APTI PLUS OAS GAZETTE

AUGUST 2025
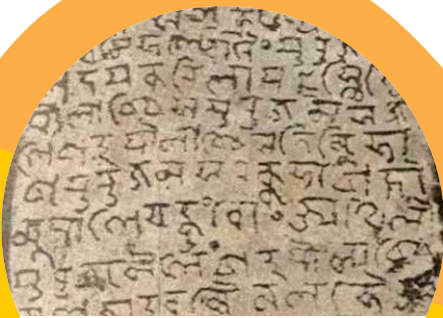
APTI PLUS
Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.
CREATING CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE NATION

28TH EDITION

Debrigarh
Wildlife Sanctuary

Oldest
Odia Inscription
discovered

Odisha launches
AWESOME App

Gopabandhu
Jana Arogya
Yojana

Shaktishree
Scheme

COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS

CONTENT

Odisha Current Affairs

SYLLABUS:

CURRENT EVENTS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE: *TO BE READ FROM THE IAS GAZETTE: COVERS – POLITY, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMY, SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SECURITY, GEOGRAPHY, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY*

Accountant General, Odisha

Context:

- A **preliminary audit** by the **Accountant General (AG), Odisha** found serious problems in collecting **Annual Lease Rental (ALR)** from private agencies.
- These agencies are running **seven tourism properties** under the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model.

> **Annual Lease Rental (ALR)**
> Annual Lease Rental (ALR) refers to the total amount of rent payable annually for a leased property or asset. It's the yearly cost a lessee (the party renting) pays to the lessor (the property owner).

Key Findings by Accountant General:

- Around **₹3.24 crore in ALR dues** have not been paid for **many years** by these agencies.
- As per rules, private agencies must **pay ALR in advance every year** and if delayed, they must pay **18% penalty interest**.
- But the **Tourism Department didn't send demand notices** to all agencies, as required.
- Also, **no action** has been taken to **end the lease agreements**, even though some leases started in **2016** and dues remain unpaid.
- This shows **poor monitoring** and **lack of enforcement** by the department, leading to **loss of public money**.

Who is the Accountant General (AG)?

- Every state has an **Accountant General (AG)** or **Principal Accountant General (PAG)** under the **Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) of India**.
- The **C&AG** is a **Constitutional Authority**, appointed by the **President of India**.
- The AG checks **state government departments, public sector units** and **autonomous bodies**.
- The AG works under **Articles 149 to 151** of the **Indian Constitution** and the **C&AG's Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service Act, 1971**.
- The AG prepares the state's **Finance and Appropriation Accounts** and submits them to the **Governor**, who then presents them in the **State Legislature**.

- The AG helps ensure **transparency, accountability** and **financial discipline** in how the state handles public money.

NOTE: The current Accountant General (Audit-II) of Odisha is Shri Atul Prakash. He assumed the charge on January 6, 2025

Odisha yet to finalise PESA Rules for Scheduled Areas Implementation

Context:

- The **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996** empowers **Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas** to manage natural resources and ensure self-governance.
- However, **Odisha** is yet to notify the **PESA Rules** essential for implementing this Act across its **Fifth Schedule (tribal-dominated) districts**.

Details

- Odisha Government **has not set a timeline** for final notification of PESA Rules.
- A **draft notification** was issued on **November 10, 2023**, seeking public feedback.
- **Consultations and personal hearings** were held with stakeholders.
- Draft rules were **translated into Odia and Santhali** for wider accessibility.
- Rules were **modified post-feedback** and shared with departments for review.
- The **process is ongoing**; final notification is still awaited.
- PESA applies to **Fifth Schedule areas** like Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj and parts of other tribal-dominated districts.

What is the PESA Act, 1996?

- **PESA** = *Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act*.
- Extends **Part IX of the Constitution** (Panchayats) to **Fifth Schedule areas** with modifications.

Need for PESA

- 73rd Amendment excluded Fifth Schedule Areas from Panchayat provisions.
- PESA bridges this gap, recognizing **tribal customs**, self-rule and decentralised governance.

Objectives

- Enable **self-governance** for tribal communities.

- Make **Gram Sabha central** to village-level planning and decisions.
- Protect **tribal customs, resources** and **identity**.

Applicability
- Applies to **10 states**: AP, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, HP, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan.
- Covers only **Fifth Schedule Areas**.

Key Features
- Laws must align with **tribal customs** and traditions.
- **Gram Sabha** empowered to approve plans, certify fund use and manage resources.
- **Mandatory consultation** for land acquisition, mining and displacement.
- Control over **minor forest produce**, **markets**, **money lending** and **social sectors**.
- **50%+ reservation** for STs in Panchayats; all chairperson seats reserved for STs.

Significance
- Empowers tribals with **local decision-making**.
- Protects **land, forests and water** (Jal, Jungle, Jameen).
- Promotes **sustainable development** and **inclusive governance**.
- Legally recognizes **tribal institutions and dispute resolution systems**.

Similipal Tiger Reserve
Context
- Odisha's Forest Department plans to introduce **male tigers** into **Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)** to boost **natural breeding and in-situ conservation**.

About Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)
- Located in **Mayurbhanj district**, Odisha; covers **2,750 sq km**.
- Part of **Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve**, including **Hadgarh** and **Kuldiha** Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- Named after the **Simuli (red silk cotton) tree**.
- Declared a **tiger reserve** in 1973 under **Project Tiger**.
- Also, a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** since 2009.

Geography & Ecosystem
- Rich in biodiversity with **tropical moist deciduous forests**, sal trees, grasslands and over **1,000 plant species**.
- Major rivers: **Budhabalanga, Kharkai, Palpala, Deo**.
- Home to animals like **tigers, elephants, leopards, sambar deer, gaurs and four-horned antelope**.
- Has beautiful **waterfalls**: **Barehipani (217 m)** and **Joranda (181 m)**.

- Divided into **Southern (core, hilly)** and **Northern (tourist spots)** zones.
- Wildlife also includes **242 bird species** and **30 types of reptiles**, including **mugger crocodiles**.

Challenges & Conservation Efforts
- Core villages like **Kabatghai** and **Bakua** remain; relocation efforts are ongoing but controversial.
- Issues like **cerebral malaria** pose health risks in the area.
- Faced major **forest fires in 2021**, causing wildlife displacement.
- Vegetation studies show **human disturbances** in buffer zones, but potential for **ecological recovery** with proper protection.

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary
Context
- The Odisha government is planning to introduce tigers in **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary.**

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in **Bargarh district**, near **Hirakud Dam** in Sambalpur.
- Spread over **346.91 sq. km**, this sanctuary is recognised for its rich biodiversity and has been declared an **Eco-Sensitive Zone**, restricting industrial activities to protect its ecological integrity.

Geographical and Ecological Features
- Surrounded by the **Hirakud Reservoir** on the east and north.
- Supports both **terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity**, making it unique in Odisha.
- A major wintering ground for **migratory waterfowl**.

Flora and Fauna
- Hosts over **250 plant species**, many with **medicinal and ethno-botanical value**.
- Houses 40+ species of **mammals**, 200+ **birds**, 40 **reptiles**, 12 **amphibians**, 42 **fish**, 39 **odonates**, 85 **butterflies** and 38 **spiders**.
- Key species include **cheetal**, **sambar deer**, **wild boar**, **gaur**, **chowsingha**, **Indian wild dog**, **leopard**, **bear**, **langur** and **peacock**.

Baitarani River
Context:
- **Baitarani River** crossed the **alert level near Akhuapada in Bhadrak district**, raising fears of another flood.

About Baitarani River:

- **Location**: Flows mainly through **Odisha**, with a small stretch in **Jharkhand**.
- **Length**: **360 km**, ending in the **Bay of Bengal** near **Chandabali**.
- **Source**: Originates from **Gonasika Hills (Guptaganga)** in **Keonjhar**, Odisha. The river initially flows underground for about 0.5 km.
- **Course**: Flows north for 80 km, then turns east at **Anandapur**, forming a deltaic zone near **Akhuapada**.

Tributaries and Basin:
- Has **65 tributaries** (35 left, 30 right); major ones include **Budhi, Kanjori, Ambajhara, Mushal, Kusei** and **Salandi**.
- Covers **42 blocks in 8 Odisha districts**, part of the state's **Central Plateau**.

Dams and Irrigation:
- Dams and barrages (e.g., at **Singhanali** and **Anandapur**) help irrigate **61,920 hectares**.
- Future projects like **Bhimkund and Upper Baitarani** aim to increase irrigation coverage to over **1,000 sq km**.

Flooding Concerns:
- Flooding is frequent, especially during monsoon.
- Notable flood: In **July 2005**, after just two days of rain, **140,000 people in 220 villages** (Jajpur & Bhadrak) were affected.
- Weak embankments, delayed dam projects and poor upstream land use planning add to the risk.

Water Quality and Industry:
- Near the river mouth, water turns **salty**.
- Rapid industrial, mining and agricultural development in the basin has led to **pollution and water quality decline**.

Odisha launches AWESOME App

Context:
- The **Anganwadi Welfare and Service Oversight Monitoring Everywhere (AWESOME)** app was launched to **digitally monitor infrastructure and service delivery** at anganwadi centres.

Details
- **The AWESOME App** aims to improve transparency, ensure accountability and strengthen the quality of services provided under the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** scheme.
- The App **will digitally monitor infrastructure and service delivery at anganwadi centres.**
- **Odisha's Vision 2036:** The state aims to become malnutrition-free by 2036 through empowerment of frontline workers and communities.

Bank Credit Rising in Rural and Tribal Odisha: Centre

Context:
- Union Minister of State for Finance informed the Rajya Sabha that **bank credit in Odisha** has been growing steadily, especially in **tribal districts**, over the past three years.

Key Highlights:
- **CAGR of bank credit in Odisha** (last 3 years): **11.41%**
- **Growth in tribal districts:**
  o **Kandhamal**: 8.28%
  o **Koraput**: 11.79%
  o **Malkangiri**: 14.25%
- **Credit deployment** follows the **Annual Credit Plan (ACP)**, based on NABARD's **Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP)**.
- **Cumulative ACP achievement** over 3 years:
  o Malkangiri: 94%
  o Koraput: 93%
  o Kandhamal: 92%
- Measures to improve credit flow:
  o Credit outreach programmes and financial literacy camps
  o Business Correspondents (BCs) and Customer Service Points (CSPs) in tribal clusters
  o Strengthened monitoring via DCCs and DLRCs
- **Improved banking infrastructure:**
  o **Kandhamal**: BCs rose from 351 to 701; ATMs from 76 to 88
  o **Koraput**: BCs from 464 to 1,018; bank branches from 135 to 148
  o **Malkangiri**: BCs from 325 to 559
- **CD Ratio** in tribal areas monitored quarterly by SLBC with necessary directives to banks.

