1. **Parakram Diwas 2025:** India is set to Celebrate Parakram Diwas 2025 to honour the legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the occasion of his **128th** Birth anniversary.

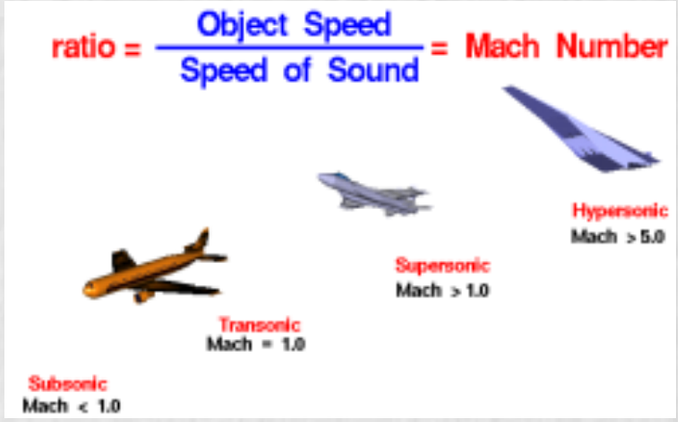


   - **About:** The event will celebrate at Barabati Fort, Cuttack (Netaji's birthplace).
   - **Past Commemorations:** PM inaugurated event at Red Fort, Delhi (INA trials site) in **2024** ➔ 21 islands in Andaman & Nicobar named after Param Vir Chakra awardees in **2023** ➔ First Parakram Diwas at Victoria Memorial, Kolkata in **2022.**
   - **About: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** born in Cuttack, Orissa on January 23, 1897.
     - **Early Education:** Passed the civil service examination in 1920, but resigned in April 1921 to join the Indian independence movement.
     - **Indian National Congress:** Actively participated in the freedom struggle, mentored by C.R. Das in Bengal.
     - **Leadership:** Elected Congress president for two consecutive terms but resigned due to ideological differences with Mahatma Gandhi.
     - **Forward Bloc:** Formed in 1939 to unite anti-British forces.
     - **Influence:** Inspired by Swami Vivekananda, known for his patriotic zeal.
     - **World War II:** Fled India to seek foreign support, traveled to Soviet Union, Germany, and Japan for alliances.
     - **Indian National Army (INA):** Led the INA, formed with Indian prisoners-of-war and plantation workers, supported by Japan, against British forces.
     - **Azad Hind Government:** Established in exile with Japanese support, fought battles at Imphal and in Burma.
     - **Death:** Believed to have died on August 18, 1945, in a plane crash over Taiwan. His death remains controversial and mysterious.

2. **Diamond Imprest Authorization (DIA) Scheme:** Department of Commerce, GOI has recently introduced the DIA Scheme.
   - **About:** The scheme will be effective from 1st April 2025. **It** allows import of **Natural Cut and Polished Diamonds** duty-free, and requires **10% value addition** for eligibility.
   - **Eligibility Criteria:** Two Star Export House status, and annual exports of **$15 million** or more.

- **Objective:** To enhance **global competitiveness** of India's diamond sector.
  - Retain India's position as a global leader in the **diamond value chain**.
  - Prevent investment outflows to diamond-mining countries.
- **Impact on Industry:** Supports **MSME diamond exporters** and safeguards domestic industry.
  - Promotes **employment generation** for diamond assorters and craftsmen.
  - Boosts **exports of Cut and Polished Diamonds**.
  - Addresses the decline in exports and worker job losses.
- **Diamond industry in India:** India **(referred to as 'world's cutlery**) is the **world's largest cutting and polishing centre** for diamonds (India polishes over **90% of the world's natural diamonds**).
  - It is also the largest diamond exporter in the world.

3. **Hypersonic Tech:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated a cutting-edge active cooled scramjet combustor ground test for 120 seconds for the first time in India.



- **About Scramjet Engines:** These air-breathing engines sustain combustion at speeds over **Mach 5** without moving parts, key for **hypersonic missiles** that travel at speeds above Mach 5.
  - The **Mach number** depends on the speed of sound in the gas and the speed of sound depends on the type of gas and the temperature of the gas.
- **Key Achievements:** Stable combustion, successful ignition, and new flame stabilization techniques demonstrated.
- **Indigenous Fuel:** DRDO and industry developed a **cooling and ignition-efficient fuel**, marking a first in India.
- **Thermal Barrier Coating (TBC):** Advanced ceramic TBC developed with Department of Science & Technology (DST) to withstand extreme temperatures during hypersonic flight.
  - Coating applied using special deposition methods for enhanced performance and longevity.
- **Global Relevance:** The test sets the stage for India's next-gen hypersonic missile program, placing it alongside global powers like the U.S., Russia, and China.

