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AGNI-5 MISSILE



AGNI 5

- It is a **nuclear-capable land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** with **Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle (MIRV)** capability.
- It is developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- **Features of Agni-5 Missile**
 - **Range:** It is one of India's most advanced long-range missiles, capable of striking targets well **beyond 5,000 kilometers**
 - It is designed with modern navigation, guidance, warhead, and engine technologies and strengthens India's strategic deterrence capability.
 - **Warhead Capacity:** It is capable of carrying and firing up to three nuclear warheads simultaneously.

What is a Ballistic Missile?

- It is a **rocket-propelled, self-guided strategic-weapons system** that follows a ballistic trajectory to deliver a payload from its launch site to a predetermined target.
- They are powered initially by a rocket or series of rockets in stages, but then follow an unpowered trajectory that arches upwards before descending to reach its intended target.
- They can carry conventional high explosives as well as **chemical, biological, or nuclear munitions**.
- They can be launched from **aircraft, ships, and submarines**, in addition to land-based silos and mobile platforms.
- There are four general classifications of ballistic missiles based on their range, or the maximum distance the missile can travel:
 - **Short-range:** less than 1,000 kilometers (approximately 620 miles), also known as "tactical" ballistic missiles.



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Current Affairs - 21 August 2025

- **Medium-range:** between 1,000 and 3,000 kilometers (approximately 620-1,860 miles), also known as “theater” ballistic missiles.
- Intermediate-range: between 3,000 and 5,500 kilometers (approximately 1,860-3,410 miles)
- Long-range: more than 5,500 kilometers (approximately 3,410 miles), also known as intercontinental or strategic ballistic missiles.

MADE IN INDIA LABEL SCHEME



- It is an initiative that **lends support to the manufacturing industry** by building a brand reputation, stronger identity and wider reach for made in India products.
- **Aim:** To strengthen the **reputation of the products manufactured in India**. It also guarantees authenticity of the products originating from India and/or **crafted with locally sourced raw materials**.
- This is a **voluntary certification scheme** to help manufacturers demonstrate that their products are manufactured in India and are of good quality.
- The label **displays a QR code and a logo** with the information around location of manufacturing, validity of the label and other product specific information.
- The initiative is being led by **the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- The Quality Council of India and the India Brand Equity Foundation are actively collaborating with DPIIT in an advisory capacity.
- **Objectives of the Made in India Label Scheme**
 - The scheme **provides identity** to the product based on its origin
 - It develops a mechanism to qualify and brand the products of Indian origin
 - It also **supports in recognising the products** of Indian origin in domestic as well as international market



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Current Affairs - 21 August 2025

- The Made in India Label **strength the positioning of the product** in the competitive market, as the label would indicate authenticity, quality and differentiation among other products.
- **Eligibility Criteria**
 - Manufacturers and producers who manufacture or assemble their products wholly or substantially in India.
 - Each product has a specific quality and manufacturing criteria set by **relevant regulatory bodies** which needs to be met before obtaining the permission.

EXPLAINED - INDIA'S ONLINE GAMING BILL 2025

- The Parliament has passed the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025**, marking a decisive shift in the governance of the country's booming digital gaming sector.
- The Bill introduces a complete ban on real money gaming, citing its social, financial, and psychological harms, while simultaneously creating an enabling framework for e-sports and online social games.
- With this move, the government seeks to protect vulnerable sections of society, promote responsible gaming, and support the growth of India's digital innovation ecosystem.

Key Provisions of the Online Gaming Bill 2025

- The legislation is structured around three key segments of gaming:
 - **E-Sports** - Recognised as a creative and recreational industry with strong growth potential, the Bill supports e-sports development as a mainstream sector.
 - **Online Social Games** - Encouraged as safe entertainment options that do not involve financial risks or addictive gambling mechanisms.
 - **Online Money Games** - Completely prohibited, covering activities such as fantasy sports, poker, rummy, and other real money-based platforms where players deposit funds with monetary return expectations.
- Violations of the ban will attract strict penalties, including:

Current Affairs - 21 August 2025

- Imprisonment of up to three years and fines up to Rs. 1 crore for first-time offenders.
- Enhanced penalties for repeat offenders, including imprisonment between three to five years and fines up to Rs. 2 crore.

Establishment of an Online Gaming Authority

- A major highlight of the Bill is the creation of a statutory **Online Gaming Authority** tasked with:
 - Coordinating policy support for the sector;
 - Regulating and supervising gaming platforms;
 - Supporting e-sports and legitimate online social gaming enterprises;
 - Curbing harmful practices such as money laundering, addictive algorithms, and fraudulent gaming models.
- The Authority will function as a central regulator, providing uniform legal oversight and ensuring that the sector evolves in a safe and sustainable manner.

