

UPSC Current Affairs

6th october





Polity & Governance

Maharashtra Local Body Elections (SC Order 2025)

Keywords: Judicial Overreach, Democratic Decentralization - Judicial Overreach: When the judiciary intrudes into the legislative or executive domains, potentially unsettling the balance of power; Democratic Decentralization: Empowering local self-governing bodies to foster grassroots democracy and ensure efficient governance.

SC Directive

State Election Commission to conduct all local body polls by Jan 31, 2026.

Delay Reasons

OBC reservation issue, judicial pendency, lack of political will.

Current Status

29 Municipal Corporations, 248 Councils, 32/34 ZPs under administrators.

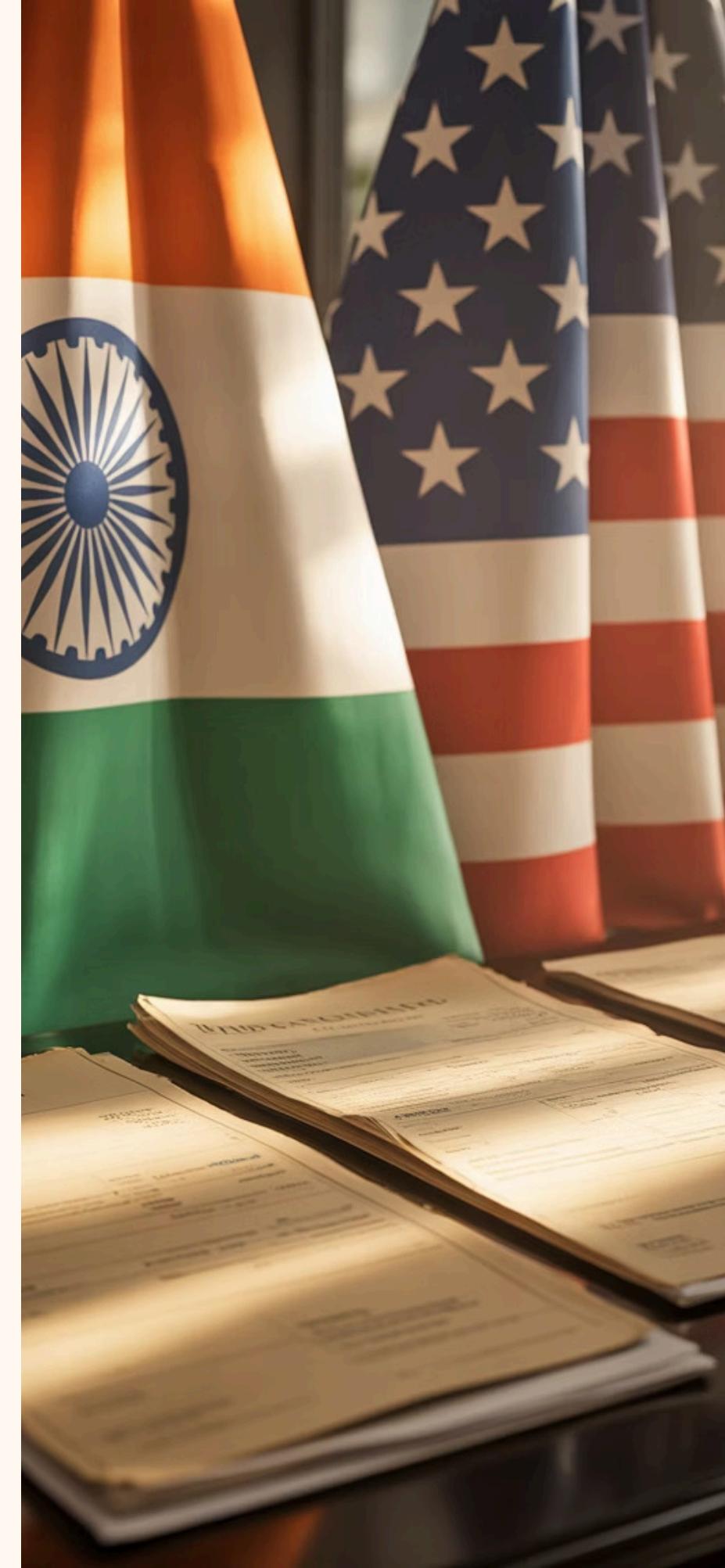
Key Body: Banthia Commission (set up Mar 2022; report July 2022).

