

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 09 July 2026



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RAJASTHAN



Agreement between the International Solar Alliance and the Government of Rajasthan



Why in News?

- Recently, the Government of Rajasthan and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) signed a 'Framework for Action – Advancing Clean Energy-Driven Sustainable Development'.



Key Points:

- Rajasthan is the first state in the country to enter into such an agreement with the ISA.
- **Signatories:** Rajasthan Energy Secretary Aarti Dogra and ISA Director General Ashish Khanna (signed in Jaipur).

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Significance of the Agreement:

- **Energy Transition Plan:** Through this signed 'Framework for Action', an energy transition plan will be prepared for Rajasthan, keeping in mind the requirements for the 2030–2035 period.
- The plan will cover areas such as the expansion of renewable energy, strengthening of transmission and distribution systems, grid modernization, energy storage, energy efficiency, demand management, identification of bankable projects, energy modeling, institutional capacity building, and necessary policy reforms.
- **AI-Enabled Digitization:** AI-enabled digitization initiatives will be undertaken under this 'Framework for Action'. Specifically, a pilot project based on 'Digital Twin' technology will be launched at the Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam. This will assist in accurately assessing electricity demand, improving network planning, effectively integrating renewable energy, and ensuring a more reliable and high-quality power supply to consumers.

Other Important Points:

Rajasthan Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024:

- **Main Objective:** To contribute towards achieving the national target of 500 Gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy by the year 2030.
- Under this policy, targets have been set to establish 115 GW of renewable energy generation capacity and 10 GW of energy storage capacity by 2029–30. The policy will promote solar energy, wind energy, biomass, and green hydrogen.
- Rajasthan Solar Park Development Company Limited under (RRECL) has been established for the management and development of infrastructure for renewable energy/solar parks.



Facts for Prelims:

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The ISA was jointly conceived by India and France during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP-21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Paris in 2015.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an inter-governmental organization whose primary objective is to promote solar development by reducing financing and technology costs.
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana.
- **Director General:** Ashish Khanna.

Key initiatives launched by the ISA:

- **Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) initiative:** Its objective is to create a robust network of institutional capacities within ISA member countries to enhance quality infrastructure for solar energy products and services.
- **One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative:** Its objective is to utilize solar energy generated in a specific region to meet the electricity needs of another region.

'Videsh Sampark – State Outreach Conference' to be held in Rajasthan for the first time



Why in News?

- The 'Videsh Sampark – State Outreach Conference' will be organized at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC) on July 16, 2026.



Key Points:

- **Organizers:** Jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (Government of India) and the Government of Rajasthan.
- **Nodal Departments:** Rajasthan Foundation and the Department of Domestic and Overseas Rajasthani Affairs.
- **Objective of the Program:** To raise awareness among the public and relevant stakeholders about safe and legal migration; to provide information on safeguards against fraudulent agents and illegal migration methods; to disseminate information regarding the Ministry of External Affairs' schemes and initiatives related to consular services, passports, visas, and the Indian diaspora; and to enhance awareness regarding ensuring the interests and welfare of Indian citizens and workers employed abroad.

