

02 July 2025

1. Economy: First 'Made in India' 28nm Semiconductor Chip Rolls Out from Dholera Fab, Source: Economic Times

News: In a landmark achievement for India's technological ambitions, the first commercially ready batch of 28nm semiconductor chips was officially rolled out from the Tata-PSMC joint venture fabrication plant in Dholera, Gujarat. The event was virtually inaugurated by the Prime Minister, who termed it a "red-letter day for Atmanirbhar Bharat." This marks the successful operationalisation of the first mega-fab under the government's ambitious ₹76,000-crore India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).



Analysis

- These 28nm chips are crucial for a wide range of applications, including high-performance computing (HPC), modern automotive systems, smartphones, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices.
- Officials from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) stated that domestic production will drastically reduce India's import dependency on East Asian nations, which currently stands at nearly 100% for advanced chips.
- The Dholera plant is expected to create over 5,000 direct and 20,000 indirect high-tech jobs, fostering a robust downstream ecosystem of design, assembly, and testing (ATMP) units.
- The successful rollout is seen as a major boost to investor confidence and is expected to accelerate further investments in the Dholera SEMICON City, positioning India as a resilient and reliable hub in the global semiconductor supply chain.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment; Effects of liberalization on the economy; Infrastructure; Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

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2. International Relations: India and USA Hold High-Level iCET Dialogue; Focus on Jet Engine Co-production, Source: Indian Express

News: The National Security Advisors of India and the United States concluded the third high-level dialogue under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) in Washington, D.C. today. The talks focused on translating strategic commitments into tangible co-production and co-development projects. According to a joint statement released after the meeting, a definitive roadmap for the co-production of General Electric's F414 jet engines in India has been finalized. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and GE have reportedly signed the implementation agreement, with technology transfer set to begin in phases starting late 2025.



Analysis

- Beyond defence, the dialogue prioritised deepening collaboration in quantum computing, artificial intelligence governance, 6G technology, and biotechnology.
- Both sides agreed to establish a new "Quantum Coordination Mechanism" to facilitate joint research and development between Indian and American research institutions and startups.
- The US also reiterated its support for India's membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and lauded India's leadership in ensuring a secure and open Indo-Pacific.
- Analysts view the progress under iCET as a cornerstone of the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership, aimed at building resilient supply chains and countering shared geopolitical challenges.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.

02 July 2025

3. Environment: National Green Hydrogen Mission Achieves 5 MMT Production Capacity Target, Source: PIB (Press Information Bureau)

News: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced today that India has successfully installed and commissioned a cumulative green hydrogen production capacity of 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) per annum. This achievement meets the initial target set under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, launched in 2023, well ahead of its 2030 deadline. The milestone was achieved through the operationalisation of several large-scale green hydrogen hubs in coastal states like Gujarat, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu, powered by dedicated renewable energy parks.



Analysis

- A senior MNRE official stated that the focus will now shift to building a robust ecosystem for hydrogen consumption, particularly in "hard-to-abate" sectors like steel manufacturing, long-haul transport, and ammonia production for fertilizers.
- The government has also approved a new viability gap funding (VGF) scheme to promote the use of green steel and green ammonia.
- This achievement significantly enhances India's energy security by reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels and positions the country as a global leader in the clean energy transition.
- The next phase of the mission will aim to develop export infrastructure, including dedicated pipelines and port terminals, to cater to the growing international demand for green hydrogen.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment; Infrastructure: Energy; Indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

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4. Science & Tech: ISRO Successfully Completes Final Uncrewed Test Flight for Gaganyaan Mission, Source: The Hindu

News: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) today achieved a flawless victory with the successful launch and recovery of the final uncrewed flight test (G-3) for its prestigious Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission. The mission was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The crew module, carrying a humanoid robot 'Vyommitra' equipped with advanced sensors to monitor life-support parameters, orbited the Earth at an altitude of 400 km for six hours before making a perfect splashdown in the Bay of Bengal.



Analysis

- ISRO Chairman S. Somanath confirmed that all mission objectives, including the performance of the life support system, orbital maneuvering, and the critical crew escape system during ascent, were met with "textbook precision."
- The data collected by 'Vyommitra' is invaluable for ensuring the safety and well-being of the astronauts for the final crewed mission.
- This successful G-3 mission is the final green signal for India's maiden human spaceflight, which is now tentatively scheduled for the first half of 2026.
- The success reaffirms India's advanced capabilities in space technology and places it in an elite club of nations capable of sending humans to space.
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UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology, and issues relating to intellectual property rights; Indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

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5. Polity & Governance: ECI Announces Schedule for J&K Assembly Elections

Source: Hindustan Times

News: The Election Commission of India (ECI) today announced the schedule for the Legislative Assembly elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the first since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. The elections will be held in five phases, commencing on October 15, 2025. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, in a press conference, stated that the decision was taken after a thorough review of the security situation and the completion of the electoral roll revision based on the new constituencies drawn by the Delimitation Commission.



Analysis

- For the first time, the 90-member assembly will include reserved seats for Kashmiri Pandits, displaced persons, and Scheduled Tribes.
- The CEC assured that comprehensive security arrangements, involving central armed police forces, are being put in place to ensure a free, fair, and peaceful election.
- Political parties in the valley have welcomed the announcement, setting the stage for a high-stakes political battle.
- The election is seen as a crucial step in the complete restoration of the democratic process in the region and will be a major test for the central government's policies in J&K over the past six years.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act; Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions, and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies (Election Commission); Federalism and challenges.

