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"This compilation of September - October 2025 Current Affairs has been meticulously curated to assist candidates in grasping the most significant and relevant events that are crucial for exams like UPSC Prelims, State PCS, Defence exams, SSC, and others."

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INTERNATIONAL

► “Welcome to Country” smoke ceremony

- Defence Minister was welcomed to the Australian Parliament with a traditional Aboriginal “Welcome to Country” smoke ceremony.
- It is a symbolic **Aboriginal Australian ritual** that acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and signifies friendship and reconciliation.
- A **Welcome to Country** is a formal ceremony delivered by an Elder, Traditional Owner or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person who has been given permission from Traditional Owners to welcome visitors to their Country. Traditionally it is a ceremony to not only welcome an outsider to Country but to also grant permission for the visitor to enter their land.
- A **Welcome to Country** occurs at the beginning of any gathering or event. It can take many forms, including singing, dancing, smoking ceremonies or a speech delivered in traditional language, English or a mixture of both.

► Diwali as holiday in the US

- **California** has become the third US state to designate Diwali as an official state holiday.
- The bill titled, ‘AB268’ to designate Diwali as an official state holiday, had successfully passed both houses of the legislature in California and it was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom.
- The first US state to declare Diwali as a state holiday was Pennsylvania in 2024 and it was followed by Connecticut earlier this year.
- California has now joined the list of states to declare Diwali as a state holiday. In New York City, Diwali has been declared a holiday for public schools.

► India’s engagement with the Taliban ruled Kabul

- As a first step towards normalising diplomatic ties with the Taliban since the group seized power in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the US-led forces in 2021, India has decided to upgrade its “technical mission” in Kabul to the status of an embassy.
- India closed its embassy in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in August 2021. In June 2022, India re-established its diplomatic presence in the Afghan capital by deploying a “technical team.”

► Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)

- The Assam government has requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to invoke the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with Singapore to assist in the ongoing probe into superstar **Zubeen Garg’s death in Singapore**.
- An MLAT is an agreement between two or more countries for the purpose of gathering and exchanging information in an effort to enforce public laws or criminal laws.
- When evidence or other forms of legal assistance, such as witness statements or the service of documents, are needed from a foreign sovereign, states may attempt to cooperate informally

through their respective police agencies or, alternatively, resort to what is typically referred to as requests for 'mutual legal assistance'.

► **Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza**

- US President Donald Trump has put forward a 20-point proposal titled the "Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza conflict" to bring about peace in Gaza as the devastating war by Israel after the October 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas.
- The plan has different elements, which will hold ramifications for the wider Middle East region, for Trump, and for India. Crucially, Hamas is yet to accept the plan.

— **Here is the entire proposal of Trump's 20-point plan to end Gaza war verbatim:**

1. Gaza will be a deradicalized terror-free zone that does not pose a threat to its neighbors.
2. Gaza will be redeveloped for the benefit of the people of Gaza, who have suffered more than enough.
3. If both sides agree to this proposal, the war will immediately end. Israeli forces will withdraw to the agreed upon line to prepare for a hostage release. During this time, all military operations, including aerial and artillery bombardment, will be suspended, and battle lines will remain frozen until conditions are met for the complete staged withdrawal.
4. Within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting this agreement, all hostages, alive and deceased, will be returned.
5. Once all hostages are released, Israel will release 250 life sentence prisoners plus 1700 Gazans who were detained after October 7th 2023, including all women and children detained in that context. For every Israeli hostage whose remains are released, Israel will release the remains of 15 deceased Gazans.
6. Once all hostages are returned, Hamas members who commit to peaceful co-existence and to decommission their weapons will be given amnesty. Members of Hamas who wish to leave Gaza will be provided safe passage to receiving countries.
7. Upon acceptance of this agreement, full aid will be immediately sent into the Gaza Strip. At a minimum, aid quantities will be consistent with what was included in the January 19, 2025, agreement regarding humanitarian aid, including rehabilitation of infrastructure (water, electricity, sewage), rehabilitation of hospitals and bakeries, and entry of necessary equipment to remove rubble and open roads.
8. Entry of distribution and aid in the Gaza Strip will proceed without interference from the two parties through the United Nations and its agencies, and the Red Crescent, in addition to other international institutions not associated in any manner with either party. Opening the Rafah crossing in both directions will be subject to the same mechanism implemented under the January 19, 2025 agreement.

9. Gaza will be governed under the temporary transitional governance of a technocratic, apolitical Palestinian committee, responsible for delivering the day-to-day running of public services and municipalities for the people in Gaza. This committee will be made up of qualified Palestinians and international experts, with oversight and supervision by a new international transitional body, the “Board of Peace,” which will be headed and chaired by President Donald J. Trump, with other members and heads of State to be announced, including Former Prime Minister Tony Blair. This body will set the framework and handle the funding for the redevelopment of Gaza until such time as the Palestinian Authority has completed its reform program, as outlined in various proposals, including President Trump’s peace plan in 2020 and the Saudi-French proposal, and can securely and effectively take back control of Gaza. This body will call on best international standards to create modern and efficient governance that serves the people of Gaza and is conducive to attracting investment.
10. A Trump economic development plan to rebuild and energize Gaza will be created by convening a panel of experts who have helped birth some of the thriving modern miracle cities in the Middle East. Many thoughtful investment proposals and exciting development ideas have been crafted by well-meaning international groups, and will be considered to synthesize the security and governance frameworks to attract and facilitate these investments that will create jobs, opportunity, and hope for future Gaza.
11. A special economic zone will be established with preferred tariff and access rates to be negotiated with participating countries.
12. No one will be forced to leave Gaza, and those who wish to leave will be free to do so and free to return. We will encourage people to stay and offer them the opportunity to build a better Gaza.
13. Hamas and other factions agree to not have any role in the governance of Gaza, directly, indirectly, or in any form. All military, terror, and offensive infrastructure, including tunnels and weapon production facilities, will be destroyed and not rebuilt. There will be a process of demilitarization of Gaza under the supervision of independent monitors, which will include placing weapons permanently beyond use through an agreed process of decommissioning, and supported by an internationally funded buy back and reintegration program all verified by the independent monitors. New Gaza will be fully committed to building a prosperous economy and to peaceful coexistence with their neighbors.
14. A guarantee will be provided by regional partners to ensure that Hamas, and the factions, comply with their obligations and that New Gaza poses no threat to its neighbors or its people.
15. The United States will work with Arab and international partners to develop a temporary International Stabilization Force (ISF) to immediately deploy in Gaza. The ISF will train and provide support to vetted Palestinian police forces in Gaza, and will consult with Jordan and Egypt who have extensive experience in this field. This force will be the long-term internal security solution. The ISF will work with Israel and Egypt to help secure border areas, along with newly trained Palestinian police forces. It is critical to prevent munitions from entering Gaza and

to facilitate the rapid and secure flow of goods to rebuild and revitalize Gaza. A deconfliction mechanism will be agreed upon by the parties.

16. Israel will not occupy or annex Gaza. As the ISF establishes control and stability, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will withdraw based on standards, milestones, and timeframes linked to demilitarization that will be agreed upon between the IDF, ISF, the guarantors, and the United States, with the objective of a secure Gaza that no longer poses a threat to Israel, Egypt, or its citizens. Practically, the IDF will progressively hand over the Gaza territory it occupies to the ISF according to an agreement they will make with the transitional authority until they are withdrawn completely from Gaza, save for a security perimeter presence that will remain until Gaza is properly secure from any resurgent terror threat.
17. In the event Hamas delays or rejects this proposal, the above, including the scaled-up aid operation, will proceed in the terror-free areas handed over from the IDF to the ISF.
18. An interfaith dialogue process will be established based on the values of tolerance and peaceful co-existence to try and change mindsets and narratives of Palestinians and Israelis by emphasizing the benefits that can be derived from peace.
19. While Gaza re-development advances and when the PA reform program is faithfully carried out, the conditions may finally be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood, which we recognize as the aspiration of the Palestinian people.
20. The United States will establish a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a political horizon for peaceful and prosperous co-existence.

► **US Government Shutdown 2025**

- The US government shut down on October 1 at 12:01 AM for the first time in seven years, after Republican and Democrat members of the Senate failed to approve federal funding for the government.
- This would result in the furlough of thousands of federal employees or temporarily dismissed from work, and public services will also be impacted.
- The **government has been shut down** 14 times since 1980, with three of these occurring during Trump's first term (2017-2021) alone.
- The US Congress needs to approve about a dozen appropriations bills, which determine the funding of several government agencies, and get the president's assent before October 1 every year. These bills are often lumped into a collection **called an "omnibus" bill** to speed up the process at the last minute.
- Thus, a shutdown is the result if Congress is unable to authorize more spending before the funding deadline lapses. Depending on the extent of approvals made and which agencies get funded, the government must fully or partially shut down.

► **The US imposed a 100 per cent tariff on branded or patented pharmaceutical products**

- The Trump administration has announced to impose a 100 per cent tariff on branded or patented pharmaceutical products, a 50 per cent tariff on all kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, and associated products, and a 25 per cent tariff on heavy trucks. It will be imposed from October 1st, 2025.
- The US is **India's largest market for pharmaceutical exports**, accounting for an almost 40 per cent share. India's contribution of nearly 6 per cent of the total US imports is largely dominated by generic medicines. As the tariff is not on generic medicines, the Indian pharmaceuticals for now will not be impacted to that extent.

► **Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA)**

- Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on 17th September signed a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) during Pak Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's and Army Chief Asim Munir's visit to Riyadh.
- According to a joint statement issued after the meeting, "the agreement states that any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both".

► **WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**

- On 15th September, WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies came into effect, which commits members to curbing billions of dollars in annual spending on the most harmful subsidies that contribute to the depletion of marine fish stocks.
- It is the WTO's first multilateral agreement with environmental sustainability at its core. It prohibits government support to illegal fishing activities and overexploitation of stocks, contributing to the protection of marine life.
- Adopted by consensus at the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022, the Agreement's disciplines prohibit subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, for fishing overfished stocks, and for fishing on the unregulated high seas.
- A WTO Fish Fund was also established to provide developing economies and least-developed countries (LDCs) with technical assistance and capacity-building needed to implement the new obligations and manage their own fisheries more sustainably.
- India has **not signed** the agreement.

► **H-1B visas**

- US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that requires companies hiring overseas talent through the H-1B visa to pay \$100,000 a year for each H-1B worker visa.
- Until now, H-1B visas have carried various administrative fees totalling around \$1,500.
- People born in India are the largest beneficiaries of the H-1B program. Data from the US government show that Indians account for more than 70% of all H-1B petitions approved each year since 2015.

► Nepal's GenZ Protest

- A couple of months ago, some Facebook pages, including one called Next Generation Nepal, began to post on the grim political situation in Nepal and the massive corruption in high places.
- No specific individuals appeared to be promoting the posts, but it was clear that most of them belonged to a generation that was born between 1996 and 2012, the cohort known as "Generation Z", or 'Gen Z'.
- The young people, teens and those in their 20s, expressed their anger and frustration at the corrupt political system — and the immunity that politicians who have run Nepal by turns since the republic was created in 2008, have given themselves from investigation or accountability.
- The criticism especially targeted the extravagant lifestyles of the children and wards of senior politicians, and expressions like 'Nepo Babies' and 'Nepo Kids' trended online.
- A couple of weeks ago, the government banned 26 social media platforms, including prominent ones like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, X, and YouTube, for failing to register with the authorities by a certain deadline.
- The digital ban took away the primary avenue that Gen Z was using to vent, comment, and seek solidarity among themselves, and greatly aggravated their anger.
- The frustration boiled over last week, when large numbers of young people came out on the streets, and 19 were killed after police and security forces opened fire.

► SCO Summit

- The 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in **Tianjin, China**, from 31 August to 1 September 2025.
- The SCO declaration condemned the Pahalgam terror attack, which reference was omitted during the defence ministers meeting of SCO in June.
- PM Modi outlined India's vision and policy regarding SCO. It is built on three pillars that are
 - S – Security
 - C – Connectivity
 - O – Opportunity
- **Civilisation Dialogue Forum:** PM Modi also proposed the formation of a '**Civilisation Dialogue Forum**' to enhance people-to-people ties in the SCO, stating that this would provide a global platform for the countries to share ancient civilisation, culture, traditions, and literature.
- **Global Governance Initiative (GGI):** Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the **Global Governance Initiative (GGI)** at the SCO plus leaders' summit as he advocated practising multilateralism.
- **Dialogue Partner Status to Lao People's Democratic Republic:** A decision was taken to grant the Lao People's Democratic Republic the status of SCO Dialogue Partner and to grant SCO Observer status with the Commonwealth of Independent States.

- **City of Cholpon-Ata designated “Tourist and Cultural Capital of the SCO” for 2025–2026:** In accordance with the Organization’s tradition, the city of Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan was designated the “Tourist and Cultural Capital of the SCO” for 2025–2026.
- **Kyrgyz Republic to host next SCO Summit:** The chairmanship for 2025–2026 has passed to the Kyrgyz Republic. The head of Kyrgyzstan named the theme of the Kyrgyz chairmanship as “25 years of the SCO: together for a stable world, development, and prosperity”.

About SCO

SCO was established on **June 15, 2001**, in Shanghai as an international organisation. It consists of 10 member countries- India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus. India and Pakistan became full members in 2017. Belarus is the latest to join in 2023.

The organisation has two permanent bodies: **the Secretariat in Beijing, China**, and the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent**.

Russian and Chinese are the official languages of the SCO.

► **Burkina Faso bans homosexuality**

- Burkina Faso’s government has passed a law **banning homosexuality**, with those found guilty facing two to five years in prison.
- Burkina Faso joins the list of more than half of Africa’s 54 countries that have laws banning homosexuality with the penalties ranging from several years in prison to the death penalty.
- Burkina Faso has been run by the military under President Ibrahim Traore, following a coup in 2022 that the soldiers said was to stabilize the country amid a worsening security crisis and provide better governance.
- Last year, Burkina Faso along with **Niger and Mali** withdrew from the West Africa bloc known as **ECOWAS**.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

► **Extension of 16th Finance Commission**

- The government has extended the tenure of the 16th Finance Commission by one month till November 30.
- The 16th Finance Commission was constituted by the government on December 31, 2023, with former Niti Aayog vice-chairman **Arvind Panagariya as its Chairman**. The report by the panel was due by October 31

► **State Mining Readiness Index**

- The Ministry of Mines has released the State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) and corresponding State rankings, marking what it described as a major step towards promoting mining sector reforms at the State level.
- Under the SMRI, States were grouped into three categories on the basis of their mineral wealth.

- **Category A** for mineral-rich states. The top three ranked States are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.
- **Category B** for those with moderate resources, and the top three states are Goa, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam.
- **Category C** for states with limited mineral resources. Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Tripura have obtained the top three ranks.
- The purpose of the index is to serve as a tool for benchmarking State performance and encouraging healthy competition, thereby accelerating the pace of mining reforms and sustainable resource management across India.

► 'We Rise' initiative

- '**We Rise – Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises**' has been launched as a joint initiative of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform and DP World.
- This programme under the aegis of WEP's Award to Reward (ATR) initiative, aims to help women entrepreneurs in India to scale their businesses globally through trade facilitation, mentorship, and strategic partnerships.
- WEP serves as national aggregator to strengthen India's women entrepreneurship ecosystem and make women-led development a reality.
- The **Award to Reward (ATR) initiative**, launched in 2023, institutionalises WEP's partnership framework by bringing together ecosystem stakeholders to address the specific needs of women entrepreneurs. It serves as a plug-and-play model fostering scalable collaborations and measurable impact.

► Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar (SITAA)

- To foster innovation and collaboration in the digital identity domain, the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the SITAA.**
- The initiative aims to strengthen India's ID Tech ecosystem by enabling startups, academia, and industry to work closely with UIDAI.
- Through this initiative, UIDAI seeks to drive innovation, promote indigenization, and co-develop advanced and future-ready identity technologies.

► National Camel Mission

- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is planning to launch the **National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI)** — a national mission aimed at reversing the steady decline in India's camel population.
- The NCSI would bring together the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the Ministries of Environment, Rural Development and Tourism, and State governments, to ensure coordinated action.

- According to the 20th Livestock Census, India's camel population stood at 2.52 lakh in 2019, down from about 11 lakh in 1977 and 4 lakh in 2013. Nearly 90% of these camels are concentrated in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Notably, World Camel Day is celebrated on **June 22** to promote camel culture, conservation, and innovation.

About Kharai Camels

In 2016, a prelims question in the UPSC was asked on Kharai camels. According to ICAR, the Kharai camel, indigenous to Gujarat, derives its name from the local term "Khara," meaning saline, reflecting its adaptability to both desert and coastal ecosystems.

It is known as the "Swimming Camel," as it can traverse long distances across water. It has been preserved by the Rabari and Fakirani Jat tribes for over 400 years.

► Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) Target Rules, 2025

- The Centre has notified the first legally binding Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) Target Rules, 2025, for four high-emission sectors—aluminium, cement, chlor-alkali, and pulp and paper.
- Industries will earn carbon credits in lieu of meeting emissions targets, while those that fail to do so will have to buy credits or pay environmental compensation.
- The Rules will help operationalise the country's domestic carbon market under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2023.
- India's commitment: India has committed to reducing the emissions intensity of its gross domestic product (the amount of energy used per unit of GDP) by 45 per cent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels, as part of its domestic commitments under the global agreement.

► New Agriculture Schemes

- Two new agriculture schemes, the **PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** and the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses**, with a total outlay of `35,440 crore, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 11th October, 2025.
- PMDDKY is designed on the lines of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2018 in the country's 112 most underdeveloped districts, with the aim of transforming them quickly and effectively.
- The PMDDKY is aimed at developing 100 agricultural districts selected based on 3 factors — low productivity, moderate crop intensity, below-average access to credit. While the PMDDKY does not have a separate budget, its outlay of `**24,000 crore** will come from convergence of various schemes.
- The pulses mission has an outlay of `**11,440 crore**. It will be implemented from 2025-26 to 2030-31 and aims at expanding the area under pulses to 310 lakh hectares, increase production to 350 lakh tonnes, and raise yield to 1130 kg/ha by 2030-31.