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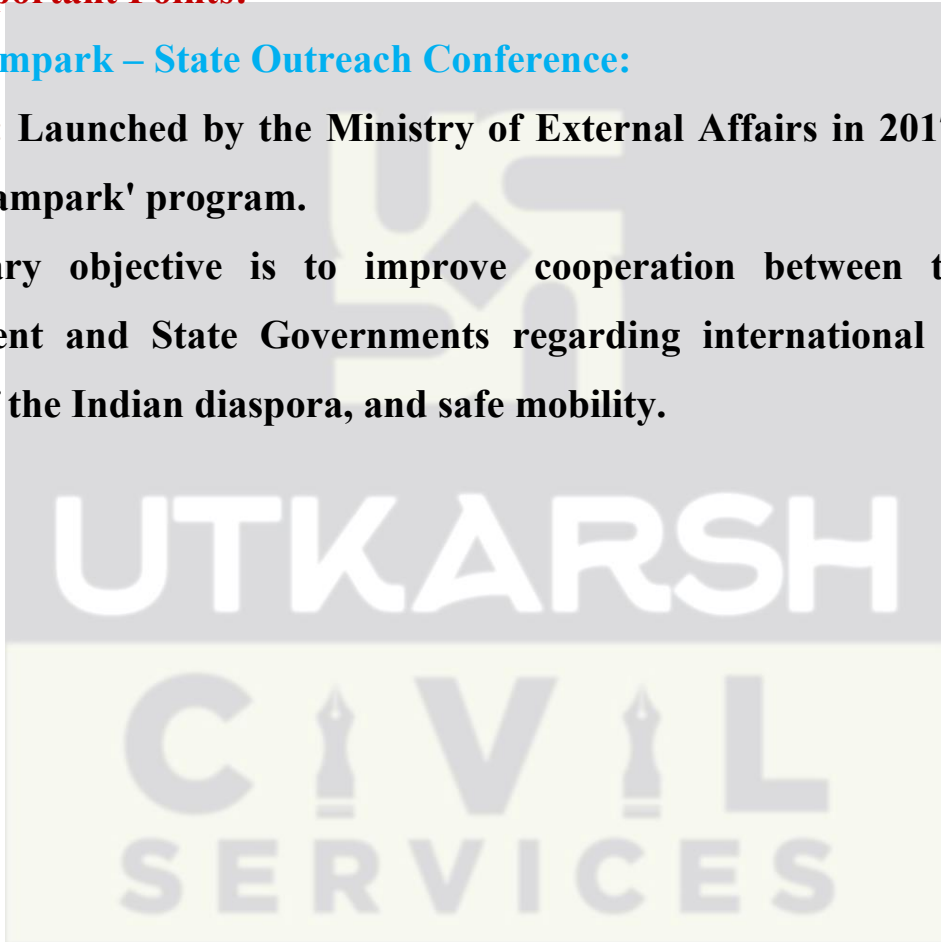


- It is noteworthy that this program is being organized in Rajasthan for the first time. Previously, this program has been held in Telangana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, Tripura, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Andhra Pradesh.

Other Important Points:

Videsh Sampark – State Outreach Conference:

- **Inception:** Launched by the Ministry of External Affairs in 2017 under the 'Videsh Sampark' program.
- Its primary objective is to improve cooperation between the Central Government and State Governments regarding international affairs, the welfare of the Indian diaspora, and safe mobility.



Rajasthan's 'Informant Incentive Scheme'



Why in News?

- Recently, the Excise Department resolved 30 cases that had been pending for years under the 'Informant Incentive Scheme' and sanctioned a total amount of approximately ₹18 lakh.



मुखबिर प्रोत्साहन योजना

- आबकारी, आयुक्त की सराहनीय पहल
- वर्षों से लंबित प्रकरणों का किया निस्तारण
- योजना के तहत अनुमानित 18 लाख रुपये किए स्वीकृत

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Key Points:

- **Beneficiary districts:** Sri Ganganagar, Alwar, Dungarpur, Udaipur, Sikar, Ajmer, Rajsamand, Churu, Bikaner, and Jhunjhunu.
- It is noteworthy that the speedy resolution of long-pending cases under the scheme has benefited informants, leading to an increase in reliable information regarding illicit liquor.
- There is a provision to grant an incentive or reward amount to an informant for actions taken based on their information during enforcement operations, subject to the recommendation of the concerned District Excise Officer. Throughout this process, all information provided by the informant is kept strictly confidential.
- As per the directives of the State Government's Finance Department, if the information provided by an informant helps prevent an undisputed estimated revenue loss of ₹10 lakh or more, there is a provision to award the informant a reward of up to 4 percent of that amount.
- **Maximum amount:** Up to ₹15 lakh.

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‘SUYOG’ Scheme Pilot Project



Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan Department of Youth Affairs and Sports issued directives to implement the ‘SUYOG’ scheme as a pilot project starting July 10, 2026.



