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Cyclone Montha



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Kalinga Literary Festival
(KLF) 2026



GST on
Kendu Leaves



Debrigarh Wildlife
Sanctuary

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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS



CONTENT

OPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

4

ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK	14
APPOINTMENTS	16
AWARDS	16
BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]	18
SPORTS	18
IMPORTANT DAYS	20
STATIC GK	21
CURRENT GK	22
LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS	24



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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

Operationalisation of National Waterways-5 & 64 in Odisha

Context:

- At the India Maritime-2025 event in Mumbai, a landmark MoU was signed to operationalise **National Waterways-5 (NW-5)** and **National Waterways-64 (NW-64)** in Odisha.

Details

- This partnership aims to unlock the potential of Odisha's riverine network for **sustainable freight transport** and **regional economic development**. With an estimated investment of **₹12,200 crore**, the project will enable **efficient movement of coal and other bulk cargo** from Talcher coalfields to Paradip and Dhamra ports through inland waterways.
- Announced in 2008, the 588 km-long NW-5 integrates the Mahanadi, Brahmani Delta, Matai River and East Coast Canal to link major industrial hubs. Initially, 332 km of the stretch--comprising Talcher to Mangalgadi (237 km) and Dhamra to Paradip (95 km)--will be developed first.
- Similarly, NW-64 spans 425 km along the Mahanadi River, from Paradip sea mouth to

Sambalpur barrage. The first phase will focus on a 98 km stretch between Paradip Port and Cuttack barrage, incorporating 75 km of the Luna River.

- The project will be executed through a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)**--the **Inland Waterways Consortium of Odisha Limited (IWCOL)**.

Parties Involved:

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Government of Odisha, Paradip Port Authority (PPA) and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

Objective:

- To leverage Odisha's riverine systems for **sustainable freight movement** and **regional economic growth** through inland waterways.

Purpose:

- To enable **coal and bulk cargo transport** from Talcher coalfields to Paradip and Dhamra ports via waterways.

Benefits:

- Reduction in **logistics and freight costs**.
- Decongestion** of road and rail networks.
- Promotion of **eco-friendly transportation**.
- Alignment with **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)**, established under the IWAI Act, 1985, is the **statutory body** responsible for developing and regulating inland waterways in India. Headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, IWAI oversees a navigable network of 14,500 km. Despite this vast potential, **inland water transport accounts for just 0.1%** of India's freight traffic. IWAI develops infrastructure, assesses project feasibility and administers waterways.

Paradip Port

Paradip Port is a natural, deep-water port located at the confluence of the Mahanadi River and the Bay of Bengal in Jagatsinghpur district, Odisha, about 53 km from Jagatsinghpur city. It serves as Odisha's only major port and a crucial gateway for the hinterland of Central and Eastern India. Founded by Biju Patnaik, its foundation stone was laid by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962 and it became India's eighth major port in 1966. Managed by the Paradip Port Authority (PPA) under the Ministry of Shipping, it handled 150.41 million tonnes of cargo in 2024-25, mainly bulk cargo and crude oil.

Inland Waterways:

- These include navigable rivers, canals and lakes (excluding seas) used for the movement of goods and passengers. A waterway is classified as an inland waterway if it can support vessels with a minimum carrying capacity of 50 tonnes.

Classification (as per 1980 National Transport Policy Committee):

- To qualify as an inland waterway, the channel must be at least **45 metres wide**, have a **minimum depth of 1.5 metres** and maintain a **continuous stretch of 50 kilometres**.

Regulatory Authority:

- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India**, established in 1986 under the **Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985**, is the apex body responsible for developing, regulating and managing inland waterways for navigation and shipping.

Jurisdiction:

- National Waterways are managed by the **Central Government**, while other waterways fall under the **State Governments**.

Inland Water Transport (IWT):

- It refers to the transport of cargo and passengers through navigable rivers, canals, creeks and backwaters. India possesses about **14,500 kilometres** of navigable inland waterways.

Legislative Framework:

- Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985:** Established the regulatory authority.
- National Waterways Act, 2016:** Declared 111 waterways as National Waterways.
- Inland Vessels Act, 2021:** Set safety, environmental and operational standards for vessels.
- National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025:** Encourages private investment and smooth infrastructure development.

Growth of Inland Water Transport:

- Operational National Waterways rose from 3 (2014-15) to 29 (2024-25) – a **767% increase**.
- Navigable length expanded from **2,716 km** to **4,894 km**.
- Cargo traffic grew from **18.07 million metric tonnes** (2013-14) to **133 million metric tonnes** (2023-24), with a **22.1% compound annual growth rate**.
- Future targets: **200+ million metric tonnes** by 2030 and **500+ million metric tonnes** by 2047 under the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision**.

Recent Government Initiatives:

- Jalvahak Cargo Promotion Scheme (2024):** Offers **35% cost reimbursement** to shift freight from road and rail to waterways.
- Extension of Tonnage Tax (Union Budget 2025-26):** Provides fiscal incentives to attract private players.
- Port Integration:** Establishment of **multi-modal terminals** for efficient cargo transfer.
- Digitisation:** Launch of a **unified portal** for vessel and crew registration to enhance transparency.

Flagship Projects:

- Sagarmala Project:** Strengthening port connectivity and coastal infrastructure.
- Prime Minister Gati Shakti:** Promoting multimodal logistics integration.
- Jal Marg Vikas Project:** Developing **National Waterway-1 (Varanasi-Haldia stretch)**.
- Dedicated Freight Corridors (Eastern & Western):** Enhancing freight movement efficiency.

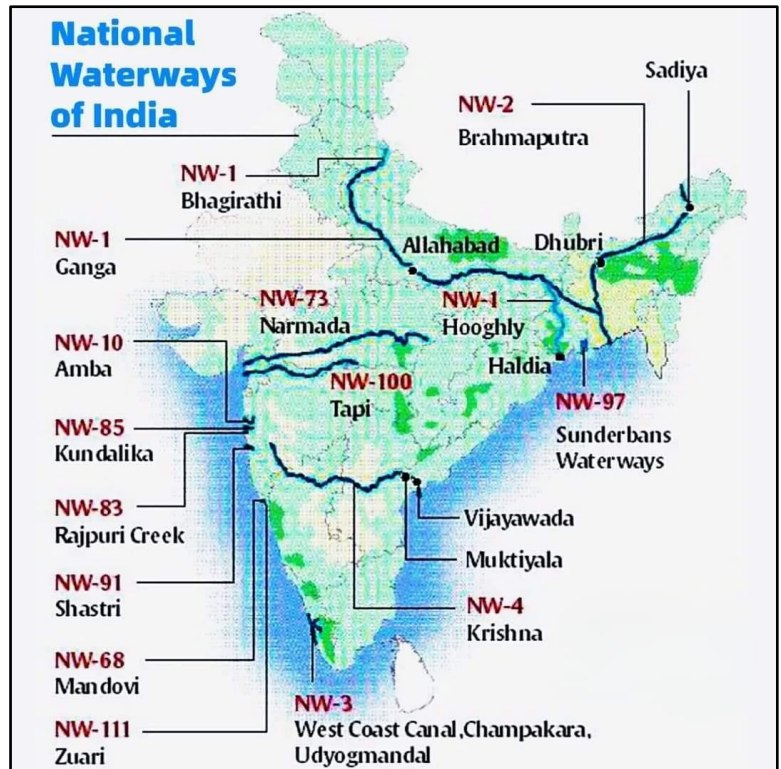
Cyclone Montha

Context:

- Cyclone Montha made **landfall near Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**, on **October 28, 2025**, bringing **winds up to 110 kmph** and **heavy rainfall** across coastal districts of **Andhra Pradesh** and **Odisha**.

Cyclone Montha

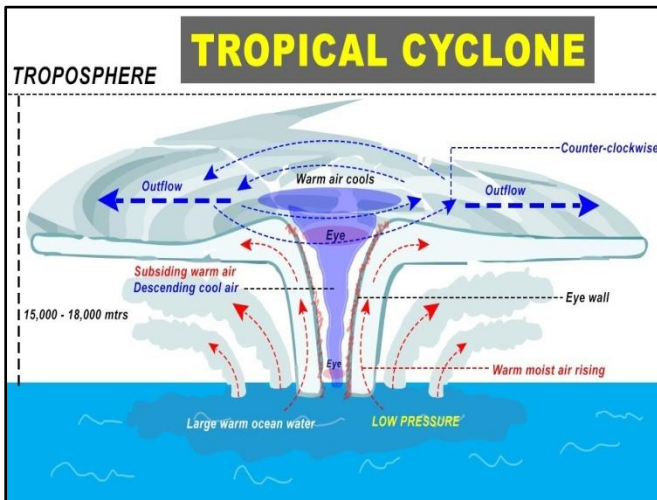
- Cyclone **Montha** is a **tropical cyclone** that developed over the **Bay of Bengal** in late October 2025.
- It intensified into a **severe cyclonic storm** before making **landfall near Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**, between **Machilipatnam** and **Kalingapatnam** on **October 28, 2025**.



