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Current Affairs - 20 November 2025

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION 2025 (NIC-2025)

National Industrial Classification 2025 (NIC-2025)

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) recently released the National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2025 during the 'Culmination Ceremony' of the 75th anniversary of National Sample Survey (NSS) and World Statistics Day 2025.

- The NIC is the **standardized system** used to **classify all economic activities in India for statistical surveys, censuses** (like the Annual Survey of Industries), and **national accounts** (GDP calculation).
- **First introduced in 1962**, it has been **revised periodically** in line with international standards and the changing economic landscape, leading to NIC 1970, NIC 1987, NIC 1990, NIC 1998, NIC 2004, and NIC 2008.
- The **NIC 2025** represents the **latest updated national standard** for classifying economic activities in India.
- The NIC 2025 has been **prepared by the MoSPI in alignment with the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 5**, developed by the **United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)**.
- The revision was carried out under the guidance of the Expert Committee for Revision of Economic Classifications (ECREC).

Major Changes:

- The NIC 2025 introduces a **new 6-digit coding structure, in place of the 5-digit structure of NIC 2008**.
- The shift to a 6-digit structure matters because it **provides the granularity needed to distinguish specific modern activities** (e.g., distinguishing “fintech” from general financial services), enabling **more precise measurement of the digital and green economies**.



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- **The Salient Feature of NIC 2025 are:**
 - **Enhanced Classification of Intermediation Services:** New classes have been created across multiple sections to **reflect the growing role of intermediaries in sectors such as power, retail, logistics, healthcare, education, real estate, and food services.**
 - **Environmental and Green Economy Integration:** Expanded coverage of carbon capture, waste management, and environmental remediation activities, with better alignment to SDGs and SEEA framework.
 - **Digital Economy Representation:** Cloud infrastructure, blockchain, platform-based services, and web search portals are **distinctly classified**, reflecting the evolving nature of the digital economy.
 - **Classification is technology agnostic:** In general, distinction of activities is not made based on whether an activity is carried out by means of traditional or modern production techniques.
 - The NIC 2025 will serve as a **vital statistical standard for compiling and analysing economic indicators** across sectors.
 - The classification will also assist in accurately identifying and reporting economic activities in a consistent and comparable manner.
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WHAT IS BVS10 SINDHU?



Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) and BAE Systems recently bagged a contract from the Indian Army for supply of BvS10 Sindhu – a specialised all-terrain armoured vehicle, according to a regulatory filing.

- The BvS10 is a well-known articulated all-terrain vehicle used by several European militaries.
 - The BvS10 is **already in service** with the armed forces of Austria, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.



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- It's also on order for the **German Army** and has been selected for the **US Army's Cold Weather All-Terrain Vehicle (CATV) program**.
 - Its **design allows for two connected vehicle sections** that help it cross difficult terrain that conventional wheeled or tracked vehicles struggle with.
 - **BvS10 Sindhu** is an **upgraded variant of the BvS10** with **adaptations tailored specifically for India's terrain and climate**.
 - **L&T** will manufacture the **BvS10 Sindhu** at its **Armoured Systems Complex in Hazira, Gujarat**, with **technical and design support from BAE Systems Hägglunds** (a **Swedish** business unit of **BAE Systems**, focused on military ground vehicles), the **original manufacturer** of the **BvS10** platform.
 - The **Sindhu** variant can be reconfigured for multiple purposes: **troop transport, command post, ambulance, recovery, logistics, or even a weapons-armed version**.
 - This flexibility is ideal for the **Indian Army's diverse mission needs**.
 - It's **customized for India's extreme terrain**: **high-altitude regions, deserts, marshlands, and flood-prone zones**.
 - The vehicle is **also amphibious, able to operate in water or flooded terrain**.
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YUVA AI FOR ALL INITIATIVE



Recently, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched the **YUVA AI for ALL Initiative** to help everyone understand **Artificial Intelligence**.

- It is an initiative launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, under the **IndiaAI Mission**.
- It is a **first-of-its-kind free course** that introduces the **world of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to all Indians, especially the youth.
- It consists of **5-hour self-paced course** designed to make students, professionals and other curious learners comfortable with the basics of **Artificial intelligence**.



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- **Aim:** To empower **1 crore** (10 million) **citizens** with **foundational AI skills**.
- **Key Features of YUVA AI for ALL Initiative:**
 - It's simple, practical, and **filled with real-life Indian examples** to make learning relatable and fun.
 - It is available for free on leading learning platforms - **Future Skills Prime, iGOT Karmayogi, and other popular ed-tech portals.**
 - Every learner who completes the course will get an **official certificate** from the Government of India.
 - It's 100% free and open to everyone.
 - It allows learning at one's own pace — anytime, anywhere.

What is IndiaAI Mission?

- It was initially launched as a joint initiative between the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** and **Nasscom** in **2023**.
- The mission's key goals are:
 - **“Making AI in India”** – Encouraging domestic AI development.
 - **“Making AI Work for India”** – Ensuring AI benefits various sectors in the country.
- It aims to bolster India's AI ecosystem by making high-end computing resources accessible to startups and researchers.

INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE



**INDIRA GANDHI
PEACE PRIZE**

Recently, former Chile President Michelle Bachelet was awarded with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024.

- It was instituted in the memory of the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by a trust in **her name** in **1986**.



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- It is also known as the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development**.
- It consists of a monetary award of **25 lakh rupees** along with a citation.
- It is **awarded annually** to a **person or organization** without any distinction of nationality, race or religion, in recognition of creative efforts towards:
 - **Promoting international peace and disarmament**, racial equality, and goodwill and harmony among nations;
 - **Securing economic co-operation** and promoting a new international economic order;
 - Accelerating the all-round advancement of developing nations;
 - Ensuring that the **discoveries of science and modern knowledge** are used for the larger good of the human race; and
 - Enlarging the scope of freedom and enriching the human spirit.