► **DRAVYA portal**

- Last month, the Ministry of Ayush unveiled the portal during the **10th Ayurveda Day** event.
- The DRAVYA portal serves as a comprehensive, open-access database that dynamically consolidates data from classical Ayurvedic texts and standard online research platforms.
- It enables users to search for medicinal substances used across Ayush systems and access detailed profiles spanning Ayurvedic pharmacotherapeutics, botany, chemistry, pharmacy, pharmacology, and safety information.

► **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data**

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on September 29 released the Crime in India report for 2023, which is the most authoritative compilation of offences across the country.
- The annual report provides crucial data on violent crime, caste-based offences, economic frauds, and more that informs policymaking and law enforcement priorities.

— **Key data points from the report:**

- India **recorded 27,721 cases** of murder in 2023, a dip of 2.8% from 2022, while cybercrimes saw a 31.2% increase, with 86,420 cases reported.
- **Crime against children:** A total of 1,77,335 cases of crime against children were registered across the country in 2023, showing an increase of 9.2% as compared to the previous year.
- **Crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs):** Crimes against STs increased 28.8% in 2023, with 12,960 cases registered.
- **Crime against Scheduled Castes (SCs):** There were 57,789 cases registered in 2023 for crimes against SCs, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for the highest share at 15,130 cases.
- **Cybercrime:** Cybercrime in India saw a sharp surge in 2023, with fraud, extortion and sexual exploitation accounting for the majority of cases. The crime rate, which is the number of crimes per lakh population, increased from 4.8 in 2022 to 6.2 in 2023.
- **Crime against women:** A total of 4,48,211 cases of crime against women were registered, marking an increase of 0.7%. The national crime rate stood at 66.2 incidents per lakh female population.

About NCRB

- The NCRB was established in 1986 to compile crime data, functioning under the Union Home Ministry. Apart from publishing annual reports, it engages in the “Collection, coordination and exchange of information on inter-state and international criminals to the respective states”.
- NCRB also acts as a “national warehouse” for the fingerprint records of Indian and foreign criminals, and assists in locating interstate criminals through fingerprint search.

- **NCRB data on student suicide**

- The number of student suicides in the country went up by 34 per cent in 2023 as compared to 2019, data from the **National Crime Records Bureau** (NCRB) shows.
- Over the past decade, the number of student suicides rose by around 65% — from 8,423 in 2013 to 13,892 in 2023. The rise is steeper than the rise in the total number of deaths by suicide over the past decade.
- The total number of deaths by suicide in 2023 is 1.71 lakh, which saw an increase of 23 per cent from 2019 (1.39 lakh deaths). **Student suicides** made up around 8.1% of the total deaths by suicide in the country in 2023.

- **NCRB data on the safest city in India**

- According to NCRB, Kolkata has once again emerged as the safest city in India for the fourth year running. It has recorded 83.9 cognisable offences per lakh population in 2023, the lowest among the 19 Indian cities with populations above 20 lakh.
- Among the cities surveyed, Kochi (Kerala) is at the top amongst the most unsafe cities, followed by Delhi.

► **BSNL's 'Swadeshi' 4G network**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated BSNL's 'Swadeshi' 4G stack
- The development marked India's entry into an exclusive group of countries, including Denmark, Sweden, South Korea and China, which manufacture their own telecom equipment.

► **Model Youth Gram Sabha initiative**

- The Centre is planning to launch Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS). It is an initiative based on the **Model UN** – an educational simulation of the United Nations – in schools across the country.
- It will be launched in over 600 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) across the country in the first phase beginning from October 2025.
- As part of the initiative, a **mock Gram Sabha will be conducted** in identified schools, where students from classes 9-12 will play the roles of sarpanch, ward members, and village-level officials, including village secretary, Anganwadi worker, auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM), and junior engineers.
- They will hold mock meetings of the Gram Sabha, discuss various issues, and prepare the village budget and development plans.

► **RSS @ 100**

- The Government of India has released a special postage stamp and commemorative coin to commemorate the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's glorious 100-year journey.
- The **₹100 coin** features the national emblem on one side and a majestic image of Bharat Mata in Varad Mudra with a lion, being saluted by swayamsevaks, on the other.

► Aspirational Agriculture Districts

- The Centre has announced 100 Aspirational Agriculture Districts to be developed under the **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** across 29 states and UTs, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for the most 12 districts.
- The identification of 100 aspirational agricultural districts has been based on three factors: (i) low productivity (ii) moderate crop intensity (iii) below-average access to credit.
- It is designed on the lines of the **Aspirational Districts Programme**.

► Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana on September 26. The Rs 7,500-crore scheme, an initiative of Bihar's NDA government, is aimed at promoting women's empowerment through self-employment and livelihood opportunities.
- Under the scheme, financial assistance will be provided to one woman from each family, for livelihood activities of their choice, fostering economic independence and social empowerment.
- Each beneficiary will receive an initial grant of Rs 10,000 via direct benefit transfer, with the possibility of additional financial support of up to Rs 2 lakh in subsequent phases.

► Capacity Building and Human Resource Development Scheme

- The government has approved the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research / Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR/CSIR) Scheme on "Capacity Building and Human Resource Development" for the period of the Fifteenth Finance Commission Cycle 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The scheme is implemented by the CSIR and will cover all R&D institutions, national laboratories, Institutes of National Importance, Institutes of Eminence, and Universities across the country.
- The Scheme plays an important role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the S&T sector in India by increasing the researchers per million population. The Scheme has demonstrated its relevance by building capacity and expanding the pool of high-quality human resources in the S&T sector.

► Visakhapatnam Declaration

- The **28th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG)** was held at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on 22nd and 23rd of September. The conference concluded with the adoption of the "Visakhapatnam Declaration."
- It was co-hosted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- The theme of the conference was "**Viksit Bharat: Civil Service and Digital Transformation.**"
- The declaration called for a whole-of-government approach to strengthen civil services with digital competencies and agile, data-driven frameworks.

- It proposed **scaling up AI-driven platforms** like Digital India BHASHINI, Digi Yatra, and NADRES V2 to deliver multilingual, real-time, and sector-specific citizen services with a focus on ethical and transparent adoption of AI.
- The Visakhapatnam Declaration sets the tone for India's digital governance strategy over the coming years, with an emphasis on inclusivity, security, and innovation to empower citizens and strengthen service delivery.

► **Schemes and campaigns launched on the occasion of PM Modi's 75th Birthday**

- To mark the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP governments in various states launched public welfare programmes and campaigns on September 17.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Madhya Pradesh, where he launched the '**Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar**' and the '**8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah**' campaigns, highlighting the government's commitment to nutrition and family well-being.
- **Suman Sakhi Chatbot**: This chatbot aims to raise awareness on maternal and child health, and provide timely and accurate information to pregnant women in rural and remote areas, ensuring access to essential health services.
- **Adi Seva Parv**: As part of the Adi Karmyogi Abhiyan, Prime Minister launched the "Adi Seva Parv" for Madhya Pradesh. The Adi Seva Parv, symbolising the pride of tribal communities and nation-building, will continue until October 2.
- The Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan, launched this year by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, is an initiative for the socio-economic development of tribal communities across the country.

► **National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025**

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has released the "National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025" to facilitate the exploration and development of untapped geothermal energy resources.
- The policy aims to establish geothermal energy as one of the major pillars of India's renewable energy landscape, reinforce the commitment to achieve the **2070 Net Zero Goal**, and ensure **energy security**.
- Geothermal energy refers to the heat and electricity produced by **using the heat from the interior of the Earth**. It is a **site-specific renewable source** of energy specifically suitable for catering to the energy needs of remote/interior localities.
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has mapped **381 hot springs** nationwide with surface temperatures between 35°C and 89°C.

► **National Makhana Board**

- On 15th September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Makhana Board in Purnea, Bihar.
- The announcement for the creation of the Makhana Board was made in the Union Budget 2025-26.
- The Centre is also establishing the National Institute of Food Technology in Bihar which will provide a strong fillip to makhana processing activities.
- Makhana, commonly known in English as fox nut, is the dried edible seed of the prickly water lily or gorgon plant (*Euryale ferox*). This plant is found in freshwater ponds throughout South and East Asia.
- Bihar accounts for approximately 90% of India's makhana production. This production is primarily concentrated in nine districts located in northern and eastern Bihar.
- In 2022, 'Mithila Makhana' was conferred a Geographical Indication tag.

► **World's largest bamboo-based ethanol plant**

- The world's largest bamboo-based ethanol plant was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in eastern Assam's Golaghat district on September 14.
- Two bamboo types from at least three of the eight northeastern States are used to run the ₹5,000-crore bioethanol plant optimally. These species are balco (*Bambusa balcooa*) and tulda (*Bambusa tulda*).

► **Form 7 of the Election Commission of India**

- Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that there were attempts to delete the names of 6,018 voters from the electoral rolls in Karnataka's Aland constituency in 2023.
- **Section 22 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1950**, empowers the Electoral registration officers (EROs) of Parliamentary constituencies to make corrections and deletions to the electoral roll either on their own or acting on applications made to them.
- The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, provide for the forms for new applications, corrections, and deletions from electoral rolls. **Form 7** is the one for making "objection for proposed inclusion/deletion of name in existing roll".
- Electors can file a Form 7 if they want to delete their own name or if they want to object to any other elector in their constituency.
- Form 7 requires the applicant to provide their own name, EPIC number and phone number, as well as the name, EPIC number (if available) and address of the person against whom they are objecting.

► **AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap and Frontier Tech Repository**

- NITI Aayog launched two transformative initiatives, **AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap: Opportunity for Accelerated Economic Growth** and **NITI Frontier Tech Repository** under its Frontier Tech Hub.
- The AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap delivers a clear, sector-specific action plan, while the Frontier Tech Repository inspires states and districts to scale technology for real-world impact.
- The Niti Aayog Frontier Tech Hub convenes leading experts across government, industry, and academia to assess frontier technologies—such as AI, quantum, and biotechnology—evaluate their opportunities and risks for India, and design strategies to harness them for Viksit Bharat@2047.
- Niti Aayog also launched the **Frontier 50 Initiative** to amplify grassroots adoption of technology and scale impact creation. It will support 50 Aspirational Districts / Blocks to pick use cases from the Repository and deploy those frontier technologies that have the potential to accelerate saturation of services across ADP/ABP themes.
- **NITI Frontier Tech Impact Awards for States** will recognize three states excelling in the use of tech to improve governance, education, healthcare, livelihood etc., and supporting them to scale measurable, transformative outcomes.

► **Public Safety Act (PSA)**

- The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP's) lone Jammu and Kashmir MLA, Mehraj Malik (Doda), became the first sitting legislator to be booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), a law promulgated in 1978 by then Chief Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.
- The legislation, which has been dubbed by human rights groups as “lawless law” and “fascist law”, allows the government to detain any person above the age of 18 without trial for a period of two years as an administrative measure.
- The power to issue detention orders under the PSA lies with the District Magistrate, who is also the Deputy Commissioner of the district concerned. Police first prepare a case file, known as a dossier – a form of chargesheet – against the accused and submit it to the District Magistrate. The dossier explains why a person needs to be detained under the PSA. Based on the dossier, the officer decides if the order to detain the accused must be issued or not.
- In rare instances, mostly concerning ordinary residents and not political leaders, District Magistrates return dossiers, rejecting police recommendations.



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► **Adi Vaani**

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has rolled out the Beta version of 'Adi Vaani', an **Artificial Intelligence (AI) based translation tool** that will serve as a foundation for large language models dedicated to tribal languages.
- Made using AI and efforts of academicians and educators proficient in tribal languages, the app will translate Hindi and English to tribal languages and vice-versa, and also aims to help digitize and preserve these languages.
- It was developed by a consortium led by the IIT-Delhi with Birla Institute of Technology and Science-Pilani, IIIT Naya Raipur, in collaboration with tribal research institutes in Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya.

► **Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh Limited**

- Recently, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh Limited.
- The objective of establishing the **Jeevika Nidhi** is to provide easy access to funds at affordable interest rates to community members associated with Jeevika. All registered cluster-level federations of Jeevika will become members of the Society.
- For the operation of this institution, the Government of Bihar as well as the Central government, will contribute funds. The Jeevika Nidhi has been conceived as an alternative financial system to reduce dependence on microfinance institutions and ensure the timely availability of larger loan amounts at lower interest rates.

► **Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement**

- The revised SoO agreement was signed between the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Manipur government, and 24 Kuki-Zo insurgent groups.
- The SoO agreement is essentially a tripartite ceasefire deal to initiate political dialogue. **Signed in 2008**, the agreement was between the Centre, the Manipur state government, and the KNO and the UPF, two umbrella groups comprising 24 separate Kuki-Zomi insurgent groups.
- After the conflict erupted in May, as insurgent groups on both sides of the Kuki-Meitei ethnic divide facilitated and participated in the violence, the agreement lapsed in 2024.



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ECONOMY

► New GST slabs

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council**, in its **56th meeting**, cleared the next-generation reforms under the eight-year-old indirect tax regime.
- It provided a two-slab structure of **5 per cent** and **18 per cent** with a demerit rate of 40 per cent rate only for super luxury, sin, and demerit goods.
- Sin goods are the products that are considered harmful to society, which may cause harm to health, or if they are considered harmful by a moral prism.
- All the rate changes, except those for tobacco and tobacco-related products, will come into effect from September 22.
- The GST regime came into force after the Constitutional (122nd Amendment) Bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament in 2016. It came into effect in 2017.
- The President set up the GST Council as a joint forum of the Centre and the states, under **Article 279A (1)** of the amended Constitution.

► BHARTI

- Recently, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched its new initiative, BHARATI. **BHARATI stands for Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.**
- It has been designed to empower 100 agri-food and agri-tech startups, accelerate their journey, promote innovation and create new export opportunities for young entrepreneurs.

► Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a **six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)**, comprising three nominees from the Central government, to oversee the functioning of payment systems in the country.
- The Board is chaired by RBI Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**. Alongside the Governor, the two other RBI representatives are the Deputy Governor and the Executive Director in charge of Payment and Settlement Systems.
- The PRB replaces the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS), a committee of the RBI's Central Board. The new board derives its authority from the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

► Zucman tax

- This is a kind of wealth tax proposed in France where rich groups will be taxed a 2% on their net worth. The proposed tax would target assets valued at over €100 mn (roughly \$118 mn). It would impact the country's top 1,800 households, the economist says, and could potentially generate €20 bn annually.

REPORTS & INDICES

► Global Burden of Disease (GBD) report

- In the latest Global Burden of Disease (GBD) report launched at the World Health Summit, Berlin, and published in The Lancet, the Non-communicable diseases (NCD) account for nearly two-thirds of the world's total mortality and morbidity.
- The leading NCDs are ischaemic heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.
- In India, the causes of death are shifting from infectious diseases to NCDs. According to the report, in 2023, ischaemic heart disease caused maximum deaths — age-standardized mortality rate (ASMR) rate at 127.82 per lakh population.
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder was the second leading cause of deaths in India in 2023 with ASMR rate at 99.25 per lakh, while the third was stroke with an ASMR rate of 92.88 per lakh in 2023.

► WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin

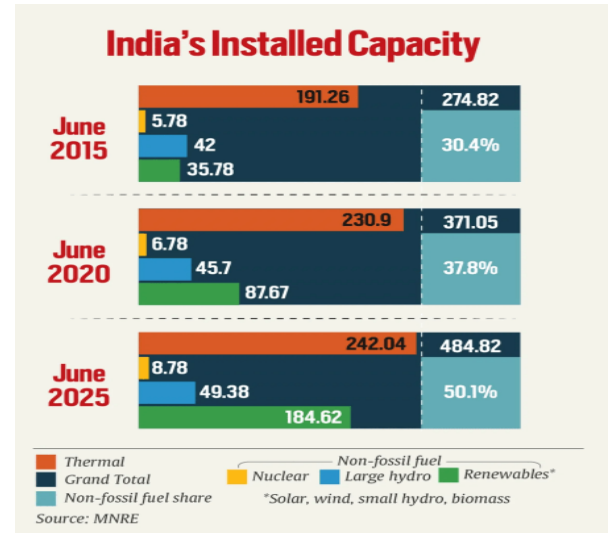
- According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, an annual publication, globally averaged surface concentrations of carbon dioxide had increased by 3.5 parts per million from the 2023 levels to reach 423.9 ppm in 2024, a record high.
- The year 2024 was also the warmest year ever recorded, with the global average temperature being 1.55 degrees Celsius higher than pre-industrial times.
- This was the first time that global temperatures had breached the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold.
- The current CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere, 423.9 ppm, is now 152% more than the pre-industrial levels of 278.3 ppm.
- CO₂ is known to have contributed about 66% of the warming that has happened since pre-industrial times, and about 79% in the last decade.
- Anthropogenic activities, increased human-linked sources, rise in wildfire incidents were being underscored, yet again, as the major contributors for pushing the levels of CO₂ during 2023 – 2024.



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► UK-based energy think tank Ember Report

- For the first time ever, **renewable energy eclipsed coal as the world's leading source of electricity**, according to new data from the UK-based energy think tank Ember.
- The **complex history of the Durand Line that divides Pakistan and Afghanistan**
- The Ember report, which analysed changes in global electricity generation from January to June 2025 compared with the same period last year, said that while coal fell in both China and India, the dip in India was deemed as “temporary” while it was cited as “more structural” in China.
- The Indian government data up to June 30 has also shown that non-fossil fuel sources in the country accounted for 50.1 per cent of its installed electricity capacity, displacing thermal.