Constitutional Link: 73rd & 74th Amendments — local self-governance.

💰 Economy & Infrastructure - Trade Relations

India-U.S. Trade Deal Talks

- **Statement by:** EAM S. Jaishankar (Oct 2025). **Keywords:** Diplomatic signaling, strategic communication - Diplomatic signaling refers to indirect communication to convey intentions; strategic communication is purposeful communication to achieve policy objectives.
- **Context:** Trade negotiations stalled post U.S. tariff hike on Indian goods (50%). **Keywords:** Trade protectionism, bilateral trade friction - Trade protectionism involves government policies restricting imports; bilateral trade friction refers to tensions between two countries over trade policies.
- **India's Stand:** U.S. "must respect India's red lines." **Keywords:** Strategic autonomy, sovereignty principle - Strategic autonomy is a state's capacity for independent decision-making; sovereignty principle affirms a state's supreme authority within its borders.
- **Backdrop:** Tariff conflict over India's purchase of Russian crude. **Keywords:** Geo-economic coercion, energy security dilemma - Geo-economic coercion is using economic power to compel policy changes; energy security dilemma is the challenge of ensuring reliable energy supply amidst risks.
- **Forum:** Kautilya Economic Enclave. **Keywords:** Track 1.5 diplomacy, economic statecraft - Track 1.5 diplomacy involves both official and non-official actors in dialogue; economic statecraft is using economic tools to achieve foreign policy goals.



Energy Transition Initiatives

Ethanol Blending Programme

Keywords: **Biofuel Integration, Agro-economic Diversification** - **Biofuel Integration:** Strategy for incorporating biofuels into the national energy mix, crucial for energy security and reducing fossil fuel dependence in India; **Agro-economic Diversification:** Policy objective to broaden agricultural income sources beyond traditional crops, enhancing farmer resilience and rural economic stability.

Announced by: Home Minister Amit Shah.

Described as: "Game changer for sugar cooperatives."

Event: Inauguration of Compressed Biogas Plant, Kopargaon, Maharashtra.

Aim: Diversify sugar sector; support energy transition & rural income.



Digital Payment Revolution

Keywords: Financial Inclusion, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) - Financial Inclusion aims to provide equitable access to financial services for all segments of society, especially the unbanked; Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) refers to technology frameworks built by the government to facilitate public services and economic activities.

RBI Paper on UPI Transactions (2025)

Keywords: Monetary Policy, Regulatory Oversight - Monetary Policy involves actions by the central bank (RBI) to manage money supply and interest rates; Regulatory Oversight refers to the supervision and enforcement of rules by government bodies to ensure stable financial market operations.

58%

PhonePe UPI Volume

Market share in UPI transactions

53%

PhonePe UPI Value

Share of total transaction value

Keywords: Market Concentration, Network Effects - Market Concentration indicates the dominance of a few firms in a market, potentially reducing competition; Network Effects describe how a service's value increases as more users adopt it, like with UPI.

Keywords: Transactional Velocity, Economic Formalization - Transactional Velocity measures the rate at which money changes hands in an economy, reflecting economic activity; Economic Formalization is the process of integrating informal economic activities into the regulated formal sector, often via digital payments.

Top State in UPI intensity: Telangana.

Keywords: Regional Disparities, Urbanization Index - Regional Disparities refer to uneven development and opportunities across different regions; Urbanization Index measures the proportion of a population living in urban areas, correlating with development and digital adoption.

Next: Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra.

