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26 NOVEMBER 2025

EN-BUZZER

Daily News Analysis

For IAS/IPS/IFS Coaching - Call us at 7994058393

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WEDNESDAY, 26th NOVEMBER 2025

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1. Strait of Malacca

- **Prelims** - Strait of Malacca
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Why in the news?

- A well marked cyclonic system developed from a low pressure zone in Strait of Malacca, which is moving towards the Coromandel coast.

Strait of Malacca

- **Location:** A narrow **maritime chokepoint** between **Malay Peninsula (Malaysia)** and **Sumatra (Indonesia)**.
- **Connects:** It connects the Andaman Sea in the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea in the Pacific Ocean.
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - One of the busiest shipping routes in the world, carrying nearly 40% of the global trade.
 - Facilitates the movement of Oil, LNG, Container ships and Raw materials.
 - Nearly 80% of China's crude oil imports pass through the Strait and 60% of Japan & South Korea's oil imports transit here.
 - A major fulcrum for ASEAN economies.
 - A critical point in the Indo-Pacific geopolitical rivalry.
- **Regional Cooperation Mechanisms:**
 - **Malacca Strait Patrols (MSP):** Joint patrolling by Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.
 - **Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy (ReCAAP):** Coordinates anti-piracy operations and information-sharing. India is a member of ReCAAP.
 - **IMO Involvement:** International Maritime Organization (IMO) provides navigational safety guidelines.
- **Significance for India:**
 - Major route for India's trade with East and Southeast Asia, including Japan, Australia, China, South Korea, Taiwan.

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- India's Look East Policy / Act East Policy leverages the Strait for connectivity.
- India participates in ReCAAP & conducts naval exercises with ASEAN nations.
- Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) provides strategic reach over the western entry of the Strait.
- China's vulnerability here is called the "Malacca Dilemma".

2. Mutirão Agreement

- **Prelims** - Mutirão Agreement
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The COP30 at Belem in Brazil saw the adoption of the Mutirão agreement as part of the negotiations.

Mutirão agreement

- **What is it?:**
 - “Mutirão” in Brazilian practice refers to collective, **community-driven mobilisation** where people voluntarily come together to solve common problems.
 - Brazil used this cultural idea to brand its COP30 strategy and launched the Global Mutirão Platform as a digital hub to aggregate and showcase climate actions worldwide.
- **Core Elements:**
 - The Mutirão Agreement supplements the Paris Agreement framework but is not itself a new legally binding treaty; it is a high-level political consensus to accelerate delivery of existing commitments.
 - The agreement prioritises cooperation, implementation and “deliverability” over announcing new numerical targets, reflecting a compromise between developed and developing countries.
 - It is anchored in Paris Agreement goals and the first Global Stocktake, reiterating the need to keep warming within 1.5 °C through rapid emission cuts, enhanced finance, and supportive trade and technology measures.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Emissions:** Reaffirms deep, rapid and sustained global emission reductions consistent with pathways to net-zero by mid-century.
 - **Finance:** Calls for a strengthened climate-finance architecture, including work towards a new collective quantified finance goal and a two-year work programme on climate finance.

- **Implementation Tools:** Promotes the Global Mutirão Platform to close the gap between pledges and delivery, particularly in energy transition, climate-aligned trade, and deforestation-free development.
- **Significance for India:**
 - For India, the mutirão package underscores the shift from “negotiating goals” to implementing commitments- especially in adaptation, finance and just transition.
 - The emphasis on collective effort (“everyone contributes according to capacity”) resonates with the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR-RC).
 - It is a stake-in-the-ground that climate action is no longer just about pledges (NDCs) but about mobilisation, finance flows, technology access, just transitions, and forest/land-use issues.
 - For Global South countries, the adaptation finance and just transition components are crucial- reflecting that development & climate justice must go hand-in-hand.

3. Meerut Bugle

- **Prelims** -Meerut Bugle
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Art and Culture

Why in the news?

- The Meerut Bugle has received a **GI Tag**.

