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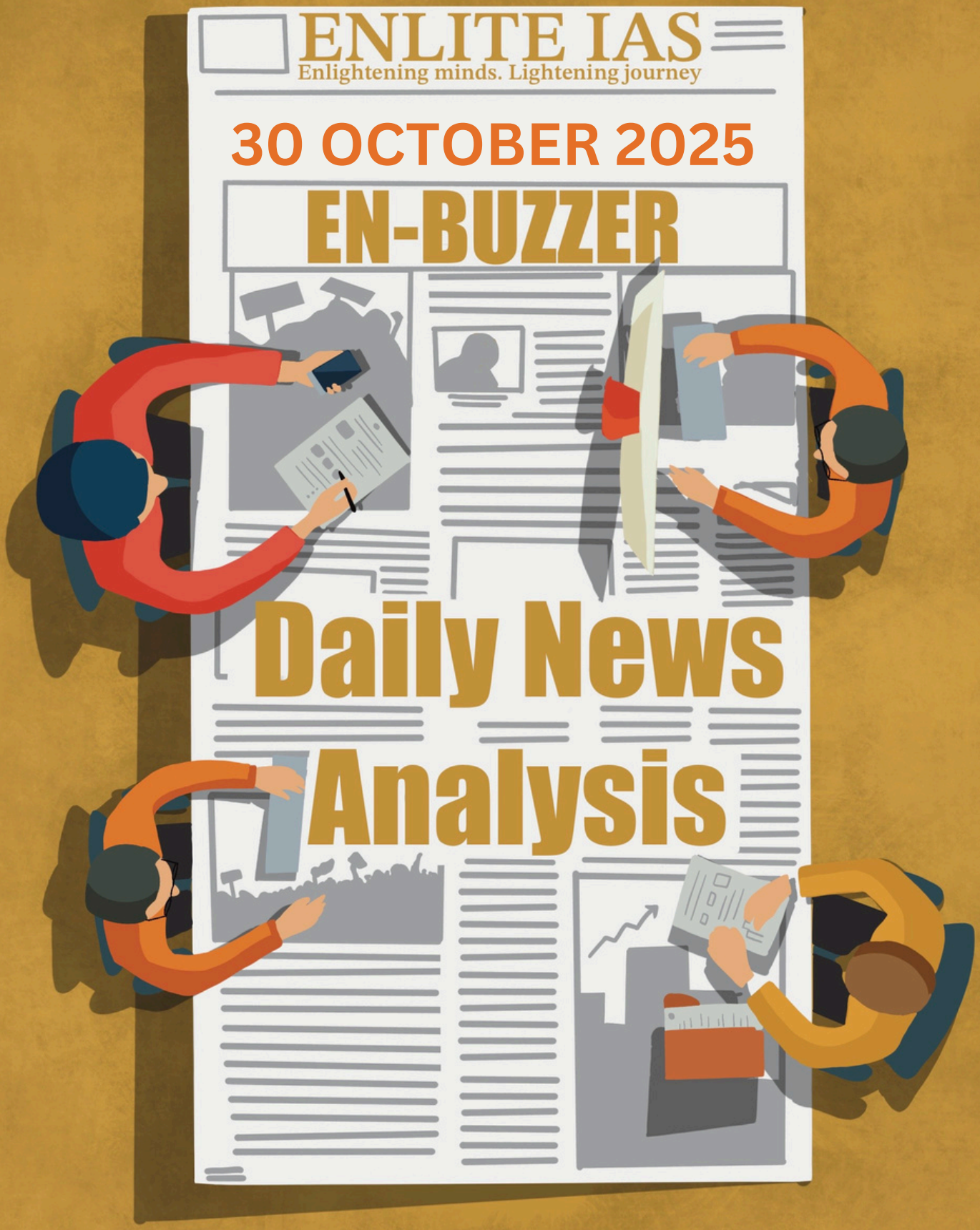
Daily News Analysis



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THURSDAY, 30th OCTOBER 2025

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1. United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime

- **Prelims -** United Nations Convention against Cybercrime
- **Mains -** GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- At a ceremony held in Hanoi, Vietnam, 72 of the UN member states signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime.

