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1. INS Mahe

- **Prelims** - INS Mahe
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- INS Mahe was commissioned on 24 November 2025 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

INS Mahe

- **What is it?:** INS Mahe is the first of the indigenously designed and built Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), built under Atma Nirbhar Bharat, reflecting India's naval self-reliance.
- **Naming and Symbolism:** Named after **Mahe**, a historic coastal town on the **Malabar Coast** known for maritime heritage.
- **Indigenous Make:**
 - Designed and built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL), Kochi.
 - Lead ship of 8 Mahe-class ASW-SWCs.
 - Over 80% indigenous content.
 - Major partners: BEL, L&T Defence, Mahindra Defence Systems, NPOL, and 20+ MSMEs.
- **Operational Role:**
 - Designed for anti-submarine warfare in coastal and shallow waters (littorals).
 - Forms the first line of coastal defence.
- **Key Capabilities:**
 - Advanced ASW suite for detecting, tracking, and neutralising sub-surface threats.
 - Compact yet potent combat suite integrating weapons, sensors, and communication networks.
 - Capable of prolonged operations in shallow waters.
 - Equipped with High-end sonars & sensors, modern weapons for ASW engagement and advanced machinery and control systems
 - Seamless integration with Larger surface combatants, submarines and Naval aviation assets.

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- **Strategic Significance:**

- Enhances India's littoral warfare strength.
- Improves Indian Navy's ability to counter underwater threats, especially mini-submarines and stealthy intrusions.
- Strengthens coastal security grid, critical for
 - ★ Protecting major ports & naval bases
 - ★ Securing Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs)
 - ★ Surveillance over maritime choke points

2. Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO)

- **Prelims** - Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- China completed the construction of its Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) whereas the Indian project of building a Neutrino Observatory is still uncertain.

Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO)

- **What is it?:**
 - The **Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO)** is a proposed **underground research facility** to study **atmospheric neutrinos**.
 - It is one of India's largest planned **basic science** projects, aimed at advancing particle physics and underground laboratory research.
- **Location:** Proposed site is **Bodi West Hills, Theni district, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Collaborating Agencies:** Coordinated by the **INO Collaboration**, comprising over **20 research institutes**, with **TIFR, IMSc, IITs** etc. as major partners.
- **Scientific Objective:**
 - Study atmospheric neutrinos using the Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector.
 - Determination of neutrino mass hierarchy.
 - Understanding the oscillation properties of neutrinos.
- **Significance:**
 - Neutrinos are extremely low-interaction particles and they require deep underground labs.
 - Helps India contribute to **frontline global particle physics** (e.g., complementing IceCube, Super-Kamiokande).

3. Malnutrition among Indian Children

- **Prelims** -Malnutrition among Indian Children
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Social Justice

Why in the news?

- Issue of infant deaths in Melghat region of Maharashtra is reported as a result of Malnutrition and poor maternal healthcare.

Malnutrition among Indian Children

- **Malnutrition:** It refers to **undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overnutrition.**
- **Types of Malnutrition in India:**
 - Stunting: Low height for age.
 - Wasting: Low weight for height
 - Underweight: Low weight for age
 - Childhood Overweight/Obesity
 - Micronutrient Deficiencies
- **Current Status in India:** According to NFHS 5 data,
 - Stunting (<5 years): 35.5%
 - Wasting (<5 years): 19.3%
 - Underweight: 32.1%
 - Severe wasting: 7.7%
 - Anaemia (<5 years): 67.1%
- **Causes:**
 - Poor maternal nutrition & anaemia owing to early marriage & teenage pregnancy.
 - Low birth weight and inadequate antenatal care.
 - Poor dietary diversity & inadequate protein intake.
 - Frequent diarrhoea, pneumonia, malaria and Lack of immunisation.
 - Socio-economic factors like poverty, inequality, inadequate access to healthcare facilities etc.
- **Initiatives of Government of India:**

- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission), 2018: Focus on convergence, technology (ICDS-CAS), behaviour change (Jan Andolan).
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS): Anganwadi-based nutrition for children, pregnant & lactating women.
- PM POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal Scheme): Hot cooked meals for school children to reduce classroom hunger.
- Anaemia Mukt Bharat: 6x6x6 strategy targeting children, adolescents, pregnant women through weekly iron & folic acid supplementation.
- National Food Security Act (NFS), 2013: Legal entitlements to subsidised grains as well as maternity benefits.