Note: NBFC credit to GDP ratio rose to **26% in FY25**, surpassing bank credit growth.

Odisha makes She-Box Portal mandatory in Higher Education Institutions

Context:
- Following the suicide of a student at FM College, the **Odisha Higher Education Department** has mandated all **higher education institutions** and **department-level offices** to use the **She-Box portal** for reporting harassment cases.

Details:
- **Mandate:**
  All institutions must upload:
  o Details of **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC).**

- o Details of **Local Committee** (if applicable).
- o Number of **harassment complaints received** under the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013.**
- o **Status of complaints resolved.**
- **Deadline:** All data must be uploaded by **August 1, 2025**.
- **Purpose:**
  - o Improve **transparency** and **accountability.**
  - o Strengthen implementation of **gender-safety norms.**
  - o Respond to public concern after the FM College incident.
- The move seeks to ensure a **safe and responsive environment** for **women students and staff** across Odisha.

She-Box Portal

- **She-Box** is an online platform developed by the **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** for lodging complaints of **sexual harassment** at workplaces and institutions.
- **Launched by:** Ministry of Women and Child Development
- **Purpose:** To **strengthen implementation** of the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**

Features:

- Ensures **confidentiality**-- only the **Chairperson of Internal Committee (IC)** or **Local Committee (LC)** can access complainant details.
- **Accessible filing**-- women or their representatives can file complaints online with basic details (name, phone number, email, work status).
- If the IC/LC is registered, complaints are **automatically forwarded** to them.
- Includes a **monitoring dashboard** for **nodal officers** to track complaints (filed, resolved, pending).
- **Timeline:** The Act mandates **90 days** for inquiry.

Odisha tops India in Sickle Cell Cases

Context

- **Odisha** has the **highest number of sickle cell patients in India** with **96,080 cases**, as per data shared in the **Rajya Sabha** by **Anupriya Patel**, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

Details

The total registered sickle cell patients across India is **2,15,380**.

Other states with high numbers:

- **Madhya Pradesh:** 30,580
- **Gujarat:** 28,150

- **Chhattisgarh:** 26,104
- **Maharashtra:** 23,218

Sickle Cell Anaemia

- Sickle Cell Anaemia is a genetic blood disorder predominantly affecting tribal and vulnerable populations in India. The Government of India has been actively implementing screening and awareness programmes under the **National Health Mission (NHM)** and other scientific bodies.

National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCEM)

- **Launch Date**: 1 July 2023, Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh
- **Goal**: **Eliminate sickle cell anaemia by 2047**

Key Features

- **Target**: Screen **7 crore people under 40 years** in 3 years (2023–26)
- **Focus**: Tribal communities, high-burden areas
- **Coverage**: **17 high-focus states** incl. Odisha, MP, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand
- **Implementation**: Under **National Health Mission (NHM)**

Components

- **Genetic Screening**: For early detection
- **Sickle Cell Genetic Status Cards**: Issued to help avoid high-risk marriages
- **Awareness Modules**: For healthcare workers, teachers, parents and patients
- **Training Modules**: For medical staff at all levels
- **Counselling**: For patients and families

Shaktishree Scheme

Context

- Odisha launched 'Shaktishree', a state-wide initiative to ensure the safety, security and empowerment of women in universities and colleges.

Details

- **'Shaktishree'** is a **state-wide programme** for the **safety, security and empowerment of women** in higher education institutions.
- This state-wide programme targets all **state universities** and **government/aided colleges**, covering **over 730 institutions**.
- It aims to ensure **safe, respectful and empowering spaces** for female students and staff.

Key Features of the 'Shaktishree' Initiative

- **Empowerment Cells in Every Institution**. Each college/university will set up a **Shaktishree Empowerment Cell**, coordinated by a **female faculty** and a **female student leader**. These cells

will promote **self-defence training**, **emotional well-being** and **gender sensitivity** among students.

- **District-Level Mentors – Shakti Apas**. Every district will appoint **five senior women professionals** called **Shakti Apas**, who will act as **mentors**, regularly visiting campuses (once every three months) and providing guidance to students.
- **Anonymous Complaint Mechanism via Mobile App**. A **dedicated mobile application** will allow female students to **anonymously report** incidents of harassment through **text, voice, or video**. The app also integrates **mental health support**, linked with the **Tele-MANAS** portal for counselling services.
- **Mandatory Training and Staff Sensitisation**. All teaching and non-teaching staff will undergo **annual online training** on:
  o The **POSH Act, 2013**
  o **UGC (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) Regulations, 2015** Institutions will enforce a **code of professional conduct** focusing on **gender sensitivity**.
- **Biannual SAFE Campaign**. The **Shaktishree Actions for Female Empowerment (SAFE)** campaign will be held twice a year to raise awareness about **gender issues**, **bullying** and **harassment**.
- **Campus Monitoring and Reporting**
  o Campuses will be equipped with **24x7 CCTV surveillance**.
  o Each institution must submit a **Campus Safety Report** by **December 31 every year**.
- **State-Level Meet – Shakti Swarupini**. An **annual gathering** named **'Shakti Swarupini'** will be organised for coordinators of Shaktishree Cells to **share feedback**, **undergo advanced training** and **review progress**.

Anticipatory Bail
Context
- **Orissa High Court** dismissed the anticipatory bail application filed by **senior IAS officer Bishnupada Sethi** in connection with an alleged **Rs 10 lakh bribery case** being probed by the **CBI**.

What is Anticipatory Bail under Indian Law?
- **Anticipatory bail** is a legal provision under **Section 438(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)**, which allows a person to seek **bail in anticipation of arrest** for a **non-bailable offence**.
- This provision was introduced following the **recommendation of the 41st Law Commission**

Report, enabling courts to grant protection **before an arrest is made**.

Who Can Grant Anticipatory Bail?
- Only the **High Court** or the **Court of Session** has the authority to grant anticipatory bail.

When Can a Person Apply for Anticipatory Bail?
A person can approach the court if they believe:
- They may be arrested **on false or fabricated charges**.
- The arrest could be motivated by **personal enmity or vendetta**.
- There's a **real apprehension** of being framed in a criminal case.

Conditions Imposed by the Court
The court may grant anticipatory bail with certain conditions, such as:
- The person must be **available for police interrogation** when required.
- They must not **influence or threaten witnesses**.
- They should not **leave the country without the court's permission**.

What Happens After Arrest (If Bail Was Granted)?
- If the person is later arrested and is ready to offer bail, they must be released.
- If the Magistrate decides to issue a warrant, it should be a **bailable warrant**, as per the court's earlier direction.

Important Ruling
- In the **Sidhram Mhetre case**, the **Supreme Court** held that **certain restrictive conditions** imposed by the High Court were **unwarranted** and **contrary** to the intent of anticipatory bail provisions.

Cancellation of Anticipatory Bail
Anticipatory bail **can be cancelled** by the High Court or Sessions Court, if:
- The **complainant** or the **prosecution** files an application.
- The court finds that the accused has **violated conditions** or **misused the liberty** granted.

Important Note
- The applicant must present **specific facts** showing the likelihood of arrest for a particular **non-bailable offence**.
- Courts are expected to mention **clearly the offence(s)** for which the bail applies--it **cannot be a blanket protection** for all offences.

Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana
Context

- Since the launch of Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana, over **2.6 lakh beneficiaries** have received treatment in Odisha.

Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAJ) - Odisha's State Health Assurance Scheme

- **Launched in 2017** as **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)** to provide **universal health coverage** to both **BPL and APL families**.
- **Renamed as Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana** after the **2024 Odisha Assembly Elections** and made a subset of **Ayushman Bharat**, impacting its independent identity.
- Offered **free treatment in government hospitals** from sub-centres to district HQs, supported by **Swasthya Mitras**.
- Provided **₹5 lakh per family annually**; **₹7 lakh for female members**, with **₹2000 conveyance** for out-of-state treatment.
- Covered major hospitals like **Tata Memorial, CMC Vellore, Narayana Hrudalaya**.

Phased Expansion

- **First Phase:** Free healthcare in public facilities for **70 lakh families**, covering **70% of population**.
- **Second Phase:** Launched **Smart Health Cards** (2021) for **cashless treatment in private hospitals**; covered **3.5 crore people**. Women eligible for **₹10 lakh**, others for **₹5 lakh**.
- **Third Phase:** Extended to **all rural families** (except govt employees & I-T payees); focused on **critical illnesses**.

Current Scenario

- Post-renaming, many hospitals **stopped accepting BSKY cards**.
- **Ayushman Bharat card** has **stricter eligibility**, causing **access issues** for beneficiaries.

Impact

- **Over 2.6 lakh beneficiaries** have availed treatment under GJAJ till date.

Subhadra Yojana

Context

- The Odisha government will reopen the Subhadra Yojana portal after August 9, allowing young women aged 21 and above to newly apply for the financial assistance scheme.

Reassessment and Exclusions

- Around **2 lakh beneficiaries** have been **excluded** for failing to meet **post-disbursal eligibility criteria** such as:
  o Filing **Income Tax Returns**
  o **Vehicle ownership**
  o Owning **5 acres or more of land**

- To address concerns, the government will conduct a **fresh survey** after August 9 to **reassess excluded beneficiaries** and ensure **only eligible women** continue to receive benefits.

Inclusion of New Beneficiaries

- Women who **turn 21** by **August 9** will become **eligible to apply**.

Subhadra Yojana

- **Launched:** 2024
- **Aim:** Economic empowerment of **women aged 21–60** from **economically weaker sections** in Odisha.
- **Target:** To benefit over **1 crore women** across the state.