- The storm brought winds of 90–100 km/h, gusting up to 110 km/h, along with heavy to extremely heavy rainfall across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and adjoining states.

Naming and Meaning:

- The name “Montha” was contributed by Thailand.
- In Thai, *Montha* means a “fragrant flower” or “beautiful flower.”
- As per the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) convention, countries in the North Indian Ocean region name cyclones once wind speeds reach 62 km/h.



All About Cyclones: Formation, Naming and Climate Link

What is a Cyclone?

- A cyclone is a large-scale air system rotating around a low-pressure centre, accompanied by violent storms and bad weather. As per the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), winds spiral anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
- They are classified into tropical cyclones (formed between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn) and extra-tropical cyclones (formed outside the tropics).

Tropical Cyclones:

- These are warm-core storms that derive energy from the latent heat of condensation when warm, moist air rises and cools.
- They are called hurricanes in the Atlantic, typhoons in the western Pacific and cyclones in the Indian Ocean.

Extratropical Cyclones:

- These are cold-core systems that derive energy from the interaction of warm and cold air masses and are always associated with fronts.

What Happens During Landfall?

- Landfall occurs when the eye of a tropical cyclone crosses the coast. During this, winds, rain and storm surges are at their peak, causing flooding, power disruption and infrastructural damage.
- However, cyclones weaken rapidly after landfall due to reduced moisture and increased surface friction.

How Are Cyclones Named?

- Cyclones over the North Indian Ocean are named by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) / ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones comprising 13 countries namely Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- Names must be short, neutral, inoffensive and easy to pronounce.
- Naming helps in public awareness, disaster preparedness and communication efficiency.

Why Is the Bay of Bengal Prone to Cyclones?

- Funnel-shaped topography amplifies storm surges.
- Shallow waters and warm sea surface temperatures ($>28^{\circ}\text{C}$) support cyclone formation.
- Numerous river deltas and low-lying coastlines increase vulnerability.
- Historically, 22 of the world's 30 deadliest cyclones occurred here.
- In contrast, the Arabian Sea, though warming faster recently, still records fewer cyclones.

Impact of Climate Change on Cyclones:

- Global temperature rise of 1.1°C since 1850 is intensifying cyclones.
- Oceans absorb 90% of excess heat, increasing sea surface temperature by $\sim 0.9^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- This leads to more frequent, long-lasting and severe storms.
- Studies suggest up to 30% more frequent major cyclones if global warming crosses 2°C .

Closing Remarks

- Cyclone Montha highlights India's increasing vulnerability to tropical cyclones, especially along the east coast and underscores the need for strengthened early warning systems, resilient infrastructure and community-based disaster preparedness in line with the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) 2026

Context:

- The 12th edition of the Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from January 8 to 11, 2026, at Mayfair Lagoon.

Details:

- Organised by the Odisha Diary Foundation and Kalinga Literary Festival Pvt. Ltd.
- Themes will range from AI, geopolitics and sustainability to gender, identity, philosophy and literature.
- Prominent participants include Booker Prize winners like Banu Mushtaq, Deepa Bhashti and Daisy Rockwell, along with noted Indian authors Perumal Murugan and Anand Neelakantan.

- KLF 2026 will also host the 10th edition of the Kalinga Art Festival, showcasing painters, sculptors and visual storytellers.
- Since its inception in 2012, KLF has hosted over 5,000 speakers, fostering literary, cultural and ideological exchange.
- The festival has expanded internationally, with editions in Kathmandu (since 2022) and planned events in Colombo and Bali, rekindling ancient Kalinga's cultural ties with Southeast Asia.

Significance:

- KLF 2026 represents Odisha's emergence as a cultural and literary hub, bridging India's literary heritage with global thought and celebrating storytelling as humanity's timeless art form.

CAG Calls for Odisha-like Budget Stabilisation Funds

Context:

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has urged all states to adopt Odisha's model of a Budget Stabilisation Fund (BSF).
- This comes amid criticism that several states lack adequate fiscal buffers and contingency planning to deal with revenue shocks and economic crises.
- Odisha's model was showcased at a recent CAG conference in Delhi as a best practice in public financial management.

Odisha's Budget Stabilisation Fund

- Odisha is the only Indian state to have established a Budget Stabilisation Fund right after the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The fund was created by diverting a portion of surging mining revenues since FY23.
- A corpus of ₹21,000 crore has been built so far, recognised by Deputy CAG Jayant Sinha as a model for states with surplus revenues.

Fund Management and Operations

- The fund is held outside government accounts and is managed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- It functions like a sub-national sovereign wealth fund, where the corpus is invested in government securities.
- The fund allows the state to draw from it during crises or economic downturns without resorting to excessive borrowing.

Economic Context: Dependence on Mining Revenues

- Odisha earns about ₹50,000 crore annually from mining post-COVID, boosted by commodity price surges.

- Mining revenue composition:**
 - Over 90% of non-tax revenue
 - 45% of total state revenue
 - 26% of total receipts
- Given its vulnerability to cyclones and price shocks, Odisha plans to expand the fund to ₹50,000 crore to strengthen fiscal stability.

CAG's Broader Objective

- The CAG aims to standardise fiscal management practices across states.
- The conference provided a platform to exchange best practices and promote responsible budgeting.
- Unlike the RBI, which focuses mainly on debt management, the CAG engages with states on:
 - Accounting systems
 - Auditing mechanisms
 - Financial management efficiency

Recognition of Odisha's Fiscal Prudence

- The RBI and NITI Aayog have lauded Odisha for its debt management and fiscal sustainability.
- As per NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index (2025):
 - Debt Index score: 99/100
 - Debt sustainability score: 64
- Fiscal indicators for FY 2023-24:
 - Fiscal deficit: 1.7% (below 3% FRBM limit)
 - Debt-to-GSDP ratio: 16% (below 25% target)
 - Capital outlay-to-GSDP: Above national average

Significance for Other States

- The Odisha Budget Stabilisation Fund serves as a model of fiscal discipline and resilience.
- States with surplus revenues are encouraged to:
 - Establish similar funds for fiscal stability.

- **Save during boom periods** to prepare for economic downturns.

- Such a mechanism ensures **long-term sustainability**, reduces **borrowing dependency** and promotes **sound public finance management**.

Odisha to Develop All New Roads as Green Corridors

Context:

- The **Odisha government** has announced that **all upcoming roads** in the state will be developed as **Green Corridors**.

Objective:

- The state has resolved to make **tree plantation mandatory** along every new road constructed in the state.
- The goal is to integrate **greenery with infrastructure** to reduce pollution, improve aesthetics and enhance ecological balance.

Transparency Initiative: QR Codes on Roads

- To ensure **transparency and public participation**, **QR codes** will be installed on all new roads.
- Citizens can scan these QR codes to access:
 - **Contractor details**
 - **Technical specifications**
 - **Project information** such as length, cost and timeline
- The system will be implemented not only on **national highways** but also on **state highways**.

- This will make project data **easily accessible** and foster **accountability in public works**.

Green Funding: 1% of Project Cost for Plantation

- **1% of every project's total cost** will be earmarked for **tree plantation and maintenance**.
- The fund will be used for:
 - **Planting trees** along both sides of roads
 - **Nurturing and maintaining** the trees to ensure long-term survival
- This ensures that **greenery development** is a **built-in component** of road construction, not an afterthought.

Significance: Balancing Growth with Sustainability

- The initiative aims to create a network of **eco-friendly roadways** across Odisha.
- It aligns with the state's broader vision of **sustainable development**, combining **infrastructure growth** with **environmental conservation**.
- By integrating **green corridors**, Odisha seeks to set an example of **climate-conscious governance** while improving road quality and transparency.

Odisha Mandates Fire Safety Systems in Passenger Buses

Context:

- Following **recent tragic bus fire incidents** in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, the Odisha government has made **fire safety systems mandatory** for all **passenger buses registered after October 2025**.
- The decision underscores the state's focus on **passenger safety and accident prevention** through proactive measures.

Mandatory Safety Features in Buses

- As per the Odisha Fire Services Department, all newly registered buses must now be equipped with:
 - **Fire detection and suppression systems**
 - **Emergency exit doors**
 - **Alert systems**
 - **Glass-breaking hammers**
 - **Fire extinguishers**
- These safety provisions are designed to **enable quick evacuation** and ensure **effective fire response** during emergencies.

Fire Safety Awareness Campaigns

- The **Transport Department** will organise **fire safety awareness camps** at **major bus stands** across Odisha for the next **four Saturdays**.
- These camps will involve:
 - **Fire Services officials** training bus operators and staff.
 - Focus on **night service routes**, where fire risks are higher.
 - Demonstrations on **fire prevention, response and passenger evacuation techniques**.

