7th October 2025. This marked his first official visit to Qatar, aimed at deepening economic, investment, and digital cooperation between the two nations.

- On 6th October 2025, Piyush Goyal co-chaired the India-Qatar Joint Commission Meeting on Economic and Commercial Cooperation in Doha along with H.E. Sheikh Mohammad bin Hamad bin Qassim Al Abdullah Al Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Qatar, to review and strengthen bilateral trade relations.

- Both sides reviewed bilateral trade valued at over USD 14 billion in 2024–25 and set a target to double it by 2030. Discussions focused on expanding trade diversification and enhancing economic collaboration across strategic sectors.

### Key Points:-

(i) India and Qatar agreed to expedite finalisation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) to formally initiate negotiations on the India-Qatar Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to boost trade and investment ties.

(ii) The Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) committed to investing USD 10 billion in India, with plans to explore further opportunities in renewable energy (RE), infrastructure, logistics, and digital economy projects to foster long-term economic cooperation.

(iii) On 7th October 2025, Piyush Goyal launched India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system at Lulu Mall, The Pearl Island in Doha. The launch was a part of a trilateral collaboration between NPCI International

Payments Limited (NIPL), Qatar National Bank (QNB), and Japan's NETSTARS to enhance digital payment connectivity.

## BANKING & FINANCE

**1. Sixth Edition of Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2025) Showcases Key Fintech Innovations and Partnerships in Mumbai.**



The sixth edition of the Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2025) was held from October 7–9, 2025, at the Jio World Convention Centre and Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra, highlighting cutting-edge fintech innovations, collaborations, and digital finance advancements.

- Invest in Denmark and Copenhagen Fintech, in collaboration with Startup Réseau, hosted a special thematic session on “Green Fintech” focusing on sustainable financial technologies. This initiative promoted Nordic–Indian partnerships to accelerate climate-friendly financial innovation.

- PhonePe announced a strategic partnership with Mastercard to enable ecosystem-wide device tokenisation across its payment gateway, enhancing transaction security and seamless digital payments for Indian users.



● **AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) introduced its AU Multi-Currency Forex Card, allowing users to hold multiple foreign currencies on a single card for hassle-free international transactions, catering to travelers and business professionals.**

#### Key Points:-

(i) At GFF 2025, Visa launched its Payment Passkey solution in collaboration with Razorpay, PhonePe, PayU, and Juspay. Visa also introduced the Corporate Sapphire Forex Card and Multi-Currency Prepaid Forex Card, further strengthening its product portfolio in digital cross-border payments.

(ii) Bank of India (BoI) unveiled Proof of Concept (PoC) solutions for fraud prevention and biometric-based UPI transactions for small payments. It also launched premium cards Celestia (for high-value customers) and Lakshmi (for women).

(iii) Additionally, NeGD and NeSL signed an MoU to enhance digital document management for government and business entities.

In October 2025, the Bank of India (BoI), a leading Public Sector Bank (PSB), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Border Security Force (BSF) under the Rakshak Salary Package to provide enhanced financial and insurance benefits for BSF personnel and veterans. The signing took place at BSF Headquarters, New Delhi, in the presence of senior officials from both organisations.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The MoU offers enhanced Personal Accident Insurance (PAI) coverage up to Rs. 1 crore and Air Accident Coverage up to Rs. 2 crore for BSF personnel.

(ii) BSF members will receive attractive deals on Debit and Credit Cards, providing additional convenience and financial perks.

(iii) The agreement includes value-added financial benefits aimed at ensuring greater financial security and support for BSF personnel and veterans.

## 2. Bank of India Signs MoU with BSF to Enhance Financial Benefits under Rakshak Salary Package.



## 3. CotoPay Launches India's First Business-Specific e-RUPI Voucher Platform Powered by NPCI.



On October 10, 2025, CotoPay, a brand of Cotodel Technologies Private Limited, in

collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), launched India's first business-specific e-RUPI (Digital e-Rupee) voucher issuance platform. The platform aims to simplify expense management for businesses through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem.