Key Features

- **Assistance Amount:** ₹50,000 over **5 years (2024–2029)**.
- **Disbursement:** ₹10,000 per year in **two instalments** of ₹5,000 -- on **Raksha Bandhan** and **International Women's Day**.
- **Eligibility:**
  o Women aged **21–60 years**.
  o **Exclusions:** Govt employees, income-tax payers and women receiving over ₹1,500/month from other schemes.
- **Registration:**
  o Began on **1 September 2024**; over **50 lakh women** registered.
  o **No deadline** for registration.
- **Subhadra Debit Card:** Issued to facilitate seamless fund access.
- **Incentive:** Top **100 women per gram panchayat/urban area** with highest digital transactions get **₹500 extra**.

Implementation Mechanism

- Utilises the **JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile)** for direct benefit transfer.
- **e-KYC** is mandatory.
- As of **17 September 2024**, **₹1,250 crore** disbursed to **25 lakh beneficiaries**.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls

Context

- Odisha is set to launch a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of its electoral rolls--the first such drive since 2002.

Special Electoral Roll Revision

What is it?

- A **targeted, house-to-house voter list verification** carried out by the Election Commission to remove errors, include new voters and ensure a clean electoral roll.

- Triggered in specific states or areas with known irregularities or high migration.

Constitutional Basis:
- **Article 324**: Empowers the Election Commission to supervise elections.
- **Article 326**: Ensures universal adult suffrage.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950**: Provides the legal mechanism for electoral roll preparation and revision.

Opportunities:
- Cleans voter list by removing duplicates or deceased entries.
- Encourages first-time voters to register.
- Enhances transparency with digital tools (e.g. blockchain pilot in Bihar).
- Supports smooth conduct of future elections and delimitation.

Challenges:
- Risk of **exclusion of marginalised communities**, especially migrants and the urban poor.
- **Aadhaar-based verification**, though convenient, may lead to wrongful deletions (Aadhaar ≠ citizenship).

- Allegations of **political misuse**--targeted disenfranchisement in opposition states.
- Weak awareness and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Way Forward:
- Use **multiple ID proofs** for verification, not Aadhaar alone.
- Ensure **offline support**, especially for digitally excluded populations.
- Promote **local-level hearings** before final deletions.
- Engage with **civil society** to reach vulnerable groups.

Oldest Odia Inscription discovered
Context
- A **16-line Sanskrit inscription** in **Odra Nagari script** (the earliest form of Odia writing) has been **deciphered** at **Jeypore Museum, Koraput**.
- It is now considered the **oldest known epigraphic record** from Odisha, **predating the Khechela copper plate**.

Khechela Copper Plate

The Khechela copper plate is a significant historical document from Odisha, India, specifically from the Koraput district. It's a copper plate inscription belonging to the Chindaka Naga dynasty and is considered the earliest known inscription from the Koraput region. This discovery is crucial for understanding the spread of the Chindaka Naga dynasty and sheds light on the evolution of the Odia script, tribal culture and interactions between Odisha and the Bastar region.

Chindaka Nagas

The **Chindaka Nagas** were a medieval dynasty that ruled the region known as **Chakrakota Mandala**, covering present-day **Bastar (Chhattisgarh)**, **Koraput** and **Kalahandi (Odisha)** from around **1023 to 1324 AD**. Believed to be of **Kannada origin** from the **Sindavadi region** (modern Karnataka) they were possibly linked to the **Sinda family of Gulbarga**. Their rule began during or after the **Chola expedition of Rajendra Chola**, with some historians suggesting support from the **Somavamshi rulers** in their establishment. The dynasty, which referred to itself as **Nagavamsi** and claimed descent from the mythical city **Bhogavati**, had **Barasur** as its capital and worshipped **Manikyadevi** as their patron goddess. At their zenith under **King Somesvara**, they engaged in warfare with neighbors such as the **Somavamshis**, **Kalachuris of Ratnapura**, **Telugu Chodas**, **Mana tribe** and **Western Chalukyas**. Somesvara expanded influence into **Dakshina Kosala**, though some claims may have been exaggerated. Over time, they faced invasions by the **Kalachuris**, **Yadavas** and **Kakatiyas**, leading to decline. The dynasty's final ruler was **Harishchandradeva**, mentioned in a **1324 Sati inscription**, marking the end of Chindaka Naga rule.

Content of the Inscription:
- It is a **Sanskrit eulogy** of a **Chindaka Naga king**, titled. *"Madana Nrpa Kula Kamala Bhaskara Tilaka"* (meaning "the sun among the lotus of the Chindaka Naga clan").
- Written in **corrupted Sanskrit**, it reflects early development of the **Odia language**.
- Mentions important words such as **"Bikantha Sri Karana"**, **"Kasa Dasa"** and **"Damodara"**.

Location and Historical Link:

- The stone pillar likely originated from **Bhairabsinghpur–Kamta–Kumli** in the **Indravati valley**, on the historic frontier of **Odisha and Chakrakota (present-day Bastar, Chhattisgarh)**.
- Associated with the reign of **Someswara Deva (1069–1110 CE)** of the Chindaka Naga dynasty.

Distinctive Features:

- The inscription is accompanied by a **rare erotic motif** of a **donkey and pig**, also seen in other Naga dynasty artefacts.

Significance:

- Offers a crucial link between **Odisha's script evolution**, **early medieval politics**, **tribal culture** and its connection with **Bastar**.
- Provides rare linguistic and historical insights into **early Odia identity**.

ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK

Dhauli, near Bhubaneswar on the banks of the Daya River, is believed to be the site of the **Kalinga War** and is known for **Ashokan rock edicts** and the **Shanti Stupa** built by the Japan Buddha Sangha.

Odisha's state symbols include the **Sambar Deer** (animal), **Indian Roller/Blue Jay** (bird), **Sacred Fig/Peepal** (tree), and **Ashoka Flower** (flower).

According to 2023–24 economic survey, Odisha's gross state domestic product (GSDP) was expected to grow at 10.57%.

Odisha is also one of the top FDI destinations in India.

Odisha is the 8th largest state in India by area.

Odisha's Scheduled Tribe (ST) population ranks third in India. In the 2011 Census, Odisha had approximately 9,590,756 ST individuals, following Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Odisha's coastline along the Bay of Bengal is approximately 480 km long.

The smallest district in Odisha by area is Jagatsinghpur, with a landmass of 1759 km². It was formed on April 1, 1993, by carving it out of Cuttack district.

According to the Census 2011, Deogarh district has the lowest population in Odisha.

The Udayagiri Caves in Odisha are known as the "Ellora of Odisha".

Barehipani Falls stands as the tallest waterfall in Odisha.

The Mahanadi River is often called the "Ganga of Odisha".

Talcher is the city in Odisha known as the "Black Diamond City". This nickname is due to its significant coal reserves and mining industry. It's located in the Angul district.

The second largest river in Odisha is the Brahmani River. It's formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers. The river flows through several districts of Odisha, including Sundargarh, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jajapur, and Kendrapara.

The name Odisha is derived from the ancient kingdom of Odra, which was inhabited by the Odra tribe.

Elections to the Orissa Legislative Assembly held on 27 March 1952 were the first assembly elections in Orissa.

The last independent Hindu king of Odisha was Mukunda Deva, also known as Mukunda Harichandana. He ruled from 1559 to 1568 AD and belonged to the Chalukya dynasty.

Odisha was established as a state on April 1, 1936. It was formed by carving out portions from the Bihar and Orissa Province and the Madras Presidency.

The first Odia magazine was Bodha Dayini, published in 1861 in Balasore.

Fakir Mohan Senapati is widely regarded as the father of modern Odia literature.

The Kandha (or Kondh) tribe is the largest tribal group in Odisha.

Dr. Pratibha Ray is widely recognized as the "Queen of Odia literature".

Shri Saswata Mishrais the principal secretary Finance in Odisha.

The current chairman of the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) is Arun Kumar Sarangi, a retired IPS officer. He was appointed to the position in September 2024.

Seeta Bibaha (1936) was the first Oriya film directed by Mohan Sundar Deb Goswami; it presented the marriage of Lord Rama to Sita, based on the epic story Ramayana.

The first Odia color movie was "Gapa Hele Bi Sata". It was released in 1976 and directed by Nagen Roy. The movie stars Harish Mohapatra and Banaja Mohanty.

The highest honor in Odia cinema is the Mohan Sundar Dev Goswami Award, also known as the Jayadev Award.

In 2024-25, Odisha's per capita income is estimated to be ₹1,82,548

Odisha leads the Fiscal Health Index 2025 with a top score of 67.8, excelling in the Debt Index (99.0) and Debt Sustainability (64.0).

Odisha is the fourth-largest fishproducing state accounting for 6 per cent of total fish production in India- Economic Survey-2024-25.

Odisha's share of manufacturing has increased in industrial GSVA between 2012-13 and 2024-25.

Odisha's milk production grew by 6.4 per cent in 2023-24 outpacing the national growth rate of 3.8 per cent.

Odisha is the third largest producer of Kendu leaves in the country and this industry generates an annual employment of about 100 lakh man days.

Odisha ranks fifth in rice production in India, contributing 8 per cent to the national output.

The poet Upendra Bhanja was given the title "Kabi Samrat," which translates to "Emperor of Poets" in Odia. He was a 17th-century Odia poet and composer of classical Odissi music, known for his poetic works like Baidehisa Bilasa, Labanyabati, and Koti Brahmanda Sundari.

Jhoti or Chita is the traditional Oriya art on the floor and walls, very popular in rural areas. It is found in Places like Ulapgarh, Vikramkhol, Yogimath, Manikmada in Odisha.

Ravana Chhaya Rock in Keonjhar, Odisha features rock paintings that resemble a blend of Mohenjodaro script and Brahmi script.

The largest coal-based power plant in Odisha is the NTPC Talcher Kaniha, with an installed capacity of 3000 MW.

The first Odia mountaineer to scale Mount Everest was Kalpana Dash, who achieved this feat on May 21, 2008.

Odisha has four notified Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS): Mandasaru in Kandhamal district, Mahendragiri in Gajapati district, Gandhamardan in Bolangir and Bargarh districts, and Gupteswar Forest in Koraput district.

India's first round-the-clock grain ATM was opened at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

The district with the highest sex ratio in Odisha is Rayagada, with a ratio of 1051 females per 1000 males according to the 2011 census.

According to the 2011 Census, Khordha district has the highest literacy rate in Odisha. The literacy rate for Khordha is 86.88%.

Narmada Kar (1893–1980), was an editor, writer and the first woman from Odisha in Eastern India, to pass the B.A. examination.

