The Centre notified the Galathea Bay as a 'Major Port'

The Central Government notified the port in exercise of the powers conferred by **section 5 of the Indian Ports Act, 1908.**
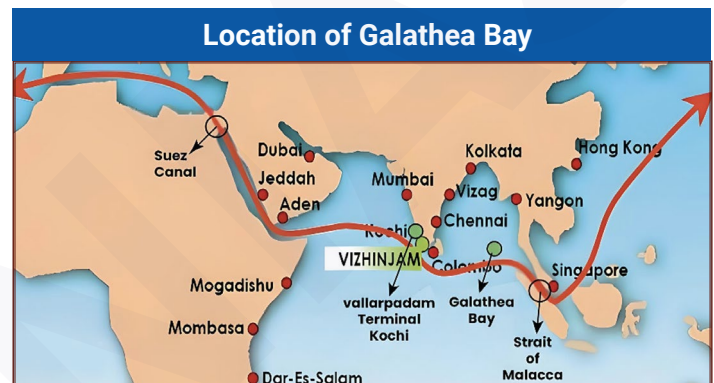
- It is being developed as an **International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP).**
  - **A transshipment port** is a hub or location where **cargo is transferred from one vessel to another** for further **transportation to its final destination.**

Significance of ICTP at Galathea Bay in Andaman & Nicobar

- **Economic:**
  - ICTP at Galathea Bay would facilitate **EXIM trade as it lies on an International shipping route.**
    - Presently, nearly **75% of India's transshipped cargo is handled at ports outside India.** E.g., **Colombo, Singapore and Klang.**
  - The project will ensure **forex savings, foreign direct investment, increased economic activity at other Indian Ports,** etc.
- **Strategic:** The transshipment port will be close to the **choke points like Malacca Strait** and the **East-West shipping route** connecting **Europe, Africa, and Asia.**

Ports in India

- There are **12 major ports** and **200 non-major ports (minor ports)** in the country.
  - The Major Ports of India are regulated under **Major Ports Authority Act, 2021** and are under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterway**s.
  - **Non-Major ports and their concessionaires** are regulated by State Maritime Boards under respective State Governments.

Location of Galathea Bay

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) game changer for public health, says PM

PM highlighted a recent research published in Nature magazine, which shows that the **post-SBM period in India exhibited accelerated reductions in infant and child mortality.**

- The research was based on **quasi-experimental study** to investigate the association between **SBM and infant (IMR) and under five mortality rates (U5MR) in India.**
- It added that **implementation of transformative sanitation programmes** can deliver population health benefits in low and middle-income countries.

How is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) related to key Health And Social Outcomes?

- **Maternal and Newborn health:** The research shows that districts with >30% toilets constructed under SBM corresponds with 5.3 lower IMR and 6.8 lower U5MR.
  - Also, higher SBM coverage also co-occured with higher utilization of health and nutrition programs, including ANC and institutional deliveries.
- **Diseases:** The WHO reported 300,000 fewer diarrheal deaths in 2019 compared to 2014, directly attributable to improved sanitation.
  - **58% higher cases of wasting among children** in non-Open Defecation Free areas (The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation).
- **Student enrolment:** Poor WASH facilities act as a barrier to student attendance and enrolment, specially girls.
- **Violence against women:** With better access to sanitation facilities, 93% of women reported feeling safer at home (UNICEF).

Why has SBM been successful in improving health and social parameters?

The success of SBM lies in its new approach of combining toilet construction with **community engagement and substantial investments in IEC** (Information, Education and Communication) to bring **behavioural change.**

- **Invested in capacity building and training programs** for government officials, frontline workers, volunteers, and communities.
- **Established waste segregation,** collection, transportation, and disposal systems, along with treatment plants and recycling centers for effective waste management.
- Introduced **mobile and web applications** for citizen engagement and monitoring.
- **Assessment of progress** through the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS).

