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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Hindu & The Indian express

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Cyclone Montha makes landfall; rain batters several parts of A.P.

35,000 people evacuated; crops on 43,000 hectares submerged

Power infrastructure, including substations, suffer massive damage

Twenty trains and more than 50 flights cancelled

T. Appala Naidu
Nellore Sravani
KAKINADA/VIJAYAWADA

The severe cyclonic storm Montha began its landfall near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh around 7 p.m. on Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The storm triggered very heavy rain in the State as well as Odisha.

In Andhra Pradesh, Ulavapadu in SPSR Nellore district recorded the day's maximum rain of 167 mm. Kakinada received only light showers till 7 p.m.

Twenty trains and over 50 flights were cancelled.

The IMD withdrew red alerts issued for a few districts for Wednesday, and issued orange alerts for the districts of Srikakulam,



A house damaged by high tidal waves in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. K.R. DEEPAK

Parvathipuram Manyam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anakapalli, Eluru, NTR, Krishna, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla, and Nandyal.

Two days of heavy rain left crops on over 43,000

hectares submerged and affected 83,000 farmers, as per the initial assessment by the agricultural department. Paddy and cotton were the worst-hit.

The estimated loss to the power sector crossed

₹2,200 crore, with massive damage to substations, transformers, and power lines. In Visakhapatnam district, the municipal corporation cleared 119 fallen trees. The Kakinada district administration opened 401

North Tamil Nadu sees widespread rain; tanks full

CHENNAI

Widespread intense rainfall lashed many parts of Chennai and its surrounding districts from Monday night, as Cyclone Montha moved closer to the coast. Ennore in Chennai recorded the highest rainfall of 13 cm. Rainfall is expected to gradually subside from Wednesday. Several irrigation tanks in Chennai are nearly 95% full.

relief camps. At least 35,000 people have been evacuated so far.

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Cyclone Montha makes landfall; rain batters several parts of A.P

Source: The Hindu, Page 1

Why in News:

Severe Cyclonic Storm Montha made landfall near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh around 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

IMD Alerts and Parameters: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues four types of color-coded alerts depending on the intensity and likely impact of weather events:

1. **Green Alert:** No warning; situation normal.
2. **Yellow Alert:** Be updated; weather may change.
3. **Orange Alert:** Be prepared; adverse weather expected.
4. **Red Alert:** Take action; extremely severe weather conditions imminent.

These alerts are based on parameters such as rainfall intensity (mm/day), wind speed (km/h), storm surge levels, and expected impact on life, property, and agriculture.



IIP growth drops to 3-month low of 4% in Sept.

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Industrial activity dipped marginally to a three-month low of 4% in September. The data also show that the growth in industrial activity during the first half of the financial year was the slowest in at least five years.

Growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, stood at 3.2% in September last year. However, growth had since accelerated to 4.3% by July 2025, following which it slowed again.

3% growth in April-Sept.

The overall index grew 3% in the April-September period, the first half of the financial year 2025-26. This is the slowest in at least five years, the period for which data are readily available. The index grew 24% in the first half of 2021-22, owing to the low base of the previous pandemic-affected year 2020-21. In the first half of 2022-23, the index grew 7%, which slowed to 6.3% and 4.1% in the corresponding periods of 2023-24 and 2024-25.

IIP growth drops to 3-month low of 4% in Sept

Source: The Hindu, Page 1 Subject: Economics (Prelims)

Why in News:

India's industrial growth slowed to 4% in September 2025, the lowest in three months, as per MoSPI data, showing weak industrial activity in the first half of FY 2025-26.

What is IIP:

- **Full form: Index of Industrial Production**
- **Released by: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
- **Base year: 2011-12**
- **Sectors: Manufacturing, Mining, Electricity**
- **Purpose: Measures monthly industrial growth and output trends.**

Centre approves terms of 8th Central Pay Commission

The panel, headed by Justice Ranjana Desai (retd.), will make its recommendations within 18 months of its constitution; it will propose changes in salaries of Union government employees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved the Terms of Reference of the eighth Central Pay Commission (CPC), the body in charge of deciding the pay structure and retirement benefits of Union government employees, the government announced on Tuesday.