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6. Security: Govt Releases New National Guidelines for AI in Defence

Source: PIB (Ministry of Defence)

News: In a significant move to regulate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the military domain, the Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with the National Security Council Secretariat, today released the "National Guidelines for Ethical and Responsible Use of AI in Defence." The framework aims to steer the development and deployment of AI-based systems for military applications in a manner that is consistent with international humanitarian law and India's strategic interests.



Analysis

- The guidelines mandate a "human-in-the-loop" approach for all lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS), ensuring that the final decision to use force remains under human command and control.
- The policy outlines a stringent approval and testing protocol for AI algorithms used in surveillance, reconnaissance, logistics, and cyber warfare.
- It also establishes an "AI in Defence Ethics Committee" (AIDEC) to oversee compliance and provide ethical clearance for sensitive projects.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated that the guidelines will provide a strong foundation for a "trusted and secure AI ecosystem," encouraging domestic startups and defence PSUs to innovate responsibly.
- This proactive policy makes India one of the first major military powers to issue such a comprehensive ethical framework for military AI.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism; basics of cyber security; role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

GS Paper 4: Ethics and Human Interface.

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7. Agriculture/Environment: Monsoon Performance Uneven; Sowing of Kharif Crops Lagging in Central India, Source: Hindustan Times

News: The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its latest update, has reported that the Southwest Monsoon's performance has been uneven across the country. While rainfall has been normal to excess in South and Northeast India, key agricultural belts in Central India, particularly Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, have received deficient rainfall, with a shortfall of around 18% from the long-period average.



Analysis

- This has directly impacted the sowing of major Kharif crops. According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture, the acreage for soybeans and cotton is currently lagging by over 15% compared to the same period last year.
- However, the sowing of paddy has been robust in the southern and eastern states due to good pre-monsoon showers and timely canal water release.
- The IMD remains optimistic, forecasting a revival of the monsoon over Central India in the coming week.
- The government has activated contingency plans, advising farmers in rain-fed areas to opt for less water-intensive crops and ensuring the availability of short-duration seed varieties.
- The monsoon's performance in July will be critical for the overall Kharif output and its subsequent impact on food inflation.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 1: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, Volcanic activity, cyclones, etc., geographical features and their location.

GS Paper 3: Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country; Food processing and related industries in India; Food security.

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8. Infrastructure: PM Reviews Progress of Gati Shakti, Directs Ministries to Expedite Logistics Park Integration, Source: PIB (Prime Minister's Office)

News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan. The review focused on the integration of various modes of transport and the development of Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs). The Prime Minister directed all infrastructure-related ministries to work in close coordination to remove bottlenecks and expedite the operationalisation of 15 high-priority MMLPs by the end of 2026.



Analysis

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) made a presentation highlighting that the use of the Gati Shakti digital platform has led to a significant reduction in project planning time, by almost 60% in some cases.
- The platform has been instrumental in identifying and resolving critical infrastructure gaps for projects like dedicated freight corridors and economic zones.
- The Prime Minister emphasised that Gati Shakti is not just about infrastructure but is a tool for data-driven governance that will be key to reducing India's logistics costs from the current 13-14% of GDP to a single-digit figure, thereby boosting the competitiveness of Indian exports.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors.

GS Paper 3: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

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9. Education: UGC Notifies New Regulations for Foreign University Campuses

Source: Indian Express

News: The University Grants Commission (UGC) today issued the finalised "UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2025." This paves the way for top-ranked global universities to establish physical campuses in India. As per the new regulations, foreign universities ranked within the top 300 globally will be eligible to apply. These institutions will have the autonomy to decide their admission criteria, fee structure, and faculty recruitment processes.



Analysis

- The degrees awarded at these Indian campuses will have the same recognition and value as those awarded at their main campuses abroad.
- To ensure quality, the UGC will have the power to conduct audits and inspections. The move is a major step in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aimed at internationalising Indian higher education and retaining talented students who would otherwise go abroad.
- Several leading universities from the US, UK, and Australia have reportedly expressed initial interest and are expected to apply in the first round, with the first campuses likely to be operational by the 2027 academic session.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

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10. International Relations: India Pushes for "Development-Centric" Reforms at WTO Ministerial, Source: The Hindu

News: At the ongoing World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Geneva, India has strongly advocated for "development-centric" reforms, cautioning against proposals that could undermine the policy space for developing nations. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, leading the Indian delegation, argued that any reform of the dispute settlement system must restore its two-tier structure and not dilute the principles of consensus-based decision-making.



Analysis

- India, along with the G33 coalition of developing countries, reiterated the demand for a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes, calling it a non-negotiable issue.
- Minister Goyal also raised concerns about the new "plurilateral" agreements on topics like e-commerce and investment facilitation, arguing they bypass the WTO's multilateral framework and could create a fragmented global trading system.
- India's stance highlights the persistent divide between developed and developing countries on the future direction of the WTO, positioning itself as a key voice for the Global South in the debate on reforming global trade governance.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Important international institutions, agencies, and fora- their structure, mandate.

GS Paper 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning; WTO and its implications.

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