

# IACE

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 24<sup>th</sup> OCT 2025 DESCRIPTIVE

Watch Us On  
**You Tube**

### HEADLINES

- ❖ **Nirmal Kumar Minda has become the President of Assocham.**
- ❖ **Justice Prathiba M. Singh Appointed Chairperson of WIPO's Advisory Board of Judges (2025–2027)**
- ❖ **India's core sector output growth slowed to 3 per cent in September 2025.**
- ❖ **Coal India & IIT Madras Join Hands to Establish Centre for Sustainable Energy**
- ❖ **ISRO Nears Completion of Gaganyaan G1 Preparations; Crewed Mission Planned for 2027**
- ❖ **India has been re-elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau for the 10th Conference of Parties (COP10).**
- ❖ **Lionel Messi Wins 2025 MLS Golden Boot with Record-Breaking Season for Inter Miami**
- ❖ **2025 Sakharov Prize Awarded to Andrzej Poczobut and Mzia Amaglobeli for Courage in Defending Democracy**
- ❖ **24 October - United Nations Day**
- ❖ **HSBC Pledges \$1 Billion for Indian Startups**
- ❖ **Himachal home to 83 snow leopards, up from 51 in 2021: Survey**
- ❖ **Indian Coast Guard Conducts 10<sup>th</sup> NATPOLREX OffChennai Coast**

## **Nirmal Kumar Minda has become the President of Assocham.**



- Nirmal Kumar Minda is the Executive Chairman of Uno Minda Group.
- Amitabh Chaudhry, Managing Director and CEO of Axis Bank, is set to join Minda's team as Senior Vice-President.
- This appointment is pending RBI approval.
- Minda is known for his pivotal role in shaping the auto industry's supply chain over the past five decades.
- He has been instrumental in promoting self-reliance in the auto component sector.
- Before his tenure at Axis Bank, Amitabh Chaudhry served as MD & CEO of HDFC Life.

## **Justice Prathiba M. Singh Appointed Chairperson of WIPO's Advisory Board of Judges (2025–2027)**

- Justice Prathiba M. Singh of the Delhi High Court has been named chairperson of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Advisory Board of Judges for the 2025–2027 term.
- As chair, Justice Singh will lead a panel of international judges. This panel advises World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on judicial matters related to intellectual property.
- She also co-chairs the WHO's Working Group on Regulatory Considerations on Artificial Intelligence in Health.
- The Advisory Board has ten members, including Justice Singh.
- Justice Singh previously chaired the first Intellectual Property Division of the Delhi High Court during 2021-2022.
- She was recognized among the top 50 most influential intellectual property figures worldwide in 2021 and 2022.



**Justice Prathiba M. Singh appointed as Chair of WIPO's Advisory Board of Judges for the 2025–2027 term**

## India's core sector output growth slowed to 3 per cent in September 2025.

- This was a decline from the 6.5 per cent growth recorded in August.
- According to the Commerce and Industry Ministry, production of steel, cement, electricity, and fertilizers showed positive growth during September 2025.
- The combined output of eight major infrastructure industries had grown by 2.4 per cent in September 2024.
- These eight sectors together contribute 40.27 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production.
- The slowdown marked the weakest expansion in three months.
- It was mainly due to reduced production of coal, crude oil, refinery products, and natural gas.
- Fertilizer output growth eased to 1.6 per cent.
- Cement production rose by 5.3 per cent. This was lower than its growth rate in the same month last year.
- Steel production grew by 14.1 per cent year-on-year.
- Electricity generation increased by 2.1 per cent in September.
- During the April–September 2025 period, the core industries expanded by 2.9 per cent.
- This was lower than the 4.3 per cent growth recorded in the corresponding half of the previous fiscal year.



## **Coal India & IIT Madras Join Hands to Establish Centre for Sustainable Energy**

- Coal India Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IIT Madras to establish a Centre for Sustainable Energy.
- CIL Director Achyut Ghatak and IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti signed the MoU.
- The new centre will promote research in sustainable and low-carbon technologies.
- The new centre aims to support India's transition toward clean energy.
- It will also focus on repurposing coal mines and developing innovative green energy solutions.
- These efforts will be supported through Coal India's financial support.
- IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti highlighted that partnerships between academia and industry are vital for achieving India's low-carbon goals.
- The Centre will also train skilled professionals. It will offer Ph.D., postdoctoral, and internship opportunities in sustainable energy research.