First-ever international legally binding treaty on Artificial Intelligence (AI) signed by countries like US, UK

It aims to mitigate the threats that AI may pose to **human rights, democracy and the rule of law.**

- The treaty, called the **Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law,** was drawn up by the Council of Europe.
- It is **separate from the EU AI Act,** enforced last month, by having a mandate to ensure that activities within AI lifecycle systems are **consistent with Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.**

Major provisions

- **Risk-based approach:** banning systems if the risks posed are incompatible with Human rights.
- **Coverage:** Both **public and the private sector** across geographies.
- **Accommodates Global diversity in legal systems:** allowing parties to regulate the private sector either directly through the convention or through alternative measures consistent with it.
- **Exemption:** Does not apply to matters of **National security, defense, and R&D activities.**

Impact of AI in Human rights, Democracy, and Rule of Law

- **Human Lives:** Ability to **predict** human behavior, create **stereotypes, discriminatory bias,** along with the impact on **privacy** with its biometric tools.
- **Democracy: Biometric Surveillance** may affect open social and political debates/discourses, which is the core idea of democracy.
- **Rule of Law: Greater affordability** of AI Systems by elites, greater control by developers, and monitoring of citizens affects equality before law.

Various Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India-Singapore

Outcomes of the Recent Visit of the Indian PM to Singapore

- 4 MoUs in the fields of **digital technologies, semiconductors, health cooperation and skill development.**
- Elevating bilateral relations to a higher level of a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.**
- MoU on Semiconductor envisages cooperation in **semiconductor cluster development, talent cultivation, and advanced manufacturing,** particularly **developing resilient supply chains.**
  - Singapore's semiconductor industry accounts for **10% of all chips** and **20% of semiconductor manufacturing equipment produced globally.**

Significance of International Cooperation in Semiconductor

- **Foundation of modern technological landscape:** like AI, Quantum computing, etc. calling for global collaboration to **foster innovation and research.**
- **Criticality of Indo-Pacific Region:** Most players (USA, Taiwan, South Korea, etc.) are **situated in this region,** critical for India.
- **Complex and Specialized Supply Chain:** Different countries hold **dominance in segments of semiconductor manufacturing** like the USA for chip design, Taiwan for manufacturing, etc.
- **Gaining Leverage over China:** Currently, China lags behind other major players in the domain, diverse collaboration would **reduce any future dependence on China** creating a resilient supply chain.
- **Boost Economic Growth:** By leading in semiconductor manufacturing.
  - **Indian Semiconductor Mission** with an outlay of **USD 363 million** can attract huge investments.

India- Singapore Relations

- **Bilateral Relations:** Elevated to **Strategic Partnership** in 2015.
- **Economic:** India's **6th largest trade partner** (2023-24) with a share of 3.2 % of India's overall trade.
  - Conclusion of the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in 2005** saw significant expansion in trade.
- **FDI: Largest source of FDI** into India during 2023-24 (US$ 11.774 billion).

Defence Minister presides over maiden Joint Commanders' Conference in Lucknow

Minister stressed upon the **significance of evolving a joint military vision** to further enhance integration and synergy **among the three Services,** hence the creation of **functional Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs).**

- He also called upon for **development in space and electronic warfare,** with focus on increasing the use of **latest advancements in AI.**

About ITCs

- ITCs is the **integration** of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force to operate jointly in specific adversary-based **theatres** with **defined military goals during a limited conflict or war.**
- It has been proposed by both the **Kargil review committee as well as D B Shekatkar committee** earlier.
- It would involve raising the **China-centric northern theatre command in Lucknow, Pakistan-centric western theatre command in Jaipur,** and **maritime theatre command in Thiruvananthapuram.**
  - **Presently,** the armed forces have **17 single-service commands** (Army and Air Force: 7 each, Navy: 3)

Significance of ITCs

- **Air, navy, and land forces** all operate s**ynergistically under one operational command.**
- Separate the **'operational' functions** from the **other administrative functions.**
- **Adapt the contours of future warfare** and **conduct of effect-based operations.**

Challenges: Lack of national security doctrine towards joint-ness of services; absence of a common command, etc.

Initiatives taken towards Theaterisation

- **Appointment of CDS,** creation of **Department of Military Affairs** under Ministry of Defence to promote jointness in procurement, training, and staffing for the Services, etc.
- Enactment of **Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control & Discipline) Act, 2023.**
- **Two integrated tri-service commands:**
  - **Andaman and Nicobar Command,** looking after South East Asia and the South China Sea.
  - **The Strategic Command Force** controlling the nuclear weapons.