Compliance Measures for Bus Operators

- **Bus owners** have been instructed to:
 - Prepare a **comprehensive list** of buses that meet or fall short of fire safety norms.
 - **Upgrade** non-compliant vehicles within **three months**.
- The **Fire Services Department** will also issue **guidelines on bus interiors**, advising the use of **non-flammable or fire-retardant materials** for:
 - **Seat covers**
 - **Curtains**
 - **Carpets and fittings**

Monitoring and Enforcement

- The state government will conduct **quarterly reviews** to assess the **implementation and compliance** of fire safety measures.
- These reviews will ensure that the **new safety standards** are effectively enforced and maintained across the **public transport network**.

Odisha Waives Land Conversion Fees for MSMEs

Context:

- The **Odisha government** has announced a **complete waiver of land conversion fees and rent charges** for industries registered under the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** category.
- The decision, seeks to **boost entrepreneurship**, attract investments, and **reduce the financial burden** on small industrial units.

Previous Policy and New Exemption

- Earlier, entrepreneurs were required to pay:
 - **1% of the benchmark land value** as conversion fees, and
 - An **additional 1% as rent charges**.
- Under the new policy, both charges are **fully waived** for eligible MSMEs.

Eligibility Criteria

- The waiver applies only to enterprises that:
 - Are **registered on the Central Government's Udyam Portal**, and
 - Have received approval from the **respective District Level Committees (DLCs)**.

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Context

- For the **first time**, students from **various colleges and high schools** in Odisha will participate in the upcoming **All India Tiger Estimation 2025-26**, to be held at **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary** in November.

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha

- Located in **Bargarh district**, Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the most ecologically diverse protected areas in western Odisha.

Location and Overview

- **District:** Bargarh, Odisha
- **Nearest City:** Sambalpur

Significance:

- The initiative reflects Odisha's commitment to **preventing fire-related tragedies** and promoting **public transport safety**.
- By enforcing **modern fire detection systems** and **regular safety audits**, the government aims to build a **safer, more reliable** passenger transport system across the state.

Exclusions from the Scheme

- The exemption will **not apply** to land located in:
 - **Forest areas,**
 - **Defence lands,**
 - **Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ), and**
 - **Archaeological or protected sites,** where separate legal provisions are applicable.

Safeguard Clause

- If an entrepreneur **deviates from the approved land use**, the land will be **reverted to the government**.
- This ensures **proper utilisation of land** and prevents **misuse of industrial plots**.

Significance for Odisha's Industrial Growth

- The move aligns with Odisha's goal of becoming a **leading investment destination** for MSMEs.
- It promotes **ease of doing business**, supports **employment generation**, and strengthens the state's **industrial ecosystem**, especially in sectors like **textiles, food processing, and handicrafts**.



- **Total Area:** 346.91 km² (133.94 sq. mi)
- **IUCN Category:** IV (Habitat/Species Management Area)
- **Lies close to the Hirakud Dam**, one of India's largest earthen dams.

Geographical Features

- **Boundaries:**
 - **East & North:** Surrounded by the **Hirakud Reservoir**.
- **Unique Feature:**
 - One of the few sanctuaries in Odisha supporting **both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity**.
- **Vegetation:**
 - Over **250 species of plants**, many with **ethno-botanical and medicinal value**.
- **Eco-Sensitive Zone:**
 - Declared **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** to prohibit industrial activities and protect its ecological integrity.

Odisha Cabinet Approves ₹4,182 Crore B-MAAN Scheme to Boost Aviation Sector

Context

- The Odisha Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, approved the **Building and Management of Aviation Assets and Network (B-MAAN)** scheme on October 25, 2025.

Aim of the Scheme:

- To develop Odisha as an aviation hub in eastern India and promote inclusive air connectivity under the vision "**Samastanka Pain Biman Seba**" (Aviation for All).

Key Features of the Scheme

- **Total Outlay:** ₹4,182 crore for 2025–2030 (5 years).
- **Nodal Department:** Commerce and Transport Department, Government of Odisha.
- **Approach:** Umbrella scheme integrating infrastructure, modernization, and maintenance under one framework.

Major Components

- **Infrastructure Development:**
 - Modernization, upgradation, and maintenance of **airports and heliports** (greenfield and brownfield projects).
 - Focus on **underserved and remote regions** to enhance regional access.
- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):**
 - Dedicated fund to provide **VGF and incentives to airlines**.
 - Strengthens **connectivity between tier-II and tier-III towns** with major cities under UDAN and similar programmes.
- **MRO Ecosystem:**
 - Establishment of **Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities** at **Biju Patnaik International Airport** and other key locations.
 - Aims to build a **self-reliant aviation maintenance ecosystem** and attract private investment.

Promotion of Futuristic Technologies

- Encourages **innovation and green mobility** through:
 - **Drones, seaplanes, e-VTOL aircraft**, and **aerospace manufacturing**.
 - Integration with emerging aviation technologies.

Air Cargo and Logistics Development

- Strengthens **air cargo infrastructure** to support:
 - **Agricultural exports, industrial logistics**, and **time-sensitive trade**.
 - Integrates Odisha into **national and global value chains**.

Employment and Skill Development

- Focus on **aviation-related skilling and training**, including:
 - **Flight training, pilot programmes, technician and ground-handling training**.
 - Special emphasis on **women employment** in aviation.
 - Collaboration with **industry partners** for skill enhancement.

Significance

- Positions Odisha as a **regional aviation hub** in eastern India.
- Promotes **Atmanirbhar Bharat** through domestic MRO capability.
- Generates **large-scale employment** and **private sector investment**.
- Enhances **connectivity, tourism, trade**, and **industrial growth** across the state.

Quick Facts (For Revision)

- **Scheme:** B-MAAN (Building and Management of Aviation Assets and Network)
- **Approved On:** October 25, 2025
- **Outlay:** ₹4,182 crore (2025–2030)
- **Vision:** Samastanka Pain Biman Seba (Aviation for All)

- **Key Focus:** Connectivity, MRO, futuristic tech, skilling, cargo logistics

EBUS-Guided Cryobiopsy

Context

- In a **major medical milestone**, Odisha's healthcare sector achieved a breakthrough with the successful performance of the state's first **radial endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS)-guided cryobiopsy** for a **peripheral lung lesion**.

About the Procedure

- **EBUS-guided cryobiopsy** combines **endobronchial ultrasound imaging** with **cryogenic tissue sampling** to diagnose **lung lesions**, especially those located peripherally.
- It allows **precise navigation** to deeper lung areas and produces **larger, better-preserved tissue**

- **Lead Department:** Commerce and Transport Department, Odisha

samples compared to conventional biopsy techniques.

Significance

- Marks Odisha's first use of this advanced diagnostic method.
- Positions **IMS and SUM Hospital** among **few centers in India** employing **EBUS-guided cryobiopsy**.
- Enhances diagnostic accuracy in **complex pulmonary diseases**.
- Represents a **step forward in medical innovation and healthcare excellence** in the state.

School Closures in Odisha: Rising Dropouts and the Educational Crisis in Tribal Areas

Context

- A *The Hindu* report highlights the **widespread closure and merger of schools** in Odisha, which has led to **increased dropout rates and educational challenges**, especially among **tribal children**.
- The issue is most pronounced in **Rayagada district** and other **tribal-dominated interior regions**.

Scale of School Closures

- Since **2013**, around **10,000 schools** have been **closed or merged** under Odisha's **school rationalisation and reorganisation policy**.
- Between **2020–2025**, **5,632 schools** were closed and merged, according to a statement by **School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond**.
- In **Rayagada district** alone, **121 schools** have been closed in the last five years.

Policy Rationale

- The government policy mandates **closure of schools with fewer than 20 students** to "optimise resources" and "improve efficiency."
- The stated aim is to **consolidate educational infrastructure** and **enhance learning outcomes** through better teacher deployment.

Ground Reality and Impact

1. Access and Dropouts

- Many villages, such as **Karapadi, Kumbhia, and Hikiriguda** in Rayagada district, have **lost access to local schools**.
- Children, especially girls, face challenges in **walking long distances or staying in hostels** at a young age.

- Dropouts have surged:

- ✓ **Bissamcuttack block:** 1,319 dropouts (only 51 returned).
- ✓ **Rayagada district:** 18,251 dropouts in **2025–26**, compared to fewer than 100 in the previous four academic years.

2. Burden on Residential Schools

- Odisha operates **1,737 residential schools** and **5,500 hostels**, serving **4.5 lakh SC/ST students** (including **3 lakh girls**).
- These institutions are **overcrowded and understaffed**-- e.g., Padabai Residential School has **3 teachers for 309 students**.
- Teachers are overburdened with **hostel management duties**, affecting **academic quality**.

3. Social and Psychological Concerns

- Many children face **homesickness, bullying, and adjustment issues** in hostels.
- Parents, mostly **daily wage earners**, find it hard to supervise their children's education when schools are distant.