- The traditional percussion instrument of Odissi music is the Mardala. It's a barrel-shaped drum, indigenous to Odisha, and integral to both Odissi dance and music.

> **Traditional Instruments of Odisha**
> **Tamak** – Percussion instrument with animal skin; played with sticks during marriages and festivals.
> **Mahuri** – Traditional wind instrument; considered auspicious; used in folk theatre and Chhau dance.
> **Gochi Baja** – Percussion instrument; played during marriage processions.
> **Kendera** – Ethnic stringed instrument used by Nātha ascetics; often accompanies folk songs (Kendera Gita).
> **Ghanta** – Metallic gong; played by *Ghantuās* during Ratha Jatra and temple rituals.

APPOINTMENTS

New Governors for Haryana, Goa and Ladakh

- President Droupadi Murmu appointed **Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh** (Haryana), **Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju** (Goa) and **Kavinder Gupta** (Ladakh) as new Governors/LG.

First woman Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)

- **Sonali Mishra** has been appointed as the **first woman Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF).**

Chairperson of the National Medical Commission

- Dr. **Abhijat Sheth** the current President of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS), has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. His tenure spans four years or until he reaches the age of 70.

Deputy Chief Information Security Officer at State Bank of India

- Babitha B P was appointed as the **Deputy Chief Information Security Officer** at **State Bank of India**, tasked with strengthening SBI's cybersecurity and digital infrastructure.

Member of the Executive Committee of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

- **Kumar Mangalam Birla**, Chairman of the **Aditya Birla Group**, was appointed to the **Executive Committee** of the **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)**. This aims to deepen **India–US economic and business ties** through strategic collaboration and leadership.

Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador

- **Sukanya Sonowal**, an **IIT Guwahati** student, was selected as a **Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador**. She will serve as **Lead – Communications & Public Relations** for **CYPAN** until **2027**, promoting youth-led peacebuilding across **56 Commonwealth nations**.

CEO of the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)

- Sahil Kini, co-founder of Setu and former IndiaStack team member, has been appointed CEO of the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH).

Executive Director of SEBI

- Sunil Jayawant Kadam took charge as Executive Director of SEBI. SEBI is the **regulatory body for India's securities market**, ensuring transparency, investor protection and fair market practices.

Executive Director of RBI

- Kesavan Ramachandran was appointed as Executive Director of RBI.

Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has extended **Ravi Agrawal's** tenure as **Chairman of the CBDT** for one year, from **1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026**, ensuring continuity in India's apex direct tax policymaking body.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) President

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has elected **Zou Jiayi**, former Chinese Vice Finance Minister, as its next President, with her five-year term beginning **January 16, 2026**, succeeding founding President Jin Liqun.

First female and first African President of the International Olympic Committee

- On **June 23, 2025**, Zimbabwean Olympian **Kirsty Coventry** was officially inaugurated as the **first female and first African President** of the **International Olympic Committee**, marking the IOC's 131st anniversary and beginning her eight-year term

Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

- **Sivasubramanian Ramann** assumed charge as **Chairperson of PFRDA** on **June 20, 2025**, appointed for a **five-year term** or until he turns **65**, to drive stronger pension regulation and development.

Director of IIT Kharagpur

- **Prof. Suman Chakraborty**, a Sir J. C. Bose National Fellow celebrated for his low-cost diagnostic innovations, took charge as **Director of IIT Kharagpur.**

Indian Managing Director (MD)of Nippon Koei India (NKI)

- **Dr. G. Sampath Kumar** was appointed as the **first-ever Indian Managing Director (MD)** of **Nippon Koei India (NKI)**, the Indian arm of Japan-based **ID&E Holdings.**

India's ambassador to North Korea

- **Aliawati Longkumer** has been appointed as India's **ambassador to North Korea**, restoring full diplomatic representation in **Pyongyang** after a four-year hiatus. (The Indian embassy re-opened in **December 2024**, after operations were suspended in **July 2021** due to the pandemic.) This move reflects a **cautious diplomatic revival**, aligning with India's **Act East policy.**

First woman Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India

- **Lt Commander Yashasvi Solankee** (27) became the **first woman Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India** on **May 9, 2025**, after a rigorous selection involving a month-long orientation at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

India's G20 Sherpa

- **Amitabh Kant** submitted his **resignation as India's G20 Sherpa** on **June 16, 2025**, ending his three-year tenure that began in July 2022.
- His leadership is widely credited for securing **unanimous consensus on the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration** during India's **2023 G20 presidency.**

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Life Insurance Corporation of India

- After the **Financial Services Institutions Bureau's recommendation** and Cabinet approval, R. Doraiswamy was appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

AWARDS

National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025.

Context

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has been awarded the National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025.

Details

- The **National Geospatial Practitioner Award** is a prestigious honour recognizing institutions for **innovative geospatial technology use**. INCOIS, an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** earned it for leveraging **open-source GIS platforms** to make **oceanographic data more accessible, transparent** and **widely applicable**.

Headquartered in **Hyderabad**, INCOIS offers ocean information and advisory services to **fishermen, coastal authorities, disaster agencies** and **researchers**.

2025 PEN Pinter Prize

Context

- Leila Aboulela wins the 2025 PEN Pinter Prize for her fearless and deeply human storytelling.

Details

- The Sudanese-Scottish writer is known for powerful novels like *The Translator*, *Minaret* and *River Spirit*, which explore themes of **faith, migration** and the **inner lives of Muslim women**.

The **PEN Pinter Prize**, named after Nobel Laureate **Harold Pinter**, honours writers who **speak truth to power** with **courage and insight**. Established in **2009**, the award has previously been given to authors like **Arundhati Roy (2024)**, **Salman Rushdie (2014)** and **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2018)**.

2025 United Nations Population Award
Context
- Varsha Deshpande wins the 2025 United Nations Population Award for championing gender equality and reproductive rights.

Details
- An advocate from **Satara, Maharashtra**, Deshpande was honoured on **World Population Day (July 11, 2025)** in **New York** for her relentless efforts against **sex-selective abortions** and her advocacy for **Dalit women**. Her work addresses **deep-rooted discrimination** based on **gender, caste** and **religion**.
- Established in **1981** and first awarded in **1983**, the **UN Population Award** is given annually to individuals or institutions making outstanding contributions to **population and reproductive health**. Winners receive a **gold medal, diploma** and **cash prize**. Deshpande is the **individual category** winner for 2025.

India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) Industry Excellence Award 2025
Context
- Telangana wins the IESA Industry Excellence Award 2025 for leadership in battery manufacturing.

Details
- The state was honoured in the **State Leadership – Battery Manufacturing** category for its efforts in developing a robust ecosystem for **battery production** and **new energy technologies**.

Chintha Raveendran Award 2025
Context
- Marathi writer Sarankumar Limbale has been selected for the Chintha Raveendran Award 2025.

Details
- The **Chintha Raveendran Award** is given each year to a writer who has made a significant impact in the field of **literature and social issues**. Limbale, known for his powerful writings on **Dalit identity, equality** and **human rights**, is the 2025 recipient.

- The award includes a **cash prize of ₹50,000**, a **memento** and a **citation**. **Chintha Raveendran** was a left-wing thinker and writer.

The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis
Context
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Namibia's highest civilian honour – the Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis – during his one-day state visit.

Details
- The **Welwitschia Mirabilis Award**, instituted in **1995**, is awarded to individuals who demonstrate **exceptional leadership** and contribute to **strengthening international relations**. Named after a resilient desert plant, the award symbolizes **endurance and unity**--values reflected in Modi's efforts to deepen **India–Namibia ties**.

Digital Payments Award 2024–25
Context
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has won the Digital Payments Award 2024–25 for its outstanding role in advancing inclusive digital banking.

Details
- A **100% government-owned bank** under the **Department of Posts**, IPPB was recognised by the **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance**, for its efforts in expanding **digital financial services**, particularly in **rural and underserved areas**, promoting **financial inclusion** across India.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025
Context
- The Sahitya Akademi has announced the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025, recognising outstanding contributions to Indian children's literature across 24 languages.

Details
- Instituted by Sahitya Akademi under the Ministry of Culture, the award honours books published between 2019 and 2023, celebrating the country's rich linguistic and cultural diversity. Finalised by the Executive Board, each award carries **a ₹50,000 cash prize and a casket with an engraved copper plaque,** reflecting the winners' creative excellence and their enduring impact on children's education and imagination.

2025 Food Planet Prize

Context

- Swedish startup NitroCapt has won the 2025 Food Planet Prize for its breakthrough green fertiliser, which uses plasma technology and renewable energy to produce nitrogen fertilisers sustainably.

Details

- The Food Planet Prize, established in 2019 **by the Curt Bergfors Foundation in Stockholm**, is the **world's largest environmental award with a prize of $2 million.** It honours innovations that reduce the environmental impact of food systems. The jury, comprising 10 international experts, is co-chaired by Johan Rockström and Magnus Nilsson.

Locarno Film Festival

Context

- Renowned American filmmaker **Alexander Payne** will receive the prestigious **honorary Leopard (Pardo d'Onore)** at the **78th Locarno Film Festival** in 2025.

Details

- One of **Europe's oldest and most respected film festivals**, Locarno is honouring Payne for his **long-standing contribution to global cinema**, recognising his distinctive storytelling and influential body of work.

Poligras Magic Skill Award

Context

- **Deepika Sehrawat** became the first-ever Indian to win the **Poligras Magic Skill Award.**

Details

- She received it for her exceptional solo goal against the Netherlands in the **2024–25 FIH Hockey Pro League**. The Poligras Magic Skill Award celebrates the most creative and skillful moments in the FIH Hockey Pro League and is voted by fans worldwide.

BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

Book	Author and Details
Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict	The new book by **Mr. Ravi**, is a compelling collection of **thoughts, memories and reflections** inspired by **Shakespeare's timeless works**.
The One: Cricket, My Life and More.	**Shikhar Dhawan** has released his autobiography. The book offers an intimate look into his journey, exploring his **cricketing career**, **personal struggles** and the experiences that shaped him both on and off the field.
The Emergency Diaries	**Union Home Minister Amit Shah** has released a new book titled *"The Emergency Diaries"*, marking the **50th anniversary** of India's **1975 Emergency**. The book documents **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** role as a young **RSS Pracharak**, highlighting his early efforts to **protect democracy** during one of India's most challenging political periods.
Celebrating V.V. Kumar @ 90	**Veteran leg-spinner V.V. Kumar** was honoured on his **90th birthday** with the release of *Celebrating V.V. Kumar @ 90*. Though his international stint was short, his **lasting impact on Ranji Trophy cricket** remains significant.
Woman! Life! Freedom!	**Chowra Makaremi's upcoming book**, offers a powerful chronicle of the **2022 Iranian uprising** sparked by **Mahsa Amini's death**. Blending **personal history, fieldwork** and **anthropological insight**, Makaremi captures the spirit of a moment when the cry of **"Zan! Zendegi! Azadi!"** echoed through Iranian streets.
Different Strokes (1998–2014)	**A.K. Bhattacharya** has released the third volume of this book on **India's Finance Ministers**, covering the **1998–2014** period. It chronicles India's economic transformation post-1991 through the tenures of **Yashwant Sinha, Jaswant Singh, Pranab Mukherjee** and **P. Chidambaram**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS [STATIC GK]

BOOK	AUTHOR
The Great Indian Novel	Shashi Tharoor. Satirical reinterpretation of Mahabharata in modern Indian context.
Fasting, Feasting	**Anita Desai**. Award-winning novel (1987) by Sahitya Akademi Awardee.
The House of Blue Mangoes	David Davidar. Historical novel about South Indian family (1997).
Glimpses of Bengal Life	**Dinesh Chandra Sen.** The book examines Bengal's customs, social practices, rituals and festivals, highlighting the effects of British colonial rule and the blending of tradition with modernity.
Paradise Lost	Paradise Lost is an epic poem in **blank verse by John Milton** that explores the biblical tale of Adam and Eve's fall from grace after being tempted by Satan.
We, the People: India: The Largest Democracy	N. A. Palkhivala. Authoritative book on the Indian Constitution (Union Law Minister)
The Inheritance of Loss	**The Inheritance of Loss** is the second novel by Indian author Kiran Desai, published in 2006 and winner of the 2006 Booker Prize and the 2007 National Book Critics Circle Fiction Award.
Untouchable	**Untouchable** is Mulk Raj Anand's debut novel, published in 1935, portraying a day in the life of Bakha, a young latrine cleaner, to highlight the inhumanity of the caste system in India.
The Social Contract	Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Influential work on democracy and sovereignty

SPORTS

India to Host FIDE World Cup 2025

Context
- India will host the **FIDE World Cup 2025**, a premier global chess event, from **October 30 to November 27, 2025**.

Details
- Organized by **FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs)**, the World Cup is a **biennial knockout-format tournament** featuring **206 top players**.
- The **top 50 players receive first-round byes**; each round includes **2 classical games and 1 tie-break day**.
- India's growing stature in chess, inspired by **Viswanathan Anand**, is reflected in the rise of players like **Gukesh D**, **Praggnanandhaa R** and **Arjun Erigaisi**.
- India won **gold in both Open and Women's categories** at the 2024 Chess Olympiad and previously hosted major events like **Tata Steel India** and the **FIDE Olympiad 2022**.

Fit India Sundays on Cycle

Context
- **Fit India Sundays on Cycle** is a nation-wide movement under the **Fit India Mission.**

Details
- Launched in 2019, it was recently showcased at **BHU, Varanasi**.
- Part of **PM Modi's Fit India Movement**, this campaign promotes **regular physical activities** like **cycling, yoga and sports every Sunday**.
- Emphasizes **drug-free living** through campaigns like **Nasha-Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat**.
- Conducted across **6,000+ locations**, fostering **national integration and social awareness**.

Swimming Records at World University Games 2025

Context
- At the FISU World University Games 2025 held in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany, Indian swimmers **Srihari Nataraj and B. Benediction Rohit set new national benchmarks.**

Details
- **Srihari Nataraj** clocked **1:48.22** in the **200m freestyle**, setting a new **Best Indian Performance**,

breaking his own previous record (1:48.66) set a month earlier.

- **B. Benediction Rohit** became the **first Indian male swimmer** to complete the **50m butterfly** in under **24 seconds** with a time of **23.96s**, breaking **Virdhawal Khade's 7-year-old record** (24.09s).
- Both swimmers improved their **personal bests** on the same day.
- The **FISU Games** is a premier global event for university athletes, with participation from over **150 countries**, offering global exposure to young talent.

Wimbledon 2025
Context
- **Wimbledon 2025** concluded. It continued its legacy of **gender pay parity**, offering **equal prize money** and a **record-breaking total pool of £53.5 million**.
Details
Champions & Final Scores:
- **Men's Singles**: *Jannik Sinner (Italy)* defeated Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) -- **4–6, 6–4, 6–4, 6–4**
- **Women's Singles**: *Iga Świątek (Poland)* defeated Amanda Anisimova (USA) -- **6–0, 6–0**
- **Men's Doubles**: *Julian Cash / Lloyd Glasspool (UK)* defeated Hijikata / Pel -- **6–2, 7–6**
- **Women's Doubles**: *Kudermetova / Mertens* defeated Ostapenko / Hsieh -- **3–6, 6–2, 6–4**
- **Mixed Doubles**: *Verbeek / Siniaková* defeated Stefani / Salisbury -- **7–6, 7–6**

Notable Highlights:
- Świątek's **double bagel** victory was one of the most dominant Grand Slam finals.
- Sinner claimed his **first Wimbledon title**, showing grit and comeback ability.
- British duo Cash & Glasspool won Men's Doubles at home.
- Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles featured **dramatic comebacks and tie-break thrillers**.

Prize Money (Champions):
- **Singles Winners** (Men/Women): £3,000,000 each
- **Doubles Winners (per pair)**: £680,000
- **Mixed Doubles Winners (per pair)**: £135,000

India's 87th Grandmaster
Context
- **Harikrishnan A. Ra.**, a 23-year-old chess player from Chennai, has become **India's 87th Grandmaster**
Details

- Achieved his **final GM norm** at the **La Plagne International Chess Festival** in **France** on **July 11, 2025**.
- Completed a **seven-year journey** from **International Master (IM)** to **Grandmaster (GM)**.

2025 FIFA World Rankings
Context
- India's men's football team has dropped to **133rd place** in the **July 2025 FIFA World Rankings**, its **lowest since December 2016.**
Details
- Fell **six spots** from 127 to **133** after losses to **Thailand (0-2)** and **Hong Kong (0-1)** in June 2025.
- **FIFA points** dropped from **1132.03 to 1113.22**.
- Ranked **24th out of 46 in Asia**; **Japan** leads Asia at world rank **17**.
- Head coach **Manolo Marquez** parted ways with All India Football Federation after poor performance.
- India has **won only 1 of its last 8 matches** (a win over Maldives in March 2025).

Shooting World Cup
Context
- India will host the **Shooting World Cup in 2027** and the **World Junior Championship in 2028.**
Details
- Upcoming shooting events in India:
  - **Junior World Cup** – September 2025
  - **Asian Rifle & Pistol Championship** – February 2026
  - **Shooting World Cup** – 2027
  - **World Junior Championship** – 2028
- Aims to provide **international exposure** to Indian shooters and attract **global attention** to Indian shooting sports.
- India to launch the **first-ever Shooting League of India** in **November 2025** in Delhi, featuring global talent in an innovative format.

SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz 2025
Context
- **Magnus Carlsen**, world no. 1, won the **SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz 2025** tournament held in **Zagreb, Croatia**, on **July 7, 2025.**
Details
Final Standings:
- 🥇 *Magnus Carlsen* – 22.5/36
- 🥈 *Wesley So* (USA) – 20/36
- 🥉 *D. Gukesh* (India) – 19.5/36

Note: Gukesh defeated Magnus Carlsen twice, first in a classical chess match at Norway Chess and then in a rapid game at the SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz in Zagreb.

World Boxing Cup 2025

Context

- India created history at the **World Boxing Cup 2025** in **Astana, Kazakhstan.**

Details

India won its **highest-ever medal tally -- 11 medals** (3 Gold, 5 Silver, 3 Bronze).**Gold Medalists**:

- **Sakshi (54kg)** – Defeated Yosline Perez (USA)
- **Jaismine (57kg)** – Beat Jucielen Cequeira Romeu (Brazil)
- **Nupur (80+kg)** – Won against Yeldana Talipova (Kazakhstan)

This medal haul surpasses India's previous record (6 medals in Brazil's first leg), reinforcing its growing presence in **global women's boxing**.

First Test Win at Edgbaston

Context

- India created history by defeating England at Edgbaston for the first time in Test cricket on **6 July 2025**, securing their **biggest away Test win** by **336 runs**.

Details

- Fast bowler **Akash Deep** led the charge with a **10-wicket match haul**, helping India bounce back to **level the series** after a loss in the opening match.

2025 British Grand Prix

Context

- **Lando Norris** won the **2025 British Grand Prix** at **Silverstone**.

Details

- Norris moved ahead after his teammate **Oscar Piastri** got a time penalty. Piastri, who had been leading, finished second and felt the penalty was unfair. The win brought Norris closer in the championship race.

New National Sports Policy

Context

- Union Cabinet approved a new National Sports Policy.

Details

- The policy promotes **mass participation**, **athlete-centric development** and **community engagement**. It aims to strengthen sports governance, enhance infrastructure and establish fitness indices in schools and workplaces. With a focus on **sports tourism**, **sports goods manufacturing** and **private investment**, the policy aspires to make India a global sports hub. It aligns with the **'Khelo India'** vision and reflects India's commitment to holistic sports development.

UzChess Cup Masters 2025

Context

- **R. Praggnanandhaa** has won the **UzChess Cup Masters 2025** in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan.**

Details

He became **India's top-ranked chess player** and achieving a **career-best World No. 4** in live FIDE ratings.

- **Final Score**: 5.5 points (tied with Abdusattorov and Sindarov)
- **Tiebreaks**: Praggnanandhaa beat Sindarov and drew with Abdusattorov in the blitz round
- **Live Rating**: 2778.3
- **World Rank**: 4
- **India Rank**: 1

Players Surpassed

- **D. Gukesh**: Now World No. 5 (2776.6)
- **Arjun Erigaisi**: Now World No. 6 (2775.7)

Global Leaders (Top 3)

1. **Magnus Carlsen** – 2839.2
2. **Hikaru Nakamura** – 2807.0
3. **Fabiano Caruana** – 2784.2

ICC Introduces Stop Clock in Test Cricket

Context

- In a major move to speed up Test cricket, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has introduced a **stop clock rule** in the **2025–27 World Test Championship** cycle.