Meerut Bugle

- **Origin:** Bugle making in Meerut started from the 19th century itself.
- **About:**
 - The Meerut Bugle is a traditional brass wind instrument with a rich heritage dating back nearly 140 years, crafted in Meerut, India.
 - The bugle's sharp, commanding sound has been integral to military drills, parades, ceremonies, and regimental bands.
 - The Meerut Bugle symbolizes not just a musical instrument but also a thread woven through India's military, political, and social history, including its role during the **1857 uprising** and various significant national events.

4. Georgia

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

Georgia

Why in the news?

- India's strengthening of textile and sericulture cooperation with Georgia, including participation in the 11th BACSA International Conference (CULTUSERI 2025).

Georgia

- Location:** Georgia is a country located at the boundary of Eastern Europe and West Asia
- Capital:** Tbilisi
- Bordering Waterbodies:** Black Sea.
- Bordering Countries:** Russia, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- Topography:** The country is part of Caucasus mountains.



GEORGIA

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Black Sea

Sokhumi

Ambrolauri

Zugdidi

Kutaisi

Ozurgeti

Gori

Telavi

Mtskheta

Rustavi

Tbilisi

Akhaltziske

Batum

25 km

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5. Labour Codes of India

- **Prelims** - Labour Codes of India
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Indian Polity

Why in the news?

- The Government of India notified the four new Labour Codes.

Labour Codes of India

- **What is it?**: The Labour Codes of India consolidate 29 existing labour laws into four comprehensive and modernized codes aimed at simplifying regulations, improving workers' rights, and enhancing ease of doing business.
- **Rationale:**
 - Simplifying Compliance: Multiplicity of laws leading to compliance difficulty and confusions.
 - Multiple authorities in different labour laws led to complexity and difficulty in enforcements
 - Modernizing the outdated laws in lines with the needs of the present time.

Code on Wages, 2019

- **Aim:** Strengthen workers' rights while promoting simplicity and uniformity in wage related compliance for employers.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Universal Minimum wages:** A statutory right to minimum wages for all employees across both organized and unorganized sectors.
 - **Introduction of Floor wage:** A statutory floor wage shall be set by the GoI based on minimum std of living, and states shall only fix minimum wages above this floor wage.
 - **Gender equality in employment:** Employers shall not discriminate based on gender including transgender in recruitment, wages and employment conditions for similar work.
 - **Overtime Compensation:** Overtime wages should be at least twice the normal rate for any work done beyond regular working hours

→ **Compounding of Offences:** First-time, non-imprisonable offences can be compounded by paying a penalty. However repeated offences shall not be compounded.

Industrial Relations Code, 2020

- **Aim:** To simplify laws related to Trade Unions, conditions of employment in industries and investigation and settlement of industrial disputes.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Fixed Term Employment:** Allows time-bound contracts with full parity in wages and benefits.
 - **Re-skilling Fund:** To train retrenched employees, this fund has been set up from the contribution from the industrial establishment.
 - **Trade Union Recognition:** Unions with 51% membership get recognition as the negotiating Union.. Otherwise, a negotiating council is formed from unions, not less than 20% membership of the trade union.
 - **Expanded Worker Definition:** It covers Sales promotion staff, Journalists and Supervisors earning upto 18000 per month as workers.
 - **Women's Representation:** Ensures proportional representation of women employees in grievance committees for gender-sensitive redressal.
 - **Work from Home Provisions:** Permitted in service sectors with mutual consent, improving flexibility.
 - **Industrial tribunals:** 2 member tribunals for quick dispute resolution and parties may approach tribunals directly after failed conciliation.

Code on Social Security, 2020

- **Aim:** Extending social security to all workers.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Expanded Employees State Insurance Coverage:** ESIC now applies to pan India, and establishments with lesser than 10 employees may opt in with mutual consent of employers and employees.
 - **Inclusion of Gig and Platform workers:** they are also covered under the social security code. Aggregators contribute 1-2% of annual turnover .