- **Challenges:**

- Poor data quality and under-reporting of malnutrition
- High anaemia levels not improving despite multiple programmes
- Leakages in PDS and irregularity in Anganwadi supplementary nutrition
- Regional disparities: Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, UP worst-hit
- Behaviour change at household level remains slow
- Climate-related food insecurity increasing nutritional stress

- **Way Forward:**

- Strengthen Maternal Health by addressing teenage pregnancy and improving antenatal care & maternal nutrition
- Improve Child Feeding Practices such as ensuring 6 months exclusive breastfeeding and promoting dietary diversity
- Address Anaemia on Priority by Universal screening and Better iron-fortified foods
- Strengthen Anganwadi System by Capacity building of frontline workers
- Ensure Last-Mile Social Protection through strengthened PDS delivery
- Behavioural change through Jan Andolan-style community mobilisation and Nutrition counselling for mothers and caregivers.

4. NUDGE Campaign of CBDT

- **Prelims** - NUDGE Campaign of CBDT
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy

Why in the news?

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) launched the second NUDGE initiative to strengthen the voluntary compliance of foreign assets.

NUUDGE Campaign of CBDT

- **What is it?:**
 - It uses **behavioural insights** (“nudge theory”) to encourage **voluntary tax compliance** rather than coercive enforcement.
 - Part of India’s broader push toward **non-intrusive, technology-driven, trust-based tax administration**.
- **Objectives:**
 - Increase voluntary tax compliance.
 - Expand the tax base, especially among high-value transaction individuals.
 - Reduce tax gap (difference between potential & actual collections).
 - Promote trust-based governance through non-coercive methods.
 - Encourage timely filing, accurate reporting, and responsible financial behaviour.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Data-driven Compliance:** Uses AI/analytics, SFT (Statement of Financial Transactions) data, GST data, TDS/TCS, and financial footprints to identify Non-filers, Under-reporting cases, Mismatch between income & expenditure etc.
 - **Soft Communication:** Sends polite, informative messages to taxpayers and no notices or penalties initially.
 - **Non-intrusive Compliance Management:** Prioritises self-correction by taxpayers and allows them to respond online, explain, or file return.
 - **Integration with e-Campaign / Compliance Portal:** Taxpayers can view mismatches & respond digitally and thereby reduce physical interface.
- **Benefits:**
 - **For Taxpayers:**
 - ★ Avoids penalties through early voluntary compliance.

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★ Easy online verification of mismatches.

★ Enhances ease of compliance.

→ **For Government:**

★ Boosts revenue without aggressive enforcement.

★ Reduces litigation & administrative burden.

★ Builds a culture of compliance.

★ Supports transparent, digital governance.

5. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **Prelims** - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its annual assessment, has assigned a 'C' grade to India's national accounts statistics, including crucial indicators like Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Value Added (GVA).

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **What is it?:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a global financial institution created in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference and came into force in 1945 with Washington D.C as its Headquarter.
- **Objectives:**
 - Promote international monetary cooperation.
 - Ensure exchange rate stability.
 - Facilitate balanced global trade.
 - Provide financial assistance to member countries facing balance of payments (BoP) crises.
 - Promote economic growth & employment.
 - Reduce global poverty through structural reforms.
- **Functions:**
 - Monitors global, regional, and national economies.
 - Provides loans to countries facing balance of payments (BoP) crises.
 - ★ Types of Lending: Stand-By Arrangement (SBA), Extended Fund Facility (EFF), Extended Credit Facility (ECF) (for low-income nations), Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI), and Rapid Credit Facility (RCF).
 - ★ Conditions often include structural reforms, termed "IMF conditionalities."
 - Technical assistance and training in Fiscal policy, Monetary policy, Financial sector management and Statistics
 - Publishes key reports like World Economic Outlook (WEO), Global Financial

Stability Report (GFSR), External Sector Report (ESR) and Article IV Consultations.

- **Membership:**

- 190 member countries (as of 2025).
- India is a founding member.
- Membership tied to quota system

- **Quota System:**

- Each member is assigned a quota based on its economic size and openness.
- It determines Voting power, Financial contribution and Borrowing limits.

- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs):**

- IMF's international reserve asset.
- Based on a **currency basket** (USD, EUR, RMB, GBP, JPY).
- Used for
 - ★ Supplementing foreign exchange reserves
 - ★ Settling international payments
 - ★ Boosting BoP stability

- **IMF and India:**

- India is a founding member.
- India's quota: 2.75% (approx; among top 10).
- India received IMF assistance during the BoP crisis of 1991.
- IMF supports India's fiscal consolidation, GST reforms, financial sector strengthening.
- India's Concerns:
 - ★ Under-representation of Global South.
 - ★ Need for reform in quota formula, voting power.
 - ★ Desire for greater focus on development, climate financing, and inclusive growth.

- **Criticisms:**

- One-size-fits-all conditionalities often seen as harsh
- Dominance of developed countries: US & EU have disproportionate voting power.
- Conditions undermine the sovereignty of borrower nations.

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- Slow pace of quota reforms
- Greater focus on stability than on development or equity