Key Points:

- **Pilot Project:** To be implemented in the Bagru Assembly constituency of Jaipur district and all Assembly constituencies of Baran district.
- **Objective of the Scheme:** To provide an organized platform for youth through sports, thereby connecting them with opportunities for education, skill development, employment, and socio-economic empowerment alongside sports activities.
- **Campaign:** The scheme will be operated in alignment with the ‘MY Bharat’ campaign.
- **Initial Phase:** Youth will be engaged in sports such as cricket, football, volleyball, and kabaddi.
- **Integration:** The scheme will be integrated with the CMSDC platform. CMSDC (Center for Monitoring and Service Delivery) is a key technical and administrative unit under the Rajasthan Finance Department; its primary function is the technical monitoring of various e-governance initiatives, financial schemes, and government services.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	‘State School Standards Authority’ in Rajasthan - Recently, the Rajasthan Education Department initiated the process of establishing a ‘State School Standards Authority’ to ensure effective monitoring and student safety in the state's government and private schools. - The State School Standards Authority (SSSA) is an independent and autonomous regulatory body to be established in every state and Union Territory (UT) under the National Education Policy (NEP) - 2020. - Its primary objective is to ensure transparency, accountability, and quality within the school education system.
2.	Anshuman Chaudhary, Anvi Rathore, and Manan Sharma - Badminton players (shutters) Anshuman Chaudhary, Anvi Rathore, and Manan Sharma from Jaipur have been selected for the Indian junior badminton team. - These three players will represent India at the Badminton Asia Under-15 and Under-17 Junior Championships - 2026, scheduled to be held in Chengdu, China, from September 8 to 13, 2026. Categories: Anshuman Chaudhary (Under-17 Boys' Singles), Anvi Rathore (Under-15 and Under-17 Girls' Singles), and Manan Sharma (Under-15 Mixed Doubles).
3.	6th Rajasthan Domestic Travel Mart (RDTM - 2026) Event Dates: September 17 to 19, 2026. Venue: B.M. Birla Convention Centre, Jaipur. Organizers: Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR) and the Rajasthan Tourism Department. Significance: This is a major business-to-business (B2B) event for Rajasthan. Its primary objective is to establish Rajasthan as the country's most preferred domestic tourism and wedding destination.

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4.

First Edition of Marwar Travel Mart (MTM)

- **Event Dates:** September 20 to 22, 2026.
- **Venue:** Jodhpur.
- Organized with the aim of gaining global recognition for tourism in the Marwar region, the Marwar Travel Mart (MTM) seeks to promote the rich heritage, culture, and rural tourism of Marwar and the Thar region at both national and international levels.

5.

Rajasthan Government's New Budget Manual - 2026

- The Finance Department of the Rajasthan Government recently prepared a new draft Budget Manual - 2026 to transform and modernize the state's budgeting system.
- The primary objective of this new manual is to make budget formulation, utilization, and operations simpler, financially robust, accountable, and transparent, while keeping pace with changing times and the increasing digitization of budgetary processes.
- Under the new manual, the IFMS (Integrated Financial Management System)-based e-budgeting process is being strengthened.
- For the first time, the new manual incorporates provisions such as Green Budget, Child Budget, Agriculture Budget, SDG-based planning provisions, Pool Budget, Unified PD Account, and SNA-SPARSH.

6.

Darshana Rajpurohit

- Darshana Rajpurohit, a resident of Pali, secured the first position at the national level in the 'National Youth Parliament 3.0' held at the Parliament House in Delhi on July 3 and 4, 2026.
- While playing the role of MP Pragya Thakur in the House, Darshana introduced the 'Women Empowerment and Equal Representation Bill, 2026'.



7.