► CPCB Report on river pollution

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) assessment report released recently reviewed the water quality data from 2022 and 2023, covering 2,116 locations. The last assessment of identifying polluted stretches was carried out in 2022, using data from 2019 and 2021.
- According to the report, Polluted River stretches in India have **decreased marginally from 311 to 296**, with a reduction in most polluted stretches as well.
- It found that **296 river stretches were polluted** on 271 rivers across 32 states and Union Territories. Maharashtra continues to have the highest number (54) of polluted river stretches.
- Out of 296 stretches identified as polluted, 37 were classified as the most polluted, or Priority I. BOD concentrations exceeding 30 mg/L are categorised as Priority I or the most polluted stretches.
- These 37 stretches were identified across 14 states, with the highest number, five, in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand; four in Gujarat, and three in Karnataka.

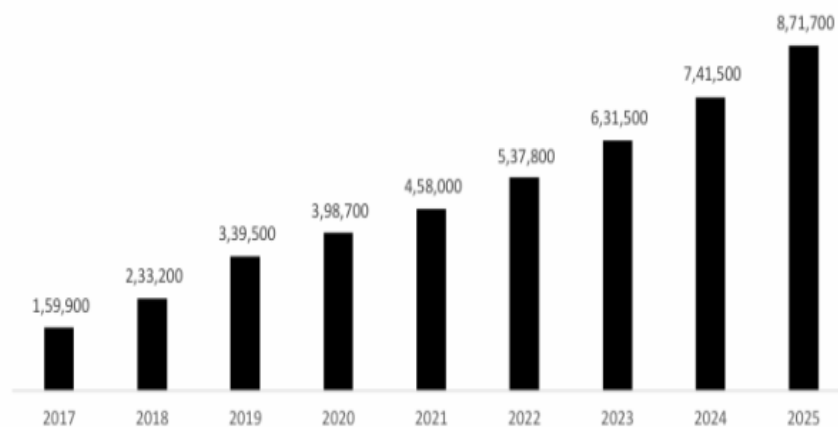
- A polluted river stretch refers to two or more polluted locations on a river in a continuous sequence.
- **Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)** is a key indicator of water quality. It measures the oxygen needed to break down organic matter. Any location/stretch of the river having a Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) of more than 3mg/l is identified as polluted and unsuitable for outdoor bathing.

► Global Innovation Index 2025

- The Global Innovative Index 2025 is published by the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**. It shows that R&D growth fell to 2.9 per cent in 2024 and is expected to drop further to 2.3 per cent in 2025.
- Switzerland is the world's most innovative country, followed by Sweden, the United States and others.
- Europe leads as the most innovative region, with 15 countries in the global top 25.
- India is ranked 38 and holds the **#1** spot among **lower-middle-income economies** and in the **Central and Southern Asia region**.
- India performs best in **Knowledge & Technology Outputs (#22)** and **Market Sophistication (#38)**, while its weakest rankings are in **Business Sophistication (#64)**, **Infrastructure (#61)**, and **Institutions (#58)**.

► Hurun India Wealth Report 2025

- According to the latest Mercedes-Benz Hurun India Wealth Report 2025, India is projected to have 871,700 millionaire families by 2025, each with a net worth of at least Rs 8.5 crore (US\$1 million).
- This marks a sharp jump from 159,900 in 2017 and 458,000 in 2021 — an increase of nearly 90 per cent over four years.
- Millionaire families now represent about 0.31 per cent of India's population. However, the report shows that wealth creation remains heavily concentrated.
- Maharashtra has consolidated its position as the country's richest state, home to 178,600 millionaire families — a 194 per cent rise since 2021. Mumbai is at the top among the cities, followed by New Delhi and Bangalore.



Source: Hurun Research Institute; Mercedes-Benz Hurun India Wealth Report 2025

► World Trade Report 2025

- According to the World Trade Report 2025 released by the **World Trade Organization**, artificial intelligence could boost the value of trade in goods and services by nearly 40% by 2040, but without adequate policies it could also exacerbate economic divides.
- Lower trade costs and enhanced productivity could drive substantial increases in trade and GDP by 2040, with global trade projected to rise by 34-37% under various scenarios.

► Sample Registration Survey Statistical Report for 2023

- Recently, the 2023 Sample Registration Survey carried out by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (ORGI), was released.
- It is the largest demographic survey in the country, mandated to provide annual estimates of fertility as well as mortality indicators at the State and National level.
- It shows India's **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** dropped more than 37 per cent in the last decade, from 40 deaths per 1,000 births in 2013 to 25 in 2023.
- India's **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** has fallen for the first time in two years to **1.9 in 2023**. In 2021 and 2022, India's TFR remained constant at 2.0. **Bihar** reported the **highest TFR at 2.8**, while **Delhi** recorded the lowest at 1.2
- India's **Crude Birth Rate (CBR)**, the number of children born per 1,000 people in the population in a year, during 2023 stands at 18.4, exhibiting a decline of 0.7 points over 2022. Among the bigger States/UTs, the maximum CBR has been reported in Bihar (25.8) and the minimum in Tamil Nadu (12.0).
- In 2023, the **Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR)** for the Country has shown a decline of 1 point from 2022 (29 in 2023 against 30 in 2022).
- India's **Sex Ratio at Birth** has gone up by 3 points to **917 in 2021-23** from 914 in 2020-22. The highest Sex Ratio was registered in Chhattisgarh (974) and Kerala (971), while Uttarakhand has the lowest (868).

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** According to the website of *OECD*, the total fertility rate in a specific year is defined as the total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates.
- **Crude Birth Rate (CBR):** According to the *WHO*, The crude birth rate is the annual number of live births per 1,000 population. It is generally computed as a ratio. The numerator is the number of live births observed in a population during a reference period and the denominator is the number of person-years lived by the population during the same period.
- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of a baby that occur between the time it is born and 1 year of age out of every 1,000 live births.
- **Under-5 Mortality Rate:** It is the number of children who die by the age of 5 years, per 1000 live births.

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► World Mental Health Today and Mental Health Atlas 2024

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has published two reports – ‘World Mental Health Today’ and ‘Mental Health Atlas 2024.’
- According to the report, Suicide accounts for **one in every 100 deaths globally**. An estimated 727,000 people across all ages lost their lives to suicide in 2021, with one suicide death happening in over 20 suicide attempts.
- The most common mental disorders are anxiety and depressive disorders, which together accounted for more than two-thirds of all mental health conditions in 2021.
- Younger adults aged 20–29 years are estimated to have the largest increases (1.8 per cent) in prevalence since 2011.
- **Males** are estimated to more commonly to have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorders, and idiopathic disorder of intellectual development.
- **Females** are estimated to more often experience anxiety, depressive, and eating disorders.

► India's Climate Finance Requirements: An Assessment

- The study, by Janak Raj and Rakesh Mohan of the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), is the first-of-its-kind bottoms-up sector-specific assessment of requirements of climate finance in India.
- According to the study, an additional investment of about **\$467 billion between now and 2030** would be needed to enable a significant decarbonisation of four of India's most emissions-intensive sectors – power, steel, cement and road transport sectors.
- The study assessed the steel sector's requirement till 2030 as \$251 billion and that of cement to be \$141 billion.
- The power sector, which is already undergoing a rapid transformation due to deployment of renewables, would need about \$47 billion additional investment until 2030, while road transport would require \$18 billion, the study said.
- The authors said the cumulative **\$467 billion** would help India not just easily achieve its international commitments for 2030 under the Paris Agreement, but advance much further on the road to low-carbon development.

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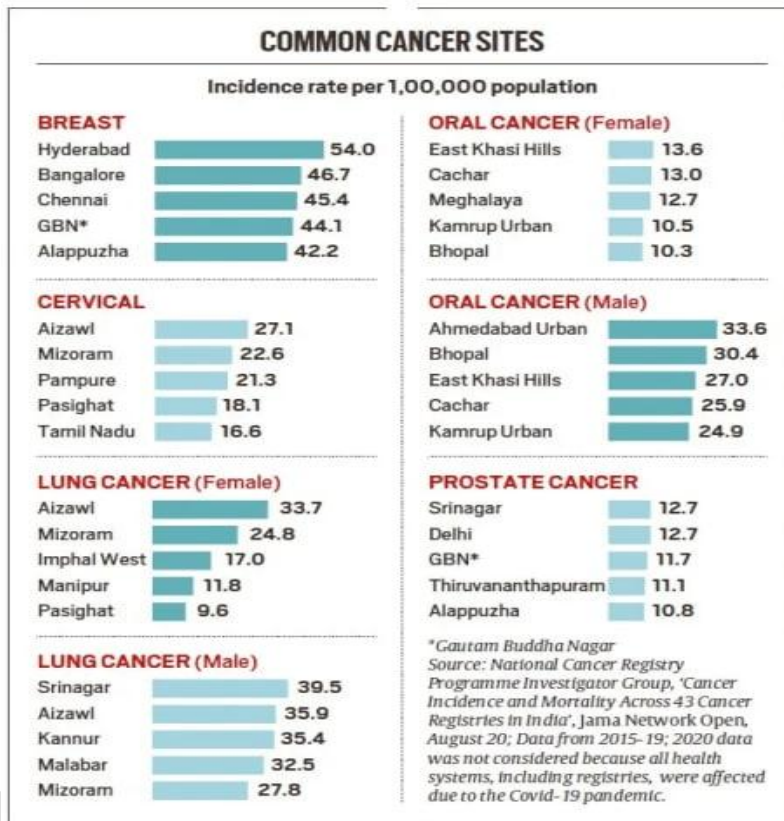


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► India's Cancer Map

- Key findings of an analysis by researchers from premier institutions, based on data collected from 43 cancer registries across the country between 2015 and 2019 — a period when 7.08 lakh cancer cases and 2.06 lakh deaths were recorded — provided a broader understanding of India's Cancer Map.
- Women accounted for a higher proportion of the total cancer cases (51.1%) recorded in the registries but a lower proportion of deaths (45%).
- Oral cancer** has overtaken lung cancer as the most common type of the disease among men.
- The incidence of cancers was the **highest in the Northeast**, with the highest occurrence of cervical cancer, lung cancer in women, and oral cancer in women all reported from states in this region.
- Breast and cervical cancers**, which together account for 40% of cases in women, are easier to detect early and have better outcomes.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

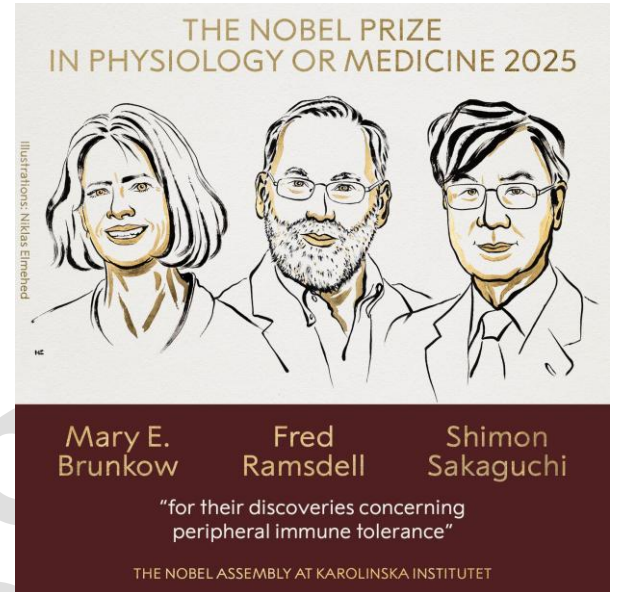
► South Atlantic Anomaly

- Using the data of 11 years from Swarm, an Earth Explorer mission developed under ESA's Earth Observation FutureEO programme, the scientists have discovered that the weak region in Earth's magnetic field over the **South Atlantic – known as the South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA)** – has expanded by an area nearly half the size of continental Europe since 2014.
- The SAA is caused by the "tilt of Earth's magnetic axis and the flow of molten metals within its outer core".
- Earth's magnetic field has a protective layer around the planet that keeps charged particles (solar particles) from the Sun at bay. Its protection is also extended to the satellites that orbit close to the Earth.

- However, the SAA causes these particles to dip closer to the surface than they are supposed to. This will result in interference in the data collection by knocking out satellites' computers.

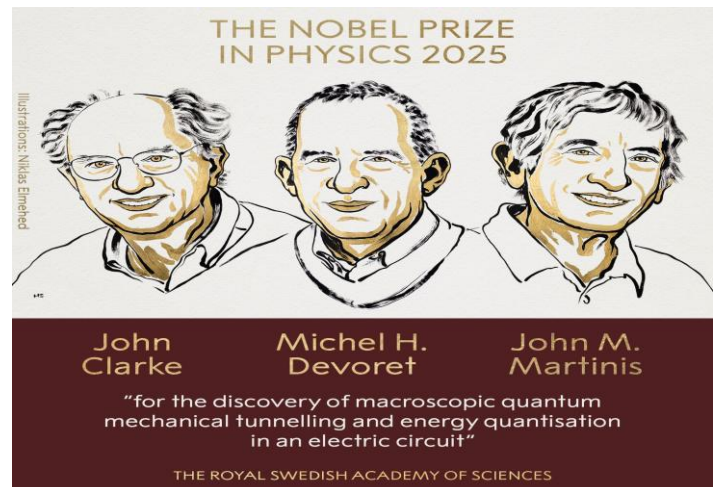
► Nobel Prize in Medicine

- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Japanese scientist **Shimon Sakaguchi**, and American scientists **Mary E Brunkow** and **Frederick Ramsdell**.
- They were awarded for their discoveries on peripheral immune tolerance which have been essential for understanding how the immune system functions, and key to developing therapies for cancers and autoimmune diseases.
- The immune system protects the body against diseases by neutralising disease-causing pathogens like bacteria and viruses. A special type of white blood cell, called T-cells are key to this process, which distinguish between the cells of the pathogen and the host body.
- When this does not happen properly, it leads to auto-immune diseases, in which the T-cells start damaging the body's own cells. When it is overactive, it prevents other T cells from killing the cancerous cells.
- Sakaguchi identified a special group of T-cells, called regulatory T-cells, or Tregs, that suppresses the activity of other T-cells if they had a propensity to attack the body's own tissues. — Brunkow and Ramsdell later discovered the gene that enables some T-cells to function as Tregs. Together, they complete the picture of the immune system.

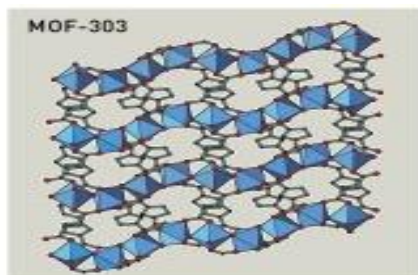


► Nobel Prize in Physics

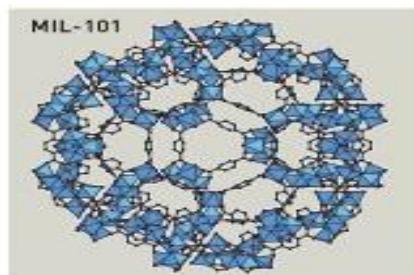
- John Clarke, Michel Devoret and John Martinis have been awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics "for the discovery of macroscopic **quantum mechanical tunnelling** and energy quantisation in an electric circuit".
- Their studies revolutionised the understanding of quantum tunnelling — the ability of particles, such as electrons, to move or tunnel through barriers. This is somewhat akin to throwing a ball onto a wall and finding it across the other side of the structure, which remains unscathed.



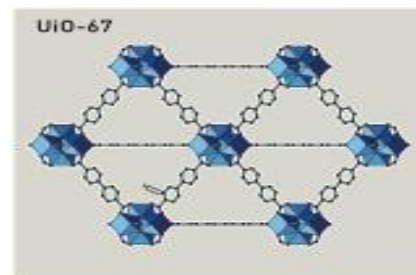
► Nobel Prize in Chemistry



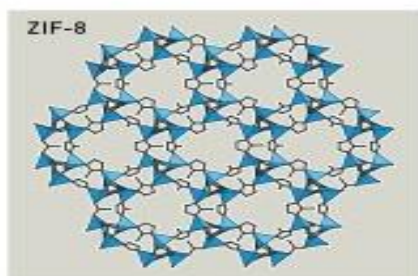
MOF-303 can capture water vapour from desert air during the night. When the sun heats up the material in the morning, potable water is released.



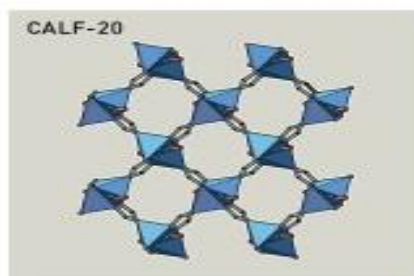
MIL-101 has gigantic cavities. It has been used to catalyse the decomposition of crude oil and antibiotics in polluted water. It can also be used to store large quantities of hydrogen or carbon dioxide.



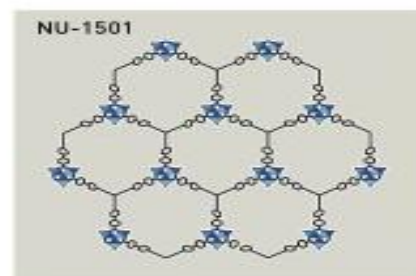
UIO-67 can absorb PFAS from water, which makes it a promising material for water treatment and the removal of pollutants.



ZIF-8 has been used experimentally for mining rare-earth elements from wastewater.



CALF-20 has an exceptional capacity to absorb carbon dioxide. It is being tested in a factory in Canada.