The government had announced the formation of the CPC in January this year to examine and recommend changes in the salaries and other benefits of Central government employees.

'Formed in quick time'
"As you know, the in-principle approval for the formation of the eighth Central Pay Commission was granted only recently in January, and within a short span, the commission has now been formally constituted," Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a



Major step: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefs the media on decisions taken by the Union Cabinet in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

press conference announcing the Union Cabinet's decisions here.

"This is a major step that involves extensive consultations. Several Ministries with large numbers of Central government employees, such as Defence, Home, Railways, and the Department of Personnel and Training, were part of the process," he said.

The Commission will

will serve as the member-secretary.

"There are about 50 lakh Central government employees, and consultations were also held with many State governments, most of which extended their cooperation," Mr. Vaishnaw added.

The government said the CPC would have to keep several factors in mind while coming up with its recommendations. These included the economic conditions in the country and the need for fiscal prudence, the need to ensure that adequate resources are available for developmental expenditure and welfare measures, the unfunded cost of non-contributory pension schemes, the impact of its recommendations on State finances, as well as the current emolument structure, benefits and working conditions of employees of Central public sector undertakings and the private sector.

comprise one chairperson, one part-time member and one member-secretary. It will make its recommendations within 18 months of the date of its constitution. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (retd.) will act as the chairperson.

Professor Pulak Ghosh of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, has been appointed a part-time member, while Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Jain

Centre approves terms of 8th Central Pay Commission

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

Subject: Polity & Governance

Why in News: The Union Cabinet has approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC), which will review and recommend changes in the salaries, allowances, and retirement benefits of around 50 lakh Central government employees and pensioners.

Composition of the 8th Pay Commission:

- **Chairperson:** Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (Retd.)
- **Part-time Member:** Prof. Pulak Ghosh (IIM Bangalore)
- **Member-Secretary:** Pankaj Jain, Petroleum Secretary

The Commission will submit its recommendations within 18 months from its constitution.

HAL signs pact with Russian firm for civil aircraft production

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and the Russian company United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) have signed a memorandum of understanding for production of the civil commuter aircraft SJ-100.

The SJ-100 is a twin-engine, narrow-body aircraft. As on date, more than 200 aircraft have been produced and are being operated by more than 16 commercial airline operators.

HAL said the SJ-100 would be a game changer for short-haul connectivity under the UDAN scheme in India. Under this arrangement, HAL will have the rights to manufacture SJ-100 aircraft for domestic customers.

Production in India

"This collaboration between HAL and UAC is the result of mutual trust between the organisations. This will also be the first instance wherein a complete passenger aircraft will be produced in India. The last such project was HAL's production of AVRO HS-748, which started in 1961 and ended in 1988," HAL said.

It is estimated that over



Officials from HAL and Oleg Bogomolov sign an MoU for making of the aircraft SJ-100.

the next 10 years, the Indian aviation sector will require over 200 jets in this category for regional connectivity and an additional 350 aircraft for the Indian Ocean region to serve near-by international tourist destinations, it said.

"The manufacturing of the SJ-100 aircraft marks the beginning of a new chapter in Indian aviation industry. Manufacturing will also strengthen the private sector and create direct and indirect jobs in the aviation industry," the Bengaluru-headquartered PSU said.

The MoU was signed in Moscow on Monday by Prabhat Ranjan from HAL and Oleg Bogomolov from UAC.

HAL signs pact with Russian firm for civil aircraft production

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

Subject: Economy / Science & Tech

Why in News:

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) signed an MoU with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) to jointly manufacture the SJ-100 civil commuter aircraft in India. The deal aims to boost domestic aircraft production and regional connectivity under the UDAN scheme.

About SJ-100:

- **Type:** Twin-engine, narrow-body civil aircraft.
- **Use:** Short-haul regional flights.
- **Status:** Over 200 already in operation by 16 global airlines.
- **Significance:** First complete passenger aircraft to be produced in India since HAL'S AVRO HS-748 (1961-1988).
- **Impact:** Supports Make in India, strengthens aviation manufacturing, and creates jobs in the sector.