Past recipients of this award include:

- Mikhail Gorbachev, former leader of the Soviet Union (1987);
 - UNICEF (1989)
 - Jimmy Carter, former president of the US (1997)
 - UN and its secretary-general Kofi Annan (2003)
 - Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany (2013)
 - Indian Space Research Organisation (2014)
 - Former Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh (2017)
 - Sir David Attenborough (2019)
 - Pratham NGO (2021)
 - Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India (2022)
 - Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad (2023).
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INDIGENOUS GENE-EDITING TECH SET TO BOOST AFFORDABLE GE AGRICULTURE

- Indian scientists have created a homegrown, “miniature” alternative to the globally patented **CRISPR-Cas** system for precise genome editing in plants.
 - CRISPR-Cas is a natural bacterial defense system adapted for genome editing.
 - It uses a guide RNA to lead a Cas enzyme, such as Cas9, to a specific DNA sequence.
 - The Cas enzyme cuts the DNA at that exact spot, and the cell’s repair machinery is then used to insert, delete, or modify genes with precision.
- The new technology, recently patented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), uses **TnpB** — transposon-associated proteins — to cut and modify plant DNA.
- This development strengthens India’s ability to produce genome-edited (GE) crops at lower cost while reducing dependence on foreign proprietary tools.

Gene Modification Vs Gene Editing

- **Gene Modification** - GM introduces foreign DNA from a different species into an organism.
 - Process: A new gene from another organism is inserted into the target organism’s genome.
 - Outcome: Produces a genetically modified organism (GMO) containing genetic material from multiple species.
 - Analogy: Like inserting a new chapter from another author into a book.
 - Example: Adding a gene from another plant species to make a crop disease-resistant.
- **Gene Editing** - Gene editing makes precise, targeted changes to an organism’s existing DNA without adding foreign genes.



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- Process: Small changes—such as deletions, corrections, or replacements—are made at specific DNA sites. It uses **Molecular scissors** (Cas/TnpB) and **Guides RNA** to direct cuts at precise DNA locations.
- Outcome: Produces a genetically edited organism (GEO) with modified original DNA.
- Analogy: Like correcting or deleting a word in a document.
- Example: Removing a gene to stop an unwanted protein or correcting a mutation causing a genetic disorder.
- **India's First GE Rice Varieties**
 - ICAR announced two CRISPR-edited rice varieties:
 - **Samba Mahsuri (IIRR)** – Edited cytokinin oxidase 2 gene using CRISPR-Cas12a → higher yield.
 - **MTU-1010 (IARI)** – Edited DST gene using CRISPR-Cas9 → drought & salinity tolerance.
 - These varieties face **commercialisation hurdles** due to CRISPR patent restrictions.

Indigenous Breakthrough in Genome Editing

- Indian scientists have developed a “miniature alternative” to CRISPR-Cas technologies using **TnpB proteins**, offering a fully indigenous genome-editing (GE) tool for plants.
- The technology, recently patented by ICAR, enables precise DNA cutting and modification to improve crop traits.

Why India Needed an Alternative to CRISPR?

- CRISPR-Cas technologies are controlled globally by:
 - **Broad Institute** – patents for CRISPR-Cas12a
 - **Corteva Agriscience** – joint licensing for CRISPR-Cas9 in agriculture
- Indian scientists can use CRISPR for research but commercial release of GE varieties requires licensing fees.
 - India has requested fee waivers for small and marginal farmers.



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CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX



India slipped 13 ranks to figure at the 23rd position in the latest Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2026.

- It is published by think tanks **German watch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International.**
- It tracks the progress of the world's **largest emitters in terms of emissions**, renewables, and climate policy.
- The **performance** of countries is **assessed in four categories** — GHG emission, renewable energy, energy use and climate policy.
- It was **first published in 2005.**

Highlights of the Climate Change Performance Index 2026:

- **Denmark, the UK and Morocco** took the lead in this year's CCPI .
 - China (54th), Russia (64th), the US (65th) and Saudi Arabia (67th) are the G20's worst-performing countries, receiving an overall very low score.
 - India fell 13 places from its previous ranking of 10th to stand at 23rd in the latest global climate change performance with a score of 61.31.
 - It also labelled India **among the biggest producers of oil, gas, and coal** worldwide, leading it to fall from a 'high performer' to a 'medium' one in this year's CCPI.
 - India **also scored medium in GHG emissions**, climate policy, and energy use, and low in renewable energy.
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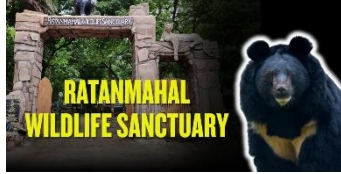
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RATANMAHAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



A wild tiger has made a return to Gujarat after several decades, establishing a permanent presence in Dahod's Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary.

- **Location:** It is located in the state of Gujarat.
- The sanctuary falls on the border of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- It was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in March 1982.
- It is also known as "Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary," due to its highest population of sloth bears in the Gujarat state.

Rivers: It form the catchment of river Panam- a major river of Central Gujarat.

Vegetation: It consists of dry teak forests at the foothills and mixed deciduous forests with dry bamboo brakes on the periphery.

It consists of a high population of 'Mahudo' trees intermixed with pure patches of 'Sadad' and 'Timru' forest on plateaus of the hills.

Flora: Teak, dudhlo, sadad, timru, amla, bamboo, dhavdo, kakadiyo, mahuda, tanach, charoli, ber, jamun, khakhro etc.

Fauna: Leopard, Palm civet, Indian civet, Four-horned antelope, Loten's sunbird, Large green barbet, yellow checked tit.