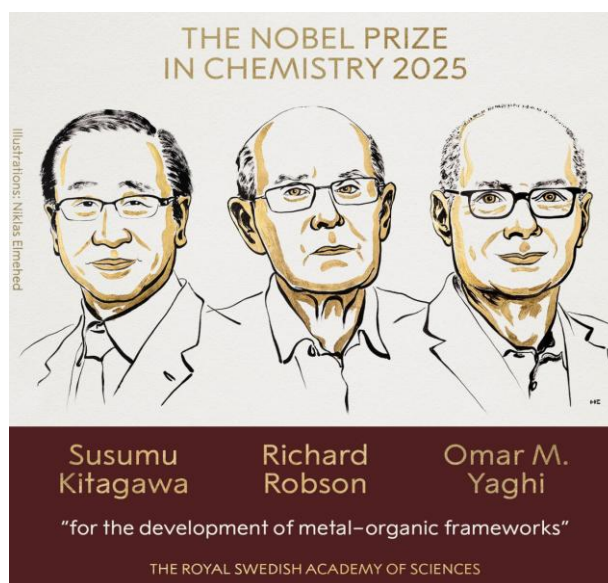


NU-1501 has been optimised to store and release hydrogen at normal pressure. Hydrogen can be used to fuel vehicles, but in ordinary high-pressure tanks the gas is extremely explosive.

©Johan Jarnestad/The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

The electronics industry can now use MOF materials to contain some of the toxic gases required to produce semiconductors.

- Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar Yaghi are awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025. They have developed a new form of molecular architecture.
- They are credited for creating novel materials in which atoms and molecules are linked in a way that leaves large, neatly arranged open spaces inside the molecular structure.
- In their constructions, metal ions function as cornerstones that are linked by long organic (carbon-based) molecules. Together, the metal ions and molecules are organised to form crystals that contain large cavities. These porous materials are called metal–organic frameworks (MOF).



- This design allows gases and liquids to flow through, making MOFs highly adaptable for various applications (water harvesting, pollutant removal, carbon capture, and hydrogen storage).

► **RAT system on Air India Boeing 787**

- In Air India flight AI-117, flying from Amritsar to Birmingham in the UK, the ram air turbine (RAT)—a last-resort emergency power system—of the Boeing 787-8 aircraft deployed on its own, even as all electrical and hydraulic parameters were found to be normal and the pilots did not spot any abnormality with the plane.
- In modern aircraft, the RAT deploys automatically during grave emergencies involving total electrical failure, a debilitating hydraulic failure, or a dual engine failure, considered to be the rarest of rare scenarios. Pilots may also deploy it manually.
- The RAT, a critical system, is essentially a wind turbine stowed in a compartment on the underside of the Boeing 787's fuselage, just behind the aircraft's wing. It deploys into the airstream to generate power only when primary and secondary power sources fail.
- The RAT generates power from the airstream by injecting ram pressure, which is created by the forward motion of the aircraft, and depends on the plane's speed at the time.
- In the event of total power failure, the RAT helps power vital systems, including flight controls, flight-critical instrumentation, navigation, and communication equipment. The RAT, however, is not a substitute for engine power.

► **Phosphine on brown dwarf**

- On a brown dwarf, called Wolf 1130C, dozens of light years from Earth, astronomers have detected trace amounts of phosphine, a molecule that is produced by living things on Earth.
- Phosphine, a molecule made of three hydrogen atoms and one phosphorus atom, is tricky to create and easy to destroy. On Earth, it is largely made by microbial life in swamp plants and animal intestines.
- Brown dwarfs are often called “failed stars” because they share some similarities with stars and others with planets. These objects form like stars from collapsing clouds of gas and dust. However, they do not have enough mass to consistently fuse hydrogen, a process that heats a star and makes it shine.

► **India wins Exclusive rights to explore Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS)**

- India has signed a contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exclusive rights to explore Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS) in the **Carlsberg Ridge in the Indian Ocean**.
- With this, India has become the first country in the world to have two contracts with the ISA for PMS exploration. The **earlier contract is in the Central Indian Ridge and Southwest Indian Ridge**, signed in 2016.
- Goa-based National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) will carry out the PMS exploration in 2026.

What is PMS?

- Polymetallic Sulphides are deposits on the ocean floor, rich in strategic and critical metals such as copper, zinc, lead, gold, and silver, along with trace amounts of rare and precious elements.
- PMS deposits are generally found near hydrothermal vents, which are like hot springs on the ocean floor.
- The cold seawater interacts with the magma through these vents, and is expelled back in a hot gush. This expelled water is rich in minerals, which are then deposited on the ocean floor as solids.

► Diethylene Glycol

- In Madhya Pradesh, authorities have ordered the immediate stoppage of sales and distribution of a cough syrup after it was allegedly found to contain a poisonous substance linked to child deaths in the state's Chhindwara district.
- The analysis found that the syrup contained 48.6 percent by volume of **Diethylene Glycol**, a toxic industrial chemical, that may render the contents injurious to health.
- Diethylene Glycol is an industrial solvent used in antifreeze, paints, brake fluids, and plastics. It is not meant for medicines.
- It is a colorless and odorless impurity of propylene glycol that is highly toxic and has caused poisoning epidemics since the early 20th century, making it prohibited in food and drugs due to its adverse effects on humans.

► “Smog-eating” photocatalytic coatings

- The Delhi government will conduct a time-bound feasibility study on the use of “smog-eating” photocatalytic coatings on roads, pavements and public spaces to reduce pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and harmful hydrocarbons.
- The field trials and evaluation of titanium oxide (TiO₂)-based surfaces will be carried out.
- Experts have noted that using titanium dioxide as a coating has its advantages for being low-cost and chemically stable. It is also known for its compatibility with traditional construction materials.

► 2025 PN7

- The 2025 PN7 asteroid was spotted this summer. It has an orbit that's similar to Earth's trajectory around the Sun. It is known as a **quasi-moon** and could be the smallest of its kind, perhaps no longer than 52 feet.
- Quasi-moons orbit the Sun, not Earth, spending hundreds or thousands of years in lockstep with Earth's orbit. This protracted proximity makes them good targets for planetary science missions.
- Earth has several mini-moons as well. Mini-moons are objects that orbit our planet, but they make for fickle fans: they tend to swing around Earth only for a few months.

► Gyanex

- Gyanex is the Gaganyaan Analog Experiments. Before it sends the actual human spaceflight mission under the Gaganyaan programme, the ISRO has been conducting simulation missions — known as ‘analog’ experiments — during which selected astronauts are spending several days in confined spacecraft-like conditions.
- Apart from getting the astronauts accustomed to space-like conditions, these experiments are meant to help ISRO develop protocols for processes such as communication and resource management for a human space mission.
- The only thing missing in these Gaganyaan Analog Experiments, or Gyanex, is the absence of gravity.
- During the Gyanex missions, the astronaut designates, and others, live in a confined crew module and space station, carrying out all activities that the astronauts would have to do in space, including following the routine and conducting scientific experiments. The participants have access to only things that would be available on the space station or crew module. And, during this period, they eat the food developed by DRDO.
- These experiments are being conducted in a static mock-up simulator, a model of the spacecraft, in Bangalore.

► Jarosite Mineral in Matanomadh

- **Matanomadh**, a thinly populated village nearly 100 km west of Bhuj town in **Gujarat’s** Kutch district, might end up as a potential test bed for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) ahead of its Mangalyaan-2 mission to Mars.
- Recently, the **jarosite mineral** found in Matanomadh in 2016 was confirmed to be around 55 million years old, corresponding with the Paleocene period in the geological timeline.
- The dating of this mineral, found in a few rock structures in Matanomadh, suggests that there was a similar geological occurrence on both the planets millions of years ago.
- The Matanomadh site could thus offer field-analogue missions for Mars, where rover motion, instrument testing, drilling, and geochemistry experiments could be performed.
- ISRO has been trying to simulate the living conditions and environment of Mars and Moon in a desolate high-altitude village in Ladakh through its **HOPE (Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration) mission**.

What is Jarosite?

— Jarosite is a **yellow-coloured, iron-rich sulphate mineral**, first discovered on Mars in 2004 by NASA's **Opportunity mission**. It was initially detected at the **Meridiani Planum** landing site and later found in multiple other regions on the Martian surface.

On Earth, jarosite forms when minerals containing **oxygen, iron, sulphur, and potassium** interact in the right conditions, especially in the **presence of water**.

Why is its Discovery Important?

— The discovery of jarosite is significant because it gives scientists valuable insights into the **surface and chemical history of Mars**. It suggests that **liquid water once existed** on the planet — a key factor in understanding its **habitability and geological evolution**.

— Studying jarosite on Earth allows researchers to simulate **Mars-like environments**, enabling **mineralogy and biochemistry experiments** that parallel those planned for future Mars missions.

► Vikram 32-bit Chip

- India has marked a milestone in its chip-making journey at the Semicon India 2025 with the launch of its first fully 'made in India' 32-bit microprocessor, named Vikram.
- Vikram-32 is **India's first fully homegrown 32-bit microprocessor**, built by ISRO's Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL).
- The device can operate over a large temperature range -55°C to +125°C and it is packaged in a hermetic sealed 181 pin grid array package.

► Spyware 'graphite'

- Recently, the Trump administration has unfrozen a stalled Biden-era contract with Paragon Solutions, a spyware company founded in Israel. With this, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can gain access to the company's powerful hacking software — **known as Graphite**.
- Graphite is designed to gain remote access to a mobile phone and essentially take control of it.
- The user of the spyware can not only access the mobile user's photos, read their messages, and track their whereabouts, but also monitor encrypted messages sent on platforms such as WhatsApp and Signal.
- The spyware also enables the phone to be used as a listening device by manipulating its recorder.

► Ebola

- The 16th outbreak of Ebola in Congo is suspected of causing 15 deaths among 28 people with symptoms.
- The Ebola virus can spread quickly and be fatal in up to 90% of cases. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain and at times internal and external bleeding.
- According to the WHO, the **Ebola virus** is transmitted to people from wild animals (such as fruit bats, porcupines and non-human primates) and then spreads in the human population through

direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people, and with contaminated objects such as sheets.

- The Ebola virus was first described in **1976** near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Ebolavirus is one of 3 members of the **Filoviridae family (filovirus)**, along with genus Marburgvirus and Cuevavirus

DEFENCE / SECURITY

► BrahMos missiles

- Recently, the **first batch of supersonic BrahMos missiles** manufactured at the Lucknow unit of BrahMos Aerospace Limited was flagged off.
- Lucknow facility was inaugurated in May at a cost of Rs 380 crore over 200 acres, which has manufactured and delivered its first batch of missiles in just five months.
- BrahMos is considered an extremely versatile 'fire and forget' type missile, which has proved its capabilities across its land-based, ship-based, air-launched and submarine-based versions.
- It is a two-stage cruise missile with a solid propellant booster engine.

► LCA Tejas Mk 1 A

- The indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk 1A undertook its first public sortie at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) facility in Nashik on 17th October, 2025.
- LCA Tejas is a **4.5 generation**, all-weather and multi-role fighter aircraft. India is currently developing its own fifth-generation aircraft with Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
- Currently, only the US (F-22 and F-35), Russia (Sukhoi Su-57), and China (Chengdu J-20) have developed operational **fifth-generation aircraft**.

► Agni-Prime missile

- In a first-of-its-kind launch, India successfully carried out the test firing of the Agni-Prime (Agni-P) missile from a rail-based mobile launcher system. Thus far, **only Russia**, the **US**, **China**, and possibly **North Korea** had the capability of launching long-range ballistic missiles from rail-based platforms.
- It has the capability to move on the Rail network without any pre-conditions, which allows the User to have cross-country mobility and launch within a short reaction time with reduced visibility.
- The mass of the Agni-P missile is **11,000 kg**, and it is a **two-stage solid-fuel propelled missile**. It has an operational range of 1,000 km to 2,000 km. It can carry high explosive, thermobaric, or nuclear warheads.

► Cold Start Exercise

- In the first week of October, the Army, Navy, and Air Force will conduct a joint exercise to test drones and counter-drone systems. It is named 'Cold Start' and likely to be conducted in Madhya Pradesh.

► Konkan-25

- The first-ever India-UK Carrier Strike Group maritime exercise named Konkan-25 began on October 5. Carriers are warships that can serve as airbases, too.
- The Indian Navy's carrier strike group, led by the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, and the United Kingdom Royal Navy's Carrier Strike Group (CSG), led by HMS Prince of Wales is participating in the exercise.
- The exercise is named after India's strategically crucial Konkan coastal region. It is undertaken every two years to enhance joint maritime and air capabilities between the Indian and UK navies on the high seas.
- While the exercise has been biennial since 2004, this edition marks the first time that a British and Indian Carrier Strike Group are participating together. The exercise is being conducted in two phases: Sea phase and Harbour phase.
- Notably, UK CSG is currently on an eight-month multinational deployment known as Operation Highmast.

► MiG-21 bows out

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) on September 26 bid farewell to its iconic MiG-21 fighter jets. Marking the occasion, Rajnath Singh released a special commemorative day cover and stamp honouring the legacy of MiG-21.
- India procured more than 700 MiG-21 aircraft of different variants from Russia, such as the Type-77, Type-96, BIS and the Bison, since the aircraft's induction in the IAF in 1963.
- The MiG-21s are among the six fighter jets flown by the Indian Air Force (IAF), and have for long been the backbone of the IAF.
- The MiG-21s are single-engine, single-seater multi-role fighter/ground attack aircraft. While they were first inducted in 1963 as an interceptor aircraft, over the next few decades, they were upgraded to perform a variety of roles performed by a fighter aircraft, including ground attack.

► Air Defence (AD) radars

- The Army has sought to procure a range of **advanced air defence (AD) radars** — 45 Low Level Light Weight Radars (Enhanced), up to 48 Air Defence Fire Control Radar-Drone Detectors (ADFCR-DD), and 10 Low Level Light Weight Radars (Improved)
- These AD radars can detect, track, and engage aerial objects with small radar cross-sections (RCS), like the Pakistani drones which infiltrated Indian airspace in May.

- Radar is the acronym for RAdio Detection And Ranging. It is a specialised electronic system that uses radio waves to determine the direction, distance, and velocity of target objects. AD radars are used by the military to search, detect, identify, and help destroy aerial threats.
- A radar comprises two basic components: a transmitter which sends out radio signals, and a receiver which collects any reflected signals from a target.
- There are primarily two kinds of AD radars: **surveillance radars** and **fire control radars**.
- Surveillance radars are not directly connected to any anti-aircraft weapon system unlike fire control radars, which help surface-to-air guns or missiles target aerial threats.
- RCS, or radar signature, is a measure of how detectable an object is by radar, usually represented in square metres; larger the RCS, greater the detectability.

► **New Defence Procurement Manual**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025 — the document governing defence revenue procurements including those for spares and ammunition — which adds a new chapter to promote self-reliance through innovation and indigenisation, among other changes.
- Last promulgated in 2009, this manual was under revision in the Ministry in consultation with the Armed Forces and other stakeholders.

► **‘Samudra Pradakshina’**

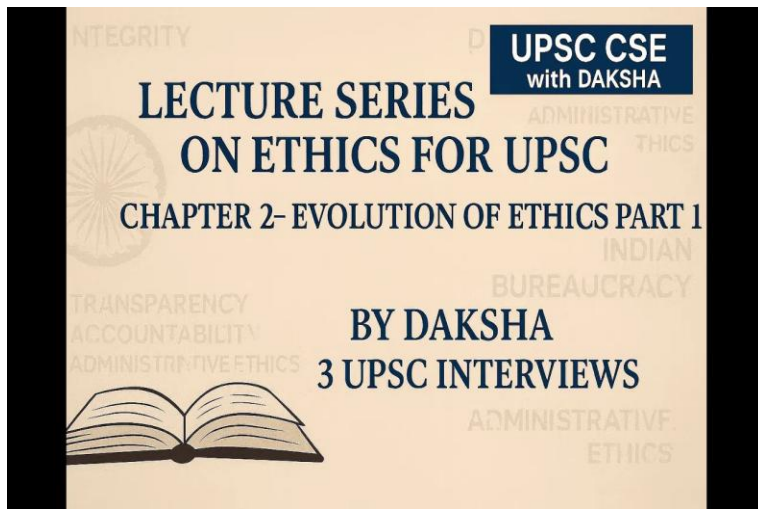
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually flagged off ‘Samudra Pradakshina’ — a historic and first Tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition from the Gateway of India in Mumbai.
- In the expedition, 10 women officers from the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force aboard the indigenously-built Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni will cover over 26,000 nautical miles across the globe for nine months, braving treacherous waters, freezing winds and unpredictable storms. The 50-foot yacht Triveni has been indigenously-built in Puducherry.
- The crew, which set sail from Mumbai, will cross the Equator twice, round the three great Capes (Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and Cape of Good Hope) and cover all the major oceans, including the Southern Ocean and the Drake Passage.
- The crew will also make four port calls at Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Cape Town (South Africa) and is scheduled to return to Mumbai in May 2026.

► **‘Ghost Bat’ drone**

- The two onyx-colored aircraft took off within a minute of each other, disappearing over an expanse of red desert stippled with low shrubbery. The aircraft were MQ-28A Ghost Bats, 38-foot-long military drones that function as robot wingmen of sorts.
- Australia is investing heavily to develop and produce these so-called collaborative combat aircraft, which will help the country defend its shores at a time when military threats are

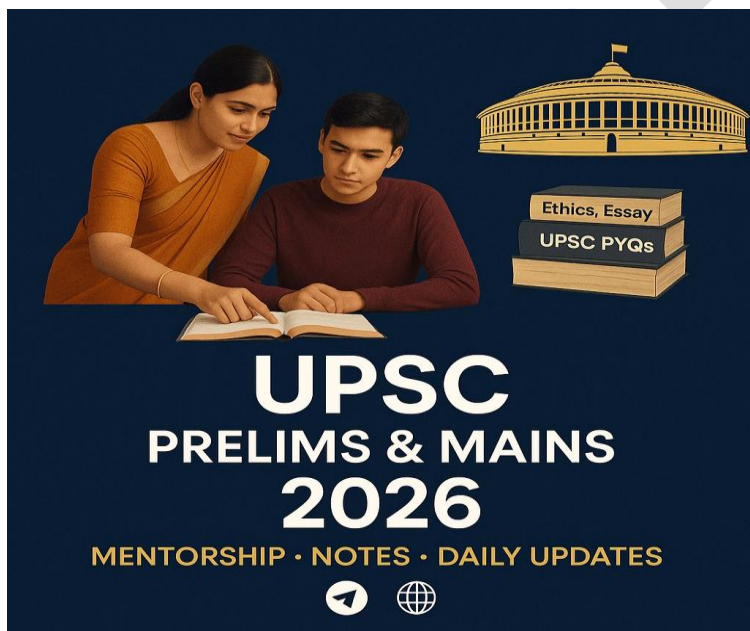
encroaching ever closer and wiping out what was once its strongest bulwark against potential conflict: distance.