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500 mn tonnes domestic steel production target by 2034

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, while setting the target urged the industry leaders to focus on **economies of scale through decarbonisation.** He asked industry to:

» **Innovate for low emission,** high productivity and high quality.

» **Use artificial intelligence (AI)** to optimize production, reduce waste and improve efficiency across the value chain.

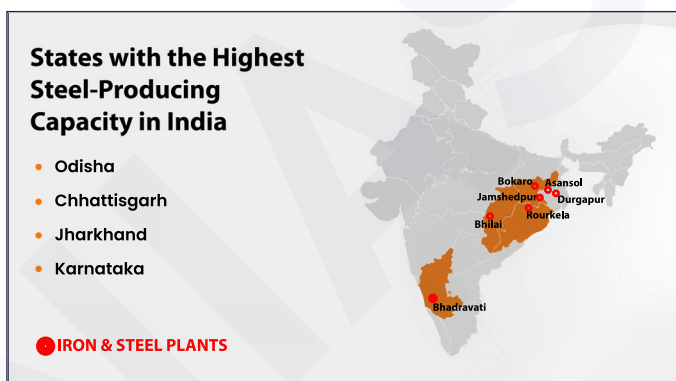» **Integrate indigenous machinery** for domestic production.

Steel Sector in India

» **2nd Largest Producer of Crude Steel.**

» **Output of 125.32 MT of crude steel** and finished steel production of 121.29 MT (FY23).

» **Growth driven by:**
  ⊕ **domestic availability of raw materials** such as iron ore (fifth-highest reserves of iron ore)
  ⊕ **cost-effective labour.**
  ⊕ **increased infrastructure construction** and the thriving automobile and railways sectors.

» Accounts for about **12% of India's carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions** (steel in world is largest carbon-emitting manufacturing sector).

Initiatives to decarbonise and promote steel sector:

» National Steel Policy, 2017

» Steel Scrap Recycling Policy 2019,

» Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme

» Task forces by the Ministry of Steel for developing a green steel roadmap.

» Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel.

Green hydrogen offers the cleanest steel production method, but its high cost can impact competitiveness. **National Green Hydrogen Mission** provides special support to help the steel sector transition

States with the Highest Steel-Producing Capacity in India

- Odisha
- Chhattisgarh
- Jharkhand
- Karnataka

Bokaro · Asansol
Jamshedpur · Durgapur
Rourkela
Bhilai
Bhadravati

🔴 **IRON & STEEL PLANTS**

smoothly.

Also in News

VisioNxt

The Union Textile Minister launched India's first fashion forecasting initiative, **"VisioNxt."**

» India-specific Fashion Trend Book **'Paridhi 24x25'** was also launched.

About VisioNxt

» **Bilingual web portal** of **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).**
  ⊕ Conceived and established at NIFT Delhi and Chennai with support from the Textiles Ministry in 2018.

» Combines **Artificial Intelligence** and **Emotional Intelligence** to **identify, map, and analyze geo-specific** fashion trends reflecting India's **plurality and cultural diversity.**

» Along with **reducing dependence on global forecasting agencies,** it would also **support weavers, homegrown designers,** etc.

First International Solar Festival (ISF)

PM virtually addressed the first ISF held in New Delhi.

India's Global initiatives on Solar Energy

» **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**
  ⊕ Guided by **'Towards 1000'** strategy, i.e., mobilize USD 1,000 billion investments in solar energy solutions by 2030.
  ⊕ Conceptualized by **India and France at the CoP21 (Paris, 2015) of UNFCCC.**
  ⊕ Currently, 100 members (all UN members eligible).

» **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)**
  ⊕ Proposed by the **Indian PM** in the **1st ISA Assembly, 2018** to **connect different regional grids** through a **common grid** for transferring renewable energy power, especially solar.

Enemy property

A enemy property in Uttar Pradesh belonging to ancestors of Pakistan's former President Pervez Musharraf is directed for sale.

