

Daily News Analysis

The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE

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Edition: International Table of Contents

Page 02	Dhankhar lauds Ravi for holding V-
Syllabus : GS 2 : Indian Polity	Cs' conference
Page 03	India, France to finalise ₹63,000-cr.
Syllabus : GS 2 : International	deal for 26 Rafale-M jets on April
Relations	28
Page 03	DRDO makes headway in
Syllabus : Prelims Fact	hypersonic technology
Page 05	Kasturirangan took space to
Syllabus : GS 3 : Science and	people, and beyond
Technology	
In News	'Revive Our Ocean' Initiative
Page 06 : Editorial Analysis:	A chance for India's creative
Syllabus : GS 3 : Indian Economy	ecosystem to make waves



Daily News Analysis

Page 02:GS 2 : Indian Polity

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated a two-day Vice-Chancellors' conference comprising State, Central, and private university heads in Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu.

- He praised Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi for organizing the event, emphasizing the Governor's constitutional duty under Article 159 of the Indian Constitution.
- The remarks are politically significant amidst the ongoing tensions between the Tamil Nadu Government and the Governor's office.

Dhankhar lauds Ravi for holding V-Cs' conference

Vice-President says T.N. Governor is vindicating his oath by organising such events, which are extremely relevant to the field of education; urges varsities to develop tolerance for varying ideas

The Hindu Bureau UDHAGAMANDALAM

ice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated a twoday conference of Vice-Chancellors of State, central and private universities here on Friday. At the inaugural session. Mr. Dhankhar lauded Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, saying the latter was only organising the conference due to his "constitutional ordainment".

Mr. Dhankhar's remarks come in the midst of a tussle between the T.N. government and the Governor.

During his speech as the chief guest, the Vice-President said: "He has taken an oath under the Indian Constitution under Article 159. His oath, as that of the Honourable President, is very significant. The oath he has taken as Governor is to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and the law. By his oath, he is further enjoined to devote to the service and well-being of people of Tamil Nadu. By organising such events, which are extremely relevant to the field of education, Governor Ravi is vindicating his oath."



V-Cs' forum: Jagdeep Dhankhar with R.N. Ravi and other dignitaries at the inaugural session of the conference on Friday. ANI

He urged the universities to share faculty talent "virtually, technologically and otherwise".

"That will have two-fold purpose. While giving it, you will be receiving also. The winds of innovation and change must have free passage in educational institutions. Evolve a mechanism. There must be tolerance for varying ideas. Intolerance to a thought defines democracy the wrong way. The nectar of university is that a solo voice that has an opinion different than that of the majority is heard with deference by engaging in dialogue and discourse, not by being judgmental," Mr. Dhankar said.

Tamil Nadu V-Cs stay away from conference

The Hindu Bureau UDHAGAMANDALAM

After the Vice-Chancellors of Tamil Nadu universities skipped the conference, Governor R.N. Ravi claimed that the State government had used police force to prevent the V-Cs from attending the event.

He said that the V-Cs had informed him, even in writing, that the they had been warned by the government not to participate, adding that one of them was being held in a

Higher Education Minister Govi. Chezhiaan, however, said that the V-Cs were aware of the recent ruling of the Supreme Court in the government's case against Mr. Ravi. The Assembly passed the 10 Bills twice and still the Governor did not assent, the matter had to go to court; enraged by developments, the Governor convened the conference, he said. The V-Cs refrained from the meeting as it was against the law, he added.

Key Highlights of the Event:

Adress : C/o. Radiant School of Science , Kh - 0, Sargasan Gandhinagar - 382421, Gujarat. Contect no : 7202080202 Website: civilservices.vuf.org

police station.





Role of the Governor:

- Dhankhar underlined that the Governor, by hosting an educationally significant event, was vindicating his constitutional oath.
- Article 159 binds the Governor to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and work for the people's welfare.

