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**19 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**EN-BUZZER**

# Daily News Analysis

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**FRIDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER 2025**

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## 1. National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025

- **Prelims** - National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

### Why in the news?

- Government of India notified National Policy on Geothermal Energy to accelerate clean energy transition, supporting India's net zero 2070 commitment

### National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025

- **What is it?:**
  - It aims to unlock India's largely untapped geothermal energy potential for both power generation and direct-use applications.
  - It is part of India's strategy to accelerate the clean energy transition, support energy security, and meet its **Net Zero by 2070** commitment.
- **Nodal Agency:** The policy was notified by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- **Objectives:**
  - **Establish geothermal energy as a major pillar** of India's renewable energy mix, contributing significantly to climate goals and energy security.
  - **Strengthen research, development and innovation**, including enhancements in detection, exploration, drilling, reservoir management, and direct-use technologies.
  - **Adopt best practices globally**, via international cooperation, standards, and partnerships.
  - **Deploy geothermal solutions** not just for electricity, but also for heating/cooling, agriculture (e.g. greenhouses, cold storage), aquaculture, tourism, desalination, and ground source heat pumps (GSHPs).
  - **Utilise existing infrastructure** where feasible - e.g. repurposing abandoned oil and gas wells.
- **Key Features:**
  - **Identification of geothermal provinces and hot springs:** Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified **381 hot springs** spread over **10 geothermal provinces** (regions include Himalayan province, Naga-Lusai, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Son-Narmada-Tapi, etc.).
  - **Financial & fiscal incentives:**
    - ★ **100% FDI** allowed in the geothermal sector.



- ★ Grants, concessional loans, tax incentives for early stage exploration, risk mitigation (for example when drilling fails).
- ★ Long-term leases of up to 30 years for geothermal projects, with possibility of extension depending on resource availability.
- **Regulatory simplification:** Encouragement of single-window clearances, streamlined regulations, inter-ministerial coordination. Support from States, public and private sectors.
- **Pilot projects:** Launch of several pilot and resource assessment projects to test viability, demonstrate technology, and build capacity.
- **Challenges:**
  - **High upfront and exploration costs**, particularly drilling, and risk of unsuccessful exploration.
  - **Site-specific nature** of geothermal resources and geological uncertainty.
  - Environmental, land use and regulatory complexities.
  - Need for **technical capacity**, skilled workforce, R&D, institutional framework.
- **Expected Outcomes:**
  - Strengthen energy access and reliability, possibly with base-load renewable energy.
  - Help diversify India's renewable energy capabilities beyond solar, wind, biomass, hydropower.
  - Support decarbonization especially in heating and cooling, agriculture, etc.
  - Job creation and technology innovation in drilling, geothermal systems, hybrid systems.



## 2. Stubble Burning

- **Prelims** - Stubble Burning
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

### Why in the news?

- The Supreme Court and the Union government clashed over how to address stubble-burning by farmers.

### Stubble Burning

- **Definition** - Stubble burning, also known as parali burning, is the practice of setting fire to leftover crop residue in fields after harvest. This is a prevalent practice in North-West India, particularly in states like Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Reasons for Stubble Burning:**
  - **Quick and inexpensive method:** Farmers find it to be a quick and cheap way to clear their fields for sowing the next crop.
  - **Lack of alternatives:** Limited access to or awareness of alternative methods for crop residue management.
- **Impacts of Stubble Burning:**
  - **Air pollution:** Stubble burning is a major contributor to air pollution, particularly PM2.5 particles, leading to respiratory problems and health issues.
  - **Soil degradation:** Burning destroys essential nutrients and microbes in the soil, reducing fertility and long-term productivity.
  - **Climate change:** Releases greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change.
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - **National Policy on Sustainable Agriculture (2015):** Promotes crop residue management practices.
  - **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM):** Provides subsidies for machinery like Happy Seeder that can sow seeds directly into the stubble.
  - **Financial incentives:** Schemes to encourage farmers to adopt alternative practices like composting or baling.
  - **National Green Tribunal (NGT) bans:** Imposed bans on stubble burning with penalties for violations.



### 3. National Logistics Policy

- **Prelims** - National Logistics Policy
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy

#### Why in the news?

- National Logistics Policy completes three years of its implementation, strengthening India's Logistics sector

#### National Logistics Policy

- **What is it?:**
  - It is a cross-sectoral, multi-jurisdictional effort to transform India's logistics ecosystem that aims to reduce costs, improve efficiency, integrate digital systems, and make India a global logistics hub.
- **Launch:** Launched by the Government of India in **September 2022**.
- **Need for the Policy:**
  - Indian logistics costs are high: about 13-14% of GDP (some sources even 14-18%), which is significantly above international benchmarks (8-10%) for developed countries.
  - Inefficiencies: delays in customs, paperwork, multimodal coordination, lack of infrastructure (warehouses, cold chains, connectivity) etc.
  - India's ranking in Logistics Performance Index (LPI) needs improvement.
- **Objectives:**
  - **Reduce logistics cost:** Bring down from ~13-14% of GDP to nearer global benchmarks (~8-10%) by 2030.
  - **Improve LPI ranking:** Join top 25 (or even top 10) countries in LPI by 2030.
  - **Integrated, seamless, efficient logistics network:** Includes reliability, green & sustainable practices, leveraging technology, skilled manpower.
- **Major Features:**
  - **Digital Transformation / Integrated Digital System (IDS):** To unify and digitize processes across the logistics value chain- tracking, documentation, interface, data sharing.



