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25 NOVEMBER 2025

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Daily News Analysis

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TUESDAY, 25th NOVEMBER 2025

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1. Appointment of Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- **Prelims** - Appointment of Chief Justice of India (CJI)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- Justice Surya Kant takes oath as 53rd Chief Justice of India

Appointment of Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- **Constitutional Provisions**
 - ➔ The Constitution of India does not mention any procedure for appointing the CJI.
 - ➔ Article 124(1) of the Constitution says, "There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India."
 - ➔ Clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution says that the President shall appoint every Judge of the Supreme Court.
- **Convention:**
 - ➔ The outgoing CJI recommends his successor a practice strictly based on seniority.
- **Government Role:**
 - ➔ The Central government has no role to play in the appointment of the CJI except for the Union Law Minister seeking the recommendation from the incumbent CJI, before sending it to the Prime Minister.
- **Qualifications to become CJI:**
 - ➔ Apart from being an Indian citizen, the person must:
 - ★ Have been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession or
 - ★ Have been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession, or
 - ★ Be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.
- **Appointment:**
 - ➔ The Chief Justice of India and the other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Indian Constitution.

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- **Tenure:**

→ The tenure of a CJI is until they attain the age of 65 years.

- **Removal:**

→ Ground for Removal: **Proven misbehavior or incapacity.**

→ A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting.

2. Gender Equality in Armed Forces

- **Prelims** - Gender Equality in Armed Forces
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Social Justice

Why in the news?

- A panel of the Loksabha discusses induction of women into combat roles in the Indian Armed Forces.

Gender Equality in Armed Forces

- **Constitutional Backing**
 - Article 14: Equality before law.
 - Article 15(1): Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sex.
 - Article 16: Equality of opportunity in public employment.
 - Article 15(3): Permits special provisions for women.
- **Evolution of Women's Role in the Indian Armed Forces**
 - 1992: Women were inducted as Short Service Commission (SSC) officers in select branches.
 - 2015: Women inducted as fighter pilots in IAF (on experimental basis, made permanent in 2022).
 - 2020: Supreme Court in Secretary, MoD vs Babita Puniya – Women eligible for Permanent Commission in Army's non-combat streams.
 - 2021: Women allowed in NDA for officer training.
 - 2022: First woman posted in BRO as EE (Civil).
 - 2023: Women inducted into the Artillery Regiment for the first time.
- **Supreme Court Judgments**
 - **Babita Puniya Case (2020)**
 - ★ SC ruled women officers are entitled to Permanent Commission in Indian Army on par with men in all services (except combat arms where policy is still evolving).
 - ★ Criticised "gender stereotypes" in defence.
 - **NDA Entry Case (2021)**
 - ★ SC allowed women to take the NDA exam, stating denial violated Articles 14, 15, and 16.
- **Current Status**
 - **Indian Army**: Women in all corps except infantry, armoured corps (pilot projects under discussion).

- **Indian Navy:** Women as officers in all branches, including warships.
- **Indian Air Force:** Women in all roles, including fighter pilots.
- **Coast Guard & CAPFs:** Progressive integration in combat & leadership roles.

- **Challenges**

- **Physical standards:** Need for gender-neutral but role-specific physical benchmarks.
- **Combat role resistance:** Concerns over unit cohesion, infrastructure, physiological differences.
- **Deployment issues:** Facilities for women in remote/high-altitude combat zones.
- **Mindset barriers:** Prevailing gender bias in traditionally male-dominated forces.
- **Career progression:** Ensuring equal opportunities in command postings.

- **Government Initiatives**

- Permanent Commission to women in Army, Navy, IAF.
- Gender-neutral admission in NDA, Sainik Schools.
- Infrastructure upgrades – separate accommodation, hygiene facilities in combat areas.
- Induction of women in Artillery Regiment (2023).

- **Way Forward**

- Policy reforms – Clear roadmap for inclusion in combat arms.
- Training – Equal standards with role-specific adjustments.
- Cultural change – Gender-sensitisation programmes for all ranks.
- Infrastructure – Ensure deployment readiness in forward areas.
- International best practices – Learning from countries like the USA, Israel, Australia.

3. Bharat NCAP

- **Prelims** -Bharat NCAP
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- The revised draft of Bharat NCAP was released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Bharat NCAP

- **What is it?:** Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) is India's indigenous vehicle safety rating system that gives star ratings (1–5) to passenger vehicles based on safety performance, similar to Global NCAP, Euro NCAP, and US NCAP.
- **Launch:** Launched by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** in 2023.
- **Objectives:**
 - Improve road safety by encouraging production and purchase of safer vehicles.
 - Push automobile manufacturers to adopt global safety standards.
 - Reduce road accident fatalities (India accounts for ~11% of global road deaths).
 - Align India with UN crash test standards under the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic.
- **Applicability:** Applies to M1 category passenger vehicles with seating capacity up to 8 passengers and gross vehicle weight under 3.5 tonnes.
- **Testing criteria:**
 - Adult Occupant Protection
 - Child Occupant Protection: Dynamic safety tests for 3-year-old and 18-month-old child dummies
 - Safety Assist Technologies: Seat belt reminders, Pedestrian protection measures etc.

4. Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and UNICEF

- **Prelims** - Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and UNICEF
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- Gavi and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have announced a new agreement that it said will make the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccines significantly more accessible and affordable, paving the way for protecting more children.

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

- **What is it?:** Gavi is a global public-private partnership created in 2000 to improve access to vaccines in low-income countries.
- **Partnership:** It brings together governments, WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, civil society, vaccine manufacturers, foundations (notably the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), and research institutions.
- **Objectives:**
 - Increase equitable and sustainable access to life-saving vaccines.
 - Strengthen health systems, cold chain logistics, and immunisation delivery.
 - Ensure market shaping by reducing vaccine prices and ensuring supply.
- **Functions:**
 - Co-financing model: Countries gradually increase their share of vaccine financing as incomes rise.
 - Market shaping: Negotiates lower vaccine prices (e.g., pneumococcal, rotavirus, HPV).
 - Introduction of new vaccines in LMICs.
 - Outbreak response through Gavi's Vaccine Alliance Emergency Stockpile (e.g., cholera, Ebola).

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- **Formation:** Established in 1946; became a permanent part of the UN system in 1953.
- **Headquarters:** New York.
- **Objectives:**
 - Improve child health, nutrition, and immunisation.
 - Strengthen education, especially for girls.

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- Ensure safe water, sanitation (WASH).
- Protection from violence, exploitation, and abuse.
- Provide humanitarian relief in emergencies (conflict, disaster, epidemics).
- **Nature:** A UN specialized agency guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989.
- **Members:** Works in 190+ countries and territories.

5. Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership

- **Prelims** - Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the new trilateral partnership between India, Canada and Australia on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Johannesburg.

Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership

- **What is it?**: It is a **trilateral collaboration framework** launched in **2024–25** to strengthen cooperation in **emerging technologies, research, innovation ecosystems, and commercialisation pathways** among the three Indo-Pacific democracies.
- **Objectives:**
 - Strengthen Emerging Technology Collaboration through Joint research and development and Technology co-creation and co-innovation.
 - Build Secure & Trusted Tech Ecosystems to promote secure supply chains and ensure data protection, cyber resilience, and interoperability.
 - Support Startups & Innovation including access to innovation funding and market entry support across the three countries
 - Advance Indo-Pacific Tech Leadership.
- **Cooperation areas- Themes:**
 - **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**: Responsible AI frameworks and AI safety, governance, and regulatory collaboration.
 - **Quantum Technologies**: Quantum computing, Quantum communication and Quantum-safe encryption.
 - **Biotechnology & Life Sciences**: Genomics, health tech, biosecurity, vaccine R&D and clinical trial cooperation.
 - **Critical Minerals & Clean Tech**: Joint research on Battery technologies, Grid storage and Hydrogen technologies as well as Collaboration on critical mineral value chains.



- **Cybersecurity:** Cyber standards, certification frameworks and Incident response cooperation.
- **Space Technology:** Satellite-based services, Space sustainability norms and Commercial space collaboration.
- **Significance for India:**
 - Supplements India's Tech Diplomacy such as the Quad Critical and Emerging Technologies framework and India–Australia & India–Canada bilateral S&T agreements
 - Boost to Critical Mineral Security through collaboration with Canada and Australia who are top global suppliers.
 - Startup Ecosystem Benefits as the ACITI creates new markets and funding networks.
 - Strengthening Indo-Pacific Strategy by enhancing India's role as a technology and innovation hub in the region.
 - Supports “Atmanirbhar Bharat” & “Viksit Bharat 2047 through deep-tech collaborations with Canada and Australia.

6. Ethiopia

- **Prelims** - Location of Ethiopia
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Ethiopia

Why in the news?

- Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi volcano erupted.

Ethiopia

- **Location:** It is a landlocked country in the Horn of Africa.
- **Capital:** Addis Ababa
- **Borders:** Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan.
- **Geographical Feature:**
 - One of the country through which African Rift Valley passes.
 - Hottest place in Africa - Dallol, Ethiopia.
- **Associated International Groupings:** Group of 24, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, and the Organisation of African Unity.
- **Headquarters Locating in Ethiopia:** Addis Ababa is the headquarters of the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

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7. Sudan

- **Prelims** - Location of Sudan
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Sudan

Why in the news?

- Sudan's top general rejects ceasefire plane proposal by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

Sudan

- **Location:** Sudan is an East African country.
- **Capital:** Khartoum
- **Border Countries:** Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Red Sea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan.
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Red Sea, Lake Nubia on the Sudanese-Egyptian border.
- **Rivers:** The **Blue Nile** and **White Nile** rivers meet in Khartoum to form the **Nile**, which flows northwards through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Climate:** Savannah Climate



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