Emphasis on Academic Freedom and Innovation:

- Vice-President urged universities to:
 - Share faculty talent using virtual and technological platforms.
 - Encourage tolerance for diverse ideas and foster an environment for dialogue and discourse.
 - o Oppose intolerance towards different viewpoints, which distorts democracy.

Higher Education Reform Message:

- Called for mechanisms where minority opinions in academia are respected, not suppressed.
- Promoted winds of innovation and change to pass freely through educational institutions.

Constitutional and Political Dimensions:

Governor's Constitutional Role:

- As per Article 153-162, the Governor is an agent of the Constitution, not just a ceremonial head.
- Organizing education-centric events fits the constitutional mandate of promoting welfare and good governance.

Centre-State Tussles Context:

- The praise comes against the backdrop of ongoing friction between the Tamil Nadu State Government and Governor Ravi over issues like:
 - Delays in granting assent to Bills.
 - Alleged interference in administrative matters.
- The Governor's proactive stance in organizing an educational event can be interpreted as an assertion of constitutional activism versus alleged executive overreach.

Education Sector Relevance

Strengthening Higher Education:





- Such conferences offer a platform for:
 - Sharing best practices.
 - Discussing challenges in higher education reforms.
 - Building academic collaboration across institutions.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Goals Alignment:

• Focus on innovation, tolerance for new ideas, inter-university cooperation resonates with NEP's vision of creating a holistic and flexible academic environment.

Critical Analysis:

Strengths	Challenges
Governor using constitutional powers to promote education.	Risk of perceived politicization of gubernatorial actions.
Promotes dialogue culture among academic institutions.	Ongoing Centre-State tensions could overshadow educational goals.
Encourages innovation and protection of minority academic views.	Practical implementation of inter-university collaborations may face logistical issues.

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Way Forward:

- Governors should continue engaging constructively with societal sectors like education while maintaining constitutional neutrality.
- Universities must build platforms for academic dissent, innovation, and cross-learning.
- Centre-State relations should focus on cooperative federalism, particularly in sensitive sectors like education, health, and governance.

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques :Discuss the constitutional role of the Governor in promoting public welfare. In light of recent initiatives in the education sector, critically examine the Governor's proactive engagement beyond ceremonial functions.



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Daily News Analysis

Page 03 : GS 2 : International Relations

India and France have formally concluded the ₹63,000-crore deal for 26 Rafale-Marine (Rafale-M) fighter jets.

- The deal was signed under the Government-to-Government (G-to-G) framework.
- Due to personal reasons, the French Defence Minister deferred his visit; however, both Indian and French Ministers signed the deal separately.
- The announcement ceremony was presided over by the French Ambassador to India and the Indian Defence Secretary.

India, France to finalise ₹63,000-cr. deal for 26 Rafale-M jets on April 28

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

India and France are set to formally announce the conclusion of the ₹63,000crore deal for 26 Rafale-M fighter jets on Monday, official sources confirmed.

With the French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu deferring his visit to India due to personal reasons, the governmentto-government (G-to-G) deal is now being inked by the two Ministers remotely, sources in the know said.

"The G-to-G agreement has been signed by the French Minister, and will be signed separately by the Indian Minister [Rajnath Singh]. A ceremony on Monday to announce this will be presided by the French Ambassador in India, Thierry Mathou, and



Smooth landing: A Rafale-M fighter jet landing on French carrier *Charles de Gaulle*. DINAKAR PERI

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh," sources said. Some government-tobusiness agreements will be signed at the ceremony, sources added.

The visit of the French Defence Minister was deferred a day before the Pahalgam terror attack and had nothing to do with the current situation, sources said.

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, delivery of the jets will start in three-anda-half years once the contract is signed, and will be completed in about sixand-a-half years. The deal is for 22 single-seat jets that can operate off aircraft carriers and four twin-seat trainer jets that aren't carrier compatible. The Indian Air Force already operates 36 Rafale jets acquired under a ₹60,000crore deal signed in September 2016.

The Navy operates two aircraft carriers - *INS Vikramaditya* procured from Russia, and the indigenously built *INS Vikrant*, commissioned in September 2022.