UN report finds countries' emission reductions short of goal set in Paris

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Conference of Parties (COP 30) in Belem, Brazil, next month, the United Nations made public a "synthesis report" on Tuesday that finds countries are poised to reduce emissions by only 17% of 2019 levels by 2035 – well below what is required to keep earth from heating up by 1.5 degrees Celsius or even 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

To keep temperatures below these limits, countries must cut emissions by 37% and 57%, respectively, of 2019 levels by 2035.

The synthesis is based on countries' updated nationally determined contributions (NDC), which are promises to cut fossil fuel emissions or plant forests (to capture carbon dioxide) until 2035. Tuesday's report is only a partial picture as only 64, out of a po-



The report says countries will cut emissions by only 17% by 2035, far below the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit. GETTY IMAGES

tential 190 countries, have submitted updated NDCs until September 30. India is among the countries that is yet to submit updated NDCs, after its last submission in August 2022.

While conversation in the lead-up to climate COPs generally end to weigh heavily towards emissions reductions, the NDCs that have been submitted so far are also stressing two other important pillars of climate ac-

tion – adaptation and resilience, with 73% of the new NDCs including an 'adaptation' component, the report notes. Adaptation refers to steps that must be taken by countries to adapt to ongoing and future impact from warming.

"All NDCs go beyond mitigation to include elements, inter alia, on adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building and addressing loss and damage, reflecting the

comprehensive scope of the Paris Agreement," the report notes.

With regard to greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions, the total GHG emission level resulting from the implementation of Parties' new NDCs is projected to be around 13 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2035, which is 6% below what they promised in their previous NDCs (submitted from 2020-2022).

Domestic pledges

Afforestation, reforestation and adding solar energy were identified as the options with the greater need for support. Some Parties have announced domestic pledges and projects, such as tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030, enhancing low-carbon hydrogen production and expanding Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) capacity.

UN report finds countries' emission reductions short of goal set in Paris

Source: The Hindu, Page 12

Subject: Climate Change / Environment

Why in News:

Ahead of COP-30 in Belem, Brazil, the United Nations released a Synthesis Report showing that countries are on track to reduce emissions by only 17% of 2019 levels by 2035, which is insufficient to limit global warming to 1.5°C or even 2°C by the end of the century — the core goal of the Paris Agreement.

The report is based on countries' updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and notes that total greenhouse gas emissions in 2035 are projected to be 13 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, about 6% below previous pledges, indicating slow progress in global climate action.

Oil Minister allays fears over Russian crude oil supplies

India energy scene looks promising, refining capacity set to increase from 258 MT to 310 MT by 2030, with plans to take it beyond 400 MT

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Days after the U.S imposed new sanctions on two Russian oil companies, effectively making Indian refiners sourcing crude look beyond them, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday asserted that there is enough global crude oil supply.

“Even if one supply goes down you got alternatives elsewhere,” he said, without mentioning names or getting into specifics, while also pointing out to how the global oil trade is not governed by any established set of rules such as GATT.

Mr. Puri, who was participating in a fireside chat at the 28th Energy Technology Meet that got underway here, sought to highlight how the Indian oil refiners have a diversified basket of suppliers as well as export



Hardeep Singh Puri

markets over the years. From 27, the number of countries from which India imports crude oil has gone up to 40. Indian oil companies export refined products to as many as 50 countries valued at \$45 billion, he said.

‘Energy promising’

During the chat, centered around refining, especially the impact of slow pace at which global energy market is expected to grow, Mr. Puri said the India energy scene looks promising with the refinery sector poised to play a crucial role in In-

dia’s economic growth. The refining capacity is set to increase from a little over 258 million tonnes (MT) to 310 MT by 2030. “We have plans to take it beyond that... 400 MT,” the Minister declared.