- Australia has invested about \$650 million so far in a partnership with Boeing to develop the drones, which will be the first to be designed and manufactured in Australia in more than half a century.
- It is a tidal shift for the close American ally, which after decades of relying on the United States for its military equipment is trying to jump start its defense industry, one that had atrophied since the end of the Cold War.



Watch Here:

[<https://youtu.be/EzSryMQkUKY>]



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ENVIRONMENT

► Synchronous All India Elephant Estimation (SAIEE) 2021-25

- The Synchronous All India Elephant Estimation (SAIEE) 2021-25 was released on October 14 in Dehradun by officials of the Union Environment Ministry and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

- The estimation reported **22,446 elephants in the country**, primarily concentrated across the Western Ghats in the southern states, and the hills and plains of the Northeast.

- Among states, **Karnataka** continues to be home to the largest elephant population, 6013, followed by Assam (4,159), Tamil Nadu (3,136), Kerala (2,785), Uttarakhand (1,792), and Odisha (912).

- The Brahmagiri – Nilgiri – Eastern Ghats block is home to the largest sub-population in Western Ghats.

- Compared to the 2017 numbers, the estimated population of elephants has dipped by nearly 18%, with the highest dip seen across the Northeast Region and Central India and Eastern Ghats region. Jharkhand and Odisha have seen a 68% and 54% drop, respectively, compared to the 2017 estimate.

- The endangered Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is an **endangered species**. It has been on the IUCN Red List, which details the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species, since 1986.

State/Landscape	Population
Karnataka	6,013
Tamil Nadu	3,136
Kerala	2,785
Western Ghats	11934
Jharkhand	217
Odisha	912
Madhya Pradesh	97
Chhattisgarh	451
Maharashtra (Western Ghats & Gadchiroli)	63
West Bengal (South)	31
Andhra Pradesh	120
Central India & Eastern Ghats	1,891
Uttarakhand	1,792
Uttar Pradesh	257
Bihar	13
Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains	2,062
Arunachal Pradesh	617
Assam	4,159
Manipur	9
Meghalaya	677
Mizoram	16
Nagaland	252
Tripura	153
West Bengal (North)	676
North Eastern Hills & Brahmaputra Flood Plains	6,559
Total	22,446

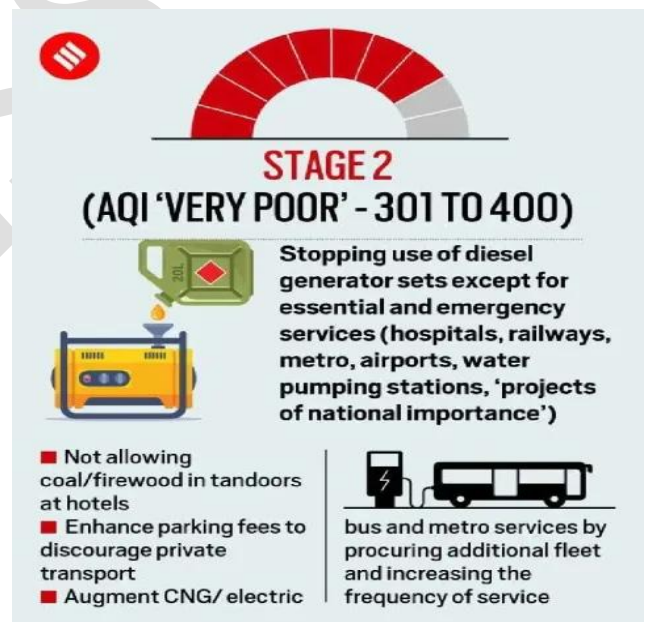
► Green Crackers

- Recently, the Supreme Court has relaxed the absolute ban on the sale and use of firecrackers in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), allowing government-approved “green crackers” on a “test case basis”.

- The term 'green cracker' does not mean it is pollution-free. It refers to a formulation developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and NEERI to have a reduced environmental impact compared to traditional firecrackers.
- Green crackers do not contain harmful chemicals like barium nitrate, arsenic, lithium, and mercury. They exclude barium compounds and have drastically reduced aluminium and sulphur content. They are designed to release water vapour or dust suppressants that trap a portion of the particulate matter generated.
- They have a lower noise intensity, capped at 120 decibels.
- Manufacturers must obtain a licence from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation and a certificate from CSIR-NEERI to produce and sell them.
- Three types of green crackers have been developed – SWAS (Safe Water Releasable), STAR (Safe Thermite Cracker), and SAFAL (Safe Minimal Aluminium).

► Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- Pollution levels in Delhi spiked sharply through Diwali night, with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) real-time data showing PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations breaching safe limits by 15 to 18 times across several stations.
- The Commission for Air Quality Management in Delhi-NCR has already ordered the implementation of actions under Stage II of the GRAP following the deterioration in the air quality to 'very poor' on Diwali eve.
- The GRAP is a set of emergency measures that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once it reaches a certain threshold.
- Stage 1 of GRAP is activated when the AQI is in the 'poor' category (201 to 300). The second, third and fourth stages will be activated three days ahead of the AQI reaching the 'very poor' category (301 to 400), 'severe' category (401 to 450) and 'severe +' category (above 450), respectively.



► IUCN World Conservation Congress

- The IUCN World Conservation Congress is taking place in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**, from 9 to 15 October 2025.
- It is organised every **four years**, which enables IUCN's more than 1,400 Member organisations to democratically determine the most pressing issues in nature conservation and actions to address them to help guide humanity's relationship with our planet.

- The IUCN is a global organization comprising 160 member countries and hundreds of civil society groups that work together towards environmental and biodiversity protection.

► National Red List

- Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh unveiled the roadmap for the national-level five-year (2025-2030) assessment on the first day of the World Congress of the IUCN at Abu Dhabi.
- According to the assessment plan, the aim is to establish a nationally coordinated, participatory, and **upgradable 'Red Listing' system** that accurately reflects the conservation status of India's biodiversity.
- It will assess the extinction risk of approximately 11,000 species, including 7,000 kinds of flora and 4,000 types of fauna — across the country to prepare a 'national red list'..

► India's first dugong conservation reserve

- The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 has adopted a motion to recognise India's first dugong conservation reserve in **Tamil Nadu's Palk Bay** as a global model for marine biodiversity conservation.
- The reserve, the first of its kind in the country, lies in the northern Palk Bay, which harbours more than 12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows. These meadows are critical feeding grounds for dugongs.
- The dugong (*Dugong dugon*), also called the **sea cow**, is a herbivorous mammal. They can grow upto three meters long, weigh about 300 kilograms, and live for about 65 to 70 years, grazing on seagrass and coming to the surface to breathe.
- They are found in over 30 countries, and in India, are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Dugongs are listed as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- It is listed in **Appendix I** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which prohibits the trade of the species and its parts.

► Dams in Damodar Valley

- The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal is targeting the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), the Central agency that oversees dams along the Damodar river, for releasing water into the state and creating a "man-made flood".
- DVC is a **statutory body** set up in 1948 which manages the larger Damodar

Dams in the Damodar Valley



Map data: © OSM • Created with Datawrapper

Valley Project that was the first multipurpose river valley development project in India.

- —,The corporation oversees several dams and hydroelectric and thermal power plants in the Damodar river region that is spread across West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- The DVC is led by a **seven-member board** that includes the chairman, four DVC members, and one representative each from the governments of the Centre, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

► Chrysanthemums

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has begun work on an exclusive **chrysanthemum (or Gul-e-Dawood)** garden at the Srinagar Botanical Garden, adjacent to the famed Tulip Garden.
- A native of East Asia and Europe — and Japan's national flower — the chrysanthemum is a perennial herbaceous plant that blooms in autumn.

► World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

- The **Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (CDBR)** in Himachal Pradesh, along with 25 other biosphere reserves across several countries, has been included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) by UNESCO.
- With this addition, India now has **13 biospheres listed in WNBR**.
- CDBR is in the Trans-Himalayan region that encompasses the entire Spiti Wildlife Division and adjoining areas of the Lahaul Forest Division, including Baralacha Pass, Bharatpur, and Sarchu with altitudes ranging from 3,300 to 6,600 m.
- It integrates Pin Valley National Park, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandratat Wetland, and the Sarchu plains, encompassing windswept plateaus, glacial valleys, alpine lakes, and high-altitude desert making it one of the coldest and driest ecosystems in WNBR.

► Dragonfly

- During the three-day survey on dragonflies at seven biodiversity parks in New Delhi registered a 54 per cent increase in the number of dragonflies.
- At the Yamuna Biodiversity Park, **Yellow-tailed Ashy Skimmer** (*Potamarcha congener*) has been recorded for the first time.
- Dragonflies and damselflies are **bioindicators** or species whose presence tracks wetland health. Their larval stages require clean, well-oxygenated water, and both larvae and adults are voracious mosquito predators.
- A single dragonfly is reported to eat 30-100 mosquitoes per day, underscoring its importance, especially after floods.
- The International Union for the Conservation of Nature, in its global assessment in 2021, found that 16% of 6,016 species of dragonflies and damselflies are at risk of extinction, with their freshwater breeding grounds having plummeted.

► Wildlife week 2025

- Wildlife Week is annually celebrated from **October 2 to 8** to raise mass awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation and ecological balance. This year's celebrations are being organized under the theme of **Sewa Parv**, aligning with the broader spirit of service and responsibility towards nature.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, along with Haryana Cabinet Minister Shri Rao Narbir Singh, laid the foundation stone of 'Namo Van' at Manesar on the occasion. The occasion was also marked by a plantation drive under the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'.

► Cyclone Shakhti

- Cyclone Shakhti, which developed in the Arabian Sea, has further intensified into a 'severe' storm on 4th October, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- As the storm, the first to develop in the **North Indian Ocean basin** in 2025, has moved significantly away from the Indian coast, there is no direct threat to the west coast.
- Cyclone Shakhti, was located 420 km west of Dwarka, 420 km west-southwest of Naliya, and 290 km south-southwest of Karachi in Pakistan.
- The cyclone has been named Shakhti, a name **suggested by Sri Lanka** as per the convention followed by the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.
- The North Indian Ocean basin, comprising the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, is prone to cyclones during the pre-monsoon (March to May) and the post-monsoon (October to December) periods.

► Super Typhoon Ragasa

- Recently, Typhoon Ragasa, one of the strongest storms to hit Asia in years, made landfall in South China's Yangjiang, in Guangdong province.
- A super typhoon is a very violent storm, equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane, packing winds of 253km/h (157 mph), BBC News highlighted.
- Typhoons, including a super typhoon, generally form in the West Pacific, close to places like China, Japan, and the Philippines, it noted. It is locally known as Nando in the Philippines.

► New Ramsar sites from Bihar

- Two sites from Bihar — **Gokul Jalashay** (448 hectares) in Buxar district and **Udaipur Jheel** (319 hectares) in West Champaran district — were declared Ramsar sites.
- This brings the total to **93 Ramsar Sites**, spanning 13,60,719 hectares, underscoring India's resolve to safeguard its rich wetland ecosystems for biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.

► Sahyadri Tiger Reserve

- The Union Environment Ministry has approved the capture of eight tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari and Pench reserves for their translocation to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve in western Maharashtra, a move aimed at reviving the big cat's population in the northern Western Ghats.
- The ministry's approval is learnt to have come after the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), which is working with the Sahyadri reserve's field staff, gave a positive appraisal of the preparations to host translocated tigers.

Initially, two tigresses will be translocated from the Tadoba Tiger Reserve, said Tushar Chavan, the field director of the Sahyadri reserve.

- The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, named after the Sahyadri range in the Western Ghats, is spread over 1,165 sq km, straddling Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Ratnagiri districts. It was notified in 2010, combining the Chandoli National Park and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary area.
- The technical committee of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had recommended approval for the translocation project in October 2023. The translocation is part of the second phase of the long-term tiger recovery plan being implemented in the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. In the initial stage, the state forest department and WII worked to strengthen the forest habitat and prey base.
- V Clement Ben, the Central Zoo Authority's member secretary and a former director of STR, said the revival of tigers in Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is also crucial to protect the dense forests and watershed of rivers. "It will also help maintain connectivity of tiger habitats between northern Western Ghats and the tiger forests to the south in Goa and Karnataka," he said.
- As per the NTCA's management effectiveness evaluation of tiger reserves, the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve forms the catchment for Koyna and Warna rivers, which are crucial for livelihoods in neighbouring districts.

PLACES IN NEWS

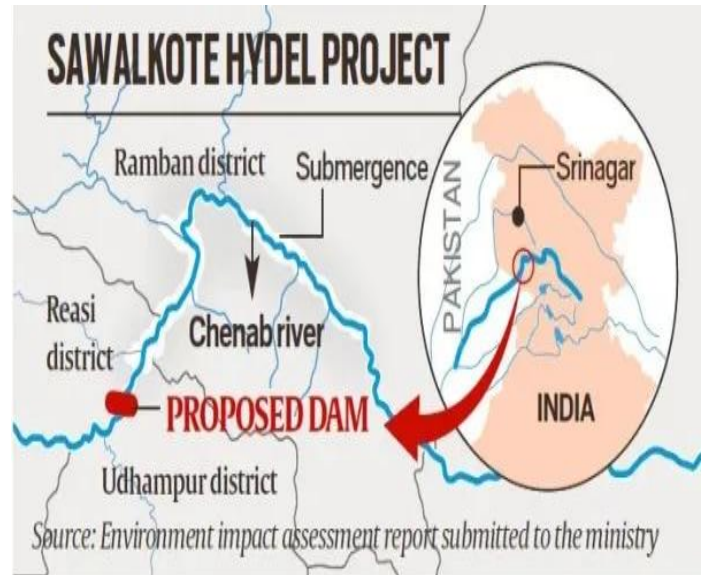
► Port on the Arabian Sea in Balochistan

- Recently, Pakistan has offered a port on the Arabian Sea in Balochistan, close to the Chinese-developed Gwadar port, to the US.
- The port in the small, coastal fishing town of Pasni — about 70 miles from Gwadar and 100 miles from the Pakistan-Iran border — is being pitched as a terminal to ship Pakistan's critical minerals.

► Sawalkote Dam

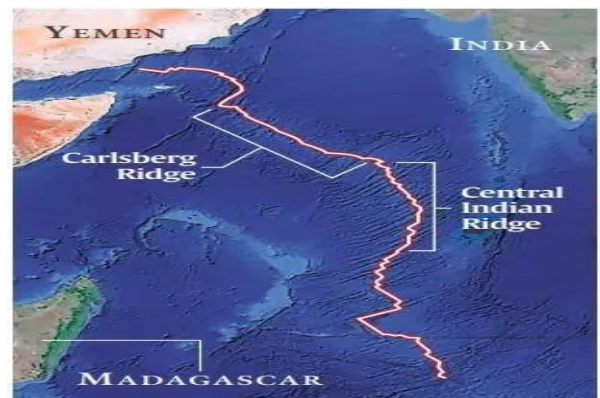
- The **Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project** has received a major boost after the **Union Environment Ministry's Expert Panel on Hydropower Projects** recommended it for **environmental clearance**.
- The **project**, with a total **installed capacity of 1,865 MW**, will be developed by **NHPC Ltd** in **Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- It will be one of the **largest hydropower projects** on the **west-flowing Chenab River**.

- The **Chenab River**, the largest tributary of the Indus River, has a total length of 1,180 km in India.
- It is formed by the confluence of the **Chandra and Bhaga rivers** at **Tandi** in **Keylong, Himachal Pradesh**.
- The **Chenab basin** already hosts **three operational hydropower projects** — the **390 MW Dulhasti Project** in **Kishtwar**, the **890 MW Baglihar Project** in **Ramban**, and the **690 MW Salal Project** in **Reasi**.
- The **Sawalkote Dam**, which forms part of the project, is located on the **Chenab River** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The project was **first initiated in 1984** but faced **repeated delays** due to **Centre–State tussles**.
- The dam has regained strategic importance as part of **India's plan to harness the Chenab's hydropower potential**.
- Under the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)**, the **west-flowing rivers** — **Chenab, Indus, and Jhelum** — are under **Pakistan's control**, which influences project execution and clearances.
- The **Sawalkote Project** will lead to the **diversion of 846 hectares of forest land** across **Udhampur, Mahore, Batote, and Ramban districts**.
- It will also involve the **felling of 2,22,081 trees**, with the **maximum loss of 1,26,462 trees** in **Ramban district**.
- The **installed capacity** of the project will be **1,406 MW in Stage-I** and **450 MW in Stage-II**.



► Carlsberg Ridge

- India has signed a contract for mineral exploration in the **Carlsberg Ridge** of the Indian Ocean.
- The **Carlsberg Ridge** is a major segment of the mid-ocean ridge system in the Indian Ocean, formed by seafloor spreading between the **Indian Plate** and the **Somali Plate**.
- The ridge is known to host **hydrothermal vent systems**, potential sites of **PMS deposits**.