Indian aircraft carriers use a ski-jump to launch aircraft, and arrester cables to recover aircraft that use a tail hook. The lifts (used to move aircraft) onboard Indian carriers were built to accommodate the in-service Russian MiG-29K jets.

This would necessitate minor modifications to Rafales so that they can be accommodated on the lifts.

Details of the Deal:



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Aspect

Information

Total Aircraft	26 (22 single-seat + 4 twin-seat trainers)
Туре	Rafale-M (Carrier-Based Fighter Jets)
Delivery Timeline	Starts in 3.5 years, completed in 6.5 years
Related Indian Capacity	36 Rafale jets already in service with the Indian Air Force (IAF)

Technical and Operational Aspects:

- Indian Aircraft Carriers:
 - INS Vikramaditya (Russian-origin)
 - INS Vikrant (Indigenously built, commissioned 2022)
- Carrier Operations:
 - Indian carriers use Ski-Jump for aircraft take-off.
 - Landing is via Arrestor Cables with Tail Hook system.
 - Rafale-Ms will require minor structural modifications to fit the aircraft lifts designed originally for MiG-29K.
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Strategic Significance for India:

Naval Capability Enhancement:

- Rafale-Ms will greatly boost the combat capability of India's two operational aircraft carriers.
- Strengthens India's maritime air superiority.

Indo-Pacific Strategy:

• Crucial in countering increasing Chinese maritime presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Push for Defence Self-Reliance:

• Potential for technology transfers and future domestic manufacturing under "Make in India".



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India-France Defence Cooperation Overview :

Area	Details
Past Deals	36 Rafale jets (IAF), Scorpene-class submarines (P-75)
Dialogue Platforms	Annual Defence Dialogue, Indo-French Strategic Partnership
Key Military Exercises	Varuna (Navy), Garuda (Air Force), Shakti (Army)
Geopolitical Coordination	Support for multipolarity and free Indo-Pacific vision

Challenges and Concerns:

- Cost:High expense ₹63,000 crore (~\$7.5 billion USD) for 26 jets.
- Structural Adjustments:Rafale-Ms need modifications to be fully compatible with Indian aircraft carriers.
- Dependency on Foreign Systems: Challenges the goal of complete Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) in defence.
- Technology Transfer Issues:Full ToT (Transfer of Technology) is limited, possibly restricting indigenous innovation.

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques :"The recent India-France Rafale-M deal is not just a defence transaction but marks a new phase of strategic partnership in the Indo-Pacific." Discuss. **(250 Words)**





Page : 03 :Prelims Fact

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced a major achievement in hypersonic technology.

- It successfully conducted a long-duration ground test of the Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor for more than 1,000 seconds.
- This test follows an earlier 120-second scramjet test conducted in January 2025.

What was achieved?

Long-Duration Testing:

• Ground-testing of the scramjet combustor for over 1,000 seconds.

Importance:

- Validates the design of a long-duration scramjet combustor.
- Demonstrates readiness for full-scale flight-worthy scramjet combustor testing.

Developed by:

Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad
 — a key DRDO lab.

DRDO makes headway in hypersonic technology

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday announced a significant milestone in the field of hypersonic weapon technology with the demonstration of long-duration Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor ground testing for more than 1,000 seconds.

"The ground-test is in continuation of the earlier test reported for 120 seconds in January 2025. With the successful test, the system will be soon ready for full-scale flightworthy combustor testing," the DRDO said in a statement. "This test validates the design of long duration scramjet combustor as well as test facility."

ration scramjet compused, as well as test facility." The development was achieved by the Defence Research & Development Laboratory, a Hyderabadbased laboratory of DRDO. Hypersonic cruise mis-

Hypersonic cruise missile is a class of weapon that can travel more than five times the speed of sound (>6,100 kmph) for a long duration and is powered by air breathing engine. Air-breathing propulsion systems, having supersonic combustion, play a critical role for longduration cruise conditions, the statement said.

