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17 SEPTEMBER 2025

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Daily News Analysis

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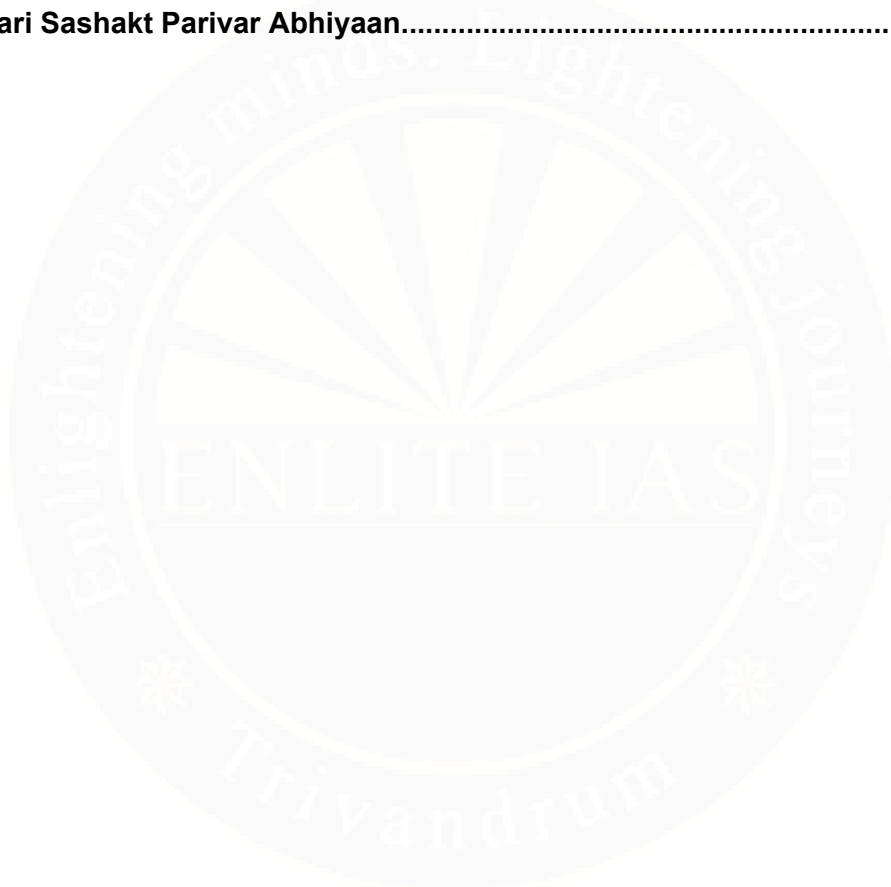
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WEDNESDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER 2025

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1. Iran and First India-Iran-Uzbekistan Trilateral Meeting

- **Prelims** - Iran and First India-Iran- Uzbekistan Trilateral Meeting
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography & GS 2 - International Relations

Iran

Why in the news?

- Iran hosted the first India-Iran-Uzbekistan trilateral meeting.

Iran

- **Location:** West Asia
- **Capital:** Tehran
- **Border Countries:** Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **Border Sharing Waterbodies:** Caspian Sea, Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf.
- **Key Cooperation with India :** Chabahar Port , INSTC.

The map shows Iran's location in West Asia, bordered by Iraq to the west, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan to the north and east. Major cities like Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Chabahar are marked. The Caspian Sea is to the north, and the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman are to the south. The Strait of Hormuz is also indicated.

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First India-Iran-Uzbekistan Trilateral Meeting

- The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation against extremism and terrorism and promoting the use of Chabahar Port by Uzbekistan for trade with India.
- They also emphasized deeper connectivity via the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).



2. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (PoSH Act)

- Prelims - PoSH Act
- Mains - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- The Supreme Court declined to take into consideration a plea seeking to extend the ambit of the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act to include political parties, observing that such organisations cannot be classified as workplaces under the law.