If you missed the Current Affairs Pointers (CAP) of the Past Month | [July - August 2025, read it here.](#)

► Gelephu and Samtse



Bhutan project map

- The Indian government has announced two cross-border railway projects of 69-km and 20-km length that will connect Bhutan with the bordering areas of Assam and West Bengal.
- The 69-km Kokrajhar (Assam)-**Gelephu (Bhutan)** and 20-km Banarhat (West Bengal)-**Samtse (Bhutan)** will cost Rs 3,456 crore and Rs 577 crore, respectively.
- The Kokrajhar-Gelephu new line will directly connect Bhutan's Sarpag district and India's Kokrajhar and Chirang districts in Assam. The Banarhat-Samtse line will connect Bhutan's Samtse district with India's Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal. It will have two stations Ambari and Samtse.
- Gelephu and Samtse are the major export-import hubs in Bhutan and serve the 700-km long India-Bhutan border. Gelephu is being developed as "Mindfulness City" and Samtse is being developed as an industrial town by the Government of Bhutan.
- Currently, the Himalayan nation of Bhutan does not have any railway network. The Gelephu and Samtse line will be the first such project in the neighbouring country.

► Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge

- China has opened the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge in Guizhou, claiming the title of the **world's tallest bridge**. Soaring about 2,050 feet above a river and gorge, the bridge surpasses the Royal Gorge Bridge in Colorado, which stands 956 feet above the Arkansas River.
- The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge in Guizhou will cut travel time across the canyon from two hours to two minute, as per officials.



► Oju Hydroelectric Project

- An expert panel of the Union Environment Ministry has recommended environmental clearance for the **2,220 MW Oju hydroelectric project** proposed on the **Subansiri river** in Taksing near the China border.
- The Oju project is proposed on the Subansiri river, 5 km downstream of Redi village of Taksing block in Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Subansiri River is a major tributary of the **Brahmaputra**.

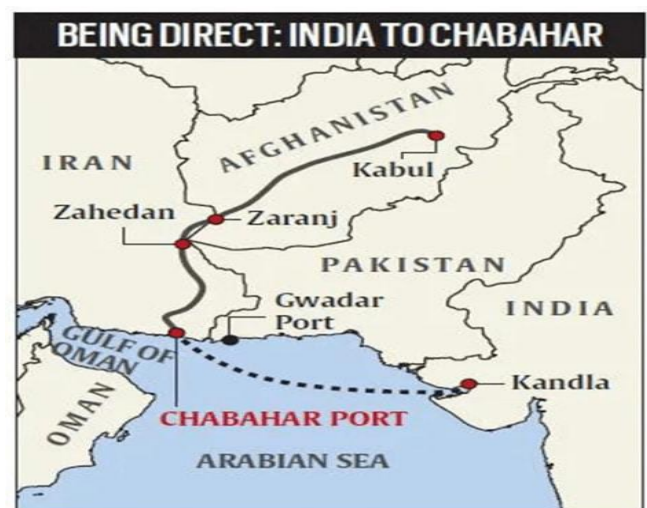
► Bagram Air Base

- Recently, Donald Trump, in his Truth Social post, again demanded control over Bagram Air Base in **Afghanistan**.
- Bagram Air Base is the largest air base in Afghanistan, which lies some 60 km to the north of Kabul, in the strategic Parwan province.
- In Parwan lie the keys to controlling much of Afghanistan due to its linkages to key cities, including Kabul, Kandahar and Bamiyan.
- The air base was originally built by the Soviets in the 1950s, when both the US and the USSR were jockeying for influence in Afghanistan.
- After September 11, 2001, the US and its allies took over, as they toppled the Taliban regime. Today, the base is under Taliban control. However, the US has long been concerned about China making inroads into Afghanistan after its exit.



► Chabahar port, Iran

- The United States has said it is withdrawing the sanctions waiver granted to **Iran's Chabahar port**, which is being developed by India.
- Chabahar, which sits at the mouth of the Gulf of Oman, is Iran's first deepwater port that puts the country on the global oceanic trade route map.
- The port lies to the west of Iran's border with Pakistan, about as far as Gwadar (a competing port developed by China in Pakistan) which lies to the east of the border.



- The port is also part of the proposed **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**, a multi-modal transportation project linking the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and onward to northern Europe via St Petersburg in Russia.
- There are two distinct ports in the Chabahar project, **Shahid Beheshti** and Shahid Kalantari. India's investment is restricted to the Shahid Beheshti port.
- India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement in April 2016, after which the Indian Shipping Ministry worked at a rapid pace towards developing the port.
- In December 2017, the first phase of Shahid Beheshti port was inaugurated, and India sent its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan through Chabahar that same year.

► **Al-Nuri Mosque**

- Iraq's historic al-Nuri Grand Mosque and its leaning minaret was reopened after militants from the Islamic state group destroyed the mosque.
- The mosque, famous for its 12th-century leaning minaret, was destroyed by IS in 2017 and has been a focal point of **UNESCO's restoration efforts** since 2020.
- The Nuri Mosque was named after Nuruddin al-Zanki, a noble who fought the early crusaders from a fiefdom that covered territory in modern-day Turkey, Syria and Iraq. It was built in 1172-73, shortly before his death, and housed an Islamic school.

► **Sudan Landslide**

- A deadly landslide devastated a village in the **Marra Mountains area** of western Sudan with reports stating that over 1,000 people have been killed.
- The Sudanese movement that controls the affected area located in the Darfur region appealed to the United Nations and international aid agencies to help in recovering the bodies of the victims, which includes men, women and children.

PERSONS IN NEWS

► **Deepika Padukone**

- Actor Deepika Padukone was appointed as the **first-ever Mental Health Ambassador of India** by the Health Ministry.
- The announcement was made on World Mental Health Day, which is marked on October 10 every year to raise awareness about mental health concerns while mobilising support for its well-being.
- The World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health group with members and links in over 150 countries, initiated the first World Mental Health Day on **October 10, 1992**.
- The theme of this year is '**Mental Health in Humanitarian Emergencies**', which encourages governments, organisations, and the general public to provide psychological support, trauma care, and community resilience programmes, particularly during times of crisis.

► Vivek Menon

- Vivek Menon has been elected as the **new Chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC)** for the 2025–2029 quadrennium.
- Menon's appointment marks the first time in the Commission's 75-year history that an Asian leader will head the global body — a significant recognition of the growing leadership of Asia and the Global South in shaping conservation action worldwide.
- The SSC is one of the seven expert commissions under the global body that advises the IUCN secretariat on matters concerning biodiversity and species conservation. The commission and its specialist groups play a key role in preparing the IUCN's red list of threatened species.

► Sonali Ghosh

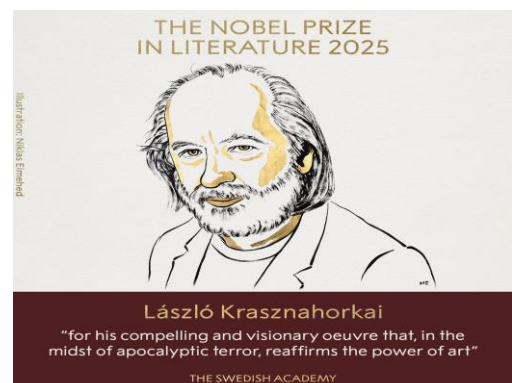
- Sonali Ghosh, the Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, has become the **first Indian to receive the prestigious WCPA-Kenton Miller Award** for innovation in national parks and protected area sustainability.
- The award was presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), a global body that recognises individuals who have made innovative contributions to wildlife area conservation.

► Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the “Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2025” — popularly called the Nobel prize for economics — to **Joel Mokyr** (Northwestern University, US), **Philippe Aghion** (Collège de France, INSEAD, and LSE) and **Peter Howitt** (Brown University, US) “for having explained innovation-driven economic growth”.
- Mokyr, an economic historian, has received the Nobel for his work that was grounded in using historical sources to uncover the causes of sustained economic growth in the world.
- Aghion & Howitt have been recognised for their mathematical model, which instead of looking into the past, analysed how individual decisions and conflicting interests at the level of firms can lead to steady economic growth at the national level.

► Nobel Prize in Literature

- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature was given to Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai, 71, for his “singular prose that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art”.
- **Krasznahorkai will receive** the medal and diploma in a ceremony in December in Stockholm. He is the second Hungarian, after Imre Kertész in 2002, to bag the award.



► Nobel Peace Prize 2025

- **Maria Corina Machado**, a Venezuelan politician, has been announced as this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner for her work in promoting democratic rights.
- Machado received the honour for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy.
- Founder of **Súmate**, an organisation devoted to democratic development, Machado stood up for free and fair elections more than 20 years ago. In political office and in her service to organisations since then, Machado has spoken out for judicial independence, human rights and popular representation.
- She will receive a cash prize worth around 11 million Swedish kronor (around USD 1.17 million), a diploma and a medal.



► MacArthur Grant winners

- Optometrist **Teresa Puthussery** and Epidemiologist **Nabarun Dasgupta** are among the 22 'genius' winners of the MacArthur Grant. The winners of the fellowship will receive a cash award worth \$800,000 as stipend.
- The grant is constituted in the name of Catharine and John Donald MacArthur and recognises seminal and original contributions made by scientists, intellectuals and artists.

► Sanae Takaichi

- Japan's ruling **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)** elected Sanae Takaichi as its new leader on October 4.
- Takaichi is set to replace incumbent Shigeru Ishiba less than a year after the latter entered office last year.
- The lower house of Japan's parliament, **known as the Diet**, is expected to choose her as prime minister in a leadership vote in mid-October.

► Pandit Chhannulal Mishra

- Hindustani music titan, the Padma Vibhushan singer, Pandit Chhannulal Mishra of Varanasi, died on October 2.
- Born in Azamgarh in 1936, Mishra grew up to be a doyen of Hindustani classical music, contributing immensely to such styles of the form as Khayal, Thumri, Dadra, Chaiti, Kajri, and Bhajan.
- He was conferred with Padma Vibhushan in 2020 and Padma Bhushan in 2010.

► **Sarah Mullally**

- Dame Sarah Mullally has been named **Archbishop of Canterbury designate**, becoming the first woman chosen for the Church of England's most senior role.
- A former chief nurse in the NHS, Mullally was ordained in 2006 and became the first female Bishop of London in 2018, the third-highest office in the Church.

► **Sandhya Shantaram**

- Veteran actress Sandhya Shantaram, wife of late filmmaker V Shantaram, has died due to age-related ailments, her family said on October 4.
- He has starred as the leading lady in films such as Do Aankhen Barah Haath (1957), Navrang (1959), Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje (1955), and Pinjra (1972).
- She had debuted in the Marathi movie, Amar Bhoopali in 1951 in which she played the role of vocalist who was wooed by poet Honaji Bala.

► **Surekha Yadav**

- Surekha Yadav, Asia's first women locopilot, is set to retire on September 30 after 36 years of service.
- She became India's first woman train driver in 1988 and was also the first loco pilot of the 'Ladies Special' local train for Central Railways in 2000. Further, she became the first woman loco pilot of the CST to Pune Deccan Queen train.

► **Mithun Manhas**

- Former Delhi batsman Mithun Manhas is set to become the next president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- Manhas was the convener of the North Zone for Duleep Trophy and he was also support staff of the IPL franchise Gujarat Titans before, and is currently administrator of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

► **Sushila Karki**

- Kathmandu is bracing for a new chapter in its turbulent political history as former chief justice Sushila Karki was sworn as Nepal's interim prime minister (PM). The swearing-in ceremony took place at the presidential residence in Shital Niwas.
- The agreement to appoint Karki, 73, was reached after marathon negotiations between President Ramchandra Paudel, leaders of the Gen Z-led protest movement, and Nepal Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel. The deal came after days of unprecedented unrest that culminated in the resignation of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.

► **Chandrapuram Ponnusami Radhakrishnan**

- C P Radhakrishnan was sworn in as the country's 15th Vice-President in a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to the 67-year-old at an event attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers, and other dignitaries.
- He defeated B Sudershan Reddy by a margin of 152 votes.
- The electoral college for the V-P election comprises members of the two Houses of Parliament. Together, they number 788 – 245 MPs in the Rajya Sabha and 543 in the Lok Sabha. Of these, six seats are vacant in the Rajya Sabha and one in the Lok Sabha. Of the 781 who comprised the electorate, 767 cast their votes (98.2% turnout), of which 752 votes were found to be valid, Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody, the Returning Officer for the election, said.

► **Anuparna Roy**

- Anuparna Roy on became the first Indian to receive the Best Director Award in the Orizzonti section at the 82nd Venice Film Festival for her film 'Songs of Forgotten Trees'.

► **Bhupen Hazarika**

- For poet, singer, composer and filmmaker Bhupen Hazarika, **whose centenary celebrations began on** September 8 — exactly a year before he would have turned 100 — the Brahmaputra remained an enduring metaphor. So much so that his voice has often been equated with the river, next to which he grew up, lived and died.
- Born in Assam and rooted in the traditions of the Northeast, his songs – about the river, about the boatman, about other lesser-known folk idioms from and about a relatively overlooked and disturbed region, went on to become the links to the rest of the country. The universality of his themes, of solidarity, dignity, humanity, and resistance, has echoed for decades.

► **Amit Khare**

- Retired IAS officer Amit Khare, who served as advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was appointed secretary to Vice-President (V-P) CP Radhakrishnan.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Khare, a retired 1985-batch officer of Jharkhand cadre, on contract basis for three years, according to a government order.

► **Anutin Charnvirakul**

- Thailand's parliament on September 5 overwhelmingly voted to elect Anutin Charnvirakul of the **Bhumjaithai Party (BJT)** as the country's next Prime Minister.
- He is Thailand's third Prime Minister in two years, a week after Paetongtarn Shinawatra was dismissed from the post by the Constitutional Court.

SPORTS

► 2030 Commonwealth Games

- India is set to hold the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in 2030 with Ahmedabad as the venue for the centenary edition of the event. India last hosted the CWG in 2010 in Delhi.
- The final decision on the host nation for the **Centenary Commonwealth Games** will be made by the General Assembly of Commonwealth Sport and will be announced on November 26 in Glasgow.
- First hosted in 1930 in Hamilton, Canada, the Commonwealth Games will see its 24th edition play out in 2030.
- The 2026 edition of CWG will be held in Glasgow and it will feature only 10 games.

► Khelo India University Games 2025

- Khelo India University Games 2025 will be held in **Rajasthan** from November 24 to December 5. It will be held across **seven Rajasthan cities** – Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, and Bharatpur.
- Rajasthan will be hosting the **KIUG** for the first time. The inaugural Khelo India University Games was held in 2020 with Bhubaneswar, Odisha, playing host.

► BWF World Junior Championships 2025

- **Tanvi Sharma** won the silver medal in the girls' singles event at the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 badminton tournament in Guwahati, Assam, on 19th October, 2025. She lost to Thailand's second seed Anyapat Phichitpreechasak
- She became the **fifth Indian** to win silver at the World Junior Championships, after Aparna Popat (1996), Saina Nehwal (2006), Siril Verma (2015), and Sankar Muthusamy (2022).
- The Indian Badminton team also clinched bronze in the Mixed Team event at the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2025. Though India lost to Indonesia in the semifinals, but secured a historic first-ever medal in the event category.
- The BWF World Junior Championships were held in **Guwahati** from October 6 to 19. India hosted the Junior Championships after 17 years.

► Badminton World Junior Mixed Team Championships

- India won the first-ever medal in the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships organised in Guwahati, Assam, India from 6 to 19 October 2025.
- The Indian Badminton team settled for a bronze medal after losing to defending champions Indonesia in the semi-finals.

► Irani Cup 2025

- Vidarbha won the third Irani Cup title after beating Rest of India by 93 runs.

► India's first-ever medal at Junior Judo World Championships

- Linthoi Chanambam became the first Indian to secure a medal at the Junior Judo World Championships, clinching bronze in the women's -63 kg category at the 2025 edition in Lima, Peru.
- She beat the Netherlands' Joni Geilen in the women's 63 kg category.

► World Para Athletics Championships 2025

- The 12th edition of the **World Para Athletics Championships** was held in New Delhi from 27 September to 5 October.
- Asia has hosted the World Championships in four occasions, at Doha 2015 in Qatar, Dubai 2019 in the United Arab Emirates and Kobe 2024 in Japan.
- **Brazil finished top** of the medal tally in the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 with 44 medals, including 15 gold medals, 20 silver medals, and nine bronze medals.
- India finished **tenth in the medal tally**. It won a total of 22 medals, with **six gold medals, nine silver medals, and seven bronze medals**. This is the best-ever medal haul for India at a single edition of the World Para Athletics Championships.

WPAC 2025 MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Country	G	S	B	Total
1	Brazil	15	20	9	44
2	China	13	22	17	52
3	Iran	9	2	5	16
4	Netherlands	8	3	1	12
5	Poland	8	2	6	16
6	Colombia	7	10	4	21
7	GBR	7	5	13	25
8	Italy	7	1	3	11
9	USA	6	9	12	27
10	India	6	9	7	22

Winner of the Gold medal	Category
Simran Sharma	Women's 100m T12
Nishad Kumar	Men's High Jump T47
Sumit Antil	Men's Javelin Throw F64
Sandip Sanjay Sargar	Men's Javelin Throw F44
Rinku Hooda	Men's Javelin Throw F46
Shailesh Kumar	Men's High Jump T63

- **Shailesh Kumar** became World Champion in the men's high jump T63 category. He is from Bihar's Jamui district.
- **Deepthi Jeevanji** won the silver medal in the women's 400m T20 class.
- **Varun Singh Bhati** (T42) grabbed bronze in Men's high jump.

► World Archery Para Championships 2025

- The World Archery Para Championship, which is organised every two years, was organised in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, from 22 to 28 September 2025.
- Eighteen-year-old Indian armless archer **Sheetal Devi** made history, defeating Turkiye's world No.1 Ozgur Cure Girdi to bag the women's compound individual category gold.
- **Toman Kumar** joined her as the men's compound individual champion.
- Sheetal had earlier won a mixed team bronze in the compound event with Toman Kumar, defeating Great Britain's Jodie Grinham and Nathan MacQueen 152-149.
- In the compound women's open team event, **Sheetal and Sarita** won silver after losing to Turkey in the final.