What is Hypersonic Technology?

Parameter	Details
Definition	Travel at speeds greater than Mach 5 (>6,100 km/h).
Propulsion Type	Air-breathing engines (Scramjets).
Application	Hypersonic cruise missiles, reconnaissance, space launch vehicles.



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Key Features

Extreme speed, high maneuverability, and difficulty to intercept.

What is a Scramjet Engine?

- Scramjet (Supersonic Combustion Ramjet): A type of air-breathing jet engine where combustion occurs at supersonic speeds.
- Active Cooling:
 - Essential at hypersonic speeds to prevent structural melting.
 - Involves cooling of engine surfaces using circulating fluids.
- Advantages of Scramjets:
 - No need to carry oxidizer onboard (uses atmospheric oxygen).
 - Lightweight compared to rocket engines.

Importance for India:

- Strategic Advantage:Hypersonic cruise missiles could provide India a next-generation deterrence capability.
- Boost to Defence Research:Positions DRDO among a few global agencies mastering hypersonic technologies.
- Self-reliance push:Strengthens India's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative in advanced military technologies

UPSC PrelimsPractice Question

Ques : Which of the following correctly describes a Scramjet engine?

(A) It carries both fuel and oxidizer onboard for combustion.

- (B) It uses atmospheric oxygen for combustion at supersonic speeds.
- (C) It operates only in the subsonic regime.
- (D) It is used only for underwater propulsion.

Ans : B)



Daily News Analysis

Page 05 :GS 3 :Science and Technology

Dr. K. Kasturirangan, former Chairman of ISRO and key architect of India's space and education advancements, passed away recently.

- His visionary leadership (1994-2003) steered the Indian space program from experimental to operational and commercial stages.
- Beyond space, he made pivotal contributions to India's education sector, notably the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Kasturirangan took space to people, and beyond

r. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, the former ISRO Chairman, is no more. Starting as an X-ray astronomer, he grew up in positions, and his scholastic services as well as accomplishments in the fields of science, technology and education have left an indelible mark.

India started her national space programme in a very humble way in the late 60s, when the U.S. and Russia made their presence on the moon.

It was during Dr. Rangan's period stretching nine long years as the Chairman of the ISRO (1994-2003) that the Indian space programme smoothly graduated from the experimental phase to operational phase in the areas of earth observation satellites, communication satellites and launch services. His visionary approach made ISRO boldly



<u>Dr. Mylswamy</u> <u>Annadurai</u>

is former Director, ISRO Satellite Centre. He worked with Dr. K. Kasturirangan from 1982 to 2003

During Dr. Rangan's tenure, PSLV and GSLV were made operational, making ISRO a complete space agency venture into commercial space also, leasing 10 transponders of INSAT-2E satellite to INTELSAT, an international consortium for communication satellites, for \$10 million as early as 1999. It is through this service that Indian households started seeing cable TV programmes in regional languages, and Indian TV programmes reached 47 countries.

Thematic missions

Dr. Kasturirangan has taken ISRO's slogan of 'Space for Society' in a true spirit when he came out with the thematic space missions, namely EDUSAT - for tele education, INSATs/GSATs telemedicine and communication, RESOURCESAT - earth resources, METSAT meteorology, OCEANSAT oceanography, CARTOSAT - cartography, Meghatropique - earth science, ASTROSAT - space

science, and Chandrayaan-1 – lunar science.

Dr. Rangan's initiative to translate the benefits of space to the real users at the last mile brought in a system called the National Natural Resource Management System (NNRMS) wherein various departments of the Government of India, namely, agriculture, forestry, town planning, water resource management, fisheries, health, education, etc. were enabled to harness the benefits. National and Regional Remote Sensing Agencies were also set up to serve the end users.

During Dr. Rangan's tenure, ISRO's launch vehicles, PSLV and GSLV, were made operational, making ISRO a complete national space agency on the lines of advanced countries.