Findings:

Keywords: Socio-Economic Indicators, Behavioral Economics - Socio-Economic Indicators are statistical measures reflecting social and economic conditions; Behavioral Economics studies the psychological factors influencing economic decisions.

Keywords: Demographic Dividend, Internal Migration Patterns - Demographic Dividend is the economic growth potential from a favorable age structure with a large working-age population; Internal Migration Patterns describe trends of people moving within a country, often for economic reasons.

Keywords: Informal Economy Resilience, Tourist-Dependent Economies - Informal Economy Resilience refers to the informal sector's ability to withstand shocks and provide livelihoods; Tourist-Dependent Economies rely heavily on tourism for income and employment.

- Southern & western States — high usage due to urbanization & migration.
- Cash withdrawals high in NE States, Kerala, Goa, Delhi.
- Reason: Tourism, service economy, rural cash dependence.

Law & Justice

Judicial Pendency in India (2025 Status)

Keywords: Judicial backlog, Access to justice - Judicial backlog refers to the accumulation of unresolved cases, severely delaying justice delivery; Access to justice is a fundamental right, ensuring all citizens can seek legal recourse and fair trial.

Pending cases: 4.57 crore+

Massive backlog across all levels of judiciary

Keywords: Docket explosion, Structural bottlenecks - Docket explosion denotes the rapid surge in new cases filed, overwhelming judicial capacity; Structural bottlenecks are systemic deficiencies, such as procedural delays or inadequate court infrastructure, that impede efficient case disposal.

HC & District Court vacancies: Extremely high

Shortage of judges contributing to delays

Keywords: Judicial infrastructure, Judge-population ratio - Judicial infrastructure encompasses physical facilities, technology, and support staff crucial for court functioning; Judge-population ratio indicates the number of judges per million people, a key metric for assessing judicial workload and capacity.

Suggested Reform: Strengthen Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Keywords: De-judicialization, Proactive dispute management - De-judicialization involves shifting certain disputes away from formal court processes to reduce judicial burden; Proactive dispute management focuses on early intervention and resolution mechanisms to prevent conflicts from escalating into litigation.

- Mediation
- Lok Adalats
- Pre-litigation settlement



International Relations

Regional Developments

India–Pakistan Relations

Event: India–Pakistan Women's ODI World Cup 2025.

Venue: Interrupted due to insect infestation mid-match; play resumed after fumigation.

(While sports, this reflects India–Pakistan soft power optics, a recurring prelims trivia angle.)

Keywords: Soft Power Projection, Track-II Diplomacy

Keywords: **[Soft Power Projection]** - A nation's ability to influence others through attraction and persuasion, rather than coercion, often using cultural and diplomatic means to enhance its global standing; **[Track-II Diplomacy]** - Unofficial, non-governmental interactions between individuals or groups from different nations, often used to explore solutions or build trust when official channels are strained.

Vietnam GDP Surge (Q3 2025)

Growth: **8.2%** (highest quarterly growth since 2011).

Reason: Strong manufacturing & post-COVID rebound.

Source: Finance Minister Nguyen Van Thang.

Keywords: Export-Led Growth Model, Global Value Chains Integration

Keywords: **[Export-Led Growth Model]** - An economic strategy where a country prioritizes the growth of its export sector to drive overall economic development and increase foreign exchange earnings; **[Global Value Chains Integration]** - The participation of a country's firms in the international fragmentation of production, where different stages of production processes are carried out in different countries.

Natural Disasters & Climate Events

01

Typhoon Matmo (China, Oct 2025)

Evacuations: 3.47 lakh people from Guangdong & Hainan.

Reason: Typhoon Matmo's landfall; strong Category storm.

Keywords: **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**, **Climate-induced displacement** - **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

involves systematic efforts to analyze and reduce the causes of disasters, encompassing preparedness, response, and recovery strategies; **Climate-induced displacement** refers to the forced movement of people from their homes due to climate change impacts, raising humanitarian and policy concerns.

02

Nepal-India (Darjeeling) Flood Disaster

Deaths: **63 total** (43 in Nepal, 20 in Darjeeling district, WB).