● Through the CotoPay platform, businesses can instantly issue UPI-based digital vouchers that employees can redeem at over 65 million UPI-enabled merchants across India, enhancing ease of payments and business efficiency.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The platform allows vouchers to be restricted to specific categories or merchants, ensuring that funds are utilized strictly for designated purposes, promoting controlled spending and financial transparency.
- (ii) Employees can use their existing UPI apps like BHIM, Google Pay, and bob e-Pay for redemption, eliminating the need for new applications.
- (iii) The platform also removes the requirement for individual Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures, enabling smooth and quick onboarding.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### 1. Sachin Tendulkar Launches His First Sportswear and Athleisure Brand 'TEN x YOU' to Promote Fitness in India.



On October 10, 2025, Bharat Ratna and former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched his first sportswear and athleisure brand, 'TEN x YOU', with the goal of promoting fitness and encouraging sports participation across India.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based brand TEN x YOU has been co-founded by Sachin Tendulkar, Karthik Gurusamy, and Karan Arora, under the company SRT10 Athleisure Private Limited, with financial support from Peak XV Partners and Whiteboard Capital.
- (ii) The brand's vision is to transform India from a sports-loving nation to a sports-playing nation, inspiring people of all age groups to lead active, health-oriented lifestyles through fitness and sports engagement.
- (iii) TEN x YOU offers a diverse range of products, including cricket-specific footwear, lifestyle apparel, and sports accessories, specifically designed to cater to the performance and comfort needs of Indian athletes and fitness enthusiasts.

## MOUs and Agreement

### 1. NeGD Signs MoU with Sahakar Taxi Cooperative for Bharat Taxi Platform Under Digital India.



In October 2025, the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Digital India Corporation, under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited, known by its brand name Bharat Taxi. The partnership aims to provide strategic and technical support for launching a cooperative-driven national ride-hailing platform in December 2025.

- Under this collaboration, NeGD will provide strategic advisory and technical assistance to Bharat Taxi for developing a citizen-first, cooperative-driven ride-hailing platform aligned with the Digital India mission.
- The Bharat Taxi platform will be integrated with key national digital services such as DigiLocker, UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance), and API (Application Programming Interface) Setu to ensure secure identity verification and smooth service delivery.

### Key Points:-

(i) NeGD will oversee the implementation of cybersecurity protocols and ensure the platform complies with Government of India (GoI) data protection and infrastructure standards to safeguard user data and maintain system reliability.

(ii) The initiative represents a major step toward a cooperative-led digital ecosystem, combining technological innovation with social inclusivity to create a sustainable, transparent, and user-friendly mobility solution.

(iii) The Bharat Taxi project aligns with the vision of the Government's flagship Digital India programme, aiming to deliver inclusive, citizen-centric, and technology-enabled public services while promoting cooperative entrepreneurship in the transport sector.

### 2. MADC Signs MoU with Fira Barcelona to Develop World-Class Convention Centre in Nagpur.



In October 2025, the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Spain's Fira Barcelona International Company to establish a world-class convention, exhibition, cultural, and academic centre in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The signing



was witnessed by CM Devendra Fadnavis and CEO Richard Zapatero in Mumbai.

- The convention centre will be strategically located within Nagpur and will be well connected by all modes of transport, ensuring easy access for visitors and participants from across India and abroad.
- The centre will host exhibitions, conferences, and major events, while also serving as a cultural hub highlighting Nagpur's rich heritage and history, combining modern facilities with cultural storytelling.
- The facility will feature modern design, advanced technology, and eco-friendly construction. It will be situated within the Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport (MIHAN), further strengthening Nagpur's position as a hub for aviation, logistics, and IT industries.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

**1. Rajeev Juneja of Mankind Pharma Appointed as President of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) for 2025–26.**



In October 2025, Rajeev Juneja, Vice Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of Mankind Pharma Limited, assumed charge

as the President of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) for the term 2025–26, succeeding Hemant Jain of KLJ Group.

- Rajeev Juneja succeeds Hemant Jain, Managing Director of KLJ Group of Companies, who now serves as the Immediate Former President of PHDCCI.
- Alongside Juneja, Anil Gupta, CMD of KEI Industries Ltd., has been appointed as Senior Vice President, and Sanjay Singhania, MD & CEO of Epack Prefab Technologies Ltd., as Vice President of PHDCCI.
- A seasoned entrepreneur and co-founder of Mankind Pharma (founded in 1995 with his brother Ramesh Juneja), he has played a key role in transforming the company into one of India's top pharmaceutical firms.