## **ISRO Nears Completion of Gaganyaan G1 Preparations; Crewed Mission Planned for 2027**

- ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan announced that nearly 90 percent of preparations for the uncrewed Gaganyaan G1 mission have been completed.
- The Gaganyaan G1 test flight is scheduled for launch in the first week of December.
- Dr. Narayanan stated that all critical systems, including the crew escape mechanism, parachute setup, communication systems, and related modules, have undergone successful testing.
- The humanoid robot Vyomamitra will be part of the Gaganyaan G1 mission, which will orbit in low Earth orbit.
- The first crewed Gaganyaan mission is planned for 2027, with three Indian astronauts expected to travel to space and return safely.
- Regarding the NISAR Earth Observation Satellite, Dr. Narayanan confirmed that its payload systems will become operational within 10 to 15 days.
- He revealed that the first base module of the Bharatiya Antriksh Station is expected to launch by 2028, with the full space station targeted for completion by 2035.
- The NAVIC navigation satellite network, consisting of seven satellites, is projected to be fully functional by 2027.
- On the upcoming Mars Lander Mission, he mentioned that the mission design is in progress and will soon be presented for approval.
- Dr. Narayanan also shared that ISRO is developing advanced multi-stage rockets capable of carrying payloads between 75,000 and 80,000 kilograms for future human and deep space missions.



## **India has been re-elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau for the 10th Conference of Parties (COP10).**

- The conference is part of the International Convention against Doping in Sport.
- The decision was made during the COP10 session in Paris.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports shared that India contributed interactive digital displays.
- These displays showed the evolution of the Anti-Doping Convention.
- Key discussions at the conference focused on improving governance.
- They also discussed increasing financial support for the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.
- The event celebrated the 20th anniversary of the International Convention against Doping in Sport.
- The convention is a legally binding global framework. It works to promote fairness and eliminate doping in sports.



## **Lionel Messi Wins 2025 MLS Golden Boot with Record-Breaking Season for Inter Miami**

- **Lionel Messi** won the **2025 MLS Golden Boot**, scoring 29 goals and 19 assists in his second full season with Inter Miami CF, becoming both Miami's first Golden Boot winner and the first Argentine to win it since Taty Castellanos (2021).
- With 48 goal contributions, Messi came just one short of Carlos Vela's 2019 record, and is now on track to become MLS's first back-to-back MVP winner after Miami's remarkable 2024 Supporters' Shield success.
- Earlier this week, Messi also became the all-time assist leader in men's international football, reaching 60 assists after Argentina's 6-0 win over Puerto Rico.



# 2025 Sakharov Prize Awarded to Andrzej Poczobut and Mzia Amaglobeli for Courage in Defending Democracy

- The 2025 Sakharov Prize has been awarded to Andrzej Poczobut (a Polish-Belarusian journalist) and Mzia Amaglobeli (a Georgian journalist).
- Both are currently imprisoned for their reporting on democracy and civil society, and the prize recognizes their courage and struggle for freedom.
- The European Parliament announced the winners on October 22, 2025, and the award ceremony will take place in Strasbourg on December 16, 2025.

## About the laureates

- **Andrzej Poczobut:** A journalist from Poland and Belarus who is in prison on charges related to his work.
- **Mzia Amaglobeli:** A Georgian journalist who is also imprisoned for her reporting and activism.

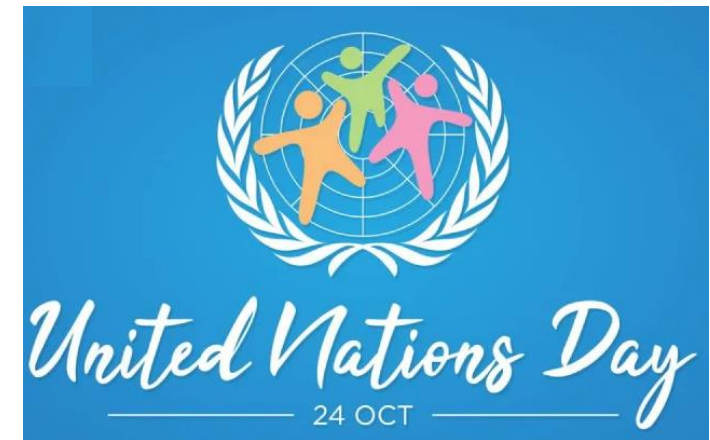
## About the award

- **Prize purpose:** The Sakharov Prize is awarded annually by the European Parliament to individuals or groups who defend human rights and freedoms.
- **Monetary award:** The prize includes a monetary award of €50,000.