It was Dr. Rangan's historic lecture on National

Technology Day in 1999, ideating the technical possibility of India placing a satellite around the moon using PSLV, that germinated into a full-fledged project report in 2003. The project [Chandrayaan-1] was announced by then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on August 15, 2003, during his Independence day speech to the nation from the Red Fort. I was very fortunate to be hand-picked by Dr. Rangan as member secretary of the national task team that prepared the project report. It eventually made me the Project Director for Chandrayaan-1.

Dr. Kasturirangan's contributions to the well-debated National Education Policy 2020, his tenure as Rajya Sabha MP (2003-09) and Chairman of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission are glimpses of his tireless contribution to the future of the nation.

Key Contributions to India's Space Programme:

Transition from Experimental to Operational Phase:



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Daily News Analysis

- Consolidated India's capabilities in Earth observation, communications, and meteorology satellites.
- Operationalized PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) and GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle).

Commercialisation of Space Assets:

- Pioneered leasing INSAT-2E transponders to INTELSAT for \$10 million (1999).
- Enabled cable television penetration and Indian broadcast expansion to 47 countries.

'Space for Society' Vision:

- Initiated thematic space missions aligned with societal needs:
 - EDUSAT Tele-education.
 - _INSATs/GSATs Telemedicine and communication.
 - **R**ESOURCESAT Earth resource management.
 - METSAT Meteorology.
 - OCEANSAT Oceanography.
 - CARTOSAT Cartography.
 - Meghatropiques Climate science.
 - ASTROSAT Space-based observatory.
 - Chandrayaan-1 India's first lunar mission.

Strengthening National Infrastructure for Remote Sensing:

- Established National Natural Resource Management System (NNRMS).
- Enabled multiple ministries (Agriculture, Water Resources, Forestry, Town Planning, etc.) to leverage satellite data.

Visionary Leap – Chandrayaan-1:

- Proposed India's first mission to the Moon in his 1999 National Technology Day lecture.
- Catalyzed the Chandrayaan-1 project which was announced in 2003 and launched successfully in 2008.

Contributions Beyond Space – Education and Governance:

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:



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- Chaired the drafting committee for NEP 2020.
- Advocated for flexibility, multidisciplinary education, and inclusion of technology in learning.
- Emphasized research and innovation ecosystems (e.g., creation of NRF National Research Foundation).

Policy and Governance Engagement:

- Served as Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) (2003-2009).
- Chaired the Karnataka Knowledge Commission, focusing on research, innovation, and digital initiatives.

Significance of His Vision:

Area	Impact
Space Programme	Made India self-reliant in satellite launches and remote sensing capabilities.
Social Development	Aligned space technology with education, health, resource management, disaster mitigation.
Global Presence	Positioned India as an emerging player in space commerce and planetary exploration.
Education Reforms	Modernized India's education vision towards flexibility, inclusion, and innovation.

Critical Analysis:

Strengths:

- Bridged the gap between high-end science and grassroots development.
- Enabled India's first lunar mission which paved the way for later successes like Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3.
- Promoted interdisciplinary approaches by linking science, society, and policy.

Challenges Remaining:

- Space-based solutions still have limited integration at local governance levels.
- Commercial competitiveness in global space markets needs further strengthening.





• Translating NEP 2020 vision fully on ground remains an ongoing challenge.

Way Forward:

- Leverage space applications further for climate resilience, agriculture optimization, disaster early warning, and urban planning.
- Build on NEP 2020 to strengthen research culture in Indian universities and colleges.
- Enhance private sector participation in space and education, ensuring inclusivity and innovation.

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques :Evaluate the role of Dr. K. Kasturirangan in transitioning India's space programme from experimental launches to full operational capacity with societal applications. (250 words)





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In News :'Revive Our Ocean' Initiative

A new global initiative called 'Revive Our Ocean' was launched with the goal of scaling up effective, community-led marine protected areas (MPAs) to boost marine conservation efforts.