► World Speed Skating Championships

- India has secured **three Gold Medals** and **two Bronze medals** at the World Championships 2025.
- **Anandkumar Velkumar** won India's first-ever gold medal at the Speed Skating World Championships, clocking 1:24.924 in the senior men's 1,000m sprint event. He followed up with **another Gold** in the Men's marathon event and also secured a bronze in the 500 m sprint.
- **Krish Sharma** has also won the Gold medal in the 1000-meter race in the junior category.
- **Anish Raj** claimed a Bronze in the junior men's one-lap sprint event.
- The Speed Skating World Championships were organised in Beidaihe, China, from September 13 to September 21.

► FIDE Grand Swiss tournament 2025

- Vaishali Rameshbabu has won the FIDE Grand Swiss tournament for the second time in two editions after drawing her final game against former women's world champion Tan Zhongyi.
- Vaishali winning the title is historic because no player in the short history of the event has won the Grand Swiss twice.

► World Athletics Championships 2025

- The 2025 World Athletics Championship was held in Tokyo from September 13 to 21. The World Athletics Council has selected Beijing, China, as the host of the 2027 World Athletics Championships.
- **Sachin Yadav's** fourth-place finish in the men's javelin throw emerged as the country's standout performance. **Neeraj Chopra**, who was the reigning champion heading into Tokyo25, had to settle for an eighth-place finish in the final.
- **Sarvesh Kushare** scripted history by becoming the first Indian high jumper to qualify for the final of a World Athletics Championships.

- Indian athletes have won three medals at the world championships – **Anju Bobby George's** long jump bronze at Paris 2003, **Neeraj Chopra's** javelin silver at Oregon 2022, and his historic gold at Budapest 2023.

► World Boxing Championship 2025

- India wrapped up their campaign at the World Boxing Championships 2025 in Liverpool with four medals, including two golds.
- **Jaismine Lamboria (57kg)** and **Minakshi Hooda (48kg)** were crowned world champions, while Nupur Sheoran (80+kg) secured a silver and Olympian Pooja Rani (80kg) settled for bronze.

► CAFA Nations Cup

- India finished third at the CAFA Nations Cup and it was sealed with a victory on penalties (1-1 in full time, 3-2 in spot-kicks) against Oman. Only two teams out of the eight playing in the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup were placed below India on the FIFA Rankings.
- The 2025 CAFA Nations Cup was the second edition of the CAFA Nations Cup, the biennial international men's football championship of Central Asia organized by the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA). The event was held in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan from August 29 to September 8. Iran were the defending champions.
- The final took place on 8 September at the Olympic City Stadium in Tashkent, between hosts Uzbekistan and Iran. Uzbekistan won the match 1–0 to claim their first CAFA Nations Cup title.
- In June 2025, it was confirmed the second edition would be co-hosted in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan on 29 August to 8 September 2025 for the six member associations along with Malaysia and Oman as the guest teams.
- On 15 July 2025, Malaysia announced their withdrawal from the competition, citing reasons including problems with logistics and players' availability. On 30 July 2025, India was announced as the guest team, replacing Malaysia in Group B.

► Hockey Asia Cup 2025

- India won the 4th Asia Cup hockey title after defeating South Korea 4-1 at the Rajgir Sports Complex, Bihar. With this win, India have ended the eight-year wait to regain the title.
- With this win, India have qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026 in the Netherlands and Belgium. They have now won the Asia Cup title four times overall, behind only South Korea's total of five.
- The 12th Men's Asia Cup Hockey Championship was organised at the Rajgir International Stadium in Rajgir, Bihar, from 29th August to 7th September.
- The mascot of the Asia Cup Hockey, named "**Chand,**" is inspired by the national animal, the tiger. The name "Chand" is inspired by hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand**, who created history in the game by practising under moonlit nights.
- Eight nations and 150 players participated in the championship.

► BWF World Championships 2026

- The 2026 BWF World Championships will be held in New Delhi, India. India last hosted the BWF World Championships in Hyderabad in 2009.
- **P.V. Sindhu** is the first and only Indian to win a gold medal at the BWF World Championships in 2019. So far, eleven Indian badminton players have won 15 medals at the BWF World Championships over the years.

► US Open 2025

- Wimbledon, French Open, US Open, and Australian Open are the most prestigious events on the annual tennis calendar, bestowed with the moniker of “Grand Slam”, a term that has been in use for almost a century.

Winners of the US Open 2025

Category	Winners	Runner up
Women's Singles	Aryna Sabalenka(Belarusian)	Amanda Anisimova (American)
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz (Spanish)	Jannik Sinner (Italian)
Women's Double	Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe	Katerina Siniakova and Taylor Townsend
Men's Double	Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos	Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski
Mixed Double	Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori	Casper Ruud and Iga Swiatek

AWARDS

► 71st National Film Awards

- The **National Film Awards** were first given out in 1954, at that time it was called ‘state awards’. Nargis won the inaugural Award for Best Actress, for her performance as a schizophrenia patient in ‘Raat Aur Din’, while Uttam Kumar won the Best Actor award for both ‘Antony Firingee’ and ‘Chiriyakhana’.

- The first-ever Best Feature Film winner was the Marathi movie Shyamchi Aai. The most awarded film in the history of the awards remains Ashutosh Gowariker's Lagaan, which received eight honours in 2002.

Winners of the 71st National Film Awards	
Dadasaheb Phalke Award	Mohanlal
Best Feature Film	12th Fail
Best Feature Actor	Shah Rukh Khan (Jawaan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
Best Feature Actress	Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway)
Best Feature Director	Sudipto Sen for The Kerala Story
Best Debut Film	Ashish Bende for his film Aatmapamphlet (Marathi)
Best Popular Film providing wholesome entertainment	Karan Johar-directorial Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani
Best Feature Film promoting national, social, and environmental values	Meghna Gulzar's Sam Bahadur
Best Children's Film	Naal 2 (Marathi) directed by Sudhakar Reddy Yakkanti
Best Film in the animation, visual effects, gaming and comic	Hanu-Man (Telugu)

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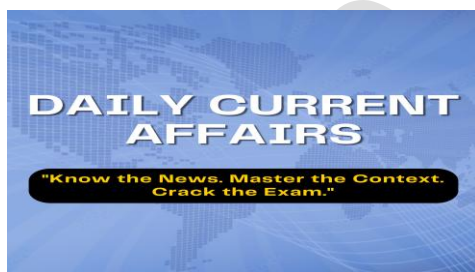
► Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)

- Neeraj Ghaywan-directed **Homebound** and Jitank Singh Gurjar-directed **In Search of The Sky (Vimukt)** won at the TIFF.
- While Homebound is the second runner-up in the International People's Choice Awards category and In Search of The Sky is the recipient of the NETPAC Award.
- Homebound is also India's official entry for the Oscars 2026 in the Best International Feature category.
- Homebound documents the socio-political realities of contemporary India and captures the unprecedented displacement of migrant workers across the country following the outbreak of the COVID.

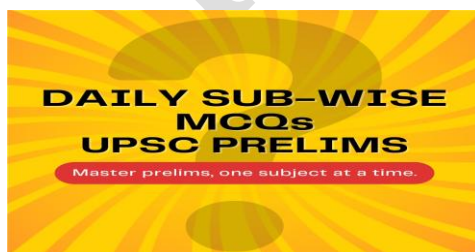
► Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023

- Malayalam **superstar Mohanlal** will be honoured with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his services to cinema at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony to be held on Sept 23, 2025.
- Mohanlal has also won five National Film Awards and multiple Kerala State Film Awards.
- He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2019.
- **About Dadasaheb Phalke Award:** It was instituted in 1969 to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema who directed India's first full-length feature film, **Raja Harishchandra in 1913**.
- The first recipient of the award was Devika Rani. This award is considered the highest award in the field of cinema.
- The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh.

IMPORTANT LINKS



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SOME EMMY FIRSTS OVER THE YEARS

1949: Shirley Dinsdale won the first Emmy for the Most Outstanding Television Personality	
1960: Harry Belafonte became the first Black artist to win an Emmy in 1960 for his performance in The Revlon Revue: Tonight With Belafonte.	
1970: Gail Fisher became the first African-American woman to win Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series for Mannix.	
2015: Viola Davis became the first African-American to win Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for How to Get Away with Murder.	
2017: Riz Ahmed became the first man of Asian descent to win Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited/Antology Series or Movies for The Night Of.	
2022: Lee Jung-jae became the first Asian man to win Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series for Netflix's Squid Game.	
2024: Anna Sawai became the first Asian-born performer to win Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for Shōgun.	
2025: Tramell Tillman became the first Black man to receive the Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for Severance.	

► Emmy Awards 2025

- The Emmy Awards are the most prestigious television honours in the United States. They celebrate excellence in acting, writing, directing, programming and technical fields across genres
- The first Emmy Ceremony took place on January 25, 1949, at the Hollywood Athletic Club in Los Angeles. **Ventriloquist Shirley Dinsdale** won the first Emmy for “Most Outstanding Television Personality.”
- **How the winners are selected:** Emmys operate on peer voting. Members of the academies are divided into professional peer groups – actors, writers, directors, technicians, producers – and they can only vote within their field of work.
- Shows should be submitted for consideration, following which nominations are announced, which is then followed by the final round of voting.

Category	Winners
Drama Series	The Pitt
Comedy Series	The Studio
Limited or Anthology Series	Adolescence
Lead Actor in a Drama Series	Noah Wyle – The Pitt
Lead Actress in a Drama Series	Britt Lower – Severance
Lead Actor in a Comedy Series	Seth Rogen – The Studio
Lead Actress in a Comedy Series	Jean Smart – Hacks
Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series	Cristin Milioti – The Penguin
Lead Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series	Stephen Graham – Adolescence
Talk Series	The Late Show with Stephen Colbert

MISCELLANY

► World Health Summit 2025

- The World Health Summit 2025 took place from October 12-14 in Berlin, Germany, and online under the theme “**Taking Responsibility for Health in a Fragmenting World.**”
- The annual World Health Summit brings together global health stakeholders from all sectors and regions to find solutions for the most pressing health challenges. In 2025, it took place under the theme “Taking Responsibility for Health in a Fragmenting World.”
- WHS was founded in 2009 on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of Berlin’s Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, and it is supported by the WHS Academic Alliance.
- Axel R. Pries is the President of WHS. Prof. (Dr.) **Balvir S. Tomar** is the International President of the World Health Summit 2025. He is the founder and Chancellor, NIMS University, Jaipur, India.

► India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025

- The India Mobile Congress was organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) over four days, that is, from October 8 to 11.
- It is said to be the **largest tech expo in Asia** with an estimated 1.5 lakh participants from more than 150 countries, including delegates from domains such as 5G and 6G networks, artificial intelligence, electronics manufacturing, cybersecurity, semiconductors, quantum computing, and more.

► **G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR WG)**

- The Fourth Working Group and Ministerial Meeting of the G20 DRR WG was held at **Cape Town, South Africa** from 8–13 October 2025.
- It was held under the theme “Solidarity and Resilience” to advance international collaboration on early warning systems – a core component of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) flagship initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2022.
- **South Africa** has launched its national **EW4All Roadmap**, making it the first G20 country to unveil a national strategy at the G20 DRR WG event.
- DRR WG was established under India’s G20 Presidency in 2023 which aims to integrate risk reduction measures into public and private sector investment decisions and policy making.
- **Held every 13 October**, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. The theme of this year is “**Fund Resilience, Not Disasters.**”
- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

► **Jogbani-Erode Amrit Bharat Express train**

- Indian Railways (IR) is introducing an Amrit Bharat Express train connecting Bihar and Tamil Nadu. The new Amrit Bharat Express will run between Jogbani and Erode Junction. The Amrit Bharat Express train is meant for low-income and middle-class families.

► **Bairabi-Sairang rail line**

- While highlighting the importance of Mizoram as a major player in Centre’s Act East policy and its standing in the geopolitics of South East Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ambitious 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang rail line, connecting the capital Aizawl to the Indian Railways network for the first time.
- Aizawl, which is around 20km far from the satellite town Sairang, is the fourth northeastern capital after Guwahati, Agartala and Itanagar to be linked to the Indian Railways’ grid. Before this project, there was only a 5-km railway line inside Mizoram, up to the Bairabi station on the Assam-Mizoram border.
- PM added that Mizoram has a major role in both our Act East Policy and the emerging North East Economic Corridor. “With the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project and Sairang-Hbichhuah Railway line, Mizoram will also get connected to the Bay of Bengal through South East Asia. Due to this, trade and tourism will be boosted across North East India and South East Asia,” he said.

- The Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project links Kolkata to Sittwe port in Myanmar via sea link, before reaching Zorinpui in Mizoram. Beyond that, a network of road and rail projects such as the Bairabi-Sairang line and its proposed extension, the 223-km Sairang to Hbichhuah (on Mizoram's border with Myanmar), is seen as India's answer to flexing by Bangladesh and China.
- The Bairabi-Sairang line, which cuts through Kolasib and Aizawl districts of Mizoram, has 45 tunnels, 55 major bridges, 88 minor bridges, five Road over Bridges (ROBs) and six Road Under Bridges (RUBs), of which Bridge No. 196 or the Kurung Bridge is the highest at 114 metres, 42 metres taller than the Qutub Minar. On August 23, 2023, a steel girder on the Kurung bridge collapsed, killing at least 23 workers.

► World Rhino Day

- World Rhino Day is observed on **September 22** every year. The day commemorates the global effort to protect rhinos and raise awareness to curb poaching. The word "rhinoceros" comes from the combination of two Greek words – "rhino" meaning nose and "ceros" meaning horn.
- The Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is found only in the Brahmaputra valley, parts of North Bengal, and parts of southern Nepal. The Indian rhino is listed as **vulnerable** (better than endangered, worse than near threatened) in the IUCN Red List.
- The **three species of rhino**—black, Javan, and Sumatran—are critically endangered in the IUCN Red List.

► World Tourism Day 2025

- World Tourism Day is being celebrated on **27th September** every year to highlight the importance of tourism in connecting people, fostering cultural exchange, and supporting economic development.
- The theme for this year is 'Tourism and Sustainable Transformation', which emphasises tourism's power to promote positive change.
- The day commemorates the adoption of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation statutes in 1970. It was celebrated for the first time in the year 1980.

► Antyodaya Diwas 2025

- Antyodaya Diwas is an annual occasion to commemorate the birth anniversary of Indian leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, who was born on **September 25, 1916**.
- He was the co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the forerunner of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He was also one of the thinkers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).
- The term "**Antyodaya**" translates to "upliftment of the last person," epitomising Upadhyaya's mission to address the needs of the most disadvantaged individuals in society.

- He also propounded the idea of Integral Humanism which talks about unity and harmony among the various components that make up a human individual, and among individuals and society as a whole.

► National Ayurveda Day

- Ayurveda Day was earlier celebrated on Dhanteras every year, in honour of Lord Dhanwantari, the physician of the gods. From this year, the government has fixed **September 23** to be celebrated as the National Ayurveda Day starting in 2025.
- The theme for this year is “**Ayurveda for People & Planet**” and emphasises that Ayurveda is not just a healthcare system but a science rooted in the principle of harmony between the individual and the environment.

► Hindi Diwas

- September 14 is observed as Hindi Diwas, or Hindi Day, to commemorate the **Constituent Assembly of India making Hindi the official language** of the Union government.
- The Constituent Assembly chose Hindi as the official — not the national — language of the country after extensive discussions over three days. Discussions were also held over what script should the Union adopt, what script should the numerals be in, and what should be the status of English. Hindustani (Hindi with more Urdu elements) and Sanskrit were among those proposed as official languages.
- At length, the Munshi-Ayyangar formula — named after Drafting Committee members K M Munshi and N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar — was adopted as a compromise solution.
- As part of the Munshi-Ayyangar formula, Article 343 of the Constitution as adopted in 1950 said, “The official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union shall be the international form of Indian numerals.”
- “Notwithstanding anything in clause (1), for a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this Constitution, the English language shall continue to be used for all the official purposes of the Union for which it was being used immediately before such commencement.”
- When the 15-year period came to an end, protests broke out over the fear of imposition of Hindi in large parts of non-Hindi speaking India, particularly in Tamil Nadu. The resistance resulted in the Centre passing the Official Languages Act, which stated that English would continue to be upheld as an official language along with Hindi.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on September 14, 2025 said that Hindi is not a competitor (spardhak) but a friend (sakhi) of other Indian languages, and that there is no conflict between the two.
- At the inauguration of 5th Akhil Rajbhasha Sammelan in Gandhinagar on Hindi Diwas, Shah said, “Hindi should not just be a language of conversation or administration. Hindi should be the language of science, technology, judiciary and the police. When these works happen in Indian languages, connection with citizens increases automatically.”

► Operation Polo

- September 13 marks the 77th anniversary of Operation Polo, the military operation launched by newly independent India to annex the state of Hyderabad. Led by Major General Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri, Operation Polo lasted less than four days and brought to heel the Nizam who had been resolute in his decision not to accede to India.
- Hyderabad's ambition to remain an independent state after the British left, was a cause of major concern for the Indian government. If realised, it could cut off north India from the south. Reginald Coupland, a constitutional expert cited by historian Ramachandra Guha in *India after Gandhi* (2007), had aptly described the situation: "India could live if its Muslim limbs in the north west and north east were amputated, but could it live without its midriff?"
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel put it more bluntly, famously saying that an independent Hyderabad would constitute a "cancer in the belly of India".

► Semicon India 2025

- The 'Semicon India – 2025', aimed at catalysing India's Semiconductor ecosystem, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at **Yashobhoomi in New Delhi**.
- Semicon India – 2025 is a three-day Conference, from 2nd to 4th September, focused on advancing a robust, resilient, and drive forward vision of the India Semiconductor Mission.
- **India Semiconductor Mission:** It was launched in 2021 with a financial outlay of Rs 76,000 crore. So far, India has approved 10 semiconductor plants, including two fabrication facilities and eight packaging and testing facilities.