### Key Points:-

- Under his leadership, Mankind Pharma has built a robust product portfolio, a strong domestic presence, and global recognition for quality and affordability in healthcare.
- Rajeev Juneja has been an active member of PHDCCI, contributing to policy development and industry initiatives that foster growth, competitiveness, and innovation in India's corporate sector.
- His leadership aims to strengthen public-private partnerships, drive industrial innovation, and align PHDCCI's initiatives with India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

**1. World Day Against the Death Penalty 2025 Observed Globally on October 10 to Advocate Abolition of Capital Punishment.**



The World Day Against the Death Penalty is observed annually on October 10 across the globe to raise awareness about the inhumanity of capital punishment and promote its universal abolition. The year 2025 marks the 23rd observance, focusing on global justice, equality, and the right to life.

- The theme for World Day Against the Death Penalty 2025 is “The Death Penalty Protects No One: Abolish it Now.” The theme underscores that capital punishment is ineffective, unjust, and discriminatory, emphasizing that it fails to enhance public safety or deter crime.

- The day was initiated by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) in collaboration with Amnesty International, the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), and several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). It was first observed on October 10, 2003.

- Adopted in 1966 and effective since 1976, the ICCPR safeguards essential human rights, including the right to life, freedom of speech, and fair trial. Article 6 specifically recognizes the right to life and places restrictions on the use of capital punishment.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Currently, 112 countries have abolished

the death penalty for all crimes, 9 for ordinary crimes only, and 23 are abolitionist in practice. Overall, 144 countries have abolished it in law or practice, while 55 countries still retain it. In 2023, 16 countries carried out executions.

(ii) In India, the death penalty—executed by hanging—remains the highest form of punishment. As of 2025, about 539 prisoners are on death row. The last executions in India occurred on March 20, 2020, highlighting its rare but continued application.

(iii) The 2025 observance reiterates the need for global solidarity to abolish capital punishment entirely, aligning with international human rights standards and advocating for a world that values rehabilitation and justice over retribution.

## 2. World Egg Day 2025 Celebrated on 10th October Highlighting “Mighty Egg – Packed with Natural Nutrition”.



World Egg Day (WED) 2025 was observed on 10th October 2025, the second Friday of October, to spread awareness about the nutritional value of eggs and their role in promoting health and food security.

worldwide. The global theme for 2025 was “Mighty Egg – Packed with Natural Nutrition.”

- **World Egg Day (WED)** is observed annually on the second Friday of October. The 2025 theme focused on promoting eggs as a natural, nutrient-rich food source for all. The day emphasizes eggs’ role in supporting balanced diets and combating global malnutrition.

- The event was initiated by the International Egg Commission (IEC), now the World Egg Organisation (WEO), during its 1996 conference in Vienna, Austria. The first World Egg Day was celebrated on 11 October 1996, and it has since been observed annually across the globe.

- Eggs are rich in high-quality protein, vitamins A, D, E, B-complex, and minerals such as iron and zinc. They contain about 70–80 calories, 6–7 grams of protein, and 5–6 grams of fat, making them a complete food that supports brain, muscle, and eye health.

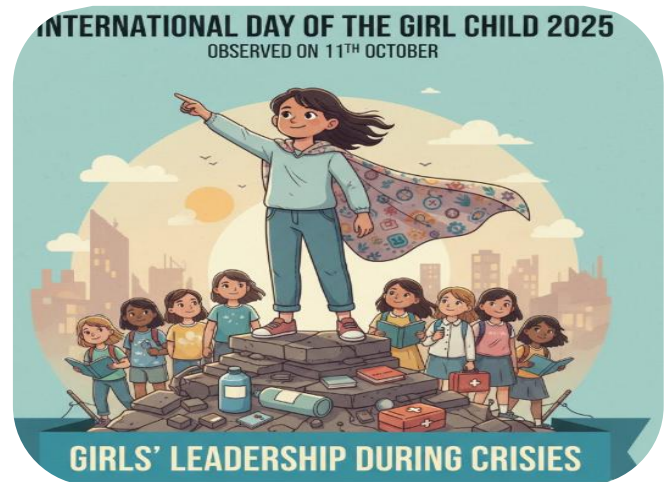
#### Key Points:-

(i) In India, Poultry India, the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA), and the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) organized awareness drives under the national theme “Protein Awareness: Eggs for Nutrition & Health.”