Details

- Fielding teams must begin a new over within **60 seconds**, failing which the batting side will be awarded **five penalty runs** after two warnings.
- **Effective from**: Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh Test Series, June 2025
- **Rule**: New over must start within 60 seconds
- **Enforcement**:
  o First and second delays: Warnings
  o Third delay: 5-run penalty
  o Warnings reset after 80 overs

Why It Matters

- Ensures **faster gameplay** and improves **viewer engagement**
- Holds **fielding sides accountable** for over rate delays

- Extends stop clock concept from **limited overs to Tests**

Other Key Changes:
- **Saliva ban** continues; no ball change required if applied accidentally
- **Deliberate short run**: Fielding side can choose the batter to face next ball
- **DRS referral conflict**: The request made first (umpire or player) will be considered

These changes reflect ICC's focus on enhancing the **discipline, pace and competitiveness** of Test cricket.

2029 World Police & Fire Games
Context
- India has secured the **hosting rights for the 2029 World Police & Fire Games**, with events set to take place in **Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Ekta Nagar**.

Details
- This marks the first time India will host the prestigious global event, which brings together first responders from across the world.
- **Key Highlights**
  - **Organizer**: Gujarat Government, supported by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**
  - **Participants**: Over **10,000 athletes** from **70+ countries**
  - **Sports Events**: Includes athletics, swimming, martial arts, cycling and more

Ostrava Golden Spike 2025
Context
- Neeraj Chopra clinched gold at the **Ostrava Golden Spike 2025** in the Czech Republic with a best throw of **85.29 metres**, marking his **second international title in six days**.

Details
Highlights and Key Details
- **Winning Throw**: 85.29m (Third round)
- **Top Contenders**:
  - Douw Smit (South Africa) – 84.12m
  - Anderson Peters (Grenada) – 83.63m
  - Toni Keränen (Finland) – 82.26m
- **Significance**:
  - **5th event** of the season
  - **Build-up to 2025 World Championships & Asian Games**
  - Second major win after **Paris Diamond League**

Lalit Upadhyay Retires from International Hockey
Context
- Two-time Olympic medalist **Lalit Kumar Upadhyay** has retired from international hockey, closing a remarkable chapter in Indian sport.

Details
Career Highlights and Legacy
- **Olympic Medals**:
  - 🥉 Tokyo 2020
  - 🥉 Paris 2024
- **Caps**: 179+ | **Goals**: 40+
- **Asian Glory**:
  - Gold: 2016 & 2018 Asian Champions Trophy, 2017 Asia Cup
  - Silver: Champions Trophy
  - Bronze: Hockey World League Final
- **Awards**:
  - Arjuna Award (2021)
  - Appointed DSP by Uttar Pradesh Government

First Indian wicketkeeper to score centuries in both innings of a Test match.
Context
- Rishabh Pant made history during the June 2025 Headingley Test against England by becoming the **first Indian wicketkeeper** to score **centuries in both innings** of a Test match.

Details
Pant's Twin Centuries:
- 134 in the 1st innings
- 118 in the 2nd innings
- **Total: 252 runs** – most by an Indian wicketkeeper in a single Test match

Historic Feats:
- Only the **second wicketkeeper** in Test history to score two centuries in a match (after Andy Flower in 2001)
- **First Indian batter** to score centuries in both innings of a Test in England
- **Fourth-highest aggregate** for a wicketkeeper in Test cricket

First Asian fast bowler to claim 150 Test wickets in SENA countries
Context
- **Jasprit Bumrah** has created history by becoming the **first Asian fast bowler** to claim **150 Test wickets in SENA countries** (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia).

Details
Match Performance:

- Took a **five-wicket haul** against England at Headingley
- Helped restrict England to **465 in the 1st innings**

Career Stats (as of June 2025):
- **Total Test wickets:** 210
- **Wickets in SENA countries:** 150+
- **Five-wicket hauls:** 14 in 87 innings

Historic Firsts:
- First Indian fast bowler to reach this feat
- Surpassed legends like **Zaheer Khan** and **Anil Kumble** in SENA wickets tally

Logo & Mascot for 2025 World Para Athletics Championships

Context
- India launches Logo & Mascot 'Viraaj' for 2025 World Para Athletics Championships

Details
- **Mascot Name:** *Viraaj* -- a **young elephant with a blade prosthesis**, representing **strength, resilience and inclusivity**
- **Unveiled by:** Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)
- **Logo Theme:** Likely based on inclusivity and Indian ethos (exact theme not mentioned)

Paris Diamond League 2025

Context
- Neeraj Chopra clinched **his first Diamond League title since June 2023.**

Details
Key Highlights
- **Winning Throw:** 88.16m (1st attempt)
- **Subsequent Throws:** 85.10m, three fouls, 82.89m
- **Event:** Paris Diamond League (8th of 15 events in 2025 season)
- **Previous Best in 2025:** 90.23m in Doha (finished 2nd)
- **Last Win:** Lausanne Diamond League 2023 (87.66m)
- **Major Rival Beaten:** Julian Weber (Germany) – 87.88m

Final Standings – Paris 2025
1. **Neeraj Chopra (India)** – 88.16m
2. **Julian Weber (Germany)** – 87.88m
3. **Luiz Mauricio Da Silva (Brazil)** – 86.62m

Other notable participants: **Keshorn Walcott anderson Peters, Julius Yego.**

2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup

Context

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced the **schedule** for the **2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup**, to be held from **30 September to 2 November 2025** across **India and Sri Lanka**.

Details
- **Dates:** 30 September – 2 November 2025
- **Format:** Round-robin, followed by **knockouts**
- **Matches Played In:**
  o **India** – Primary host
  o **Sri Lanka** – Neutral venue for **Pakistan's matches** due to diplomatic tensions

Background
- **13th Edition** of the ICC Women's ODI World Cup
- **India has hosted 3 times before**:
  o 1978
  o 1997
  o 2013
- **Total Teams:** 8
  o India, Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan

Four-day Test matches for smaller cricketing nations

Context
- The International Cricket Council will allow four-day Test matches for smaller cricketing nations in the 2027–29 World Test Championship cycle to reduce costs and increase participation, while traditional five-day Tests will continue for major rivalries like the Ashes, Border-Gavaskar Trophy and Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

Details
- **What's Changing:**
  o Four-day Tests will be officially permitted in the **2027–29 WTC cycle**.
  o **Five-day Tests** will continue for marquee rivalries like:
    ▸ **Ashes (England vs. Australia)**
    ▸ **Border-Gavaskar Trophy (India vs. Australia)**
    ▸ **Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy** (New rivalry starting **June 17, 2025**)
- **Why Four-Day Tests?**
  o **Cost-efficient:** Cheaper for low-revenue cricket boards.
  o **Time-saving:** A full series can conclude faster.
  o **Fan engagement:** Shorter duration may attract more viewership.
- **Key Features of Four-Day Tests:**
  o **98 overs/day** (vs. 90 in five-day Tests).

- o **Extended playtime** daily to make up for lost time.
- o **Greater scheduling flexibility.**
- **Background:**
  - o First allowed in **2017** for bilateral series.
  - o England has already played four-day Tests against:
    - ➢ **Ireland** (2019, 2023)
    - ➢ **Zimbabwe** (2025, Trent Bridge)
- **Global Impact:**
  - o Likely beneficiaries: **Zimbabwe, Ireland, Afghanistan**
  - o Could lead to **more frequent Tests** for lower-ranked teams
  - o **2025–27 WTC cycle** will continue with only **five-day Tests**, starting with **Sri Lanka vs. Bangladesh.**

New world record at Stockholm Diamond League

Context

- Sweden's Olympic champion **Armand Duplantis** set a new **pole vault world record of 6.28 meters** at the **Stockholm Diamond League**

Details

New World Record:

- Height: **6.28 meters.**
- Previous record: 6.27 meters (set in February 2025).

- Achieved on **first attempt** at **Stockholm's Olympiastadion.**

Historic Importance:

- First time Duplantis set a world record in **Sweden.**
- Venue: **1912 Olympic Stadium**, adding emotional and historic value.

About the Event – Stockholm Diamond League:

- Also known as **BAUHAUS-galan.**
- A **prestigious annual track and field event** in Stockholm, part of the **global Diamond League series.**
- Attracts **top international athletes** across various disciplines.
- Organized by **Stadionklubbarna**, a group of 14 local associations.
- Aims to promote athletics and position the **Stockholm Olympic Stadium** as a premier international venue.

Global Ambassador for the 2025 Esports World Cup

Context

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** has been named for it.

Details

- **2025 Esports World Cup is** set to be held in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, from **July 7 to August 24, 2025.**
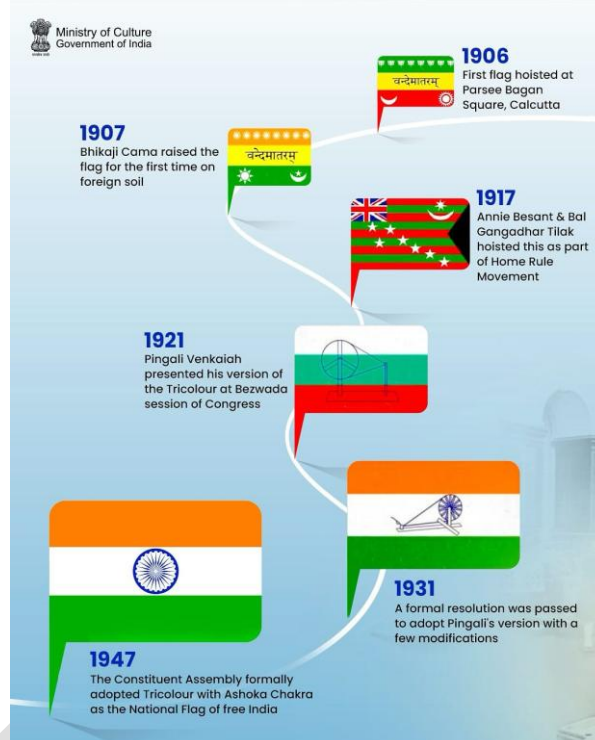
📅	IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day/Event
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is **observed every year on 17 June**, established by the UN General Assembly in 1994 (Resolution A/RES/49/115). It is coordinated by the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** to raise awareness on land degradation and sustainable land use. In 2025, Saudi Arabia hosted the event, highlighting its plan to plant 115 million trees.
20 June	World Refugee Day. Marks the 50th anniversary of the **1951 Refugee Convention**. It honours the **resilience and courage** of refugees who flee conflict and persecution in search of a safer future. Events worldwide celebrate their **diverse cultures** and aim to promote **empathy, inclusion and solidarity**.
21 June	World Music Day, International Yoga Day. Aims to recognize the **global benefits of yoga for physical, mental and spiritual well-being**. It was **adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 2014**, following a proposal by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** during his UN address in **September 2014**. The UN resolution titled **"International Day of Yoga"** was **co-sponsored by 177 countries**, the **highest number of co-sponsors** ever for a resolution of its kind. The **first Yoga Day** was celebrated on **21 June 2015.**
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day. Aims to recognize the **value and virtue of public service** in communities worldwide. Established by **UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/57/277** on **December 20, 2002**, the day also features the **UN Public Service Awards**, which honour outstanding contributions in improving public administration and promoting transparency,