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act)

- **Purpose:**
 - Prevent sexual harassment of women in workplaces.
 - Provide a process for addressing complaints of sexual harassment.
 - Promote a safe and respectful work environment for women.
- **The act defines sexual harassment such as:**
 - Physical contact and advances
 - Demands or requests for sexual favors
 - Making sexually colored remarks
 - Showing pornography
 - Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature
- **Applicability:**
 - The Act applies to all workplaces in India, both public and private, regardless of their size.
 - It covers all women (including employees, trainees, and apprentices) working in these organizations.
- **Other Provisions:**
 - The Act mandates the establishment of an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in every organization with ten or more employees.
 - The ICC is responsible for investigating sexual harassment complaints and recommending appropriate action.
 - The Act prescribes a time-bound procedure for investigating and disposing of complaints.
 - The Act provides various penalties for employers failing to comply with it.



3. Unconventional Threats to Indian Security

- **Prelims** - Unconventional Threats to Indian Security
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Internal Security

Why in the news?

- Indian Defence Minister urges armed forces to be ready for unconventional threats while addressing the Combined Commanders' Conference, 2025 in Kolkata.

Unconventional Threats to Indian Security

- **What are Unconventional Threats?:** Unconventional threats are non-traditional, transnational, and often civilian-centric challenges like cyberattacks, pandemics, and climate change that directly affect national stability and sovereignty.

- **Major Unconventional Threats:**

→ **Cybersecurity Threats:**

- ★ Data breaches, ransomware, and attacks on critical infrastructure.
- ★ India is among the top global targets for cyberattacks.

→ **Disinformation & Information Warfare:**

- ★ Manipulation of social media to spread communal tensions, fake news, and influence elections.

→ **Biological & Pandemic Risks:**

- ★ Covid-19 revealed gaps in preparedness.
- ★ Concerns over dual-use biotechnology and bio-terrorism.

→ **Climate Change & Environmental Stress:**

- ★ Extreme weather, floods, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), desertification, and sea-level rise.
- ★ Triggers migration, resource conflicts, and disaster-management stress.

→ **Economic & Resource Security:**

- ★ Dependence on critical minerals, medical imports, and energy supplies exposes India to coercion.

→ **Hybrid & Grey-zone Warfare:**

- ★ Proxy actors, sabotage of infrastructure, cross-border terrorism below conventional war threshold.

→ **Maritime & Resource Challenges:**



★ Illegal fishing, seabed resource competition (e.g., polymetallic nodules), piracy.

- **Government Response:**

- **Cyber:** CERT-In, National Cyber Security Policy.
- **Biosecurity:** National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines; Indo-US biosecurity dialogue.
- **Climate:** National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), disaster risk reduction strategies.
- **International Cooperation:** Participation in QUAD, G20, UN for cyber, climate, and health norms.

- **Challenges:**

- Weak attribution in cyber/bio threats.
- Institutional fragmentation & lack of coordination.
- Resource and skilled manpower shortage.
- Disinformation spreads faster than regulatory checks.

- **Way Forward:**

- Establish integrated threat response cells for cyber, bio, and climate risks.
- Strengthen critical infrastructure resilience and cyber workforce.
- Create a comprehensive national biosecurity framework.
- Mainstream climate-security linkages into defence and planning.
- Build public awareness against misinformation; promote media literacy.
- Diversify supply chains and secure critical minerals.
- Lead in global norm-setting on cyber, AI, and biosecurity.



4. Women's Political Participation in India

- **Prelims** - Women's Political Participation in India
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Society

Why in the news?

- During the first national conference on parliamentary and legislative committees on the empowerment of women, the Andhra Pradesh governor highlighted the significance of women's political participation.

Women's Political Participation in India

- **Current Status:**

→ **Global Context:** According to UN Women, women constitute 27.2% of parliamentarians worldwide, up from 11% in 1995.

→ **India:**

★ **Lok Sabha (2019–24):** 14.7% women MPs (74 in 2024, down from 78 in 2019) — below the global average of 26.5%.

★ **Rajya Sabha:** ~12%.

★ **State Assemblies:** Mostly below 10%. Chhattisgarh leads (19 MLAs), while Mizoram has none.

★ **Ministerial Representation:** Around 10–11%.

→ **Rankings:** India stands 148/193 countries globally, 31st/47 in Asia, and 5th/8 in SAARC.

→ **Grassroots Representation:** Due to the 73rd & 74th Amendments, over 1.4 million elected women representatives serve in Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, with many states reserving 50% seats for women.

- **Barriers to Women's Political Participation:**

→ **Parties & Political Structures:**

- ★ Low ticket allocation: Only 797 women contested in 2024, 74 won.
- ★ Patriarchal party hierarchies and weak women's wings.
- ★ Limited role in leadership and policymaking.

