SHORTNEWS

1.INDIA–SINGAPORE GREEN & DIGITAL MARITIME CORRIDOR (GDMC)

Recently the India–Singapore Green & Digital Maritime Corridor (GDMC) was highlighted at the Mumbai Dialogue 2025, ahead of India Maritime Week 2025 (27–31 October).

Green & Digital Maritime Corridor (GDMC)

A specific shipping route where countries collaborate to decarbonize and digitalize maritime operations.

Decarbonization

Promotes low- or zero-carbon fuels (green hydrogen, ammonia) and development of bunkering infrastructure at ports to reduce GHG emissions.

Digitalization

Adoption of electronic documentation, real-time tracking, and data exchange, resulting in faster port turnaround, reduced operational costs, and improved safety.

Aligned with

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) goals to reduce carbon emissions from shipping

India–Singapore GDMC

It has emerged as a key area of bilateral cooperation, with a recent high-level "Leaders' Dialogue" in Mumbai laying the groundwork for its future development.

Bilateral Maritime Cooperation

Strengthens trade, investment, and technology exchange between India and Singapore. Includes defense cooperation, e.g., SIMBEX (Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise).

Strategic and Policy Alignment

Acts as a precursor to India Maritime Week 2025, showcasing joint projects in green shipping and digitalisation. Supports Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and Harit Sagar Guidelines for sustainable maritime operations.

Complementarity with Other Corridors

Complements India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) and International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Significance of GDMC

Sustainable Trade & Green Shipping

Promotes low-carbon maritime trade between India and Singapore.

Efficiency & Safety

Enhances maritime efficiency, operational reliability, and safety through digital technologies.

Strategic Connectivity

Strengthens India's maritime presence in the Indo-Pacific and supports blue economy initiatives.

Policy & Global Leadership

Reinforces India's Act East Policy and global maritime leadership ambitions.

Technology & Skill Development

Provides a platform for technology transfer, innovation, and maritime skill development.

2.INS HIMGIRI

The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Himgiri at Visakhapatnam.

Himigri

Himigri is third ship of Nilgiri Class (Project 17A); first P17A of its class built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. It is designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team (Kolkata).

Features of Himigri

Multi-Mission Platform

Equipped for anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare.

Strike & Defence Systems

Features BrahMos cruise missiles (anti-ship and land-attack) and Barak 8 surface-to-air missiles.

Surveillance & Combat Systems

Integrated with AESA radar and advanced combat management systems.

Propulsion System

Uses combined diesel and gas turbine propulsion for operational flexibility.

Crew Capacity & Aviation

Accommodates 225 personnel and supports full helicopter operations.

3.INS UDAYGIRI

The Indian Navy will commission INS Udaygiri at Visakhapatnam.

INS Udaygiri

INS Udaygiri is the second ship of the Project 17A stealth frigates, built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai. It is the modern avatar of the erstwhile INS Udaygiri, decommissioned in 2007, and is the 100th ship designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau.

Features of INS Udaygiri

Enhanced Stealth Capability

The ship incorporates advanced stealth measures to reduce radar, thermal, and acoustic signatures, making it harder to detect in hostile environments.

State-of-the-Art Systems

It is equipped with advanced weapons, modern sensors, and cutting-edge warfare technologies to counter emerging maritime threats.

Multi-Mission Operational Role

INS Udaygiri can engage both conventional and non-conventional threats, enabling operations across the full spectrum of maritime warfare.

Project 17A (P-17A) Frigates

Project 17A is the advanced follow-on to the Project 17 (Shivalik-class) frigates, featuring enhanced stealth, upgraded sensors, modern weapons, and an integrated platform management system. Some key ships under this project include INS Nilgiri, INS Udayagiri, and INS Taragiri.

4.18TH INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD ON ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister addressed the 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics.

18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics

Organisers

Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), under Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), with support from the Prime Minister's Office and the Department of Atomic Energy.

Host Country

India (Mumbai)

Participants

Over 300 high school students and 140 mentors from 64 countries

Largest IOAA Edition

Reflects international collaboration and shared learning.

India's Historical and Scientific Legacy

India's Astronomical Tradition

Long-standing culture of sky observation, curiosity, and innovation.

Aryabhatta (5th Century)

Invented zero and first stated that Earth rotates on its axis.