About the Revive Our Ocean Initiative:

- It is a global effort to enhance marine ecosystem protection through community-led Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- It was launched by David Attenborough, Dynamic Planet, and National Geographic's Pristine Seas to scale up MPAs, empowering coastal communities to lead conservation efforts.
- The goal is to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030, aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
- It is initially focused on 7 countries: UK, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Philippines, Indonesia, and Mexico, using successful MPA models.
- It emphasizes economic benefits of MPAs, such as generating €16 million annually from diving tourism in Medes Island, Spain.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

- KMGBF was adopted in December 2022, the KMGBF aims to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and ensure human-nature harmony by 2050.
- It replaces the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and is often referred to as the "Paris Agreement for Nature", with 196 countries adopting it.
- The framework sets a 30×30 target, aiming to protect 30% of global land and marine areas by 2030 and restore ecosystems.
- It focuses on halting species extinction, reducing pollution, and promoting sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.
- Other targets include reducing pesticide and nutrient pollution, minimizing harmful waste, and promoting urban green spaces.

UPSC PrelimsPractice Question

Ques :With reference to the 'Revive Our Ocean' initiative, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It has been launched solely by the United Nations General Assembly.

2. It aims to scale up community-led Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for marine conservation.





3. Its goal is to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (A) Only 2 and 3
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 1 and 3
- (D) 1, 2 and 3
- Ans :A)





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Daily News Analysis

Page : 06 Editorial Analysis *A chance for India's creative ecosystem to make waves*

n the face of global trade tariffs and stock market volatility, India shines as a resilient economy. Leveraging its demographic advantages and technological capabilities, India can turn challenges into opportunities, positioning itself as a global 'Creative Powerhouse.' With a rich storytelling tradition, India's Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector aims to 'Connect Creators' worldwide through the 'Create in India, Create for the World' vision.

Making a mark, globally

India is home to a burgeoning population of young creators across various fields such as film, music, art, and technology. Notably, Namit Malhotra's DNEG, the visual effects and animation studio demonstrated ground-breaking VFX in the Oscar-winning success of *Dune 2*. This marked India's seventh Oscar victory, highlighting India's growing influence in the global entertainment industry. The evolution from traditional film-making to digital production showcases the country's capability in creating world-class content.

WAVES Xcelerator (WAVEX), part of the Government of India's World Audio-Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025, aims to connect young creators with industry leaders and foster startup growth.

Scheduled for May 2025 in Mumbai, WAVES seeks to enhance India's M&E startup ecosystem by providing mentorship, funding, and global opportunities. The sector is projected to grow from ₹2,422 billion in 2023 to ₹3,067 billion by 2027, encompassing innovative fields such as gaming, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the metaverse.

Despite challenges in gaining recognition, WAVES offers a platform for emerging startups to showcase their work to global investors. The initiative also includes women-led startups such as Lapwing Studios and Vygr Media, fostering inclusivity within the M&E ecosystem.

WAVES is committed to creating a dynamic and competitive startup environment, serving as

per 03:Indian Economy



Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is Chairperson, Biocon Group

The World

Summit

will be a

the next

Audio-Visual

Entertainment

(WAVES) 2025

launchpad for

generation of

creators and

entrepreneurs

a launchpad for international success. WAVEX will directly address barriers to capital, mentorship, and global exposure, offering not only financial support but also a structured ecosystem for growth. Having started Biocon with just 710,000 and a vision, I understand the significance of such catalytic platforms.

As a supporter of the arts through initiatives such as the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) and Science Gallery Bengaluru, I believe that a nation's culture is rooted in both its arts and sciences. Both arts and science are rooted in creativity; scientists experiment in labs just as artists do on canvas.

India, which thrives on the synergy of its demographic advantage, technological capabilities, and rich cultural heritage, is a flourishing hub of creativity. This fusion is not merely philosophical in India; it is practical, shaping industries and driving innovation within the M&E sector.

With a storytelling tradition that spans centuries, India is uniquely positioned to emerge as a global creative powerhouse. From classical dance to cinema, and from comics to immersive technology, we are entering an exciting era where creativity intersects with cutting-edge innovation. The vision of 'Create in India, Create for the World' encapsulates this ambition perfectly.