- **Social Security Fund:** A dedicated fund to finance schemes for unorganized, gig and platform workers has been proposed. Funded through amount collected from compounding offences
- **Expanded definition of dependents:** Coverage extended to maternal grandparents and in case of females it also includes dependents in laws.
- **Commuting accidents are covered:** They are deemed as employment related and hence made qualified for compensation.

Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

- **Aim:** Safeguarding worker rights and safe working conditions and creating a business-friendly regulatory environment.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Unified Registration:** One registration for an establishment is needed instead of 6 regns- creating a centralized database
 - Govt can extend the code provisions to any establishment- even with one employee engaged in hazardous occupations.
 - **Free annual health checkups** for employees
 - **Wider definition of Migrant workers** and they are benefitted with a lump-sum annual travel allowance to native place once in 12 months.
 - **Women's employment:** Women can work in all kinds of establishments and during night hours, with consent and safety measures fostering equality and inclusion.
 - **Victim Compensation:** Courts can direct at least 50% of the fines imposed on offenders to be paid as compensation to victims or their legal heirs in cases of injury or death.
 - **Safety Committees:** Establishments with 500 or more workers will form safety committees with employer-employee representation enhancing the safety.

Benefits of the Codes:

- **For Workers:**
 - Wider social security coverage.
 - Timely wage payments.
 - Improved safety and health standards.

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- Legal recognition of gig & platform workers.
- Maternity benefits & fixed-term worker protections.

- **For Employers:**

- Simplified compliance via one registration & one license.
- Flexibility in hiring (fixed-term employment).
- Higher retrenchment threshold and lower regulatory burden.
- Improved industrial relations due to uniform definitions.

Challenges and Criticisms:

- Increase in retrenchment threshold may make job security weaker.
- Strike restrictions seen as limiting trade union rights.
- Gig workers still lack assured universal benefits (depends on funding).
- Implementation dependent on states causing risk of uneven rollout.
- Potential dilution of safety norms in hazardous industries.

6. Exercise Surya Kiran

- Prelims - Exercise Surya Kiran
- Mains - GS 2 - International Relations

Exercise Surya Kiran

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Why in the news?

- The 19th edition of Exercise SURYA KIRAN begins.

Exercise Surya Kiran

- What is it?: It is a military exercise conducted annually between India and Nepal.
- Host: Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

Objective of the Surya Kiran

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graph TD; A[Enhance interoperability in forest warfare] --> B[Enhance interoperability in counter-terrorism operations in mountains]; B --> C[Integration of niche technology to enhance interoperability]; C --> D[Strengthen their coordination to operate together in challenging scenarios];
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7. Lachit Borphukan

- **Prelims** - Lachit Borphukan
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Medieval History

Lachit Borphukan



Why in the news?

- November 24 marks birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan

Lachit Borphukan

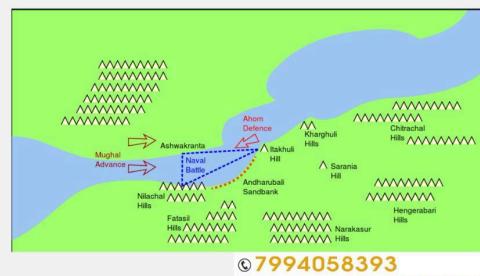
- **Born:** 24th November 1622.
- **Who is he?**: He was an Army General of Ahom (Assam) Kingdom and is revered as the greatest military hero of Assam.
- **Significance in India**
 - He excelled in the art of Guerrilla Warfare.
 - He is known for his exemplary leadership in the **Battle of Saraighat (1671)**, where the Ahoms defeated the Mughal forces.
- **Death:** 25th April 1672.



Image courtesy: gOonjanChowdhury

Steps to Honour him

- The Lachit Borphukan gold medal is awarded to the best cadet from the National Defence Academy.
- The 35-feet-tall statue of Ahom general Lachit Borphukan in the middle of the Brahmaputra in Guwahati was inaugurated by former chief minister Tarun Gogoi in 2016.



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