Underscoring how India’s growth and demographics are set to drive demand, he said such a situation prevails even as globally 101 of 420 refineries representing nearly 18.4 million barrels per day or about 20% of global capacity are at risk of closure in the next 7-10 years.

“If your policy framework is properly thought through and support system has everything in place then you find that as you go from start to modest to better build and onwards, the target and objective can become more ambitious,” Mr. Puri said, while also emphasising on importance of refineries increasingly diversifying into petrochemicals.

Oil Minister allays fears over Russian crude oil supplies

Source: The Hindu, Page 13

Subject: Economy / Energy

Why in News:

After U.S. sanctions on two Russian oil firms, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri assured that India's crude supply remains secure due to a diversified import base and ample global supply.

India's refining capacity will rise from 258 MT to 310 MT by 2030, with plans to exceed 400 MT. India now imports oil from 40 countries and exports refined products to 50 nations, strengthening its role in the global energy market.

China and ASEAN, hit by U.S. tariffs, sign upgraded free trade agreement

The deal will pave the way for improved market access in agriculture, digital economy and pharmaceuticals between the two sides; the 11-member bloc is Beijing's largest trading partner, with bilateral volume totalling \$771 billion last year

Reuters
KUALA LUMPUR

China and the ASEAN bloc of Southeast Asian nations signed an upgrade to their free trade agreement on Tuesday, with leaders hailing the deal which spans the digital and green economy, and other new industries.

The 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations is China's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade totalling \$771 billion last year, according to ASEAN statistics.

China is seeking to intensify its engagement with ASEAN, a region with a collective gross domestic product of \$3.8 trillion, to counter hefty import tariffs imposed by U.S. Presi-



China's Premier Li Qiang, left, and Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim at the signing of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area 3.0 in Kuala Lumpur. AP

dent Donald Trump's administration on countries around the world. "We must accelerate trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation and strengthen industrial integration and interdependence," Chinese Premier Li Qiang

said at the ASEAN leaders' meeting on Tuesday.

Beijing has been seeking to position itself as a more open economy, despite criticism of its expanding export restrictions on rare earths and other critical minerals.

The so-called 3.0 version of the free trade agreement between ASEAN and China was signed into effect at a summit of the bloc's leaders in Malaysia, which Mr. Trump attended on Sunday at the start of a trip through Asia. Negotiations on the upgraded ASEAN-China deal began in November 2022 and concluded in May this year, just after Mr. Trump's tariff offensive kicked into gear. The first FTA came into force in 2010.

"The upgrade will further reduce trade barriers, strengthen supply chain connectivity, and unlock opportunities in future growth areas," Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said.

China has previously said the agreement would

pave the way for improved market access in sectors such as agriculture, the digital economy and pharmaceuticals between China and ASEAN. Both China and ASEAN are part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world's largest trading bloc, which covers nearly a third of the global population and about 30% of global gross domestic product. Malaysia hosted an RCEP summit in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, the first in five years. The bloc is seen by some analysts as a potential buffer against tariffs imposed by the United States, though its provisions are considered weaker than some other regional trade deals due to competing interests among its members.

China and ASEAN, hit by U.S. tariffs, sign upgraded free trade agreement

Source: The Hindu, Page 14

Subject: International Relations / China-ASEAN / RCEP

Why in News:

China and the ASEAN bloc signed an upgraded version of their Free Trade Agreement (FTA 3.0) in Kuala Lumpur. The new deal expands cooperation in areas such as the digital economy, green economy, and pharmaceuticals, and aims to improve market access and strengthen trade liberalization between the two sides. This comes as both China and ASEAN face U.S. tariffs, and the agreement is seen as a step to boost regional trade and supply chain resilience.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership:

- **Launched:** Signed in November 2020, came into force in January 2022.
- **Members:** 15 countries – 10 ASEAN nations + China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.
- **World's Largest Trading Bloc:** Covers one-third of global GDP and population.

- **Objective:** Promote free trade, investment, and regional economic integration by reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers.
- **India's Position:** India withdrew from negotiations in 2019, citing concerns over trade imbalance and protection for domestic industries.