	innovation and citizen-centric governance.
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking. Since **1989**, following a **United Nations General Assembly resolution (42/112)** adopted in **1987**. The date commemorates **Lin Zexu's destruction of opium in China in 1839**, symbolizing the global fight against drug abuse and illegal trafficking. The observance was proposed during the **International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (Vienna, 17–26 June 1987)**, where two landmark texts were adopted to guide future drug control efforts.
1 July	National Doctor's Day. Celebrated annually to **honour the contributions of physicians** to individuals and communities. In **India**, it is observed on **July 1** to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**, a renowned physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal.
2 July	World Sports Journalists Day 2025. Celebrates the vital role of **sports reporters, writers, commentators and photographers** in shaping how we experience sports. This year's theme -- **"Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact"**
5 July	The **International Day of Cooperatives** is observed every year on the **first Saturday of July** to recognize the vital role of **cooperatives** in promoting **economic inclusivity and sustainability**. This year's theme -- **"Cooperatives: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World"** -- highlights their contribution to building a more **resilient and equitable global economy**.
6 July	World Zoonoses Day. World Zoonoses Day is celebrated on July 6 to raise awareness about diseases in the human-animal interface. More than two-thirds of emerging infectious diseases have their origins in animals. Common examples include rabies, COVID-19, Ebola, bird flu and salmonella.
7 July	**World Bioproduct Day**, celebrated on **July 7**, promotes awareness about **sustainable and eco-friendly bioproducts** that contribute to **climate action and a greener future**. First observed in **2021**, the 2025 edition saw global participation, including **India**, showcasing advancements and goals in the **bioeconomy sector**.
11 July	World Population Day. It was established in **1989 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**. It was inspired by **Five Billion Day** (July 11, 1987), the day the global population reached **5 billion**, aiming to raise awareness about **population issues, reproductive health and sustainable development**.
12 July	World Malala Day. It coincides with the **birthday of Malala Yousafzai**, a Pakistani activist for female education and the **youngest Nobel Prize laureate**. The day is dedicated to advocating for the right to education for all children, especially girls and honoring Malala's courageous fight for this cause.
15 July	World Youth Skills Day. Raises awareness about the importance of equipping young people with **skills for employment, entrepreneurship and personal growth**. Marking its **10th anniversary in 2024** (declared by the **United Nations in 2014**), this year's theme -- **"Youth Empowerment Through Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Skills"**
17 July	World Day for International Justice. Marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, which led to the formation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998.
18 July	Nelson Mandela International Day. **Nelson Mandela International Day** is observed every year on **18 July**, marking the **birthday of Nelson Mandela**. Declared by the **United Nations in November 2009**, the day was first celebrated on **18 July 2010**, honouring Mandela's legacy of **peace, justice and human rights** through acts of community service and global solidarity.
July 20	**International Moon Day**. Commemorates the **Apollo 11 Moon landing in 1969**. Declared by the **United Nations General Assembly in 2021**, it promotes **peaceful space exploration**, **global cooperation** and the need for **sustainable lunar missions**.
July 20	World Chess Day. Commemorates the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1924.

28 July	**World Nature Conservation Day** is observed on **July 28**, emphasizing the urgent need to preserve natural resources and protect ecosystems. The **2024 theme**, "**Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation**," highlights the role of **technology in advancing conservation** efforts globally.
28 July	It aims raise awareness about **hepatitis A, B, C, D and E**, which collectively affect millions and cause over **1.34 million deaths annually**. The day promotes **prevention, diagnosis and treatment** of this liver-related disease. It is one of the **11 official global health campaigns** by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
22 July	**National Flag Day. Indian National Flag** was officially **adopted on July 22, 1947** by the **Constituent Assembly of India**, just **24 days before independence** (August 15, 1947).

STATIC GK

Nalanda University was founded by **Kumaragupta I**.

The **only Indian** to preside over the United Nations General Assembly was **Vijayalakshmi Pandit**.

The **First Buddhist Council** was held at **Rajgir** during the reign of **Ajatashatru**.

The **'Jana Gana Mana'** was first sung at the **Calcutta Session of INC in 1911**.

The **Sargasso Sea** is a unique sea **without a coastline**, located in the **North Atlantic Ocean**.

The **first Indian satellite for dedicated military use** was **GSAT-7** (Rukmini), launched in **2013**.

The **official mascot of the G20 Summit 2023 in India** was '**G20 India: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**', symbolized by the **lotus**.

The **largest tribal group in India** by population is the **Bhil**.

Rourkela Steel Plant, India's first public sector integrated steel plant, was set up with **German collaboration** in **Odisha**.

The **Heaviest naturally occurring element** is **Uranium (U)**, atomic number 92.

The **brain's speech center**, known as **Broca's area**, is located in the **left frontal lobe**.

Qutub Minar construction began under **Qutb-ud-din Aibak** and was completed by **Iltutmish**.

Gallium is a metal that **melts in the palm of your hand** (melting point ~29.7°C).

National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in **2010** for speedy environmental justice.

Anaimudi (8,842 feet) in Kerala is the **highest peak in the Western Ghats**.

The Guru Granth Sahib was compiled by Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth Sikh Guru.

The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** was formed in **1992** to protect women's rights.

The **unit of magnetic flux** is the **Weber.**

Loktak Lake in Manipur is famous for its **floating phumdis**.

Doldrums is a low-pressure zone near the equator known for **calm winds and thunderstorms.**

Urea is synthesized in the body during **protein metabolism** to eliminate **ammonia**.

Trans fats, common in bakery items, increase **LDL cholesterol**, raising the risk of **cardiovascular disease**.

Bio-remediation involves using **microorganisms** to clean up **oil spills or heavy metal pollution**.

Flue gas desulfurization (FGD) units in power plants reduce SO_2 **emissions** to combat **acid rain**.

The ionosphere, a layer of **Earth's atmosphere containing ionized particles, reflects radio waves, enabling long-distance communication**. This phenomenon, known as skywave propagation.

As of December 2024, the **total length of expressways in India was 6,059 km.**

The **second most abundant element in the Earth's crust** is silicon. It makes up about **27.7% of the crust by weight. Oxygen is the most abundant, making up around 46.6%.**

The **Battle of Waihind, also known as the Battle of Chhachh,** took place in 1008-1009 AD between **Mahmud of Ghazni and the Hindu Shahi ruler Anandapala**. Anandapala, with the support of a confederation of other Indian rulers, was defeated by Mahmud, leading to the consolidation of Ghaznavid control over the Punjab region.

Bhabar zone lies along the **Himalayan foothills** and has **porous soil**.

The **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is** an expert body that recommends Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) to the government.

Tungsten is used in filament of bulbs due to its **high melting point.**

The **Sanskrit work Amuktamalyada was authored by Krishnadevaraya**, the Vijayanagara emperor.

Isohyets are lines on a map joining areas of **equal rainfall.**

Puga Valley in Ladakh is known for **geothermal energy potential**.

Angel tax applies to funding received by **startups** exceeding the fair market value.

KYC (Know Your Customer) norms were first introduced in India **by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2002.**

The Phillips Curve depicts the **relationship between inflation and unemployment.**

Albert Einstein explained the photoelectric effect in 1905 by proposing that **light consists of photons, which can eject electrons from a metal surface if their energy is sufficient.**

Aluminium is extracted from bauxite **using the Hall-Héroult process.**

Glycolysis is a cytoplasmic metabolic pathway that breaks down glucose into **two pyruvate molecules, initiating both aerobic and anaerobic respiration for cellular energy production.**

The **Geneva Protocol (1925) banned the use of chemical and biological weapons.**

Bastille Day (July 14) marks the start of **the French Revolution in 1789.**

Ikat is a resist-dyeing weaving technique where yarns are dyed before weaving to create intricate patterns, prominently practiced in Pochampally (Telangana) and Patola (Gujarat), with designs that appear on both sides of the fabric.

Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, has no formal nomination process and can be

awarded posthumously following a 1955 amendment; **Lal Bahadur Shastri** was the first posthumous recipient in **1966**.

SWIFT network facilitates secure **international financial messaging** between banks.

SPICe+ is the **online integrated form** for company incorporation in India.

UDAN scheme (2016) subsidises **regional air connectivity** on unserved and underserved routes.

PM WANI (2020) creates **public Wi-Fi networks** through **Public Data Offices**.

Sher Shah Suri, founder of the **Suri dynasty**, introduced the silver coin **Rupiya** weighing **178 grains**, standardized weights and measures, defeated **Humayun** at **Chausa (1539)** and **Kannauj (1540)** and built the **Grand Trunk Road** from **Calcutta to Peshawar**.

