

# NEWS TODAY

## Mahatma Gandhi's Principles more relevant today amidst cross-border terrorism: All-Party Delegation

Gandhiji's ideas on non-violence and Satyagraha (determination to reach the truth):

- **Scope of non-violence:** He opined that **violence is the creed of no religion**, whereas non-violence in most cases is **obligatory** in all, violence is merely permissible in some cases.
  - ⊕ He opined that **truth can never** be propagated by doing **violence**.
- In his article 'The Doctrine of the Sword' written in **Young India**, he wrote:
  - ⊕ "I do believe that where there is only a choice between **cowardice and violence** I would advise violence. I would rather have **India** resort to **arms** in order to **defend her honor** than that she should in a cowardly manner become or remain a **helpless** witness to her own **dishonor**."

**Current relevance in context of cross-border terrorism**

- **Operation Sindoor:** India's response to the terror attack in **Pahalagam** was based on its **right to respond, pre-empt, non-escalatory and deter cross-border terrorism**.
- **Three Key Pillars of India's Security Doctrine:** Includes decisive retaliation on India's terms, zero tolerance for nuclear blackmail and no distinction between terrorists and their sponsors.
- **All Party Delegation:** Outreach to the **international community** to put forth the **truth** of state-sponsored terrorism and promote a **global response against violence**.

**Conclusion**

India has always followed the path of **Gandhiji's principles** through doctrines like **Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, no first use** and **promotion of global peace**.



## India And Japan Agree to Deepen Maritime Relations

India and Japan agreed to deepen maritime relations for a sustainable, mutually beneficial future.

**Key Areas of Maritime Cooperation**

- **Smart Islands:** Andaman Nicobar Islands and Lakswadeep islands to be converted into 'Smart Islands' through:
  - ⊕ **sustainable technologies** (renewable energy, smart mobility),
  - ⊕ **disaster-resilient infrastructure, and**
  - ⊕ **digital connectivity, etc.**
- **Maritime collaboration and Investment:** India can benefit from **expertise of Japanese shipbuilding, co-development of ports and maritime industrial clusters**.
  - ⊕ India aims to scale up investments with Japan, **targeting more than ₹3 lakh crore by 2027**.
  - ⊕ India also plans a Greenfield investment of **Imabari Shipbuilding in Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Maritime Heritage and Cultural Cooperation:** India sought Japan's cooperation for developing the proposed **National Maritime Heritage Museum (NMHC) at Lothal** in Gujarat.
  - ⊕ NMHC aims to showcase India's rich maritime history and legacy and serves as a world-class centre for heritage tourism, education, and research in the maritime sector.
- **Upskilling human resources:** India's **~154,000 trained seafarers** may supplement **Japan's maritime workforce**.

**Significance of India-Japan Maritime Cooperation**

- **Vital for Trade and Energy Security:** Energy deficit, India and Japan rely heavily on maritime trade (97% of India's international trade and almost all of Japan's trade is sea-based).
- **Strategic Check on China:** Both countries are concerned about **China's growing assertiveness** in the Indian Ocean.
- **Boosting Regional Cooperation:** Their cooperation also strengthens regional frameworks such
  - ⊕ **Quad**
  - ⊕ **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)**
  - ⊕ **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)**
  - ⊕ **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**
  - ⊕ **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**
  - ⊕ **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)**
- **Supporting India's Strategic Vision:** Japan can play a **key role in advancing India's Act East Policy** and '**Maritime India Vision 2030**' and '**Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**'.

## Ministry of Science & Technology launched 'Bharat Gen' at the BharatGen Summit

BharatGen Summit is India's largest Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Model (LLM) summit and hackathon.

### About Bharat Gen

#### Public-Private Partnership Initiative:

- ⊕ It is India's first-of-its-kind, indigenously developed AI-based **Multimodal LLM** for Indian languages.
- ⊕ **Launched** as a **non-profit company** with funding from the Department of Science and Technology.
- ⊕ **Developed** under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**.
- ⊕ Being implemented through **Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH) Foundation** for IoT (Internet of Things) and IoE (Internet of Everything) at IIT Bombay.

#### 4 primary goals:

- ⊕ **Creation of Bharat-centric foundational LLM models:** Focus on Indian languages, culture and tradition
- ⊕ **Bharat Data Sagar:** To centralise high-quality Bharatiya data necessary for model building
- ⊕ **Startup Ecosystem and Innovation:** empowering entrepreneurs with tools, mentorship, and collaboration to create innovative AI applications for India.
- ⊕ **Skilling and Capacity Building:** Strengthen India's AI talent pool through fellowships, hackathons, and courses, **positioning it as a global innovation hub.**

### About Multimodal LLM

- **Multimodal LLMs (MLLMs)** are large language models trained on a combination of **text and non-text data**, including **images, audio, and video**.
- These models use **machine learning to understand and interpret human language and other complex data types**.
- Multimodal LLMs **surpass the limitations of unimodal models** (such as earlier versions of ChatGPT), which **often struggle to produce cohesive responses** when inputs span different modalities.