4. **AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM):** Recently the UNESCO Regional Office for South Asia, in partnership with MeitY and Ikigai Law, held a two-day consultation on AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) in India.
   - **About:** The event was held at IIIT Bangalore and the Nasscom AI office.
   - **Purpose:** To shape **India's AI policy** aligned with **global ethical guidelines** (transparency, inclusiveness, fairness).
     - Part of **AI RAM initiative** to drive **responsible AI adoption**.
   - **Stakeholder Engagement: Diverse voices** from **government**, **industry**, **academia**, and **civil society**.
     - Focus on **ethical AI** aligned with UNESCO's recommendations.
   - **Startups Focus:** Spotlight on **AI for startups** amid **INDIAai Mission** (₹10,000 crore funding).
   - **Key Insights: UNESCO,** the RAM provides a snapshot of **AI landscape**—key stakeholders, infrastructure, and legislation.
     - **MeitY:** Highlighted **Safe and Trusted AI** as core to India's AI growth and global leadership.
   - **Project Highlight: AI** - Open-source **algorithmic auditing** framework by **Civic Data Labs**.
   - **Breakout Sessions:** Focus on **AI governance**, **infrastructure**, and **sectoral adoption**.
5. **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY):** The Yojana completed 10 years encouraging families to invest in the bright futures of their daughters, fostering a culture of inclusion and progress.
   - **About:** SSY was launched on 22nd January 2015 by PM Modi, as part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Campaign.
   - **10 Years Strong:** Over 4.1 crore accounts by Nov 2024.
   - **Eligibility:** For girls aged 0-10 years; only one account per child (exceptions for twins/triplets).
   - **Documents Needed:** Birth certificate, KYC identity & residence proof
   - **Annual Deposit:** Min ₹250 (Max ₹1.5 lakh); excess will be returned, Up to 15 years after account opening.
   - **Account Management:** Managed by the guardian until the girl turns 18.
   - **Monthly Interest:** Based on the lowest balance (calculated and credited annually).
   - **Maturity:** Account matures at 21 years.
   - **Early Closure:** Possible if the account holder marries (minimum age 18), with documentation.

- **Education Withdrawals:** Up to 50% for education after 18 years or completing 10th grade.
- **Limit:** One withdrawal per year, up to 5 years.
- **Premature Closure:** Death or Compassionate Grounds**,** immediate closure with necessary documents, and **No Closure in First 5 Years.**
- **Securing Futures:** SSY is a game-changer in empowering families, fostering financial discipline, and promoting gender equity for India's daughters.

6. **Arctic Boreal Region**: New research has revealed that 40% of the region has transitioned from a carbon sink (absorbing more carbon than it releases) to a carbon source (releasing more carbon than it absorbs).
   - **About:** The Arctic Boreal Zone spans 26 million square kilometers, including tundra, boreal forests, and wetlands.
   - **Factors Driving the Shift:** Longer growing seasons ➔ Increased microbial activity ➔ Higher frequency/intensity of wildfires
   - **Study Insights:** 30% of the region was a net carbon source from 2001-2020, rising to 40% with fire emissions.
   - **Geographical Distribution of Carbon Source:** Alaska (44%)>Northern Europe (25%)>Canada (19%)>Siberia (13%)
   - **Impact of Warming:** Warming temperatures and increased wildfires in the Arctic tundra have caused it to emit more carbon than it stores.
     - **Permafrost thawing** releases vast amounts of stored carbon.
       - ✓ It is the process by which frozen ground at the Earth's poles and in cold climates melts and releases carbon and methane into the atmosphere.
   - **Winter Emissions:** Carbon emissions during the non-summer months (September to May) now outweigh carbon absorption during summer (June to August).
   - **Greening Effect:** 49% of the region shows longer growing seasons and increased vegetation, but only 12% acts as a net carbon sink annually.
   - **Microbial Activity:** Thawing permafrost releases organic matter, which microbes decompose and release as CO_2, exacerbating global warming.
   - **Why 12% remains a Sink:** Cold temperatures in the non-growing season may prevent photosynthesis but are warm enough for microbes to release CO_2.

7. **World Health Organisation (WHO):** The United States (US) recently announced the withdrawal from the World Health Organisation (WHO) after Trump's taking the President's seat. It could severely affect the global health body's disease programmes.
   - **WHO:** Founded in **1948,** and **headquartered in Geneva,Switzerland,** WHO is the UN agency that connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health.
     - WHO responsible for **World Health Report, World Health Survey**, and **World Health Day** (7 April)
     - Members: 194, India is a member since 1948.
     - Governance takes place through the **World Health Assembly (WHA).**
8. **Global corporate minimum tax:** The USA President recently declared that a global corporate minimum tax deal **"has no force or effect" in the U.S.,** effectively pulling America out of the landmark 2021 arrangement negotiated by the Biden administration with nearly 140 countries.
   - **About:** A global corporate minimum tax is a proposal **to impose a minimum rate of taxation** on corporate income in most countries of the world by international agreement.
   - **Aim**: To mitigate tax competition and **prevent the evasion of corporate taxes** by domiciling themselves in tax havens.
     - To institute a consistent global baseline.
     - To ensure that the impact of low tax rates or fiscal policies aimed at reducing tax burdens is significantly reduced.
   - The EU, Britain and other countries have adopted the 15% global corporate minimum tax, but the U.S.