The **Kalasa-Banduri Nala project** diverts water from **Mahadayi** to **Malaprabha** basin in Karnataka.
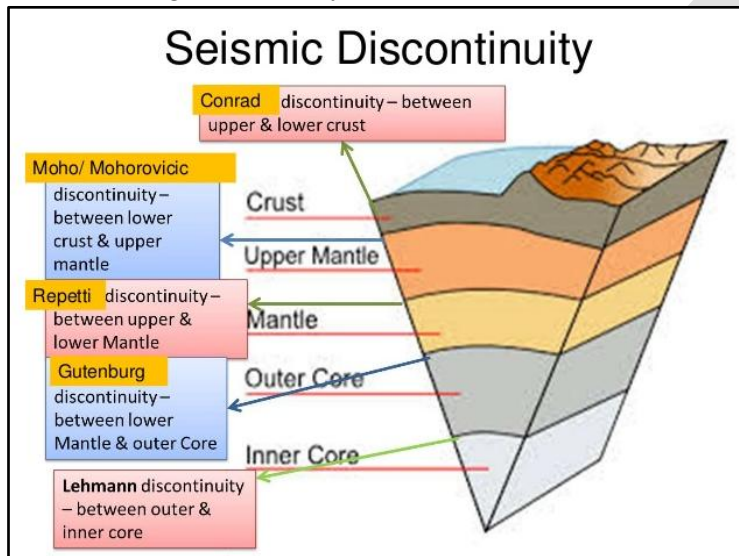
LiDAR mapping is a remote sensing technology that uses laser pulses to generate detailed **3D**

models of surfaces by measuring the time it takes for light to bounce back, enabling applications in **topography, forestry, urban planning, coastal mapping, autonomous vehicles, archaeology** and **environmental monitoring**.

The **first plant genome to be sequenced was Arabidopsis thaliana**, a small flowering plant, in 2000.

India's first sodium-cooled fast reactor (PFBR) is being constructed at **Kalpakkam**, Tamil Nadu.

The Gutenberg discontinuity lies between the Earth's mantle and outer core.

CURRENT GK

Tanimbar Islands are located in the Indonesian province of Maluku, at the end of a long chain of islands that extends from Sumatra to Java, Bali, Lombok and down to Timor.

Akash is a **Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM)** developed by **DRDO** and produced by **Bharat Dynamics Ltd** to intercept

aerial threats up to **25 km** range and **18 km** altitude, guided by **Rajendra PESA radar**.

As of **30 June 2025**, **non-fossil sources** make up **50.08%** of India's **484.8 gigawatt** installed power capacity--meeting the **2030 Paris target five years early**--but contribute only **28–30%** to actual power generation, with **coal still**

supplying around 70% of the electricity demand.

Behdeinkhlam is a mid-July harvest festival of the **Pnar community** in **Meghalaya**, symbolizing the **driving away of evil** and observed mainly by **Niamtre followers** in **Jowai**.

Klyuchevskoy is an **active stratovolcano** on Russia's **Kamchatka Peninsula** and the **tallest active volcano in Eurasia**, standing at **4,750 meters**, with over **70 side craters** and frequent eruptions since **1700**.

RhoDIS India, launched in **2016** by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**, uses **DNA indexing** to aid in **rhino conservation and crime investigation**, creating **unique genetic IDs** for individual rhinos.

Noctilucent clouds are **ice-crystal clouds** that form near the **summer polar mesopause** (~80 km altitude), visible only at **astronomical twilight** and known for their **night-shining glow**, typically seen between **50° and 70° latitudes**.

The **Maputo Protocol**, adopted by the **African Union in 2003**, is a landmark treaty promoting **women's rights in Africa**, leading to progress in **political representation**, like in **Rwanda** and improved **reproductive healthcare** across member nations.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are flat, ring-shaped organic molecules made of carbon and hydrogen, formed on Earth through **incomplete combustion** or **pyrolysis** of organic matter and are known to **persist in oils**, **resist water** and **disintegrate in space** under intense radiation or collisions.

A **pheromone** is a **chemical signal** released by an animal to influence the **behavior or physiology** of other members of the **same species**, such as triggering mating, alarm, or social behaviors like **locust swarming**.

A person is considered **"ordinarily resident"** in a constituency under **Section 19 and 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950** if they habitually live there with the intent of permanent stay, not just casual visits--mere property ownership is not enough and temporary absence doesn't affect this status.

A **second** is officially defined as the time it takes for a **caesium-133 atom** to complete **9,192,631,770 vibrations** during a transition between two energy levels in its ground state.

The **Battery Passport** system is a digital ID for EV batteries, containing key data on **origin, composition, performance, lifecycle** and **supply chain**--all linked via a unique QR code to ensure transparency and traceability.

Japonica rice is a **variety of Oryza sativa, characterized by short, round grains that turn sticky and firm when cooked, due to low amylose content**. It thrives in cool, temperate climates and is mainly grown **in Japan, China, Korea, Vietnam and Indonesia.**

INS Nistar is an **indigenous Diving Support Vessel built by Hindustan Shipyard** to support submarine rescue and deep-sea operations, **with 80% local content**. It serves as a mother ship for the **Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle**, boosting India's self-reliance and IOR maritime capabilities.

Sheesh Mahal, built in the 17th century under **Emperor Shah Jahan**, is a stunning example of **Mughal architecture**, known for its intricate mirror work and placement within a grand **Mughal Garden complex.**

Mount Rainier, the highest peak in Washington (4,392 m), is an **active stratovolcano** with the largest glacier system in the U.S. outside Alaska and is one of the **world's 16 Decade Volcanoes** due to its explosive potential and proximity to Seattle.

Ham radio, or **amateur radio**, is a licensed service that enables individuals to communicate locally, globally and even with space stations using radio waves. In India, those aged **12 years and above** can obtain a license from the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.

Mount Shinmoedake is an active stratovolcano located in the Kirishima range on Kyushu Island, Japan, standing at **1420.8 meters**.

A **polar anticyclone** is a high-pressure wind system that forms over the **cold polar regions**, especially during winter, due to the **cooling and sinking of dense surface air**. Examples include the **Siberian high** and winter highs over **Canada and Alaska**, which often push cold, dry air toward lower latitudes.

The **Alaknanda River** is a major Himalayan tributary of the **Ganga**, originating from the **Satopanth Glacier** in Uttarakhand. It meets **Bhagirathi** at **Devprayag**, where the river officially becomes the **Ganga**, after confluences with

Nandakini, Pindar and Mandakini at various Prayags.

The **India Energy Stack (IES)** is a **Digital Public Infrastructure** designed for the **energy sector**, offering **secure, standardized and open access** to stakeholders. It aims to digitally integrate the **entire electricity value chain**--from **generation to consumption**.

The **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)** is a tool launched in **May 2025** by the **Digital Intelligence Unit under the Department of Telecommunications**. It assesses the **fraud risk level of mobile numbers**--Medium, High, or Very High--and is used by major banks and payment platforms to combat financial fraud.

Altermagnets are a newly discovered class of magnetic materials that have **no net external magnetism** like antiferromagnets but show **ferromagnet-like electron behavior internally**, making them ideal for advanced technologies like **spintronics**.

The **SPREE Scheme (Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers/Employees)**, active from **July 1 to December 31, 2025**, encourages voluntary registration under the **ESI Act**, offering **medical coverage** to left-out workers and compliance benefits to unregistered employers.

India is now free of **Trachoma**, a contagious eye infection caused by the bacterium **Chlamydia trachomatis**, leading to preventable blindness. It spreads through contact with infected secretions and is classified by the **World Health Organization** as a **Neglected Tropical Disease**.

Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is India's second most used fertilizer after urea, vital for early-stage crop growth as it provides **46% phosphorus** and **18% nitrogen**.

Kerala renamed **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur as India's first Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**, home to over 266 butterfly species, representing 80% of Kerala's diversity. Located in the Western Ghats, it protects rare species.

GLP-1 receptor agonist drugs, such as semaglutide and tirzepatide, mimic natural gut hormones that regulate blood sugar and appetite. Now available in India, they offer effective obesity treatment, enabling 15-20% weight loss along with multiple health benefits.

The **Banakacherla Reservoir Project** aims to combat **water scarcity** in drought-prone **Rayalaseema andhra Pradesh**, by linking the **Godavari River** with the **Penna River** through the **Krishna River**. It includes building a new reservoir at **Bollapalli, Guntur district**, with five lift stations, using only **surplus Godavari water**.

The **UN80 Initiative**, launched in **March 2025** by **UN Secretary-General António Guterres**, is a reform agenda aimed at making the **United Nations** more **efficient, effective and relevant** for the 21st century.

The **Rhone Glacier** is the largest glacier in the **Urner Alps** of Switzerland and the source of the **Rhone River**, significantly feeding **Lake Geneva** in the canton of **Valais**. The highest point above it is **Dammastock**, standing at **3,630 meters**.

Price Support Scheme (PSS) is a government program that safeguards farmers against market price fluctuations by guaranteeing the purchase of their produce at a predetermined **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**.

Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP) is a centralized system designed to shift fraud management from reactive to proactive by enabling real-time sharing of suspicious account and transaction data among institutions, aiming to prevent financial losses.

The newly identified **EMM-negative blood type**, also called **Gwada negative**, is the rarest blood type globally, with only one known individual as of June 2025. It lacks the **EMM antigen**, a high-incidence antigen normally present on red blood cells, making this blood type uniquely compatible only with itself and posing challenges for safe blood transfusions.

Evaporative demand, also called **potential evapotranspiration** or **atmospheric thirst**, measures the atmosphere's ability to pull moisture from land and plants through evaporation and transpiration. It increases with high temperature, low humidity, strong winds and sunlight and prolonged high evaporative demand periods are known as **thirstwaves**.

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow passage connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, lying between Iran and Oman.

The **World Economic Forum** releases the **Energy Transition Index** annually, which benchmarks **118 countries** on the performance of their current energy systems, emphasizing the shift toward a more **inclusive, sustainable and secure global energy future**.

Extreme Helium Stars are rare, low-mass supergiants made mostly of **helium** instead of hydrogen. Thought to form from the merger of a **carbon-oxygen white dwarf** with a **helium white dwarf**, 21 such stars have been found in our galaxy, with temperatures ranging from **8000 K to 35000 K**.

India's wind power has surpassed 51 GW, but infrastructural and policy challenges pose a threat to renewable energy targets.

Quantum communication means sending information using tiny particles of light called photons. It is much safer than regular ways because it uses a special connection called **quantum entanglement**, where two particles stay linked even if they are very far apart. This makes the communication almost impossible to hack.

The "Decade Volcanoes" are 16 volcanoes identified by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) as being particularly worthy of study due to their potential for dangerous eruptions and proximity to populated areas. These volcanoes were selected as part of the United Nations-sponsored International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in the 1990s.

Map of the 16 Decade Volcanoes