(ii) According to the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics – 2024, India ranks second globally in egg production, following China. By 2025, India is projected to produce approximately 153.5 billion eggs, driven by rising demand and per capita consumption.

(iii) Among Indian states, Andhra Pradesh (AP) continues to lead in egg production, followed by Tamil Nadu (TN) and Telangana, contributing significantly to India’s growth in the poultry sector.

### 3. International Day of the Girl Child 2025 Observed on 11th October Highlighting Girls’ Leadership During Crises.



The United Nations (UN) International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) is observed globally on October 11 each year to highlight the challenges faced by girls and promote their empowerment, leadership, and human rights. The 2025 theme focuses on girls leading change during crises: “The girl I am, the change I lead: Girls on the frontlines of crisis.”

- The 2025 theme emphasizes the resilience, leadership, and advocacy of girls who are at the forefront of crises, ensuring their rights, well-being, and voices are recognized and acted upon.

- The concept of IDGC traces back to 1995 at the Beijing World Conference on Women, where the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) was adopted to specifically promote girls’ rights alongside women’s rights. On December 19, 2011, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) passed Resolution A/RES/66/170, officially declaring October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child.



- The day was first observed on 11 October 2012, marking the global recognition of girls' rights and the need for gender equality initiatives targeting adolescent girls.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Globally, 133 million girls are out of school, and nearly 4 in 10 do not complete upper secondary education. Girls aged 15–19 are disproportionately out of education, employment, or training, highlighting persistent gender disparities.
- (ii) About 1 in 4 ever-married adolescent girls have experienced intimate partner violence, and over one-third of teens believe domestic violence is sometimes justified. The prevalence of underweight girls aged 10–19 has only slightly declined over the past 30 years (from 10% to 8%).
- (iii) With just five years left until 2030, no country has met even half of the 16 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) critical to adolescent girls' well-being.

## DEFENCE

### 1. Indian Army Initiates Induction of Indigenous SAKSHAM Counter-UAS Grid System for Airspace Security.



In October 2025, the Indian Army (IA) initiated the induction of the indigenously developed “Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management (SAKSHAM)” Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) Grid System to enhance drone defense and airspace security capabilities across its field formations.

- The SAKSHAM Counter-UAS project has been approved under the Fast Track Procurement (FTP) route, ensuring swift acquisition and deployment across all Indian Army field formations by 2026. This marks a major step in India's defense modernization efforts.

- The induction of SAKSHAM aligns with the Indian Army's long-term modernization roadmap, the ‘Decade of Transformation (2023–32)’, emphasizing network-centric warfare, real-time situational awareness, and integrated battlefield management.

- SAKSHAM has been developed in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh). The system represents India's growing self-reliance in defense technology and indigenous innovation in electronic warfare systems.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The system is designed to detect, track, and destroy hostile drones and unmanned aerial systems in real-time. It integrates advanced radar, electro-optical sensors, and AI-based analytics for early warning and precise targeting of aerial threats.
- (ii) Operating on the Army Data Network (ADN), SAKSHAM delivers a Recognised UAS Picture (RUASP) by merging multiple data inputs from sensors, AI modules, and the ‘Akashteer’ system, offering 3D visualization and complete airspace

mapping for tactical operations.

(iii) The system ensures comprehensive security across the Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS), covering the Air Littoral zone up to 3,000 meters (approx. 10,000 feet). It enhances coordination between detection and counter-drone units, providing India's Army with a decisive edge in low-altitude air defense.

## Static GK

<b>NITI Aayog</b>	CEO : B.V.R. Subrahmanyam	Headquarters : New Delhi
<b>Qatar</b>	Prime minister: Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani	Currency: Qatari Riyal
<b>Amnesty International</b>	Secretary - General : Agnès Callamard	Headquarters : London, the United Kingdom(UK)
<b>World Egg Organisation (WEO)</b>	Chairman : Juan Felipe Montoya Muñoz	Headquarter : London, the United Kingdom(UK)
<b>United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</b>	Executive Director(ED) : Catherine Russell	Headquarters : New York, the United States of America (USA)
<b>Spain</b>	Capital: Madrid	Official language: Spanish
<b>Indian Army (IA)</b>	Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS) : General Upendra Dwivedi	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>PHD Chamber of Commerce</b>	Established : 1905	Headquarters: New Delhi

and Industry (PHDCCI)		
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