United Nations Convention against Cybercrime

- **What is it?:**
  - ➔ It is the world's first legally binding global treaty dedicated to tackling cybercrime and enhancing international cooperation for cybercrime investigations, evidence sharing, and prosecution.
  - ➔ The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2024 (Resolution 79/243) and opened for signature in Hanoi, Vietnam, in October 2025. It will enter into force 90 days after at least 40 member states ratify it.
- **Objectives:**
  - ➔ Strengthen international cooperation and establish a global framework to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cybercrimes.
  - ➔ Facilitate cross-border sharing and collection of electronic evidence for serious offences.
  - ➔ Empower developing nations through technical assistance and capacity building programs.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - ➔ **Criminalization:** States are required to legislate against unauthorized access (hacking), data interference, online fraud, money laundering, distribution of child sexual abuse material, and non-consensual dissemination of intimate images.
  - ➔ **International Cooperation:** Outlines mutual legal assistance, extradition, and establishes a global 24/7 network for swift coordination in cybercrime matters.
  - ➔ **Procedural Measures:** Specifies guidelines for search, seizure, freezing, and confiscation of digital evidence, while respecting national laws and sovereignty.

- ➔ **Human Rights and Data Protection:** Implementation must be consistent with international human rights law and ensure appropriate safeguards in personal data transfer.
- ➔ **Child Protection:** Mandates criminalization of the production, sale, and distribution of online child exploitation material.

- **Implementation Mechanism:**
  - ➔ Monitored by the Conference of the States Parties, with UNODC acting as the secretariat, offering guidance, technical support, and training for member implementation.
  - ➔ Non-signatories can accede later through formal notification.
- **Significance:**
  - ➔ Sets a global legal standard for cybercrime response, filling a major gap in international law.
  - ➔ Recognizes cybercrime as a threat that transcends borders, emphasizing sovereign rights while fostering collective response.
  - ➔ An important step toward protecting societies from digital threats, ensuring capacity for rapid data exchange, and shielding vulnerable populations, especially children, from cybersecurity risks.
- **India and the Convention:**
  - ➔ India participated in the drafting but has not signed the Convention as of October 2025, continuing its policy of shaping global digital governance independently (also did not sign the Budapest Convention).

2. National Framework for Community-Centred Conservation and Relocation (NFCCR)

- **Prelims** - National Framework for Community-Centred Conservation and Relocation
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has stated that relocating forest-dwelling communities from tiger reserves should be undertaken only as an exceptional, voluntary, and scientifically justified measure.

National Framework for Community-Centred Conservation and Relocation (NFCCR)

- **What is it?:**
  - ➔ The NFCCR is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) aimed at standardising the process of relocation of communities from critical conservation areas in India.
  - ➔ It addresses the long-standing tension between the biodiversity-wildlife-conservation imperatives (e.g., in tiger reserves) and rights/ livelihoods of forest-dwelling/tribal communities.
- **Key Features:**
  - ➔ **Voluntary relocation only:** The framework underscores that relocation should happen only with the *free, prior and informed consent* of the community, rather than coercively.
  - ➔ **Justification & scientific basis:** It mandates that relocation must be scientifically justified, for example, where habitat viability is threatened, or there is irreconcilable human-wildlife conflict or degradation.
  - ➔ **Rights protection:** The NFCCR affirms that rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) must not be adversely impacted; communities with recognised Individual or Community Forest Rights (IFR/CFR) cannot be arbitrarily displaced.
  - ➔ **Procedural standardisation:** The framework proposes standard protocols for relocation: timelines, accountability of agencies, post-relocation tracking,

monitoring and audit.

- ➔ **Database & transparency:** It envisages a national database to record relocation cases, compensation and rehabilitation status, to ensure transparency and allow audits.