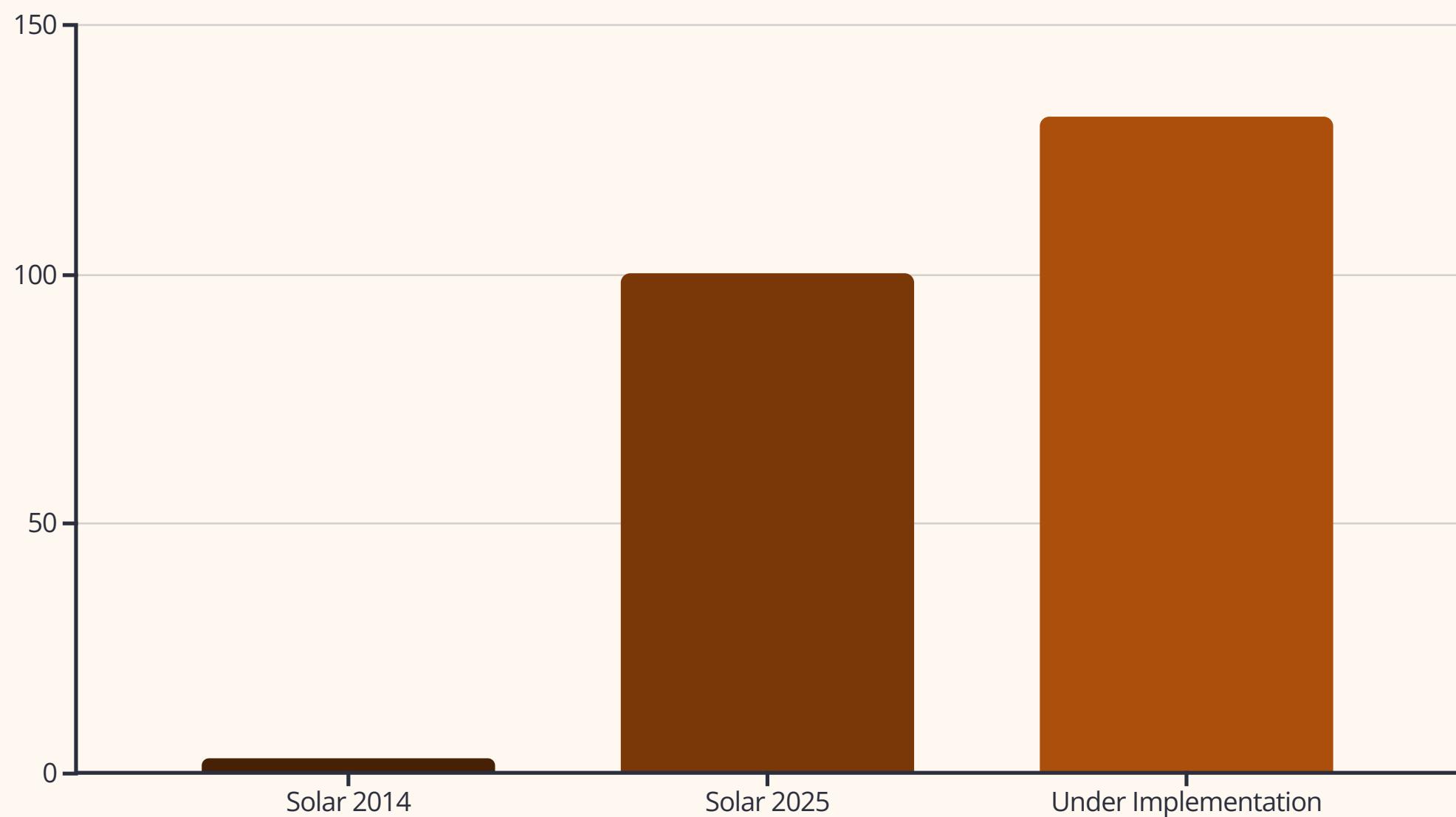
Source: Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction Authority.