- **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP):** A single window/digital platform for logistics stakeholders (transporters, warehouse operators, customs etc.) to interact, access information, file clearances etc.
- **Ease of Logistics (E-LOG):** Making logistics operations easier: simplifying regulations, minimizing paperwork, reducing procedural delays, enhancing multimodal integration.
- **System Improvement Group (SIG):** An institutional framework to continuously monitor, review, and improve the logistics system- feedback loops, stakeholder involvement.
- **Infrastructure & Modal Mix Improvement:** Promoting multimodal transport (road, rail, waterways, ports), building multimodal logistics parks, improving warehousing, cold chain infrastructure etc.
- **Green & Sustainable Logistics:** Emphasis on reducing pollution, promoting environmentally friendly practices (eg, green freight, efficient last-mile connectivity).
- **Human Resource Development:** Skill upgradation, capacity building, aligning logistics workforce capabilities with sector needs.
- **Progress So Far:**
  - The **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)** is operational and has enabled API integration across more than 30 digital systems, facilitating huge volumes of digital transactions.
  - The **Logistics Data Bank (LDB)** has been used to track many EXIM (export-import) containers via Inland Container Depots (ICDs) (real-time visibility). As of August 2025, more than 75 million EXIM containers have been tracked across 101 ICDs.
  - **Improvements in LPI and Measures of State Performance:** India's ranking in the World Bank's *Logistics Performance Index (LPI)* improved from **44th in 2022 to 38th in 2023**.
  - Strong alignment of NLP with flagship programs like **PM GatiShakti, Dedicated Freight Corridors, Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs)**. These help with multimodal connectivity, reducing bottlenecks.



→ The warehousing sector is growing rapidly: strong investments, modernization, adoption of better practices. Estimates say the warehousing sector may reach **USD 35 billion by 2027**, with ~15-16% annual growth.

★ State-level measures are coming up: e.g. states like West Bengal giving *industry status* to logistics, approving logistics corridors, etc., encouraging private investment.

- **Existing Gaps:**

→ **Logistics Cost Reduction:** Despite progress, logistics costs are still high (~13-14% of GDP) vs target benchmarks (8-10% or lower depending on estimates).

→ **Adoption of green logistics** (EVs for freight, energy efficient warehouses, less polluting modes) is still at nascent stages. Policy proposals exist but actual large-scale implementation is limited.

→ **Infrastructure:** The share of non-road modes (rail, waterways etc.) in freight movement needs more boost; road is still dominant, which is costlier and less efficient in many cases.

→ Although digital platforms (ULIP, LDB etc.) are up, the coverage (especially in smaller states, remote ICDs, smaller firms / MSMEs) is uneven. Data quality, real-time tracking for non-EXIM / domestic logistics is less mature.

- **Way Forward:**

→ Push for greater modal shift (from road to rail / waterways / coastal shipping) to reduce cost and carbon footprint.

→ Further expansion and fine-tuning of digital systems so that domestic supply chains get similar visibility and ease of operations as EXIM ones.

→ Enhance state-level implementation, including enabling regulations, incentives, and last-mile connectivity.

→ Promote green logistics more vigorously: set clearer targets, provide incentives (tax / subsidy), ensure infrastructure for EVs, cold chains etc.

→ Strengthen skilling in the sector: logistics workforce, tech adoption, etc.



## 4. Chabahar Port

- **Prelims** - Chabahar Port
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

### Why in the news?

- The U.S. announced that the country was revoking its waiver of sanctions over the Iranian port of Chabahar.

### Chabahar Port

- **Location**: Located on the southeastern coast of Iran, along the Gulf of Oman.
- **Infrastructure & Development**
  - India's participation through India Ports Global Limited (IPGL).
  - Includes development of Shahid Beheshti terminal.
  - Agreement signed in 2016; India took over operations in 2018.
  - India has supplied equipment like cranes and invested in capacity building.
- **Strategic Importance for India**
  - **Access to Afghanistan & Central Asia**: Provides an alternative trade route, avoiding Pakistan's land route restrictions.
  - **Counter to Gwadar Port (Pakistan)**: Balances China's presence in Gwadar (part of CPEC).
  - **Connectivity Projects**: Integrated with International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), linking India–Iran–Russia–Europe.
  - **Energy Security**: Facilitates crude oil and natural gas imports from Iran and Central Asia.
  - **Regional Diplomacy**: Enhances India–Iran ties while strengthening relations with Afghanistan.
- **Challenges**
  - **US Sanctions on Iran**: Slow progress due to restrictions on banking, insurance, and investments.
  - **Geopolitical Tensions**: Iran–US rivalry, instability in Afghanistan, and regional power competition.
  - **China Factor**: Beijing's deepening engagement with Iran (25-year strategic partnership) competes with India's role.



