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National and International News

<p>President's Rule in Manipur</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three days after N. Biren Singh, the Chief Minister of Manipur, resigned, President's Rule under Article 356 of the Constitution was enforced in the northeastern state, which has been grappling with ethnic violence for the past two years. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Rule, also known as State Emergency or Constitutional Emergency, is a provision under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution that allows the central government to assume direct control over a state's governance. • This mechanism is one of the three types of emergencies outlined in the Constitution. • It is invoked during a constitutional breakdown or failure of governance at the state level, often due to political instability, a hung assembly, or a breakdown of law and order. • Articles 355 to 357 in Part XVIII, along with Article 365 in Part XIX of the Indian Constitution, pertain to the President's Rule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Article 355: Obligation of the Union to safeguard states from external aggression and internal disturbances. ○ Article 356: It allows the President to take over the functions of the state government when the constitutional machinery fails. ○ Article 357: Empowers the President to legislate for the state by ordinance, if necessary. ○ Article 365: Consequences of failing to comply with or implement directions issued by the Union. • Grounds of Imposition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the President is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of a State cannot be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, he/she is authorized by Article 356 to issue a proclamation. ○ If a state fails to comply with or implement any directions issued by the central government, the President is authorized under Article 365, to conclude that the government of the state cannot operate in accordance with the Constitution. • Parliamentary Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The imposition of the President's Rule requires approval from Parliament. ○ Once the President issues a proclamation, it must be sanctioned by both Houses of Parliament within two months. If the proclamation is not approved during this period, it ceases to operate. • Duration:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President's Rule can be in effect for six months, but it can be extended for a maximum of three years with periodic parliamentary approvals every six months.
India-US Relations	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Washington for bilateral talks with the U.S. President Donald Trump. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relationship between India and the United States has evolved into one of the most significant partnerships in the 21st century. It spans economic, strategic, and cultural dimensions, reflecting the shared values and mutual interests of the world's largest democracies The two nations are motivated by common interests: India aims to become the world's third-largest economy, while the US seeks reliable allies to counterbalance China's growing influence. Defense Ties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2018, India was elevated to Strategic Trade Authorization tier 1 status, which allowed India to receive license-free access to a wide range of military and dual-use technologies regulated by the US's department of commerce. The signing of foundational agreements like LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018), and BECA (2020) has enabled deeper military cooperation. Joint exercises like Malabar and the establishment of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in 2018 have further strengthened strategic ties. Recent initiatives like the US-India Artificial Intelligence Initiative and the Critical and Emerging Technology Initiative (iCET) launched in 2022 underscore the strategic importance of tech cooperation in bilateral ties.
New Income-Tax Bill, 2025	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the new Income Tax Bill of 2025 in the Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to simplify and overhaul the 1961 Income Tax Act, which has undergone more than 4,000 amendments since its implementation in April 1962. The Income-Tax Bill 2025 aims to make taxation simpler, clearer, and more streamlined. The introduction of the tax year, removal of redundant provisions, and improved clarity in tax laws are positive steps towards an efficient tax system. <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of the 'Tax Year' Concept: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill introduces the concept of a 'tax year,' which is defined as a 12-month period starting from April 1.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unlike the current system where income earned in one financial year is assessed in the subsequent assessment year, taxes will now be calculated within the same tax year. ○ If a business or profession is established mid-year, the tax year will begin from the date of establishment and end on March 31. ● Simplified and Clearer Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The bill simplifies tax laws by reducing provisos, cross-referencing, and complex explanations, making them more accessible. ○ The length of the Income-Tax Act has been shortened from 823 pages to 622 pages, though the number of chapters remains at 23. ○ The number of clauses has increased from 298 to 536, consolidating provisions that were previously spread across multiple sections. ● Expansion of the Definition of 'Income': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Virtual digital assets (VDAs), including cryptocurrencies and NFTs, are now included in the definition of taxable capital assets. ○ VDAs are now treated the same as existing asset categories like land, buildings, shares, bullion, and artwork. ● Removal of Redundant Provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outdated exemptions, such as Section 54E (capital gains exemption for transfers before April 1992), have been removed. ○ Unnecessary amendments and references to outdated dates and laws have been eliminated. ● Improved Clarity in Tax Provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several provisions, including tax deducted at source (TDS) rules, presumptive taxation rates, and assessment time limits, are now presented in easy-to-read tables. ○ Deductions related to salaries (e.g., standard deduction, gratuity, and leave encashment) are compiled in one section, enhancing clarity. ● Reform in the Dispute Resolution Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) now offers clearer definitions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Points of determination ■ Decisions ■ Reasons for rulings
Free Movement Regime (FMR)	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Out of 43 crossing points along the Myanmar border under the revised Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement, 22 have begun operations. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Under the FMR, all the hill tribes, whether they are citizens of India or Myanmar, can travel within 16 km on either side of the