Keywords: **Transboundary Water Governance**, **Integrated Basin Management** - **Transboundary Water Governance** involves cooperative management of water resources shared between nations or regions, focusing on equitable distribution and conflict resolution; **Integrated Basin Management** is a holistic approach to managing water, land, and related resources within a river basin for sustainable development.

Environment & Science

Renewable Energy & Conservation

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Circular Economy Principles -
SDGs are global goals for a sustainable future by 2030, covering social, economic, and environmental aspects.
Circular Economy Principles involve designing out waste, keeping products in use, and regenerating natural systems.



Global Electricity Review (GER) 2024 – Ember

Renewables share: 30% of global electricity (first time).

India's rank: 4th largest increase in solar generation (2023) — after China, U.S., Brazil.

Keywords: Energy Trilemma, Just Transition -
Energy Trilemma refers to balancing energy security, equity, and environmental sustainability.
Just Transition focuses on ensuring fairness and inclusivity in the shift to a green economy, particularly for affected workers and communities.

TrailGuard AI – Wildlife Conservation (Simlipal)

Keywords: Ecological Surveillance, Biodiversity Informatics -
Ecological Surveillance is the continuous monitoring of ecosystems to detect changes and threats.
Biodiversity Informatics uses IT to manage and analyze biodiversity data for conservation and research.

- **Purpose:** Anti-poaching & real-time monitoring.
- **Mechanism:** AI-based, camera-alert system; satellite/GSM-enabled.
- **Advantage:** Small size → vandal-proof.



Science, Technology & Culture



Matsya-6000 (Deep-Sea Submersible)

Agency: NIOT, under Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Capacity: 2 persons; depth: 6,000 m.

Mission: India's first human deep-sea exploration mission.

Keywords: [Oceanic Resource Governance](#), [Technological Sovereignty](#) - [Oceanic Resource Governance](#): management and regulation of resources in the ocean, focusing on sustainable exploitation and conservation; [Technological Sovereignty](#): a nation's ability to develop, control, and utilize its own technology without foreign dependence.



Dokra (Dhokra) Art

Material: Non-ferrous metal (copper alloys) using lost-wax casting.

Regions: Jharkhand, Odisha, WB, Chhattisgarh, Telangana.

Uniqueness: Mould used once, broken each time.

Gifted by PM Modi to: French President (contextual 2025 news).

Keywords: [Intangible Cultural Heritage](#), [Cultural Diplomacy](#) - [Intangible Cultural Heritage](#): non-physical cultural traditions and practices passed down through generations, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, and craftsmanship; [Cultural Diplomacy](#): the exchange of ideas, values, traditions, and other aspects of culture between nations and their peoples to foster mutual understanding.



White-Winged Duck

IUCN Status: [Endangered](#).

Habitat: Northeast India, Assam–Arunachal wetlands.

Behavior: Nocturnal; depends on undisturbed forest pools.

Keywords: [Flagship Species Conservation](#), [Ecological Niche Preservation](#) - [Flagship Species Conservation](#): protecting a well-known, charismatic species to indirectly protect other species and the ecosystem it inhabits; [Ecological Niche Preservation](#): maintaining the specific role and environmental conditions a species requires to survive and thrive within an ecosystem.

Additional Tech Initiatives

Keywords: [Geopolitical Tech Alliances](#), [Digital Governance Frameworks](#) - [Geopolitical Tech Alliances](#): partnerships between nations based on shared technological interests, aiming for strategic advantage and collective security; [Digital Governance Frameworks](#): policies, laws, and regulations that guide the development, use, and ethical implications of digital technologies and data.

- **Brazil Joins OPEC+ (2025):** Original OPEC Founders (1960): Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela. HQ: Vienna.
- **Project Waterworth (Meta):** World's longest undersea cable system for 95% of intercontinental data traffic.
- **TRUST Initiative:** Ensure transparency, resilience, and security in AI & quantum tech.
- **Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA):** Co-development of maritime drones & counter-drone systems.