‘Nukra’: A Horse Breed in Rajasthan

- Recently, the Bikaner-based National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) initiated the process for the official registration, scientific survey, and documentation of the Nukra breed.
- If all technical and scientific formalities are completed, Nukra will become India's 9th officially registered horse breed.
- This horse is completely milky-white in color. Its nose and lips are light pink.
- The average height of Nukra horses ranges from approximately 155 to 170 centimeters.

8.

First State-Level Senior Para-Kabaddi Championship

- Ajmer won the title in the men's category and Jaipur in the women's category at the 'State-Level Senior Para-Kabaddi Championship' held in Bharatpur.
- **Edition:** First edition.

9.

'Women's Safety Pledge Campaign' ('Mahila Suraksha Sankalp Abhiyan')

- The 'Women's Safety Pledge Campaign' is a special public awareness campaign launched by the Government of Rajasthan and the Rajasthan Police to ensure the safety and dignity of women and girls and to protect their rights.
- July 2026 is being observed as the month of the 'Women's Safety Pledge'.

10.

Operation Garuda Vyuha-2

- A special campaign launched by the Kota Police to protect the youth and society from the trap of drug abuse.

11.

Operation Trinetra

- A campaign being conducted by the Rajasthan Police against drug smugglers and the drug mafia.



NATIONAL



Kamarajar Port



Why in News?

- After Visakhapatnam Port, Kamarajar Port has become the second major port in India to achieve a draft capacity of 18 meters following the successful completion of its Capital Dredging Phase VI project.



Key Points:

- Draft capacity refers to the maximum water depth a port can provide for the safe movement and berthing of ships.
- Formerly known as Ennore Port, it is located on the east coast of Tamil Nadu, approximately 24 kilometers north of Chennai.
- It was declared a major port in 1999 under the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

MCQ:

Q. In which Indian state and on which coast is Kamarajar Port located?

- (A) On the west coast of Kerala
- (B) On the east coast of Tamil Nadu
- (C) On the east coast of Andhra Pradesh
- (D) On the east coast of Odisha



Economic Developments



Ethanol Blending in India



Why in News?

- Under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) program, ethanol blending has increased from 1.5% in 2013-14 to 20% in 2025-26. India achieved the 20% blending target five years ahead of schedule.



Key Points:

- Ethanol (C_2H_5OH) is an ethyl alcohol produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, and other crops with high starch content.
- It is a high-octane fuel with a research octane number of approximately 108.5, whereas petrol has an octane number of 84.4.

Key Concerns

- **Compatibility with older vehicles:** Ethanol is hygroscopic (absorbs moisture), which increases the risk of corrosion in fuel systems, particularly in older vehicles.
- Hygroscopy refers to the property of a substance to attract and retain water molecules from the surrounding environment through absorption or adsorption.
- **Lack of consumer choice:** Unlike countries such as Brazil, Indian consumers generally cannot choose between E10 and E20 at fuel stations or benefit from differential pricing.
- **Lower mileage:** Many customers claim that their vehicle's mileage has decreased due to E20 fuel.

- **Water crisis:** Excessive reliance on sugarcane a water-intensive crop could further exacerbate groundwater depletion in water-stressed regions.
- India could follow Brazil's phased approach to ethanol blending, which gradually introduced higher blends alongside flex-fuel vehicles, differential pricing, and consumer choice.

Status of Ethanol Blending in Other Countries

- **Brazil:** Brazil is a global leader in ethanol usage; E27 is its standard petrol blend, and over 80% of new vehicles are flex-fuel, capable of running on E27, E30, or pure hydrous ethanol.
- **United States:** E10 is used nationwide in the US, the use of E15 is expanding rapidly, and there are millions of flex-fuel vehicles capable of running on blends up to E85.
- **Japan:** Japan has also incorporated ethanol into its fuel mix, implementing E10 in a phased manner.

MODEL QUESTION:

- Q. What is meant by the property of 'hygroscopy' in the context of fuel, and what impact does it have on vehicles?



Schemes and Policies



Performance Grading Index



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Education has released the Performance Grading Index 2.0 report for States/Union Territories (PGI-S) and Districts (PGI-D) for the year 2025-26.