- **Significance for India:**
  - ➔ India has many protected/wildlife-rich zones (e.g., tiger reserves under Project Tiger) where villages and forest-dwelling communities reside inside or adjacent to core habitats.
  - ➔ It helps align conservation policy with community rights (especially tribal/forest dwellers) and with frameworks such as the FRA, thus reducing legal/ethical conflict around relocation.
  - ➔ From a strategic/geopolitical perspective, this framework supports more sustainable human–wildlife/co-existence models, reducing conflict, improving habitat integrity and potentially strengthening India's conservation diplomacy (for instance under biodiversity conventions).
  - ➔ For your orientation (defence/geography/etc): relocation from core zones may affect land-use/land-cover patterns, social geography of fringe communities, forest-cover change, and thereby ecosystem services and human security in buffer landscapes.
- **Challenges:**
  - ➔ Implementation gaps such as vague explanations of procedures and roles of different bodies such as the Gram Sabhas and Tribal bodies.
  - ➔ Ensuring that consent is free, prior and informed in many tribal/forest-dependent contexts remains challenging.
  - ➔ Challenges associated with post-relocation rehabilitation such as sustainable livelihoods and access to services.
  - ➔ Balance between conservation & rights
  - ➔ Data & monitoring Issues like data efficiency and transparency.
  - ➔ Issues related to Inter-ministerial coordination between MoTA and MoEFCC.

3. Intrusion Detection System (IDS)

- **Prelims -** Intrusion Detection System (IDS)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- Recently, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) successfully carried out trial runs of the Intrusion Detection System (IDS) across four major sections, marking a significant step toward enhancing railway safety and preventing track intrusions.

Intrusion Detection System (IDS)

- **What is it?:**
  - ➔ The IDS is a technological system implemented by Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) under the Ministry of Railways to detect movement of large wildlife (especially elephants) near railway tracks in vulnerable sections and alert train operations.
  - ➔ It uses optical fibre sensing (vibration/acoustic) laid along/near the tracks to pick up intrusions and transmit real-time alerts to control rooms, loco pilots and station staff.
- **Need of the system:**
  - ➔ Train-elephant collisions have been a recurring issue in the forested/elephant-corridor stretches of Indian Railways; the IDS aims to reduce such fatalities and thereby improve safety for both wildlife and trains.
  - ➔ In strategic geographical regions (such as northeast India) where rail lines cut through wildlife corridors, the IDS contributes to the larger objective of balancing infrastructure growth (connectivity) with biodiversity conservation and human–wildlife coexistence.
  - ➔ From a land-use, terrain, and transport geography perspective, IDS deployment reflects the intersection of mobility corridors, ecological sensitivity zones and technological mitigation measures.
- **Working Mechanism:**
  - ➔ A fibre-optic cable (or vibration/acoustic sensing line) is laid alongside the track (often at a specified distance, e.g., ~10 m) in the high-risk stretch.
  - ➔ The sensing mechanism (often Distributed Acoustic Sensing – DAS) detects

vibrations caused by large animals approaching or on the track.

- ➔ On detection of such intrusion, the system generates an alarm/alert: this may go to the station master's console, loco-pilot display or control room. It may trigger warnings to slow down or stop the train.
- ➔ The system is installed in identified *critical & vulnerable* locations (forest stretches, wildlife corridors) as per environment/forest department mapping.

- **Current Status in India:**
  - ➔ The system is already working over **141 route km** in NFR on sections identified as critical & vulnerable.
  - ➔ Works have been sanctioned for a total of **1,158 route km** across multiple railway zones (NFR, ECOR, SR, NR, SER, NER, WR, ECR) at a cost of ~₹208 crore.
  - ➔ Trial works have been completed in four key sections.
- **Challenges Associated:**
  - ➔ **Terrain & environment:** The dense forest, wild terrain and frequent rains/landslides in many sections pose installation and maintenance challenges.
  - ➔ **False alerts / reliability:** In systems like these vibration sensors can pick up non-target intrusions (e.g., small animals, landslides, heavy trains) which may lead to false positives or fatigue in response.
  - ➔ **Integration with operational response:** Having alerts is one thing; the system's effectiveness depends on how quickly trains can be slowed/stopped and staff/locos respond.
  - ➔ **Cost and scale:** Rolling out across thousands of route km in India's forested zones is cost-intensive and logistically complex.
  - ➔ **Data & monitoring:** Continuous monitoring, data collection for animal movement patterns, maintenance of sensing lines and periodic audits are needed for sustainable use.