Expert and Activist Concerns

- Education activists argue that **school closures in Scheduled Areas** are **misguided**, as most tribal children are **first-generation learners**.
- They urge the government to **consult communities and local representatives** before closing schools.
- Reliance solely on **UDISE enrolment data** without community engagement leads to **exclusion of vulnerable groups**.

Conclusion

- The school rationalisation policy in Odisha, though well-intentioned, has resulted in educational exclusion for tribal children.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Flags Lapses in Odisha's Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS)

Context

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India conducted an IT audit of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) in Odisha.
- The audit covered the period from 2013 (inception) to March 2023 and was presented in the Odisha Legislative Assembly on September 24, 2025.

Key Findings of the CAG Report

Implementation Lapses

- The audit flagged serious loopholes in CCTNS implementation, affecting data integrity and case tracking.
- It noted control failures in maintaining chronological and logical sequencing of events in police records.
 - Instances included FIRs being registered before General Diary (GD) entries and arrests/seizures recorded before FIRs.

Irregularities in Investigation

- 2,080 cases across 217 police stations (2018–2023) had charge sheets prepared by officers not designated as Investigating Officers (IOs).

Eustoma cultivated for first time in Odisha

Context

- For the first time in Odisha, the exotic flower *Eustoma* has been successfully cultivated locally.
- The initiative was led by the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow, under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- The flower bloomed in a polyhouse at Sanatanpali, Sambalpur district.



About the Eustoma Cultivation

- Eustoma (native to Mexico and America) was previously imported to Odisha.

- The situation underscores the need for a **balanced approach**-- ensuring **administrative efficiency** without compromising **access, equity, and inclusion** in education.

- 190 out of 368 cases were wrongly shown as closed, though charge sheets had not reached the court.

Privacy and Data Breaches

- 1,631 cases in 405 police stations exposed sensitive details of women victims and juvenile offenders on the citizen portal.
- 5,566 missing children complaints were logged without registering FIRs, violating mandatory procedures.

Data Omission and Non-Recording

- 9,642 non-cognisable cases were not recorded by 29 police stations, despite system provisions for such entries.

Significance

- The findings highlight serious administrative and cybersecurity lapses in Odisha's digital policing system.
- The CAG's report stresses the need for better data validation, officer accountability, and privacy safeguards in CCTNS.

- The NBRI's breakthrough proves the plant's adaptability to Odisha's hot climate.
- The success marks a major step in hi-tech floriculture, enabling local production of high-value ornamental flowers.

Economic and Agricultural Significance

- **Profitability:** Farmers can earn up to ₹2 lakh per acre per season.
- **Harvest Cycle:** Can be harvested twice a year, offering sustained income.
- **Livelihood Boost:** Opens new income opportunities and strengthens rural floriculture-based entrepreneurship.
- The Sambalpur unit is among 400 clusters developed by NBRI nationwide for promoting commercial floriculture.

Support and Training

- National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow (CSIR-NBRI) provides planting material,

technologies, and training for flowers like marigold, jasmine, gerbera, tuberose, gladiolus, and lotus.

- Farmers will also be trained in **disease management**, especially **fungal infections** arising from humidity.

Future Plans

- NBRI plans to **expand exotic flower cultivation** to southern Odisha districts, including Koraput.
- Eustoma's **longer shelf life** makes it a **potential substitute for roses** in local and export markets.

GST on Kendu Leaves

Context

- The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has demanded **complete GST exemption** for **kendu leaves** and **handloom products**, criticizing the Centre's **reluctance** to address this long-standing issue.
- The demand reflects **Odisha's socio-economic dependence** on these traditional sectors, which sustain large tribal and rural populations.

Background

- **Kendu leaves**, used for making bidis, are a **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** and a **source of livelihood** for lakhs of tribal families in Odisha.
- Odisha is **India's third-largest producer** of kendu leaves, after **Madhya Pradesh** and **Chhattisgarh**.
- Similarly, the **handloom sector** employs thousands of weavers across districts like **Cuttack**, **Sambalpur**, **Bargarh**, and **Nuapatna**.

GST Issue

- Kendu leaves and handloom products are currently **taxed under GST**, affecting **margins of tribal gatherers, cooperatives, and artisans**. **Note:** The Goods and Services Tax (GST) on kendu leaves has been reduced from 18% to 5%.
- **Imposing GST on MFPs and traditional crafts** contradicts the Centre's **promise of tribal welfare and rural employment promotion**.
- The Odisha government estimates a **revenue loss of about ₹1,000 crore per month** after the new GST slabs came into effect.

Significance

- Promotes **agro-diversification** and **climate-resilient horticulture** in Odisha.
- Aligns with **CSIR's vision of sustainable livelihood generation** through science-led innovation.
- Represents a **fusion of biotechnology and rural economy**, strengthening **India's floriculture sector**.

Socio-Economic Impact

- **Kendu leaf collection** provides **seasonal employment** to over 8 lakh tribal workers in Odisha.
- The **handloom industry** represents **Odisha's cultural heritage** and supports **rural women-led enterprises**.
- Tax burden reduces **competitive pricing**, impacting **exports and local sales**.

Demands and Way Forward

- **Full GST exemption** for kendu leaves and handloom products.
- **Compensation** to Odisha for revenue losses caused by the revised GST structure.
- Promotion of **tribal cooperatives** and **GST-free rural enterprises** to ensure **inclusive economic growth**.

Significance

- Aligns with **Article 46** of the Constitution -- promotion of **economic interests of Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections**.
- Supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by empowering **local crafts and forest-based livelihoods**.
- Ensures that **traditional and eco-friendly industries** remain viable in a **modern taxation regime**.

ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK

Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva (1078–1147 CE) of the Eastern Ganga dynasty ruled from the Ganga to the Godavari. He shifted his capital

from Kalinganagar (Parlakhemundi) to Cuttack.

Fakir Mohan Senapati, Radhanath Ray, Madhusudan Das, Madhusudan Rao, and

Bhagaban Chandra Das spearheaded Odisha's cultural and social reform movement.

Odisha became a separate province on 1 April 1936, carved

from Bengal, Madras, and Central Provinces, becoming India's first linguistic state.

Saraikela and Kharsawan, formerly parts of Mayurbhanj, were merged with Bihar after the States Reorganisation Commission.

Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab actively participated in the **Inchudi Salt Satyagraha (1930)** along with **Gopabandhu Choudhury**, leading to his arrest and imprisonment for one and a half years.

The first Odisha High Court was inaugurated on July 26, 1948, and its first Chief Justice was **Shri Bira Kishore Ray**.

The **Utkala Deepika**, the first Odia printed newspaper, was started on **4 August 1866** by **Gourishankar Ray** and **Babu Bichitrananda Das**; hence, **4 August** is celebrated as **Odia Journalism Day**.

The first governor of Odisha was **Sir John Austen Hubback**, who took office on April 1, 1936, when the province was formed.

After Odisha became a separate state in 1936, **Braja Sundar Das** was nominated to the **First Advisory Council** of the state by its first Governor, **Sir John Austin Hubback**.

Radhanatha Ray wrote famous **Kavyas** such as *Kedara Gauri*, *Nandikeshwari*, *Chilika*, *Mahajatra*–

Jajatikeshari, *Tulasistabaka*, *Urbashi*, *Darabara*, *Dasaratha Biyoga*, *Savitri Charita*, and *Mahendra Giri*.

Gangadhara Meher began composing poems at a very young age, with his early works reflecting the style of ancient Odia poets; his first Kabya (poetic work) was "**Rasa-Ratnakara**."

Sarala Devi (9 August 1904 – 4 October 1986) was the first Odia woman to join the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1921)** and the first Odia woman delegate of the **Indian National Congress**. On **1 April 1936**, she became the first woman elected to the **Odisha Legislative Assembly**. She also briefly served as the first female Speaker of the Assembly in the absence of Speaker **Mukunda Prasad Das** and was the first woman Director of the **Cuttack Co-operative Bank** and the first female Senate member of **Utkal University**. She was also the sole representative from Odisha on **Dr. S. Radhakrishnan's Education Commission**.

Dhap Dance is a vibrant folk dance of Odisha, deeply rooted in the traditions of its tribal communities, especially the **Kandha tribe**.

Langudi Hills (Pushpagiri), about 8 km from **Dharmasala** and 30 km from **Jajpur**, is an ancient **Buddhist site** linked to **Emperor Ashoka**. Excavations (1996–2001) uncovered **rock-cut**

stupas, **Buddha images**, **terracotta votives**, **seals**, and **pottery** dating from the **1st–11th century AD**. Considered Odisha's earliest **Buddhist centre**, it predates **Ratnagiri**, **Udayagiri**, and **Lalitgiri**, serving once as a **monastic and learning hub**.