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	<p>Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They can cross the border by producing a border pass with a one-year validity issued by the competent authority and can stay up to two weeks per visit. • The FMR was implemented in 2018 as part of the Central government's Act East policy. • FMR is implemented by both governments for the people living along the IMB. • This helps locals get more culturally assimilated with trans-border villages through weddings, celebrating common festivals together, and trans-border trade. • It is a reflection of the physical, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and fraternal linkages among the trans-border villagers. • Key Facts about Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It runs for 1,643 km in the four states of Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh. ○ It runs from the tripoint with China in the north to the tripoint with Bangladesh in the south.
<p>India -Indonesia Bilateral Relations</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto witnessed the exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Indonesia at Hyderabad House, New Delhi. • The MoU focuses on Traditional Medicine Quality Assurance between India's Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy and Indonesia's Food and Drug Authority. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural & Historical Ties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India and Indonesia share over two millennia of close cultural and commercial contacts. ○ Hinduism, Buddhism, and later Islam spread to Indonesia from India. ○ Indian epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata influence Indonesian folk art and dramas. ○ The Bali Yatra festival is celebrated in both countries with enthusiasm. • Political Relations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President Sukarno of Indonesia was the Guest of Honour during India's first Republic Day in 1950. ○ Both nations were instrumental in the independence movements of Asia and Africa, and contributed to the Bandung Conference (1955) and the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (1961). ○ India's 'Look East Policy' (1991) and 'Act East Policy' (2014) have accelerated bilateral relations, particularly in politics, security, defense, commerce, and culture • Economic Relations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India is a major buyer of Indonesian coal, crude palm oil,



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	<p>and other resources. India exports refined petroleum, vehicles, agricultural products, and more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Digital & Technological Cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both India and Indonesia are highly digitalized and use technology for public services and e-governance. ○ India's success with Digital Public Infrastructures (DPI) can serve as a model for Indonesia, which is also developing its DPIs. ○ Cybersecurity is a key area for cooperation as both countries face new security risks in digital public services. ○ Defence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ India and Indonesia have strong defence and security cooperation. In May 2018, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, both nations signed a new Defence Cooperation Agreement, marking the elevation of their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. ■ Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI is a joint training exercise between Indian Special Forces and the Indonesian Special Forces.
<p>Rafale-M fighter Jet</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deliveries of the Rafale-M aircraft for the Indian Navy will begin in four years after the contract is signed, which is expected to happen in the next few months during the French Defence Minister's visit to India. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Dassault Rafale is a 4.5 generation, twin-engine, delta wing, multirole fighter manufactured by the French company Dassault Aviation. It has a maximum speed of Mach 1.8 and a combat radius of 1000+ km. ● The Rafale has a sleek aerodynamic design with optimum wing loading, low drag, and relaxed stability for enhanced maneuverability. The delta wing configuration offers a high lift-to-drag ratio. ● Rafale Variants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rafale C: The single-seat Air Force variant has 75% fleet availability and is designed for high mission reliability. ○ Rafale B: The twin-seat variant for training and enhanced situational awareness. It retains the combat capabilities of the C model. ○ Rafale M: The naval variant is optimized for carrier operations with a reinforced nose and tail and specially designed landing gear. It equips the French Navy's aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle. ○ Additionally, the Rafale N is a dedicated nuclear strike variant, while the Rafale R is reserved for technology development.



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