Rationale Behind the Legislation

- The government emphasised the urgent need for regulatory intervention, highlighting alarming statistics and trends:
 - **32 suicides in the past 31 months** linked to online money gaming addiction.
 - Rising financial distress among families due to compulsive gambling behaviour.
 - Reports of real money games being used for **money laundering and terror financing**.
 - Psychological disorders and exploitation caused by predatory gaming algorithms.
 - Lok Sabha Speaker termed the Bill a “national interest” legislation, citing its role in saving families from financial and emotional collapse.
 - Union Information & Technology Minister underlined that while India must embrace digital innovation, it cannot allow harmful practices to threaten public welfare.
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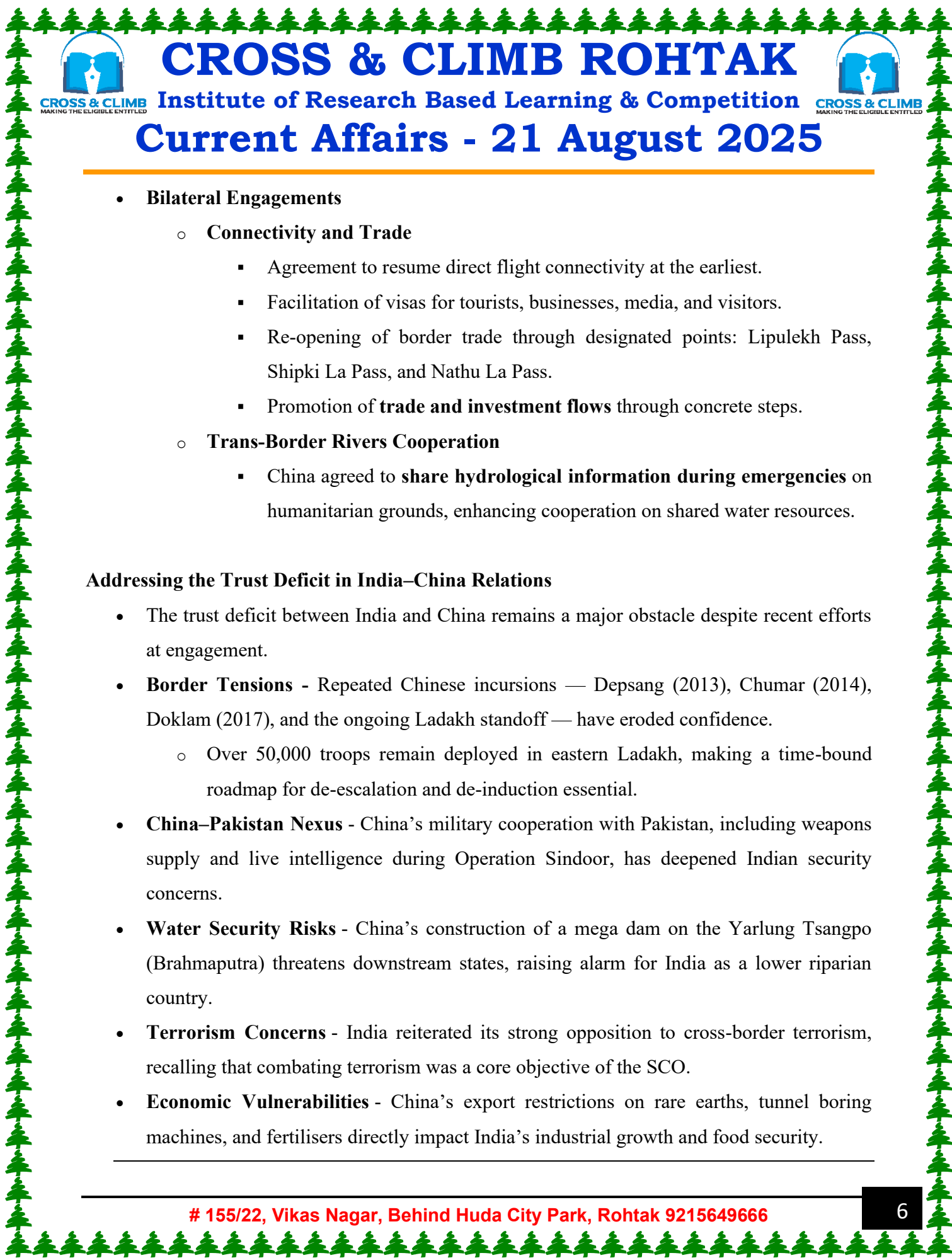
Current Affairs - 21 August 2025

TAKING STOCK OF INDIA-CHINA BILATERAL TIES

- In the wake of Donald Trump's election as U.S. President, China braced for potential hostilities, signalling readiness for both friendship or confrontation.
- As Washington imposed tariffs on China — and later on India — Beijing sought to strengthen ties with New Delhi.
- This thaw led to the revival of the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** and resumption of **visa issuance to Chinese nationals**.
- Against this backdrop, Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi visited India**, marking a significant gesture of outreach before PM Modi's upcoming visit to Tianjin for the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit**.
- Unlike in 2022, Wang secured a meeting with PM Modi during this trip, signalling improved diplomatic engagement between the two Asian giants.