Key Points:

Performance Grading Index

- **Objective:** Developed to evaluate school education systems and promote systemic reforms at the state and district levels.
- **PGI-S (States/Union Territories):** Evaluates performance out of 1,000 points across 70 indicators spanning six domains:
 - o Learning Outcomes and Quality
 - o Access
 - o Infrastructure and Facilities
 - o Equity
 - o Governance Processes
 - o Teacher Education and Training.
- **PGI-D (Districts):** Evaluates districts based on 600 points across 70 indicators, categorized into six areas: Outcomes, Effective Classroom Transaction, Infrastructure Facilities and Student Entitlements, School Safety and Child Protection, Digital Education, and Governance Processes.

PM-SETU



Why in News?

- The Central Government has approved the nationwide implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Skill and Employability Transformation Programme (PM-SETU).



Key Points:

PM-SETU

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in 2025.
- **Objective:** To transform Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into modern, industry-driven skill development institutes that prepare youth for emerging employment opportunities.

Key Features:

- Upgrade 1,000 government ITIs (200 hubs + 800 spokes) under a hub-and-spoke model.
- Establish Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) in partnership with the industry for cluster management.
- Performance-based financing and co-financing by the ADB and the World Bank.
- State-of-the-art infrastructure, advanced machinery, and digital learning systems.

TribeX



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched TribeX.



Key Points:

TribeX

- It is India's first-of-its-kind digital learning platform dedicated to tribal art, culture, and traditional knowledge systems.
- **Objective:** To develop a comprehensive platform that facilitates structured learning, scholarly research, and digital documentation of tribal art forms and cultural practices.
- It offers five UGC-recognized one-year hybrid diploma programs, including courses in the tribal language Santali (Ol Chiki).



INTERNATIONAL



Prambanan Temple



Why in News?

- India will assist in the conservation and restoration of the Prambanan Temple, which is over 1,000 years old and located in Indonesia.



Key Points:

Prambanan Temple

- It is an ancient complex, over 1,000 years old, located near Yogyakarta on the island of Java, Indonesia.
- It is currently the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia.
- **Heritage Status:** The complex is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Dedicated Deities:** It is dedicated to the Hindu Trinity specifically Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Brahma.
- **Artistic Features:** The temple is renowned for its intricate stone carvings that depict the Indonesian version of the Ramayana epic.

Guwahati Declaration



Why in News?

- BRICS nations adopted the Guwahati Declaration to combat drug trafficking.



Key Points:

Guwahati Declaration

- **Objective:** This declaration strengthens cooperation against international organized crime and illicit drug trafficking.
- **Information and Technology Exchange:** Strengthening intelligence sharing, data-driven approaches, and innovative technologies to combat drug trafficking.

MCQ:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Guwahati Declaration':

1. It has been adopted by the member countries of the BRICS group.
2. Its primary focus is to promote tourism and cultural exchange among member countries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Prime Minister's Visit to Indonesia



Why in News?

- The Prime Minister of India undertook a state visit to Indonesia, during which India and Indonesia adopted a joint statement to deepen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across sectors such as defence, maritime security, trade, technology, connectivity, and multilateral cooperation.



Key Points:

Key Outcomes

- Prime Minister Modi was conferred Indonesia's highest civilian honor, the 'Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia', by the President of Indonesia.
- India and Indonesia signed significant defence agreements, including cooperation on the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system and Astra Beyond-Visual-Range air-to-air missiles.
- Both nations agreed to promote the joint production of defence equipment, technology transfer, cooperation in shipbuilding, establishment of Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities, exploration of defence R&D partnerships, and the strengthening of defence supply chains.
- India and Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on mineral and steel supply chain technology.

Connectivity and Digital Economy:

- **Sabang Port:** Both countries advanced the Andaman-Aceh connectivity initiative to improve maritime logistics and regional integration.
- They launched the Indonesia Open Network (ION) based on India's ONDC architecture and made progress towards cross-border QR payments and telecommunications cooperation.