The first Odia film is *Sita Bibaha*, made by **Mohan Sundar Deb Goswami** in 1936. Drawn from the Indian epic *Ramayana*, the story is about the marriage of **Sita** and **Ram**.

Niyamgiri Hills, located in **Kalahandi** and **Rayagada districts** of southwest Odisha, are home to the **Dongria Kondh tribe**. Known for their **pristine forests and rich biodiversity**, the hills lie between the **Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary** to the northwest and the **Kotgarh Wildlife Sanctuary** to the northeast.

Anshupa Lake, a **231-hectare freshwater oxbow lake** near **Banki** in **Cuttack district**, lies amid the **Saranda Hills**. Surrounded by **bamboo and mango groves**, it shelters **migratory birds**. It became a **Ramsar site** in 2021.

Ghumura Dance of **Kalahandi**, Odisha, evolved from ancient war music into a vibrant folk and devotional dance. Performed with the **Ghumura drum**, it symbolizes **valor, rhythm, and Odisha's rich cultural heritage**.



APPOINTMENTS

IMF's First Deputy Managing Director

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board approved the appointment of Dan Katz as its First Deputy Managing Director.

Brand ambassador of Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian on the International Space Station has been appointed brand ambassador of Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025, India's largest school hackathon, engaging over one crore students from 1.5 lakh schools to design and build solutions for real-world challenges.

First Arab UNESCO Chief

- Egypt's Khaled El-Enany has secured Executive Board approval to lead UNESCO and is set to become its first Arab Director-General.

Attorney General of India

- Senior Advocate R Venkataramani has been reappointed as Attorney General of India for two more years. The AGI, a constitutional post under Article 76, is the chief legal advisor to the Government of India and represents the state in the Supreme Court and High Courts, appointed by the President on the Union Cabinet's advice.

37th BCCI President

- Mithun Manhas, former Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir cricketer, has been elected unopposed as the 37th President of the BCCI.



AWARDS

Kenton R. Miller Award

Context

- Sonali Ghosh, Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, became the first Indian to receive the Kenton R. Miller Award for innovation in sustainable protected area management.

Details

- The award was conferred by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), IUCN, in Abu Dhabi on October 10, 2025. She was recognized for her community-driven conservation model integrating traditional ecological knowledge, scientific expertise and local participation, significantly benefiting Kaziranga and Manas in Assam.
- The Kenton R. Miller Award is a biennial award (established in 2006) presented by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to honor innovators in sustainable management of national parks and protected areas. Named after Dr. Kenton R. Miller, it recognizes significant contributions in planning, management, finance, governance, monitoring and communication. Winners receive a \$5,000

grant, international recognition and a citation acknowledging their impact.

70th Filmfare Awards 2025

Context

- Recently, the awards were announced.

Details

- At the 70th Filmfare Awards 2025, held at EKA Arena, Ahmedabad, Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies dominated, winning 13 trophies, including Best Film and Best Director. Abhishek Bachchan and Kartik Aaryan shared Best Actor (Male) for *I Want To Talk* and *Chandu Champion*, while Alia Bhatt won Best Actress for *Jigra*. Technical excellence was led by *Kill* (Action, Editing, Cinematography) and Zeenat Aman and Shyam Benegal received the Lifetime Achievement Award. The event was hosted by Shah Rukh Khan, Karan Johar and Maniesh Paul, featuring performances by Shah Rukh Khan, Kriti Sanon and Kajol.

Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor

Context

- Israel will award former US President Donald Trump the Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor



for his role in brokering the **Gaza ceasefire** and aiding **Israeli hostage releases**.

Details

- Presented by **President Isaac Herzog**, the medal recognizes Trump's behind-the-scenes diplomacy, leveraging ties with Israel and Gulf nations. The ceasefire enabled the first group of hostages' release and includes phased releases, humanitarian access and de-escalation measures. Established in 2012, the **medal** honors exceptional contributions to Israel or humanity, with past recipients like **Barack Obama** and global leaders.

Nobel Prize 2025 winners

Context

- The **Nobel Prize 2025 winners** were announced from October 6 to 13, honoring exceptional contributions to humanity across six categories.

Details

- Medicine:** Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi, for breakthroughs in **peripheral immune tolerance**, advancing treatments for autoimmune disorders and organ transplants.
- Physics:** John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis, for demonstrating **quantum effects in macroscopic systems**, aiding quantum computing and advanced technologies.
- Chemistry:** Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi, for discovering **metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)** that trap gases, store chemicals and collect water.
- Literature:** László Krasznahorkai, for visionary works blending **absurdism, reflection and poetic storytelling** within Central European literary traditions.
- Peace:** Maria Corina Machado, for her peaceful advocacy of **democracy and human rights** in Venezuela.
- Economic Sciences:** Joel Mokyr (half) for explaining conditions for growth through **technological progress** and Philippe Aghion & Peter Howitt (half) for the **theory of creative destruction**, showing how innovation replaces old ideas to drive sustained economic growth.

Founded per **Alfred Nobel's will in 1895**, the Nobel prizes recognize work that benefits society. Economic Sciences was added in 1968 by the Swedish central bank in Nobel's memory.

Nobel Prize winners receive a combination of **cash, medals, diplomas and global recognition**, though there is no official pension. Each laureate is awarded a

gold medal (24-carat gold-plated silver) and a personalized **Nobel diploma**, alongside prize money--around **SEK 11 million** (~₹10 crore or USD 1.2 million in 2024), shared if there are multiple recipients. While the Nobel Foundation does not provide a lifetime allowance, winners often gain **research grants, honorary positions, fellowships and advisory roles**. Other privileges include **global recognition, invitations to Nobel events, access to funding and influence in policymaking**. Ceremonies are held annually on **December 10**--Stockholm hosts most prizes, while the Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo.

My Bharat - NSS Awards 2022-23

Context

- On **October 6, 2025**, President **Droupadi Murmu** presented the **My Bharat - NSS Awards 2022-23** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, honoring students, programme officers and institutions for exceptional contributions to **community service and nation-building**.

Details

- Launched in **1969**, the **National Service Scheme (NSS)** encourages youth participation in voluntary service under the motto "**Not Me, But You**", with each unit engaging in **120 hours of regular activities and a 7-day special camp** over a two-year cycle. The **My Bharat - NSS Awards**, instituted in **1993-94**, recognize outstanding volunteers, officers, units and universities based on **impact, consistency, innovation and commitment**. Award eligibility requires volunteers to be **under 25 years of age** (28 for SC/ST). Among confirmed awardees for 2022-23 is **Sagar Roy** from DAV College, Chandigarh, who received the **National NSS Award** for exemplary service.

International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025

Context

- India was honoured with the **ISSA Award 2025** for **Outstanding Achievement in Social Security** at the **World Social Security Forum** in Kuala Lumpur.

Details

- Over the past decade, India expanded its social security coverage from **19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025**, benefiting over **940 million citizens**, a feat recognised by the **ILO**. Key drivers include **digital infrastructure** like the **e-Shram portal**, connecting 310 million unorganised sector workers to welfare

schemes and the **National Career Service**, linking skilled youth to employment while preserving social benefits. Institutions like **EPFO** and **ESIC** have played pivotal roles in providing **pension, healthcare and insurance**. India's strategy integrates **policy reforms, digital innovation, financial inclusion, skilling and social protection**, establishing a holistic model for social security expansion.

National Geoscience Awards

Context

- President **Droupadi Murmu** presented the **National Geoscience Awards 2024**.

Details

- Instituted in **1966** by the **Ministry of Mines**, the awards celebrate innovation and outstanding contributions in India's geoscience ecosystem. **Prof. Shyam Sundar Rai** received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for pioneering work in **Solid Earth and Exploration Geophysics**, while **Shri Susobhan Neogi** was honoured with the **National Young Geoscientist Award** for research on the **tectonic evolution of thrust belts** aiding mineral exploration.



BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

Book Name	Author and Details
Mahatma Gandhi and the Environment	T. N. Khoshoo.
Wings of Fire	Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
The Luminous Sparks	Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
Waiting for a Visa	B.R. Ambedkar
The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian	Nirad C. Chaudhuri
The Palace of Illusions	Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni – A retelling of the Mahabharata from the perspective of Draupadi.
The Dramatic Decade: The Days of Indira Gandhi	Pranab Mukherjee
Changing India	Manmohan Singh
My Unforgettable Memories	Mamata Banerjee
Citizen and Society	Former Indian Vice President M. Hamid Ansari
India Unmade	Yashwant Sinha
Navjivan	Mahatma Gandhi
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee – A novel addressing racial injustice, with themes applicable to Indian society.



SPORTS

Ahmedabad Recommended to Host CWG Games

Context

- The Commonwealth Sport Executive Board has recommended Ahmedabad as the proposed host city for the **2030 Commonwealth Games**.