4. Cyprus

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

Cyprus

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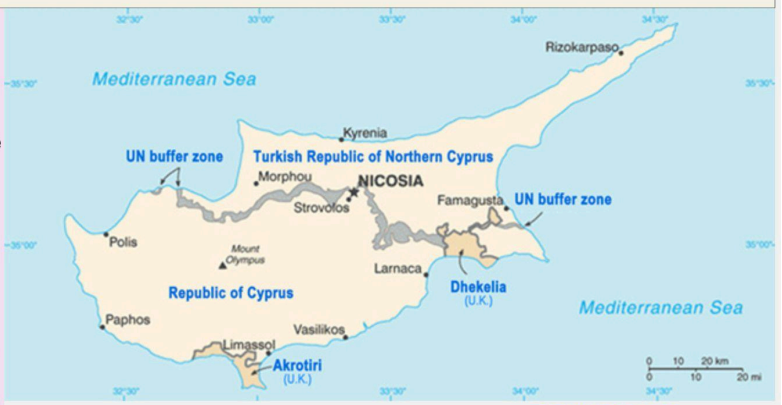
Why in the news?

- Cyprus Foreign Minister visited India, to advance the India–Cyprus strategic partnership.

Cyprus

- **Location**: It is an island country in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.
- **Capital**: Nicosia
- **Share Maritime Border with Countries**: Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine, Egypt.
- **Climate**
  - Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, after the Italian islands of Sicily and Sardinia
  - The region has Mediterranean climate



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5. Loktak Lake

- **Prelims** - Loktak Lake
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- A recent study by Nagaland University has established a direct link between land use and severe water pollution in Loktak Lake.

Loktak Lake

- **Location**: Manipur
- **Associated River**: Rivers like Khuga, Nambul, Imphal, Kongba, Iril, and Thoubal drain into Loktak Lake.
- **Ecological Significance**
  - ➔ It is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India and is known for its unique floating biomass, called phumdi in the Meitei language.
  - ➔ It is home to the Keibul Lamjao National Park, the world's only floating national park.
  - ➔ The lake supports 132 plant species and 428 animal species, including several endemic and migratory species.
- **Protection Status**: It is a Ramsar site placed under Montreux Record since 1993.

6. International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- **Prelims -** International Solar Alliance
- **Mains -** GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- Indian President inaugurated the opening plenary of the Eighth Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly in New Delhi, calling upon member countries to link solar energy with job creation, women's empowerment, rural livelihoods, and digital inclusion.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- **Launched**: In 2015 at COP-21, Paris by India and France.
- **Headquarters**: Gurugram, Haryana, India.
- **Aim**: Promote the large-scale deployment of solar energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Nature**: The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization.
- **Membership**: Open to all UN member states (initially limited to countries lying between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn).
- **Objective**
  - ➔ Mobilize over $1 trillion in investments by 2030 for solar energy.
  - ➔ Facilitate affordable finance and technology transfer.
  - ➔ Reduce cost of solar power generation and applications (agriculture, health, transport).
  - ➔ Support countries in meeting their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.
- **Initiatives**
  - ➔ **One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)**: A global solar power grid initiative for cross-border transfer of renewable energy.
  - ➔ **STAR-C (Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre):**Capacity-building, research, and training hub for member countries.
  - ➔ **Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture (SSA)**: Promotes solar pumps and technologies for irrigation.

- ➔ **Affordable Finance at Scale (AFS)**: Attracts global investment and concessional finance for solar projects.
- ➔ **ISA Solar Awards**: To recognize innovative solar solutions in member countries.

- **Challenges**
  - ➔ Unequal capacity and interest among member countries.
  - ➔ **Financing gaps** and high-risk perception in developing nations.
  - ➔ Need for **technological adaptation** to diverse geographic conditions.
  - ➔ Coordination difficulties in mega projects like OSOWOG.
- **Significance for India**
  - ➔ Positions India as a **global leader** in renewable energy diplomacy.
  - ➔ Supports India's **targets of 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030.**
  - ➔ Enhances **South-South cooperation** and climate leadership.
  - ➔ Strengthens India's role in global climate negotiations.