Twin-Track Movement in India–China Relations

- India and China have agreed to simultaneously advance **border-related discussions** and **bilateral cooperation** without allowing one issue to obstruct the other.
- This twin-track approach, first adopted after **Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 visit**, had been followed until 2020 and is now being revived.
- **Border-Related Mechanisms**
 - **Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation** - An “Expert Group” under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) will explore early harvest options in boundary delimitation.
 - **Working Group on Border Management** - A new Working Group under WMCC will focus on effective border management, ensuring peace and stability in border areas.
 - **Expanded General-Level Mechanisms** - General-level mechanisms will be expanded to include Eastern and Middle sectors in addition to the existing Western sector, with early meetings planned.



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Current Affairs - 21 August 2025

- **Bilateral Engagements**
 - **Connectivity and Trade**
 - Agreement to resume direct flight connectivity at the earliest.
 - Facilitation of visas for tourists, businesses, media, and visitors.
 - Re-opening of border trade through designated points: Lipulekh Pass, Shipki La Pass, and Nathu La Pass.
 - Promotion of **trade and investment flows** through concrete steps.
 - **Trans-Border Rivers Cooperation**
 - China agreed to **share hydrological information during emergencies** on humanitarian grounds, enhancing cooperation on shared water resources.

Addressing the Trust Deficit in India–China Relations

- The trust deficit between India and China remains a major obstacle despite recent efforts at engagement.
- **Border Tensions** - Repeated Chinese incursions — Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014), Doklam (2017), and the ongoing Ladakh standoff — have eroded confidence.
 - Over 50,000 troops remain deployed in eastern Ladakh, making a time-bound roadmap for de-escalation and de-induction essential.
- **China–Pakistan Nexus** - China’s military cooperation with Pakistan, including weapons supply and live intelligence during Operation Sindoor, has deepened Indian security concerns.
- **Water Security Risks** - China’s construction of a mega dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) threatens downstream states, raising alarm for India as a lower riparian country.
- **Terrorism Concerns** - India reiterated its strong opposition to cross-border terrorism, recalling that combating terrorism was a core objective of the SCO.
- **Economic Vulnerabilities** - China’s export restrictions on rare earths, tunnel boring machines, and fertilisers directly impact India’s industrial growth and food security.



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Current Affairs - 21 August 2025

QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA



1860.

- It is a non-profit autonomous organisation registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
- It was set up in 1997 jointly by the **Government of India** and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations, i.e., **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, and **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**.
- It is under the **administrative control** of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Functions of Quality Council of India:

- It works as the **national accreditation body**.
- It has been established to create a mechanism for **independent third-party assessment** of products, services, and processes.
- It also **promotes the adoption of quality standards** relating to Quality Management Systems, Food Safety Management Systems and Product Certification and Inspection Bodies through the accreditation services provided by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB).
- It plays a pivotal role at the national level in **propagating, adoption, and adherence to quality standards** in all important spheres of activities.
- **Governance of Quality Council of India:**
 - QCI functions through the governing body and other executive bodies (boards/committees) for implementing the strategy, policy, and operational guidelines as set out by its governing council.



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Current Affairs - 21 August 2025

- The council comprises 38 members, with equal representation from the Government, Industries and other stakeholders.



POBITORA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- It is located in the eastern region of Guwahati, Assam.
- This wildlife sanctuary was established in 1998 with a total area of 48.81 sq.km.
- The Sanctuary consists of the **Rajamayong Reserve Forest and Pobitora Reserve Forest.**
- **History:**
 - Pobitora became a reserved wooded area in the year of 1971 with the approval of the Government of Assam Tourism.
 - The Government of India included Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary with the association of a **rhino breeding program named “Indian Rhino Vision 2020”.**
- It is known for holding the **highest density of Greater One Horned Rhinoceros** in the country.

Flora:

- **72%** of Pabitora consists of the **wet savannah** of Arundo donax, Erianthus ravennae, Phragmites karka, Imperata cylindrica, and Saccharum spp.
- **Water hyacinth (Eichornia crassipes)** is a major problem, especially to waterfowl, as it forms thick mats on the water surface.

Fauna:

- Besides rhinoceros, the other animals are **leopard, wild boar, Barking deer, wild buffalo, etc.**
- It is also home to more than 2000 migratory birds and various reptiles.



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Current Affairs - 21 August 2025

KEY FACTS ABOUT KRISHNA RIVER



- It is a river of **south-central India**.
- **One of India's longest rivers**, it has a total course of about **800**

miles (1,290 km).

Course:

- The river **rises** in western **Maharashtra** state in the **Western Ghats** range near the town of **Mahabaleshwar**, not far from the coast of the Arabian Sea.
 - It passes through the Indian states of **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh** and **meets the Bay of Bengal** at **Hamasaladevi in Andhra Pradesh**, on the east coast.
 - The **Krishna River Basin** extends over an area of about **258,948 sq. km**, which is nearly **8 percent of the total geographical area of the country**.
 - It is **bounded** by the **Balaghat range** on the north, by the **Eastern Ghats** on the south and the east, and by the **Western Ghats** on the west.
 - The principal **tributaries** joining Krishna are the **Ghataprabha, the Malaprabha, the Bhima, the Tungabhadra, and the Musi**.
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