A catalyst for creative startups

WAVES exemplifies the beautiful convergence of technology and storytelling. WAVEX is poised to tap into this by supporting startups in innovative areas such as animation, AI, Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR), gaming, and the metaverse.

With more than 4,500 sellers and over 5,900 buyers registered for the WAVES Bazaar, the initiative promises to connect Indian startups with global players, accelerating India's ascent as a leader in the global M&E landscape.

WAVES also champions innovation beyond traditional media. Companies such as Erucanavis Technologies are pioneering AI-driven playable ads, while Amaze Studios and Offline Human Studios are redefining storytelling through animation and VR. Ed-tech ventures such as InscapeXR and Vision Impact are transforming learning with immersive media. Together, these startups highlight the vast potential and global relevance of India's creative ecosystem.

A vision for the future

India has long been celebrated for its rich cultural heritage and enduring legacy of creativity.

This creative energy finds its most vibrant expression in our youth, who are the creators of today and the visionaries of tomorrow. Across film, music, animation, gaming, and digital media, young Indian creators are pushing boundaries and redefining genres.

The Indian government's commitment to nurturing this potential is evident in its support for initiatives such as WAVES, which is designed to foster a dynamic, innovative, and globally competitive startup ecosystem in the Media and Entertainment sector.

Today, through WAVES, we are not only investing in startups, but we are also investing in storytelling, in self-expression, and in the creative economy that will define the future. Whether it is in a biotech lab or a digital studio, creativity is the currency that will shape tomorrow's industries and identities.

WAVES 2025 is more than a celebration of India's M&E industry; it is a launchpad for the next generation of creators and entrepreneurs poised to transform how the world consumes entertainment, education, and culture.

As an advisory board member of WAVES, I am proud to be part of this transformative journey. The impact of this initiative will go far beyond studios and boardrooms, echoing in every story told, every startup scaled, and every innovation that challenges convention.

India's moment to lead a global creative revolution is here. Let us 'Create in India, Create for the World' and show the world the boundless power of our imagination.

UPSC Mains Practice Question: Despite global challenges, India's Media and Entertainment sector has the potential to emerge as a global creative powerhouse. Critically examine the vision, initiatives, challenges, and way forward in this context. (250 words)



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Context :

- Despite global trade challenges and stock market fluctuations, India remains a strong and resilient economy. By using its young population and technological strengths, India has the potential to turn difficulties into opportunities.
- With its rich tradition of storytelling, India's Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector aims to connect creators around the world through the vision of 'Create in India, Create for the World.'

Vision behind India's Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector as outlined in the WAVES 2025 initiative

- Global Creative Leadership: India aims to emerge as a 'Creative Powerhouse', encouraging the creation of world-class content that resonates globally through the 'Create in India, Create for the World' vision. Eg: Namit Malhotra's DNEG delivered Oscar-winning VFX for Dune 2, showcasing India's global capability.
- Fostering Innovation and Startups: The vision promotes a vibrant M&E startup ecosystem through WAVEX—offering funding, mentorship, and exposure in areas like gaming, AR/VR, animation, and AI. Eg: WAVEX supports startups like Erucanavis Technologies (AI-driven ads) and Amaze Studios (VR storytelling).
- Cultural and Technological Synergy: It seeks to blend India's rich cultural heritage with digital innovation, empowering young creators and expanding India's influence in entertainment, education, and digital media. Eg: InscapeXR uses immersive media to transform learning experiences through storytelling.

Some notable contributors and startups exemplifying India's growing influence in the global creative industry

- DNEG (Namit Malhotra): India's presence in high-end global cinema has grown significantly. Eg: DNEG, led by Namit Malhotra, delivered Oscar-winning VFX for Dune 2, showcasing India's prowess in visual effects and animation.
- Erucanavis Technologies: Innovation in ad-tech is pushing the boundaries of user interaction. Eg: Erucanavis is developing AI-driven playable ads, transforming digital advertising formats globally.
- Lapwing Studios: Women-led creative startups are gaining recognition and scale. Eg: Lapwing Studios is supported under WAVEX, promoting inclusivity in India's Media & Entertainment sector.