About Enemy Property

- **The Enemy Property Act, 1968** defined an 'enemy' as a country (and its citizens) that committed external aggression against India (i.e., **Pakistan and China**).
- **'Enemy property'** is a property that belonged to or was managed on behalf of an enemy.
- **2017 amendment to the act expanded the definition of enemy** to include:
  - Legal heir or successor of enemy whether or not citizen of India or the citizen of a country which is not an enemy.
  - Enemy who has changed his nationality".
- 1968 Act empowers Custodian of **Enemy Property of India (under Ministry of Home affairs)** for preservation, management, control and selling of enemy properties.

Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)

EEF 2024 is being held in Vladivostok, Russia. **(Held every year in the same city).**

About EEF

- Established in 2015 to **support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.**
- Far East is the **easternmost part of Russia.**
  - It borders two oceans, the **Pacific and the Arctic, and five countries (China, Japan, Mongolia, the United States and the North Korea).**

Startup Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth (SAMRIDH)

- 2nd cohort of SAMRIDH launched to select 125 startups for funding support and mentorship.
- **About SAMRIDH**
  - **Flagship programme of MeitY** for startups acceleration under National Policy on Software Products – 2019.
  - Aims to **support existing and upcoming Accelerators** to select and accelerate potential IT-based startups to scale.
  - Seeks to **support 300 software product startups** over a period of 4 years.
  - **Implemented by** MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH), Digital India Corporation (DIC).

Saturn's Rings

Saturn's rings will briefly 'disappear' from view in 2025.

- The reason for this temporary disappearance has to do with **Saturn's tilt and an optical illusion.**

About Saturn's rings

- The rings are generally about **30 feet thick.**
- Almost completely composed of **chunks of water ice,** ranging in size from smaller than a grain of sand to the size of a mountain.
- They're named **alphabetically in the order they were discovered.** E.g., The main rings are A, B, and C
- **Other planets with rings:** Jupiter and Uranus.

National Exit Test (NExT)

NExT for AYUSH has been made effective from 2021-2022 batch.

About NExT

- Held for
  - **Granting license** to practice as medical practitioner of respective discipline of **Indian system of medicine** and
  - For **enrolment in the State Register** or **National Register** as a **registered medical practitioner of Indian system of medicine.**
- **Conducted** by the Commissions under the provisions of **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) Act 2020** and the **National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH) Act, 2020.**

Konyak Tribe

The Konyak Union, apex body of the **Konyak community has sought the Nagaland government's intervention** in rectifying the "erroneous" boundary line on Google Maps.

About Konyak Tribe

- They're of **Mongoloid origin.**
- Before Christianity they **practised "Animism"** which is worshiping different objects of nature.
- The Konyak language belongs to the **Northern Naga sub branch of the Sal subfamily of Sino-Tibetan.**
- They are known as **headhunters of North East India.**
- They have a **patriarchal society.**

Places in News — United Arab Emirates (Capital: Abu Dhabi)

The United Arab Emirates has successfully completed the **Arab world's first nuclear power plant.**

Political features

- **United Arab Emirates,** federation of seven emirates along the **eastern coast** of the **Arabian Peninsula.**
- Neighbouring countries: **Saudi Arabia** (west and south) and **Oman** (east and northeast).
- **Maritime border:** Gulf of Oman; Persian Gulf.

Geographical Features

- Nearly the **entire country is desert with no perennial streams.**
- **The Strait of Hormuz** is a narrow channel, between the Omani Musandam Peninsula and Iran.
  - It connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
- **Tropic of Cancer passes through UAE,** specifically the Abu Dhabi emirate.
- **Highest point:** Jebel Jais mountain.

Errata: In 'News Today' dated 5th September, 2024, in 'Also in News' on "India Graphene Engineering and Innovation Centre (IGEIC)", it was incorrectly mentioned that 'Graphene Aurora program (GAP) was launched in 2022.'

The correct information is 'Graphene Aurora program (GAP) was launched in 2023'.

AHMEDABAD BENGALURU BHOPAL CHANDIGARH DELHI GUWAHATI HYDERABAD JAIPUR JODHPUR LUCKNOW PRAYAGRAJ PUNE RANCHI