## PM highlights India's aviation boom at International Air Transport Association's (IATA) 81st Annual General Meeting

### Status of India's aviation sector:

#### 3 pillars of Aviation sector:

- ⊕ A vast market,
- ⊕ Strong demographic and talent pool in AI, clean energy, etc and
- ⊕ Supportive policy ecosystem
- **Women share:** 15% of India's pilots are women, significantly higher than the global average of 5%.
- **Aligning aviation laws with global standards:** Like ICAO regulations, the Delhi Declaration (regional cooperation) and the Chicago Convention's principles for open skies and global connectivity.
- **Value-chain leader in global aviation:** From design to delivery, India encourages companies to embrace "Make in India" and "Design in India" like Maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO).

### Government initiatives for boosting Aviation sector:

- **Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN):** The number of operational airports in the country has doubled from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024 and aims to increase to 350-400 by 2047.
- **Digi Yatra app:** Contactless air travel.
- **Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill:** Aim to align India's aviation sector with global standards and ensure accountability in case of financial default.

### About IATA:

- **Origin:** April 1945 in Havana, Cuba, (successor to International Air Traffic Association) post Chicago Convention (1944)
- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada, with executive offices in Geneva, Switzerland.



# Ministry of Heavy Industries Notifies Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI)

## Key Highlights of the Scheme

### Objective

- Boost domestic manufacturing of electric passenger cars (e-4W) in India.
- Establish India as a global hub for automotive innovation and manufacturing.

### Eligible Projects: Expenditure incurred on new Plant, Machinery, Charging Infrastructure, Equipment and associated utilities across India.

- Expenditure made on second hand/ refurbished plant, machinery etc., will not qualify

### Eligibility for Applicants

Particulars	Requirement
Global Group* Revenue (from automotive manufacturing)	Minimum <b>₹10,000 crore</b> (latest audited)
Global Investment of Company or its Group* Company(ies) in fixed assets	Minimum <b>₹3,000 crore</b> (latest audited)

**Note:** A group company refers to entities that hold at least 26% voting rights in each other.

### Benefits to Applicants:

- Customs Duty Concessions:** Concession upto 5 years linked to meeting domestic value addition (DVA) milestones.
- Import Benefits:** Allowed to import fully-built electric cars or CBUs (a vehicle that is completely assembled) with certain conditions.

### Obligations for the Applicant

- Approved applicants must **set up an e-4W manufacturing facility** in India and it must be operational within **3 years** from approval.
- Minimum investment:** ₹4,150 crore.
- DVA Targets:** Minimum 25% DVA by 3 years and 50% by 5 years.
- Mandatory Bank Guarantee:** Applicant's commitment to setup manufacturing facility(ies) and achievement of DVA shall be backed by a bank guarantee from a scheduled commercial bank in India.

INDIA'S AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR Driving the Future of Mobility	Growth Drivers of India's Auto Sector
<p><b>KEY FACTS</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> LARGEST</b> India is the 3rd largest automobile market in the world</p> <p><b>₹</b> Market size: ₹12.5 lakh crore (current) Expected: ₹24.9 lakh crore by 2030 50% Growth Expected</p> <p><b>7.1% GDP</b> Contributes 7.1% to India's GDP</p> <p>India can lead the global shift from ICE vehicles to Electric Vehicles (EVs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components (PLI-Auto).</li> <li>PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cells (PLI-ACC).</li> <li>Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME).</li> <li>State EV Policies</li> </ul>

## Also In News

### Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

At ECOWAS's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary; UN and global diplomats hail ECOWAS as Africa's model for regional integration.

#### About ECOWAS:

- Origin:** In 1975, 15 States signed Lagos Treaty
- Headquarters:** Abuja, Nigeria.
- Members:** Benin, Cabo Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.
- Aim:** To promote cooperation and integration for establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to:
  - Raise the living standards of its peoples,
  - To maintain and enhance economic stability,
  - Foster relations-among Member States and
  - contribute to the progress and development of the African continent.

### World's largest Grain storage Plan in cooperative sector

Review meeting on the scheme plan aims to **increase the income of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** as well as **create rural employment opportunities.**

#### About Scheme:

- Ministry:** Ministry of Cooperation.
- Implementing Agencies:** National Cooperative Development Corporation, NABARD, Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation, etc.
- Significance**
  - Food Security:** Decentralized storage will reduce food grain wastage, enhancing national food security.
  - Access to credit:** Farmers will be able to store their produce in godown constructed at PACS & avail finance for the next cycle of crop.



### Shangri-La Dialogue

The annual Shangri-La Dialogue is being held in Singapore.