- Both sides also welcomed the progress made between the Reserve Bank of India and Bank Indonesia regarding the implementation of Local Currency Transaction (LCT) guidelines.

Strategic Opportunities for India:

- A strong role at Sabang Port enhances India's maritime presence near the Strait of Malacca, improving surveillance and strengthening security in the Eastern Indian Ocean.
- The export of BrahMos boosts India's defence manufacturing and expands access to ASEAN markets.
- Indonesia's vast nickel reserves provide India with a reliable source of key battery minerals, thereby boosting electric vehicle manufacturing.
- The expansion of UPI and ONDC into Indonesia reinforces India's leadership in fintech while creating new opportunities for Indian technology and digital service companies.

MODEL QUESTION:

- Q.** "The Prime Minister's recent visit to Indonesia has not only accelerated bilateral defence manufacturing but also strengthened India's geopolitical presence near the Strait of Malacca." In light of this statement, analyze the key outcomes of the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the strategic opportunities arising for India.



ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY



Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot



Why in News?

- The Natural History Museum at Mizoram University, located within the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, has been designated as India's 21st biodiversity repository.



Key Points:

- This designation has been granted under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**
- **Geographical Extent:** It encompasses parts of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Northeast India (excluding Assam), and Vietnam, as well as parts of southern China.
- **Global Significance:** It ranks among the top 10 biodiversity hotspots globally in terms of "irreplaceability" and among the top five in terms of the level of threat it faces.
- **High Species Diversity:** This hotspot is home to approximately 500 mammal species, 1,330 bird species, over 815 reptile species, and more than 500 amphibian species.
- **Other Biodiversity Hotspots in India:** Himalayas Biodiversity Hotspot, Western Ghats-Sri Lanka Biodiversity Hotspot, and Sundaland Biodiversity Hotspot (Nicobar Islands in India).

MCQ:

Q. India's 'Nicobar Islands' are part of which of the following global biodiversity hotspots?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| (A) Indo-Burma Hotspot | (B) Sundaland Hotspot |
| (C) Western Ghats Hotspot | (D) Himalayas Hotspot |

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mission Drishti: India's First OptoSAR Earth Observation Satellite



Why in News?

- Bengaluru-based space startup GalaxyEye has announced that communication has been lost with Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite and India's largest privately built Earth observation satellite.



Key Points:

Mission Drishti

- Mission Drishti is a next-generation, high-performance Earth observation satellite designed and manufactured entirely by India's private sector.
- **Manufacturer:** It was developed by the Bengaluru-based deep-tech space startup GalaxyEye.
- **Launch Vehicle and Site:** It was launched into orbit on May 3, 2026, aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, USA.

Mission Objective:

- To establish a sovereign satellite network capable of monitoring high-altitude borders and maritime regions without being hindered by weather conditions or the darkness of night.
- To address critical intelligence gaps for the Indian Armed Forces along the borders with China and Pakistan, eliminating reliance on delayed foreign commercial imagery during strategic standoffs.

BrahMos Missile



Why in News?

- Indonesia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BrahMos Aerospace for the phased procurement of two coastal missile batteries, at an estimated cost of \$200 million.



Key Points:

BrahMos Missile

- BrahMos is a medium-range, universal supersonic cruise missile that operates on a unique system.
- Flying at a blazing speed of Mach 2.8, this missile holds the title of the world's fastest operational cruise missile and is the only supersonic cruise missile available for global export.
- **Manufacturing:** The missile is manufactured by BrahMos Aerospace, a highly successful joint venture established in 1998.
- **India:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) holds a majority stake of 50.5%.
- **Russia:** NPO Mashinostroyeniya holds a 49.5% stake.
- **Regulatory:** Due to this joint venture structure, Moscow retains veto rights and must explicitly consent to any sale to a third country.
- Global exports from India: Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

MCQ:

Q. BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture between which of the following countries?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| (A) India and the United States | (B) India and France |
| (C) India and Russia | (D) India and Israel |