THE HINDU

Daily News Analysis

- Amaze Studios: New-age storytelling formats are reshaping viewer experiences. Eg: Amaze Studios focuses on immersive storytelling through VR and animation, enhancing narrative depth.
- InscapeXR: Ed-tech is merging with creative media to revolutionize learning. Eg: InscapeXR uses extended reality (XR) to create immersive educational content, blending creativity with pedagogy.

How does WAVEX aim to support and scale startups in India's creative economy?

- Mentorship: WAVEX connects startups with industry leaders for strategic guidance and capacity building Eg: Startups like Vygr Media gain mentorship on scaling content for global audiences.
- Funding Access: It facilitates financial support to overcome capital barriers for creative ventures. Eg: Women-led startups such as Lapwing Studios receive funding through WAVEX platforms.
- Global Exposure: WAVEX offers international visibility and networking with global investors and buyers. Eg: Over 5,900 buyers at the WAVES Bazaar help startups like Amaze Studios find global partners.
- Tech Integration: It supports innovation in tech-driven media fields like AR/VR, AI, and the metaverse. Eg: Erucanavis Technologies is leveraging WAVEX support to expand AI-based playable ads.
- Inclusive Ecosystem: WAVEX promotes diversity by uplifting women-led and regional startups in M&E. Eg: Initiatives like Vision Impact promote inclusive ed-tech innovation through immersive storytelling.

Why is India uniquely positioned to become a global creative powerhouse?

- Demographic Dividend: India has a large, young population that fuels creativity and innovation across media sectors. Eg: WAVEX connects this youthful energy with global platforms to scale creative startups.
- Technological Capability: India has strong digital infrastructure and IT expertise that power cuttingedge content creation. Eg: DNEG, led by Namit Malhotra, delivered Oscar-winning VFX in Dune 2, showcasing India's tech strength.
- Cultural Heritage: A rich legacy of storytelling, arts, and performance adds depth to creative expression. Eg: From classical dance to comics, Indian creators blend tradition with modern formats.
- Government Support: Policy initiatives like WAVES 2025 foster a robust startup ecosystem for M&E. Eg: WAVEX provides funding, mentorship, and exposure to startups in AR/VR and AI-driven media.



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• Global Vision: India is aiming to create content not just for domestic audiences, but for the world. Eg: The 'Create in India, Create for the World' initiative positions India as a content export hub.

Challenges

- Access to Capital and Funding: Many startups in India's creative sector face difficulty in securing adequate funding and investment. Despite government support through initiatives like Start-up India, access to venture capital and global investors remains a challenge for emerging companies.
 Eg: Small animation studios or VR companies, such as Amaze Studios, often struggle to scale due to limited financial resources.
- Infrastructure Gaps: While the government has made significant strides in developing digital infrastructure, there are still gaps in areas like high-quality production facilities, broadband connectivity, and tech training centers. Smaller cities and rural areas, in particular, face challenges in accessing the necessary resources to contribute to the global creative industry. Eg: The lack of advanced digital infrastructure in tier-2 cities restricts the growth of tech-driven creative startups.

Way forwa<mark>rd:</mark>

- Enhanced Funding Support and Investment Channels: Strengthen access to venture capital and government-backed funding, especially for emerging creative startups, through dedicated investment platforms and incentives. Eg: Expanding initiatives like Start-up India to include sector-specific funding for M&E startups in animation, AR/VR, and AI.
- Improved Infrastructure and Regional Connectivity: Invest in high-quality production facilities, fasttrack broadband connectivity, and tech training programs across tier-2 cities and rural areas to bridge the infrastructure gap. Eg: Setting up regional M&E hubs outside major cities to create localized opportunities for tech-driven creative startups.