#### About Shangri-La Dialogue

- **Genesis:** Inspired by post-Cold War multilateralism and evolving defence diplomacy post-9/11, the dialogue was established in 2002.
- **Naming:** After the **Shangri-La hotel** where the 1st summit took place
- **Organised by:** International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London, with support from the Singapore government.
- **Format:** A "1.5 Track" multilateral defence dialogue (mix of official and unofficial participation)
- **Purpose:** It enables **government ministers, defence chiefs and policy makers** from **Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe and the Middle East** to discuss the **regional security issues and to share policy responses.**



### National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

The **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)** has invited proposals to set up **District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs)** in underserved districts under the NAPDDR.

#### About NAPDR

- **Objective:** To address substance abuse through prevention, de-addiction, and rehabilitation.
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Key Strategies**
  - ⊕ Preventive education and awareness
  - ⊕ Treatment and rehabilitation for addicts and families
  - ⊕ Capacity building at various levels
- **Financial Support Provided To:**
  - ⊕ States/UTs – for awareness and capacity-building programs
  - ⊕ NGOs/VOs – to run:
    - ◆ Integrated Rehabilitation Centres (IRCA)
    - ◆ Community Peer-led Interventions (CPLI)
    - ◆ Outreach and Drop-in Centres (ODIC)
    - ◆ District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs)
  - ⊕ Govt. Hospitals – for setting up **Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs)**
- **Tenure:** 2018-2025



### Mount Etna

Recently, **Mount Etna volcano** located on **Sicily island, Italy** erupted.

#### About Mount Etna

- It is the **highest Mediterranean island mountain, the most active stratovolcano in the world and Europe's largest active volcano.**
  - ⊕ **Stratovolcanoes (composite volcanoes)** are formed by lava cooler and more viscous than basalt, leading to **more explosive eruptions.**
- **Features:** Summit craters, cinder cones, lava flows and the Valle de Bove depression.
- One of the world's **longest documented records of historical volcanism** (~2700 years).
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**



### Kheer Bhawani Temple

The **Kheer Bhawani festival**, celebrated annually on the **Jyeshtha Ashtami**, is being held at the **Kheer Bhawani temple** in **Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir.**

#### About Kheer Bhawani Temple

- **Location:** Near Srinagar
- **Prime Goddess:** Dedicated to **Goddess Ragnya Devi**, an incarnation of **Goddess Durga.**
- Built by **Maharaja Pratap Singh** around 1912, which was later embellished and **renovated by Maharaja Hari Singh.**
- A **hexagonal spring** is present at the centre of the temple, known for its **sacred water.**
- The temple and festival are **named after the sweet dish 'kheer'**, distributed as **prasad** to the devotees.



### Phytoplankton

A study finds that **excess iron stimulates phytoplankton blooms**, increasing the rate of nutrient consumption and leading to a faster transition to nutrient-poor conditions in the oceans.

#### About Phytoplanktons

- They are **microscopic organisms** that live in both **salty and freshwater environments.**
- Contain **chlorophyll** and require **sunlight and inorganic nutrients** like **iron, nitrates, phosphates, sulfur** to live and grow.
- **Types:** Bacteria, protists, single-celled plants (Cyanobacteria, diatoms, dinoflagellates, green algae, etc.)
- **Significance:**
  - ⊕ **Food Chain:** Act as **primary producers.**
  - ⊕ **Biological carbon pump:** Responsible for most of the transfer of **carbon dioxide** from the atmosphere to the ocean.
- **Risks:** Overgrowth may lead to harmful algal blooms (red tides), releasing toxins that are dangerous to both marine and human life.



### United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Mission

**Border Security Force (BSF)** contingent comprising 25 women personnel deployed with the **UN peacekeeping mission in Congo.**

#### What is UN Peacekeeping?

- **Genesis:** UN Peacekeeping began in **1948** with the establishment of the **United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)** in the Middle East to monitor ceasefires.
- **Three basic principles:** Consent of the parties, Impartiality, Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.
- **Components of UN Peacekeeping include** Facilitating Political Processes, Protecting Civilians, election support, etc.
- **Since the 1950s, India** has sent over 290,000 peacekeepers to more than 50 missions worldwide, making it the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping efforts.

## Place in News



### Paraguay (Capital: Asunción)

#### Political Features:

- **Location:** It is a landlocked country in **south-central South America.**
- **Land Boundaries:** **Bolivia** (northwest and north), **Brazil** (northeast and east), and **Argentina** (southeast, south, and west).

#### Geographical Features:

- **Important Rivers:** Paraguay, Apa, Paraná, and Pilcomayo rivers.
  - ⊕ **Rivers** provide access to the Atlantic Ocean and serve as sites for the **hydroelectric power plants** that have made it one of the world's largest exporters of hydropower.
- **The Tropic of Capricorn** passes through it.
- **Highest Peak:** Cerro Pero



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



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