## 24 October - United Nations Day

- **THEME:** The United Nations at 80: Building our future together
- 2025 marks the UN's 80th anniversary and day marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945. The United Nations (UN) has six principal organs. Five of them —
- The General Assembly
- The Security Council
- The Economic and Social Council
- The Trusteeship Council
- The Secretariat ; based at UN Headquarters in New York.
- The sixth, the International Court of Justice, is located at The Hague in the Netherlands.
- The Secretary-General of the United Nations is the chief administrative officer of the United Nations and head of the United Nations Secretariat, one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council after a period of 5 years.



## HSBC Pledges \$1 Billion for Indian Startups

### Financial Institution:

- **Pledged Amount:** \$1 Billion (approximately ₹8,880 crore)
- **Platform:** The fund is launched through HSBC's newly introduced Innovation Banking platform in India.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Early and growth-stage Indian startups
- **Nature of Capital:** Non-dilutive debt capital
- **Global Context:** India becomes the 13<sup>th</sup> global market to benefit from HSBC's dedicated innovation banking services
- **Scaling Past Commitments:** Previously, HSBC had extended around \$50 million in 2020 and scaled it to \$600 million by 2024.
- The \$1 billion commitment in 2025 marks a sharp upscaling of its engagement with India's innovation economy
- Recent banking related news
- ICICI Bank and Visa Launch Corporate Sapphire Forex Card with Premium Benefits for International Business Travelers
- NPCI Partners with PayPal to Integrate UPI with PayPal World for Seamless Global Payments
- NPCI launches biometric, wearable glass authentication for UPI payments
- SBI General Launches 'Health Alpha' – India's First Fully Customizable DIY Health Insurance Plan



## Himachal home to 83 snow leopards, up from 51 in 2021: Survey



- Himachal Pradesh's snow leopard population increased from 51 in 2021 to 83 in the latest survey (excluding cubs)
- The survey was done over ~ 26,000 sq km high-altitude habitat, including Spiti Valley, Kinnaur, Pangi, Lahaul, and Greater National Himalayan Park
- They used 271 camera traps to monitor snow leopards in those regions.
- Analysts found 44 unique individuals photographed 262 times during the survey, which helps estimate density and distribution.
- Snow leopard densities vary: highest in Spiti, Pin Valley, Upper Kinnaur, Tabo, etc.
- Many detections happened outside protected areas, showing that snow leopards are spreading beyond sanctuaries
- The survey also recorded first official sighting of Pallas's cat in Kinnaur and the rediscovery of the woolly flying squirrel in Lahaul.
- The survey used improved methodologies, community involvement, and was completed in one year (faster than previous).

## Indian Coast Guard Conducts 10<sup>th</sup> NATPOLREX Off Chennai Coast

- The event is the 10<sup>th</sup> National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-X). It is a biennial (two-day) exercise.
- Conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), the Central Coordinating Authority, off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu.
- **Main Objective:** To test and strengthen India's readiness to handle large-scale marine oil spills and enhance interagency coordination.
- **Associated Event:** Held in conjunction with the 27<sup>th</sup> National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) and Preparedness Meeting.
- **Participants:** Included various Central Ministries, Coastal State Governments, Ports, Oil Companies, the Navy, Air Force, and over 40 foreign observers from 32 countries.
- **Operational Capabilities:** ICG deployed a comprehensive fleet of Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs), aircraft, and specialized equipment like containment booms and skimmers for oil cleanup
- **Response Mechanism:** The drills demonstrated a tiered response mechanism local, regional, and national to ensure readiness within India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

### India's Marine Pollution Response Network

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), under the Ministry of Defence, is the nodal agency for oil spill response in India.
- India's Pollution Response Centres (PRCs) are located at Mumbai, Chennai, and Port Blair, with regional units across coastal states