Details

- Ahmedabad was chosen over Abuja, Nigeria, marking India's potential second time hosting CWG and first outside New Delhi, aligning with sports diplomacy, Olympic ambitions and national development goals. India last hosted the

Commonwealth Games in **2010** in **New Delhi** and is now vying to host the **Centenary** edition in **2030**.

11th Asian Aquatics Championships

Context

- India hosted the **11th Asian Aquatics Championships** for the first time.

Details

- With over **1,100 athletes** from **29 countries**, the event featured **65 competitions** across **Swimming, Artistic Swimming, Diving and Water Polo** and



served as a qualifier for the **2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan**. China led the medal tally with **54 medals**, while **India achieved its best-ever performance**, finishing **11th with 13 medals** (4 Silver, 9 Bronze). **Srihari Nataraj won 7 medals** and **Bhavya Sachdeva** became India's first female medalist in the event. The men's team set a **National Record in the 4×200m Freestyle Relay**. Strong performances in diving and other disciplines highlighted India's growing **aquatic potential** and organizational capabilities.

BWF World Junior Championships 2025

Context

- The **BWF World Junior Championships 2025** returned to India after **17 years**, being held in **Guwahati, Assam**.

Details

- This is the second time India is hosting the event, the first being in **Pune in 2008**, highlighting India's growing stature as a **global badminton hub**.
- A new **best-of-three relay scoring system** (sets up to 45 points) has been introduced to make matches faster and more dynamic. Historically, India has won **11 individual medals**, with its best performance in **2008**, securing **three medals including a gold**. Hosting the event again places India alongside **China, Indonesia and Malaysia** as the only Asian countries to have hosted the championship twice.

2025 World Weightlifting Championships

Context

- Mirabai Chanu** clinched the **silver medal** in the **women's 48 kg category** at the **2025 World Weightlifting Championships** held in **Førde, Norway** on **October 2, 2025**.

Details

- The **World Weightlifting Championships** is a premier international weightlifting competition organized annually by the **International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)**, except during **Summer Olympic years**. While the IWF was formally established in **1905**, World Championship events date back earlier, with the first recognized championship held in **1891**, won by **Edward Lawrence Levy of England**. Currently, athletes compete in **16 weight categories**, split equally between men and women.

2025 World Para Athletics Championships

Context

- India achieved a remarkable **one-two finish** in the **Men's Javelin Throw F44** at the **2025 World Para Athletics Championships**.

Details

- Sandip Sanjay Sargar** won gold and **Sandeep Chaudhary** claimed silver, reinforcing India's strength in field events on the global stage.
- Sargar** threw a **personal best of 62.82 m**. **Chaudhary** secured silver with a season-best **62.67 m**.
- The **World Para Athletics Championships**, formerly known as the **IPC Athletics World Championships** until 2017, are a **biennial Paralympic athletics event** organized by **World Para Athletics**, a subcommittee of the **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)**. The championships feature **athletics events for athletes with physical disabilities**, with the inaugural edition held in **Berlin, Germany, in 1994**. Serving as a **Paralympic counterpart to the World Athletics Championships** for able-bodied athletes, the event switched from a **quadrennial to a biennial schedule in 2011**.

ICC T20I Batter Rankings

Context

- Abhishek Sharma** Breaks Record in **ICC T20I Batter Rankings**.

Details

- Indian left-handed opener **Abhishek Sharma** has reached a **career-high rating** in the **ICC Men's T20I batter rankings**, following his exceptional performance in the **Asia Cup**. In the latest rankings update, Sharma achieved **931 points**, surpassing **Dawid Malan's 2020 record of 919 points** and claimed the **top spot globally**.

Asia Cup

Context

- The **Asia Cup**, established in **1984**, is Asia's premier cricket tournament.

Details

- From **1984 to 2025**, India has won **9 times** (1984, 1988, 1990-91, 1995, 2010, 2016, 2018, 2023, 2025), **Sri Lanka 6 times** and **Pakistan twice**. The **2025 edition** in T20I format saw **India defeat Pakistan**, led by **Suryakumar Yadav**, with **Tilak Varma** as Man of the Match and **Abhishek Sharma** as Player of the Tournament.

World Para Archery Championships

Context

- India's **Sheetal Devi** clinched her **first World Para Archery gold**.

Details

- She won it in the **Women's Compound Open** category at the **2025 World Para Archery Championships** in **Gwangju, South Korea**, defeating Türkiye's **Oznur Cure** 146-143.

2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup

Context

- During the **2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup**, the ICC and UNICEF launched the '**Promise to Children**' campaign, a digital initiative promoting **children's rights and equal opportunities**.

Details

- The campaign focuses on **quality education, healthcare and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, protection from violence and opportunities to play and grow**. Key supporters include **Ayushmann Khurrana** (UNICEF National Ambassador), **Smriti Mandhana** (India's women's team Vice-Captain), **ICC Chairman Jay Shah** and **UNICEF India's Cynthia McCaffrey**.

Asia Cup T20

Context

- The **Asia Cup T20** has been played in T20 format since **2016**.

Details

- Virat Kohli (India)** leads the **most runs in Asia Cup T20** with **429 runs in 9 innings**, including a top score of ***122 vs Afghanistan (2022)**

2026 FIFA World Cup

Context

- FIFA unveiled the official mascots for the **2026 World Cup** on **September 25, 2025**, introducing **Clutch, Maple and Zayu** to represent the **United States, Canada and Mexico**, the tournament's three co-hosts.

Details

- This marks the **first time multiple mascots** have been introduced for a senior men's World Cup, reflecting the expanded **48-team, 104-match format**.
- Clutch the Bald Eagle (USA)**: Midfielder symbolizing **courage, curiosity and inclusivity**.
- Maple the Moose (Canada)**: Goalkeeper representing **Canada's cultural mosaic and strength**.
- Zayu the Jaguar (Mexico)**: Striker embodying **Mexico's heritage, creativity and passion**.
- FIFA President-Gianni Infantino**. Tournament will run from **June 11 to July 19, 2026**, opening at **Estadio Azteca, Mexico City** and concluding at **MetLife Stadium, New Jersey**, featuring **48 teams** and a **first-ever halftime show during the final**.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Event & Details
16th October: World Food Day	World Food Day 2025 , observed on 16th October , highlights the importance of food security, sustainable agriculture and global efforts toward Zero Hunger . The theme for 2025, " Sustainable Food Systems for a Healthy Planet ," emphasizes eco-friendly and inclusive food systems that nourish people while protecting the environment. Established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1981, World Food Day marks the founding of FAO in 1945 and is celebrated in over 150 countries . The day raises awareness about hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity , celebrates food producers .
October 15: Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's 94th Birth Anniversary	India celebrates Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's 94th birth anniversary on October 15, 2025 , honoring the legacy of the ' Missile Man of India ' and ' People's President '. Observed as World Students' Day in India, the day inspires young minds.



14 October: World Standards Day 2025	World Standards Day 2025 , honors the contributions of experts and organizations who develop international standards that ensure safety, interoperability and efficiency across countries. Standards that impact electronics, healthcare, manufacturing, environment and telecommunications . The 2025 theme , “A Shared Vision for a Better World,”
13 October: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 , highlights the importance of preventing and minimizing the impacts of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions..
10 October: World Mental Health Day 2025	World Mental Health Day 2025 , focuses on raising awareness about mental wellbeing , reducing stigma and promoting access to psychological support, especially during crises and emergencies . The 2025 theme , “Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies,” highlights the urgent need for mental health care.
10 October: National Post Day	Established in 1982 by the Government of India the day is celebrated as part of National Postal Week (October 9–15) , the day marks over 150 years of India Post’s service .
7 October: World Cotton Day	World Cotton Day , highlights the economic and social importance of cotton , particularly for least-developed countries . First celebrated in 2019 and now officially recognized by the United Nations , the day promotes inclusive trade policies, sustainable cotton production and equitable participation of developing nations in the global cotton value chain
6 October: World Habitat Day	World Habitat Day 2025 focuses on urban crisis response , addressing challenges like climate change, conflict and inequality under the theme “Urban Crisis Response.” Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985 , the day advocates for adequate shelter, sustainable urban development and inclusive city planning .
4 October: World Animal Day 2025	2025 marks 100 years of advocating animal rights and welfare . Celebrated under the theme “Save Animals, Save the Planet!”, it highlights the vital connection between animal protection and environmental sustainability . First initiated in 1925 by Heinrich Zimmermann in Berlin and later aligned with the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi , the day has grown into a global movement supported by governments, civil society and individuals .
1st October: International Day of Older Persons	The International Day of Older Persons , was established by the UN General Assembly in 1990 (resolution 45/106) to recognize the rights, dignity and contributions of older persons. The 2025 theme --“Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights”--highlights their role as active drivers of social, economic and cultural progress .