India's Contemporary Astronomy and Space Science Achievements

Indian Astronomical Observatories

Ladakh Observatory

Situated at 4,500 metres, ideal for high-altitude observations.

Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), Pune

One of the world's most sensitive radio telescopes, decoding pulsars, quasars, and galaxies.

Global Mega-science Contributions

Participation in Square Kilometre Array and LIGO-India.

Space Missions

1. Chandrayaan-3, First successful landing near Moon's South Pole.
2. Aditya-L1 Solar Observatory, Monitors solar flares, storms, and Sun's activity.
3. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Indian mission to International Space Station.

Nurturing Scientific Curiosity and STEM Education

1. Atal Tinkering Labs, 10+ million students learning STEM through hands-on experimentation.
2. One Nation One Subscription, Free access to reputed international journals for students and researchers.
3. Women in STEM, India is a leading country in women participation in science.

Research Investments Billions of dollars invested in India's scientific ecosystem.

Encouragement for Young Explorers, Invitation to young scientists worldwide to study, research, and collaborate in India.

Application of Space Science for Humanity

1. Better weather forecasts for farmers.
2. Prediction of natural disasters.

3. Monitoring forest fires and melting glaciers.
4. Improving communication in remote areas.

5.UNDP EQUATOR INITIATIVE AWARD

Recently, the Bibi Fatima Self-Help Group (SHG) from Teertha village in the Dharwad district of Karnataka has been awarded the prestigious UNDP Equator Initiative Award.

UNDP Equator Initiative Award

1. Often called the "Nobel Prize for Biodiversity Conservation".
2. Presented under the Equator Initiative of UNDP.
3. Recognises community-led efforts to reduce poverty through biodiversity conservation.
4. Frequency: Biennial
5. Prize Money: $10,000
6. 2025 Theme: Women and Youth Leadership for Nature-Based Climate Action
7. Eligibility Criteria: Initiative/action must exist for ≥3 years.

Nominee

Local community-based group in rural area (supported by UNDP) OR Indigenous Peoples' community in rural areas anywhere. Actions must be nature-based and deliver benefits related to ≥2 SDGs.

Significance

1. Highlights local solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss.
2. Promotes women and youth leadership.
3. Connects traditional knowledge with sustainable development.
4. Offers global recognition and a platform for sharing best practices.

Equator Initiative

Launched by UNDP in 2002 to support indigenous peoples and local communities conserving biodiversity while reducing poverty.Promotes women & youth leadership, knowledge sharing, and capacity building.

6.NATIONAL ANUBHAV AWARDS

Recently, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) announced the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of National Anubhav Awards.

National Anubhav Awards

Launched in

2015 by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Purpose

Document the administrative history of India through the personal memoirs of retired employees.

Awards Scheme

Honors the contribution of retired employees by recognizing their memoirs published on the Anubhav Portal.

Key Features of the National Anubhav Awards

Eligibility

Employees who are retiring within the next 8 months or have retired within the last 3 years. Write-ups submitted by employees are evaluated for Anubhav Awards or Anubhav Jury Awards. Write-ups must be published on the Anubhav Portal between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

Awards

1. In 2015: Initially 5 National Anubhav Awards and 10 Anubhav Jury Awards.
2. In 2023: Expanded participation base by including employees from 12 Public Sector Banks and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
3. In 2024: Introduction of marking system to enhance objectivity in the assessment process.

7.EASTER ISLAND

Recently, a study warns that sea level rise could submerge Easter Island's iconic moai statues by 2080. Easter Island is located in the Southeastern Pacific Ocean, a territory of Chile. It forms part of the Polynesian Triangle, which also includes Hawaii and New Zealand. This region is traditionally home to the Polynesian people.

1. Also known as: Rapa Nui (its indigenous name)
2. UNESCO Designation: Rapa Nui National Park that protects most of the island, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. Geography: Volcanic island with rocky, lava-covered terrain.
4. Climate: Tropical rainforest climate.

The Moai Statues

The moai statues, carved by the Rapa Nui people between 1250–1500 CE, are central to the island's cultural identity. The statues, crafted from volcanic rock, were created to honour the islanders' ancestors. Found mostly around the island's perimeter, the moai statues stand on stone platforms known as ahu, which are ceremonial sites.