## 5. Syria

- **Prelims** - Location of Syria
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

## Syria



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**Why in the news?**

- Syria, Israel advance security talks as U.S. pushes peace settlement.

**Syria**

- **Location:** Syria is a Western Asian country located in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Levant.
- **Capital:** Damascus
- **Borders Countries:** Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon.
- **Maritime Border Countries:** Cyprus lies to the west across the Mediterranean Sea
- **Major Rivers in Syria:** Euphrates, Tigris
- **Disputed Territories:** Golan heights with Israel

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## 6. AI in Governance

- Prelims - AI in Governance
- Mains - GS 3 - Science and Technology

### Why in the news?

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is planning to develop an AI model designed to help auditors, thereby improving efficiency in auditing processes.

### AI in Governance

- What is it?
  - **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in governance refers to the use of machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and data-driven models to enhance decision-making, service delivery, policy design, and citizen engagement.
- Applications of AI in Governance:
  - **Policy and Decision Support:** AI tools facilitate faster and accurate decision making activities.
    - ★ Big-data driven simulations for urban planning and climate adaptation.
    - ★ AI-based **weather forecasting models** to improve disaster preparedness.
    - ★ Predictive analytics for **agriculture yields** (e.g., **AMED API** by ISRO for crop forecasting).
  - **Service Delivery and E-Governance:**
    - ★ Automated **beneficiary verification** in welfare schemes like PM-KISAN, MGNREGS.
    - ★ **AI chatbots** for grievance redressal (e.g., UMANG app, RBI's chatbot "AskRBI").
    - ★ **AI-enabled language translation** for multi-lingual governance (Bhashini under Digital India).
  - **Healthcare:**
    - ★ AI-based **disease surveillance systems** (Integrated Health Information Platform).
    - ★ Predictive models for **maternal and child health** (Reproductive & Child Health portal).
    - ★ AI-powered telemedicine platforms in rural areas.



## → Law Enforcement & Judiciary:

- ★ AI-driven facial recognition in policing and border security.
- ★ **Supreme Court's AI tool "SUPACE"** assists judges with legal research.
- ★ e-Courts Project uses AI for case management and translation of judgments.

## → Infrastructure & Smart Governance:

- ★ **Smart cities mission:** AI-based traffic control, waste management, and energy optimization.
- ★ Drones and AI for infrastructure monitoring and environmental compliance.
- ★ AI in logistics and supply chain management (supporting **National Logistics Policy 2022**).

## ● Benefits:

- **Efficiency:** Reduces human error, improves speed of service delivery.
- **Transparency:** Automated workflows minimize discretion and corruption.
- **Inclusivity:** Natural language processing tools enable access for non-English speakers.
- **Data-driven governance:** Facilitates evidence-based policymaking.

## ● Challenges:

- **Data privacy:** Lack of a strong data protection law raises concerns.
- **Bias and discrimination:** AI models risk perpetuating social inequalities.
- **Digital divide:** Unequal access to technology can exclude vulnerable groups.
- **Accountability:** Difficult to assign responsibility for AI-driven decisions.
- **Capacity gap:** Shortage of skilled manpower in AI within government.

## ● Way Forward:

- Enact a **comprehensive data protection and AI ethics law**.
- Develop **Responsible AI frameworks** ensuring fairness, accountability, transparency.
- Invest in **AI R&D, skilling, and indigenous compute infrastructure**.
- Encourage **public-private partnerships** for scalable solutions.
- Promote **AI-enabled citizen participation** in governance.

## ● Indian Initiatives:

- **IndiaAI Mission (2024)**- ₹10,000+ crore outlay for AI startups, compute infrastructure, and governance applications.



- **National Strategy for AI (NITI Aayog, 2018)**- “AI for All” vision.
- **Bhashini Mission**- AI-based language translation for inclusive digital governance.
- **Responsible AI for Youth (2020)**- building capacity among students.
- **AI in Digital Public Goods**- e-RaktKosh, COWIN, DigiLocker integrations.
- **Global Examples:**
  - **Estonia**: AI-based e-governance for tax filing, citizen services.
  - **Singapore**: AI in Smart Nation program (transport & urban planning).
  - **UK**: AI in predictive policing and NHS healthcare delivery.