STATIC GK

- The Model Code of Conduct (MCC), issued by the **Election Commission under Article 324**, ensures free and fair elections from the announcement of polls till their completion. **Originating in 1960 and consolidated in 1991**, it regulates political parties, candidates and the ruling party on campaigns, meetings, processions and polling conduct. **Though non-statutory**, it is strictly enforced, with ongoing development allowed but new projects deferred.
- Stupas are **Buddhist reliquary monuments** built to house relics of the Buddha or his followers. Originating before the 5th century BCE, they evolved from simple earthen mounds to elaborate structures like **Sanchi, Bharhut and Amaravati**.

- **Harishchandra Bhatavdekar (Save Dada):** First Indian to make motion pictures (1899).
- **First Indian talking film:** *Alam Ara* (1931), directed by Ardeshir Irani; first recorded song in Indian cinema by W.M. Khan.
- **M.G. Ramachandran:** First film star to become Chief Minister of an Indian state.
- **Antigens,** also called immunogens, are foreign substances such as viruses, bacteria, toxins, allergens, or even self-produced autoantigens that trigger the immune response, potentially causing illness or allergic reactions. They activate white blood cells, particularly lymphocytes, which then produce **antibodies** to fight them.'
- **mRNA vaccines** are a type of vaccine that use a synthetic copy of **messenger RNA (mRNA)** to train the immune system against a specific disease. Unlike traditional vaccines, they do not introduce a weakened or inactivated pathogen. Instead, the mRNA instructs

the body's cells to produce a harmless piece of the pathogen's **protein**, such as a viral spike protein. This triggers an **immune response**, prompting the body to produce **antibodies** and immune cells. If the actual pathogen is encountered later, the immune system can quickly recognize and neutralize it, providing **protection**. Importantly, the mRNA does **not enter the cell's nucleus** or alter DNA and is rapidly broken down by the body after fulfilling its purpose, making it **safe**.

- The **Brahmo Samaj**, founded on **20 August 1828** in **Calcutta** by **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** and **Dwarkanath Tagore**, was a pioneering **monotheistic reformist movement** during the **Bengal Renaissance**. It sought to reform prevailing social customs, denounce **idolatry and caste discrimination** and promote **rational spirituality, education and social progress**.
- India's each square meter receives **1.36 kWh of solar energy per day** and the

country enjoys **over 3,200 hours of sunshine annually**, with at least **300 sunny days**.

- **Wind power** is harnessed in deserts, coastal and ocean areas with strong, consistent winds, including **Mupandal in Tamil Nadu** (Asia's largest), **Yogmati in Karnataka** and **Lamba in Gujarat**.
- A **semiconductor** is a material with electrical conductivity **between that of a conductor** (like copper) and an **insulator** (like glass), allowing it to **control the flow of electricity**. Its conductivity can change depending on conditions such as **temperature** or the addition of **impurities (doping)**. Common semiconductor materials include **silicon** (most widely used), **germanium** and **gallium arsenide**. Semiconductors are essential in modern electronics, used in **microchips, transistors, solar cells, LEDs** and almost all electronic devices.



CURRENT GK

- Green crackers are fireworks that **do not contain harmful chemicals** such as **barium nitrate, lithium, arsenic, or lead**, which are common in conventional crackers and cause severe air and noise pollution. They are **approved and certified by CSIR-**

NEERI and licensed by **PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation)**.

National Commission for Minorities is a **statutory body** established under **National Commission for**

Minorities Act 1992, to monitor and evaluate the implementation of various constitutional and legal safeguards for minorities. The Central Government officially notifies religious communities as minorities. Currently, **six religious**



communities--Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains--are officially recognized.

- The government's recent move to reduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on tractors to 5% aims to make farm mechanisation more affordable and strengthen the manufacturing base for exports.
- Dongar cultivation is a traditional upland farming system practiced by the Kondh tribes of Odisha, where millets, pulses and oilseeds are grown together on hill slopes.
- The Ministry of Finance has approved Maitri II, a new research station in East Antarctica, expected to be operational by January 2029. The original Maitri station, operational since 1989, has exceeded its design life of 10 years and faces challenges such as flawed waste management. Maitri II will serve as India's primary, year-round research hub, while the older Maitri station will continue as a summer camp. The project is led by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), a Goa-based institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

- In 2019, over 1,200 Islamic scholars from 139 countries gathered in Makkah under the Muslim World League (MWL) to endorse the Makkah Charter. The charter condemned extremism, promoted religious and cultural diversity and called for legislation against hate and violence. Hosted by Saudi Arabia, the conference aimed to promote moderate Islamic thought, strengthen its position as a global leader and support Vision 2030's goal of a tolerant nation.
- REDD+ is a voluntary climate mitigation framework developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It encourages developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, enhance carbon sequestration by forests and promote sustainable forest management. The "+" in REDD+ signifies additional forest conservation activities and the framework also provides financial incentives to support these efforts.
- Huntington's Disease is a rare autosomal dominant neurodegenerative disorder caused by a mutation in the HTT gene, leading to toxic protein accumulation in neurons. Symptoms include mental disorders, cognitive

decline and motor dysfunction, causing severe disability and premature death. Earlier treatments only managed symptoms, but AMT-130 gene therapy delivers a viral vector to silence the mutant HTT gene, slowing disease progression by 75% over 3 years and stabilizing brain function--the first therapy to modify disease course.

- India inaugurated its first overseas private defence facility in Morocco, established by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) to produce the indigenously developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8 combat vehicle.
- Microplastics are tiny plastic particles less than 5 mm in size that are a form of plastic pollution. They originate from the breakdown of larger plastic items and are also manufactured for products like cosmetics and clothing.
- Trickle-down economics is an economic theory that suggests benefits given to the wealthy or businesses will eventually "trickle down" to the rest of society through investment, job creation and economic growth.



LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS

Various forms with respect to **electoral rolls** as per RER

Form Number	Description
Form 6	Application to be submitted by new voters to be registered as an elector. As per section 19 of the RP Act, the qualifying dates for completion of 18 years of age, are 1st day of January, April, July and October of the year in which the electoral roll is prepared or revised.
Form 6A	Form for inclusion by an Overseas Elector. Non-Resident Indians who have shifted out of India, on account of education, employment or otherwise, can register as an elector in the constituency in which their address as per passport is located.
Form 7	Objection for proposed inclusion/deletion of name from existing roll. This form can be filed by a registered elector in a constituency in respect of any other registered elector or proposed inclusion in the roll or for deletion of applicant's own name.
Form 8	Form for shifting residence/correction of entries. This form can be filed by a registered elector for shifting of residence or correction of entries.
Form 5	Notice of publication of draft electoral roll by the ERO.
Form 9	List of applications for inclusion of names received in Form 6.
Form 10	List of applications for objection to inclusion of names received in Form 7.
Form 11	List of objections/applications for correction of entries received in Form 8.
Form 11A	List of applications for shifting of address within the constituency received in Form 8.
Form 11B	List of applications for shifting of address outside the constituency received in Form 8.

*Forms 9 to 11B are prepared and published by the ERO



Field work: A Booth-Level Officer checks documents during the special intensive revision of the electoral roll, Araria district, Bihar, on July 8. Shashi Shekhar Kashyap

Arctic Council Member States



The first purely Arctic oriented meeting of the eight Arctic countries - Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and the U.S. - took place in Rovaniemi, Finland in September 1989. The topic of the meeting was the fragile Arctic environment and a potential for joint effort in tackling the very delicate but urgent issue.

In 1996, the Arctic Council, with membership of all eight Arctic states and permanent participation of regional indigenous peoples associations, was established to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction in issues of sustainable development and environmental protection.

© Arctic Portal.org

TYPES OF KEY CYBER FRAUDS

PIG BUTCHERING

Pig Butchering is a scam where victims are lured into fake relationships or job offers. Once trust is built, scammers defraud them through fake investments or financial requests.

Phantom hacking is a cyber scam where fraudsters impersonate government or tech support officials and falsely claim that a victim's device or bank account has been hacked, tricking them into transferring money to a "safe" account - which is actually controlled by the scammer.

PHANTOM HACKING

ONLINE BETTING AND GAMBLING

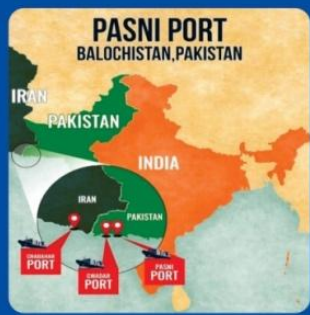
Online betting scams involve unauthorized platforms luring users with gambling games and fake promises of high returns.

Online instant loan scams trick users with quick loan offers via apps, then exploit their data and harass them for repayment through blackmail or threats - often without ever disbursing the promised loan.

INSTANT LOAN APPS

Source: Enforcement Directorate

PASNI PORT BALOCHISTAN, PAKISTAN



PORT OF PASNI

Pakistan has proposed allowing the United States to build and operate a **commercial deep-water port** at **Pasni, Balochistan**.