► International Literacy Day 2025

- The theme for this year's celebration was "Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era", highlighting the pivotal role of digital technology in enabling reading, writing, numeracy, and lifelong learning skills across the country.

► Digvijay Divas

- Digvijay Divas is observed annually to mark **Swami Vivekananda's historic speech** at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago on September 11, 1893.
- Sharing the speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on X, "This speech by Swami Vivekananda, delivered in Chicago on this day in 1893, is widely regarded as a watershed moment."

► Denotified and Nomadic Tribes Day

- It is marked annually on **August 31** to commemorate the repeal of the British-era Criminal Tribes Act, 1871, which criminalised nomadic, semi-nomadic and denotified tribes.
- Denotified tribes (DNTs) are communities that were 'notified' as being 'born criminal' during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the **Criminal Tribes Act of 1871**.

Commissions and Committees formed for DNTs

- The Criminal Tribes Inquiry Committee, 1947 constituted in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh)
- **Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** Committee in 1949 (it was based on the report of this committee the Criminal Tribes Act was repealed)
- In 1965, an Advisory Committee constituted for revision of the SC and ST list under the chairmanship of B N Lokur referred to denotified tribes.
- A National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was constituted in 2006, headed by **Balkrishna Sidram Renke**. The Renke commission estimated their population at around 10.74 crore based on Census 2001.
- To compile state-wide Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT/ NT/ SNT), a commission was established under **Bhiku Ramji Idate**. As per the report, over 260 extremely marginalised communities have never been identified or included in any of the reserved categories.

► **Personalised adaptive learning (PAL) software**

- Nobel Laureate and economist **Michael Kremer** released the findings of a study on the use of personalised adaptive learning (PAL) software, an EdTech tool for Class 6-9 students in over 1,200 government schools in Andhra Pradesh.
- The study, which involved schools that adopted PAL and those that didn't, showed that learning rates doubled among students who used it.
- PAL's learning personalised to suit the needs of each student. It involves the use of a software on a tablet or computer to first determine the learning level of a student, and then tailor learning material and questions accordingly. It is designed to be dynamic – each student may get different material and questions based on what their initial level is.
- The software might take the form of a story or game, where students need to accumulate points or deal with 'monsters', and climb up levels.
- EdTech companies across the world that provide versions of this software, including AI-based ones. For instance, Squirrel AI, a Chinese EdTech company, focuses on adaptive learning.
- The use of the system is grounded in the understanding that each class has students at different levels of learning. For instance, in India, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 report showed that only 44.8% of Class 5 students in government schools could read a Class 2 text.
- Use of PAL in India is scattered. Supported by different agencies, and promoted by the companies that develop the software, PAL has been in use in some government schools in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana, besides Andhra Pradesh, where the state rolled it out for Math, English and Telugu in 2019.

- Research on the use of PAL in India points to an improvement in learning outcomes among students, but that does not necessarily reflect in school exam performance.

► **Himachal declared ‘fully literate’**

- Himachal Pradesh was declared a “fully literate state,” joining an elite club that only had three other states — Tripura, Mizoram, and Goa — and an Union Territory — Ladakh — as its members.
- Announcing the achievement, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the state has reached a 99.3 per cent literacy rate, way higher than the national benchmark of 95 per cent.

► **16th Combined Commanders’ Conference (CCC)**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12th September inaugurated the 16th Combined Commanders’ Conference (CCC) at the Army’s Eastern Command headquarters in **Kolkata**.
- The conference is organised **once every two years**. It is the apex forum that brings together the nation’s top civilian and military leadership to chart the path of India’s defence preparedness.
- It was last held in Bhopal in 2023, which was inaugurated by Modi.
- On the final day of the conference, India’s top military hierarchy decided to form **three joint military stations** — the first in the country — and also agreed to merge the education branches of the three defence services into a single **tri-services Education Corps**.

► **Blue Economy Conclave**

- A two-day blue economy conclave was organised in **Kerala** on September 18 and 19. Representatives from 29 European countries attended the Conclave.
- The conclave ‘Blue Tides-Two Shores One Vision’ is being organised by the State’s Fisheries department in collaboration with the Union government and the European Union (EU).

► **Gyan Bharatam International Conference**

- At the Gyan Bharatam International Conference organised by the Ministry of Culture in New Delhi, PM Modi said India still possesses the world’s largest manuscript collection with approximately one crore manuscripts in its possession.
- The three-day event was being attended by around 1,100 participants, including conservation experts, scholars, historians, academics and custodians of manuscripts.
- Eight working groups deliberated on issues such as decipherment of ancient scripts such as Indus, Gilgit and Shankha; survey and documentation; digitisation tools; conservation and restoration; decoding manuscripts; and explore legal and ethical issues regarding access.
- The first-ever international manuscript heritage conference — ‘Reclaiming India’s knowledge legacy through manuscript heritage’ — coincided with the 132nd anniversary of Swami Vivekananda’s historic address at the Parliament of the World’s Religions held in Chicago in 1893.

- With the 400-crore Gyan Bharatam project, the government is aiming to create an institution on the lines of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for the preservation and interpretation of India's manuscripts.
- It was in the Union Budget 2025-26 that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced a special mission for the survey, documentation, and conservation of India's manuscript heritage. Officials say the initial outlay for the mission is estimated at Rs 400 crore, but since it's not a time-bound project and will be institutionalised on the lines of the ASI, more funds can be allocated at a later stage.
- Launched as the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission', it intends to cover more than one crore manuscripts, officials say, adding that while the project will be headquartered in New Delhi, as part of the Ministry of Culture, regional centres will be set up across all states to ensure seamless coordination.
- Gyan Bharatam replaces the existing National Manuscripts Mission, which was launched in 2003, aiming to digitise all manuscripts in the country, but was moving at a slow pace.

► **World Food India 2025**

- The fourth edition of World Food India 2025 was organized at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- India's growing leadership in the global food economy finds powerful expression through World Food India — the Ministry's flagship international platform for investment, innovation, and collaboration.

► **Jamdani Saree**

- The first-ever Jamdani Exposition was organised at the National Crafts Museum.
- Jamdani is traditionally crafted from cotton, and is celebrated for its fine, airy texture and elegance. It is a centuries-old handwoven textile from the Bengal region.
- The name "jamdani" derives from the Persian words jam (flower) and dani (vase), describing its floral designs.
- In 2013, **UNESCO recognized Jamdani weaving as an Intangible Cultural Heritage**, underscoring its cultural and historical significance.

► **Tripura Sundari Temple**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped five-century-old Tripura Sundari Temple at Udaipur in Gomati district on 22nd September.
- The Tripura Sundari Temple is one of the **51 Hindu shaktipeetha** shrines across the country, and attracts lakhs of devotees every year.
- The Tripura Sundari Temple was built by **Maharaj Dhanya Manikya Bahadur** in 1501 when Udaipur, then known as Rangamati, was the capital of the erstwhile Manikya kingdom.
- The temple is built atop a hillock resembling the back of a turtle. It is located 60 km from Agartala.

- According to Tripura Rajmala, the royal chronicle of the Manikya kings, Maharaj Dhanya Manikya Bahadur constructed the temple in 1501 following a 'swapnadesh' or divine commandment from the Supreme Mother or Aadishakti in his dream.

► Kolhan's Manki-Munda system

- On September 9, the **Ho tribe** staged a protest in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district against the Deputy Commissioner (DC), accusing him of interfering with their traditional self-governance system by removing village heads, known as Mundas.
- This conflict threatens a **century-old balance** between the indigenous governance system, the so-called Manki-Munda system, and the state administration in Ho areas of Jharkhand's Kolhan region.
- The **Munda**, or the **head of the village**, was responsible for resolving socio-political disputes at the village level. Each village had one Munda, appointed hereditarily.
- The **Manki** headed the **pir**, which generally consists of 8 to 15 villages. If cases were not resolved by the Munda, they moved upwards to the Manki.
- The Manki and Munda had **no responsibilities for revenue** or land-related issues. The system was purely an internal, self-governing mechanism, with no sovereign authority outside or the concept of paying taxes.

► Jore Sahib

- The Jore Sahib will be kept at the Patna Sahib Gurudwara, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced on October 4.
- The Jore Sahib, meaning holy or sacred shoes, are a pair of footwear belonging to Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the ten Sikh Gurus, and his wife Mata Sahib Kaur.
- It is considered a sacred relic as it is revered as the personal belongings once worn by the Sikh spiritual leaders.
- The pair of footwear, measuring 11" by 3½" for the right foot of the 'Dasam Pita', or Tenth Father, and 9" by 3" for the left foot of Mata Sahib Kaur, are sacred relics deeply revered in Sikhism.
- **Guru Gobind Singh**, the last human Guru of the Sikhs, founded the Khalsa Panth, or the community of the pure. He declared the **Guru Granth Sahib** as the eternal successor.
- He laid down a code of conduct for followers through the **five K's**: Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (wooden comb), Kada (iron or steel wrist bracelet), Kirpan (sword), and Kachera (short breeches).

► Global Ayyappa Sangamam

- The Supreme Court on September 17 virtually gave the go-ahead for the Kerala government to conduct the Global Ayyappa Sangamam event at Pampa, the base station of the Sabarimala Temple.

- The Agola Ayyappa Sangamam, or the Global Conclave of Ayyappa Devotees, is organised by the **Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB)**, an autonomous body that administers 1,250-odd temples in southern Kerala.
- This board also administers the Sabarimala temple and this event aims to promote the Sabarimala Temple as a global pilgrimage centre.

► **Sarnath on the UNESCO radar**

- Ahead of a UNESCO team's proposed visit to Sarnath, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will install what it is calling a "corrected" plaque that will credit a local ruler, and not the British, for preserving the holy Buddhist site.
- Earlier this year, India officially nominated Sarnath for the **UNESCO World Heritage List** for the 2025-26 cycle — a move that could end its 27-year wait on the tentative list.
- Sarnath, roughly 10 km to the northeast of Varanasi, is where the Buddha is said to have delivered his first sermon in c. 528 BCE, and the place at which the Buddhist *sangha* (community) is said to have formed. The delivery of the first sermon is referred to as ***dhammachakka-pavattana*** (the turning of the wheel of dhamma).
- The credit for its "rediscovery", however, goes to workers of Jagat Singh, the diwan of Raja Chait Singh of Benares, who were digging at the site to retrieve brick and stone for a new marketplace being built in his name.

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Test Your KNOWLEDGE

The best way to remember facts for UPSC and other competitive exams is to recall them through MCQs. Try to solve the following questions.

QUESTION 1

Which of the following statements with regard to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is/are correct?

1. The official languages of the SCO are Russian and Chinese.
2. The SCO enjoys observer status in the UN General Assembly.
3. The SCO consists of 13 member states.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

QUESTION 2

Consider the following:

1. Belongs to Filoviridae family
2. No indigenous case found in India
3. First discovered in 1976 in Africa
4. Highly contagious and can be contracted through bodily fluids

The above description is for which of the following?

- (a) Ebola Virus
- (b) Nipah virus
- (c) Newcastle disease
- (d) Trachoma

QUESTION 3

The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:

- (a) the number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.
- (b) the number of children born to couple in their lifetime in a given population.
- (c) the birth rate minus death rate.
- (d) the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

QUESTION 4

Consider the following activities:

1. Identification of narcotics on passengers at airports or in aircraft
2. Monitoring of precipitation
3. Tracking the migration of animals

In how many of the above activities can the radars be used?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

QUESTION 5

With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of Stupa is Buddhist in origin.
2. Stupa was generally a repository of relics.

3. Stupa was a votive and commemorative structure in Buddhist tradition.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

QUESTION 6

Consider the following statements:

- 1. Geothermal energy can be used to produce electricity or it can be used directly for industry, agriculture, building and cleaning.
- 2. Nuclear energy is often cheaper than some other sources of electricity.
- 3. Thermal power stations burn fossil fuels to create steam to drive the turbines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

QUESTION 7

Consider the following statements about the Agni-Prime Missiles:

- 1. It was launched from a rail-based mobile launcher.
- 2. Russia, China, and Israel had the capability of launching long-range ballistic missiles from rail-based platforms.

3. It is a two-stage solid-fuel propelled missile with an operational range of 1,000 km to 2,000 km.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

QUESTION 8

Consider the following pairs:

Wetlands	Location
1. Udaipur Jheel	Bihar
2. Wadhvana Wetland	Gujarat
3. Bhoj Wetland	Madhya Pradesh

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

QUESTION 9

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is a standard criterion for:

- (a) Measuring oxygen levels in blood
- (b) Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems.

- (c) Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystems
- (d) Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions.

QUESTION 10

The most important strategy for the conservation of biodiversity together with traditional human life is the establishment of:

- (a) biosphere reserves
- (b) botanical gardens
- (c) national parks
- (d) wildlife sanctuaries

QUESTION 11

Consider the following statements about the World Para Athletics Championships:

1. At the 12th edition, China topped the medal tally with 15 gold medals.
2. India hosted the 12th World Para Athletics Championships for the first time.
3. India registered the best-ever performance at the 12th edition.

Which of the above-mentioned statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

QUESTION 12

Who has constituted the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Ministry of Finance

- (c) Paytm in collaboration with World Bank
- (d) RBI

QUESTION 13

What is/are unique about 'Kharai camel', a breed found in India?

1. It is capable of swimming up to three kilometres in seawater.
2. It survives by grazing on mangroves.
3. It lives in the wild and cannot be domesticated.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

QUESTION 14

With reference to ram air turbine (RAT), consider the following statements:

1. All the aviation aircrafts have RAT.
2. It deploys into the airstream only when primary and secondary power sources fail.
3. It is not a substitute for engine power

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

QUESTION 15

With reference to 'dugong', a mammal found in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a herbivorous marine animal.
2. It is found along the entire coast of India.
3. It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 3 only

QUESTION 16

Consider the following aircraft:

1. Rafael
2. MiG-29
3. Tejas MK-1

How many of the above are considered fifth generation fighter aircraft?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

QUESTION 17

Consider the following statements about "green crackers":

1. Green crackers use chemicals such as barium, sulphur, potassium nitrate, and aluminium.
2. Manufacturers must obtain a licence from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation.

Which of the above-mentioned statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

QUESTION 18

Consider the following statements about the BWF World Junior Championships 2025:

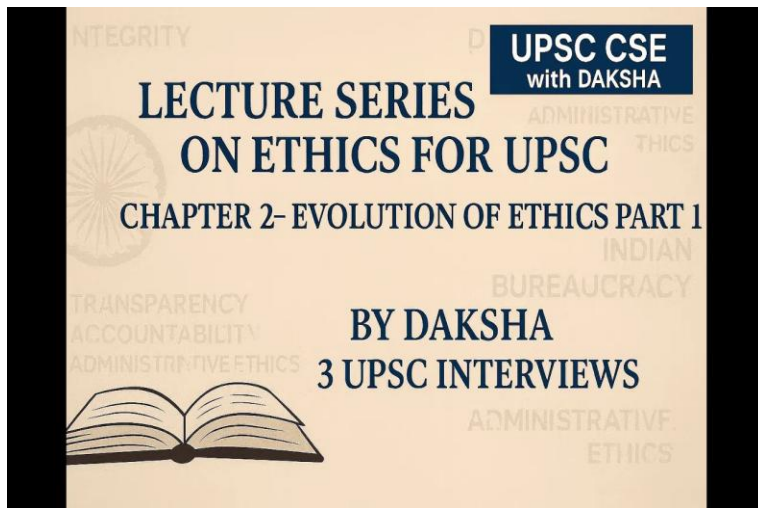
1. Tanvi Sharma became the first Indian to win a Gold medal at the championship.
2. It was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
3. Saina Nehwal was first to win a medal in girl's category.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

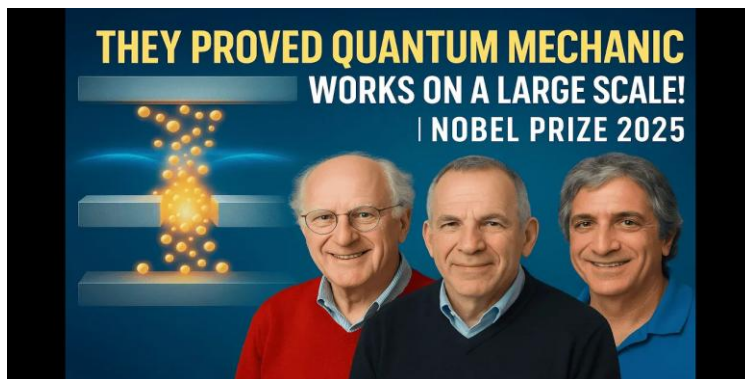
- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER KEY																		
Q. No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Ans	(c)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(c)	(a)	(c)	(d)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(d)

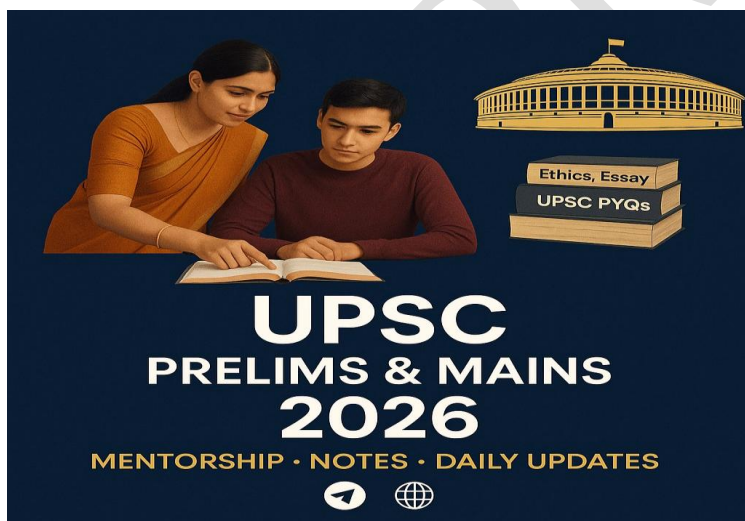
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