→ **Patriarchal Social Norms & Gender Stereotypes:**

- ★ Politics is still viewed as male-dominated.
- ★ Women expected to prioritize family over public life.



→ **Safety & Mobility Concerns:**

- ★ Harassment and security risks, especially in rural/conflict zones, limit outreach and voter engagement.

→ **Socio-Economic Constraints:**

- ★ Low female labour force participation correlates with lower political participation.
- ★ Lack of financial resources for campaigning.

● **Constitutional & Policy Measures:**

- **Article 15 & 16:** Prohibition of gender discrimination.
- **73rd & 74th Amendments (1992):** 33% reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions & Urban Local Bodies.
- **Women's Reservation Bill (108th Amendment Bill, 2008):** Proposed 33% reservation in Parliament & State Assemblies (pending for years, passed in 2023 as Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, to be implemented after delimitation).
- **Indirect Enablers:** Digital literacy (PMGDISHA), financial inclusion (PMJDY), entrepreneurship (Stand-Up India), NRLM SHGs – improving socio-political agency.

● **Significance:**

- Enhances inclusive democracy and good governance.
- Evidence from PRIs shows women leaders prioritize education, water, sanitation, and health.
- Supports gender justice, SDG-5 (Gender Equality), and strengthens India's democratic legitimacy.

● **Way Forward:**

- **Enhance Party Democracy** – Mandate internal gender quotas for tickets and leadership roles.
- **Civic Education & Awareness** – Encourage women's political engagement through mass campaigns.
- **Institutional Reforms** – Gender audits in parties & Election Commission to ensure accountability.



- **Safety & Mobility Support** – Legal safeguards against online/offline harassment.
- **Economic Empowerment** – Easier access to campaign finance and political funding for women.
- **Early Implementation of Quotas** – Fast-track the Women's Reservation Bill for timely impact.



5. Exercise Pacific Reach 2025

- **Prelims** - Exercise Pacific Reach 2025
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- Indian Navy's latest indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV) INS Nistar is participating in Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 in Singapore.

Exercise Pacific Reach 2025

- **Overview:** A biennial, multinational submarine rescue exercise initiated in 1996 (Asia-Pacific).
- **Objective:** Enhances cooperation, interoperability, and readiness in submarine rescue.
- Pacific Reach 2025 (XPR-25): 9th edition, hosted by Singapore.
- **Phases:**
 - Harbour Phase: Seminars, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), medical symposium, cross-deck visits.
 - Sea Phase: Live submarine rescue drills, intervention ops, deep-water simulated emergencies, and Mass Evacuation Exercises (MASSEVEX).
- **Participation:** More than 40 countries as participants and observers.



6. Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

- **Prelims** - Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance & Social Justice

Why in the news?

- Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi launched Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan aligning with the vision of Empowered Communities.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

- **What is it?:** It is an initiative that seeks to fortify India's healthcare ecosystem for women and children by expanding access, raising the quality of medical services, and spreading health awareness, thereby reducing maternal and child mortality and promoting overall well-being.
- **Nodal Agency:** A joint initiative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD).
- **Objectives & Strategy:**
 - Improve access, quality, and awareness in women's and children's healthcare.
 - Early detection of health conditions, especially those that are often neglected.
 - Behavioural change through education (nutrition, hygiene, menstrual health etc.).
 - Strengthening maternal & child care via antenatal care, distribution of Mother & Child Protection cards, immunisation etc.
- **Key Features:**
 - The campaign will run until 2nd October 2025.
 - Over **one lakh health camps** will be held across Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres, and other health facilities focused on women & child health.
 - Focus on comprehensive screening: anemia, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, etc.
 - Also includes immunisation and nutritional interventions to reduce maternal and child mortality.
 - Real-time monitoring will be done via the **SASHAKT portal** to ensure transparency and proper implementation.
 - Community support systems (e.g. "Nikshay Mitras") will be involved.
- **Expected Outcomes:**
 - Reduced maternal and child mortality rates.
 - Better health indicators through earlier diagnosis and treatment.



- Increased awareness in communities, particularly about hygiene, balanced nutrition, etc.
- Expansion of healthcare access in underserved / tribal areas.