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About Port of Pasni

- Deep-water port in Gwadar district, Balochistan.
- Equipped with fish harbour, cargo jetty.
- Proposed as a strategic mineral export terminal.

Location & Geostrategy

- On Arabian Sea, 70 miles east of Gwadar Port
- 100 miles from Iran-Pakistan border, ~300 km from Chabahar Port
- Forms a South Asia maritime triangle: Chabahar (India-Iran) - Gwadar (China-Pakistan) - Pasni (US-Pakistan)



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What is Sir Creek?

96 km tidal estuary in India-Pakistan border (Gujarat - Sindh).

Flows into the Arabian Sea.

Separates India's Gujarat from Pakistan's Sindh.

Boundary is defined by 1968 Tribunal Award.



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What's the Dispute?

- Historical context:** Pre-1947 British India division → Sindh with Pakistan, Gujarat with India.
- 1968 Tribunal:** Settled most of Rann of Kutch boundary, but Sir Creek left unresolved.
- India's stand:** Apply thalweg principle (boundary in mid-channel). Cites 1914 resolution + 1925 map + mid-channel pillars.
- Pakistan's stand:** Boundary on eastern bank of creek. Argues thalweg principle applies only to rivers, not estuaries.
- Complexity:** Creek course shifts → affects land-sea boundary & maritime zones.

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What is a stablecoin?

A stablecoin is a crypto asset that aims to maintain a stable value relative to a specified asset, or a pool of assets

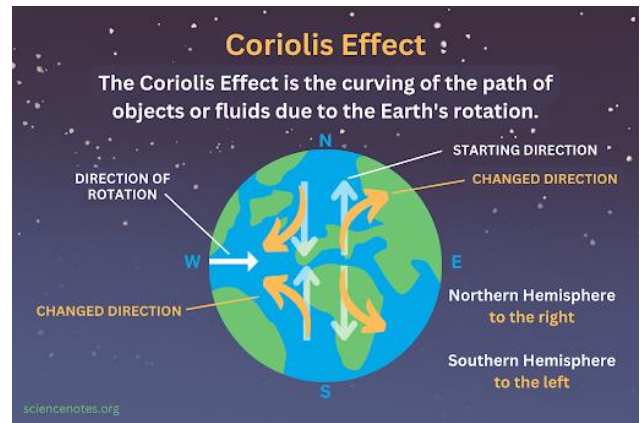
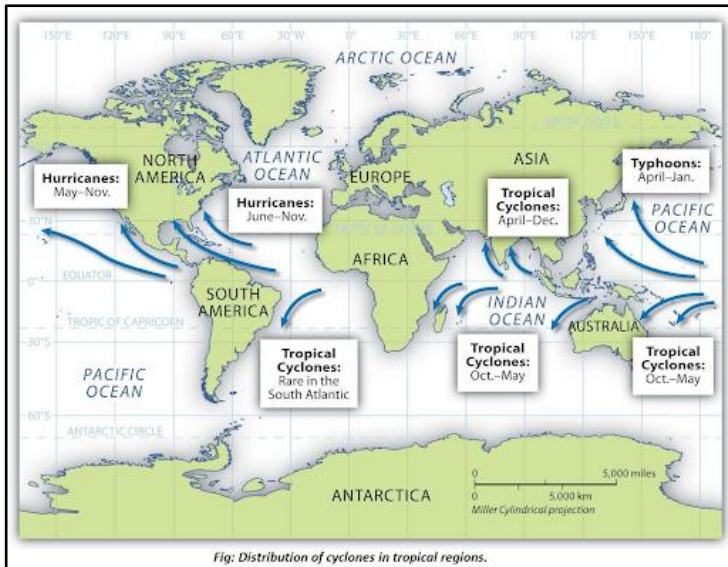
- These assets could be a monetary unit of account such as the dollar or euro, a currency basket, a commodity such as gold, or unbacked crypto assets
- This stability can also be achieved only if a centralised institution is in charge of issuing (minting) and redeeming (burning) these crypto assets



SOURCE: IMF

TYPES OF HYDROGEN

H ₂	H ₂	H ₂	H ₂	H ₂
Grey Hydrogen	Blue Hydrogen	Green Hydrogen	Turquoise Hydrogen	Brown Hydrogen
Procedure: Steam Methane Reforming (SMR)	Procedure: SMR with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)	Procedure: Electrolysis Using Renewable Energy	Procedure: Methane Pyrolysis	Procedure: Coal Gasification

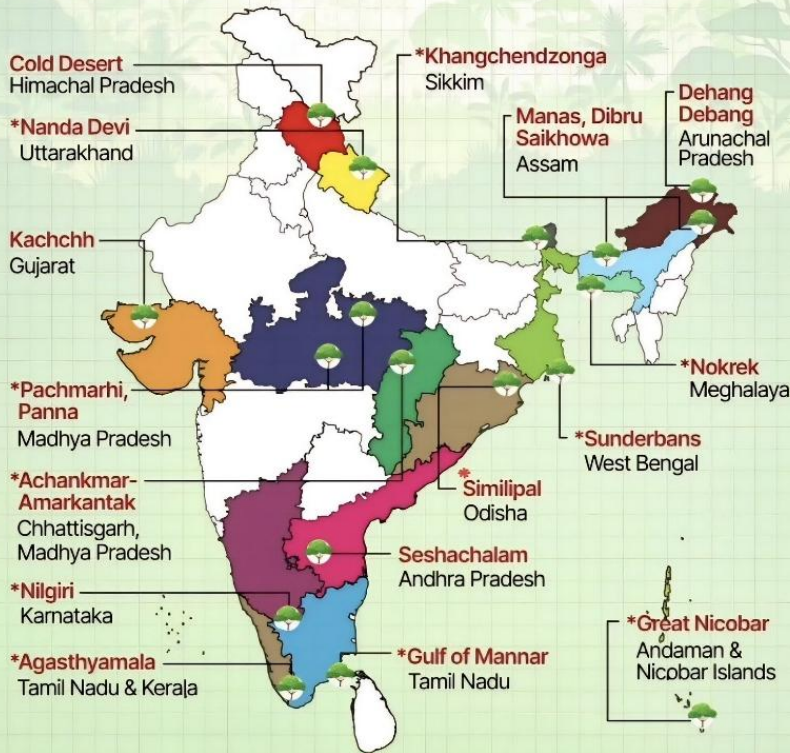


Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan

Bagram Air Base is a major military airfield approximately 40 km north of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. Originally built by the Soviet Union in the 1950s, it served as the primary hub for US and NATO operations in Afghanistan from 2001 until the withdrawal of US forces in August 2021.



Biosphere Reserves in India



*World Network of Biosphere Reserve (NAB-UNESCO)

Source: moef.gov.in

Map not to scale.

Graphic: IE Design

SHAMPOO TO HEALTH INSURANCE, ACs TO TVs

DAILY ESSENTIALS	FROM	TO
■ Hair oil, shampoo, toilet soap bar, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving cream	18%	5%
■ Butter, ghee, cheese & dairy spreads	12%	5%
HEALTHCARE		
■ Individual health & life insurance	18%	Nil
■ Corrective spectacles	12%	5%
EDUCATION		
■ Maps, charts & globes	12%	Nil
■ Exercise books & notebooks	12%	Nil
AGRICULTURE		
■ Tractors	12%	5%
■ Drip irrigation system & sprinklers	12%	5%
AUTOMOBILES		
■ Petrol & petrol hybrid, LPG, CNG cars (not exceeding 1200 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
■ Motorcycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES		
■ Air conditioners	28%	18%
■ TV (above 32", including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%

GST Rate Cuts



To Make Healthcare and Nutrition Affordable

Sector / Product	Old GST Rate	New GST Rate
Drugs & Medicines	12%	5% / Nil GST
Bio-medical waste treatment services	12%	5%
Pharma Job Work (formulations, APIs, packaging, etc.)	12%	5%
Medical Devices & Equipment (anaesthetics, oxygen, diagnostic kits, bandages, thermometers, etc.)	12%	5%
Tobacco & related products	28%	40%
Spectacles, Contact Lenses, Spectacle Lenses	12%	5%
UHT Milk	5%	Nil (Exempted)
Paneer (branded/unbranded)	5%	Nil (Exempted)
Dry Fruits (almonds, hazelnuts, dates, figs, etc.)	12%	5%
Diabetic Foods	12%	5%
Prepared/Preserved Fish	12%	5%
Fruit pulp / fruit juice based drinks	12%	5%
Milk-based Beverages	12%	5%
Gyms / Fitness Centres	18%	5%

Source: Ministry of Finance





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Why This Change?

- Current CPI only captures urban housing rents
- Employer-provided housing distorts real rent data (HRA # market rent)
- Post-pandemic rent surge exposed gaps
- Aim: more realistic, representative inflation measurement

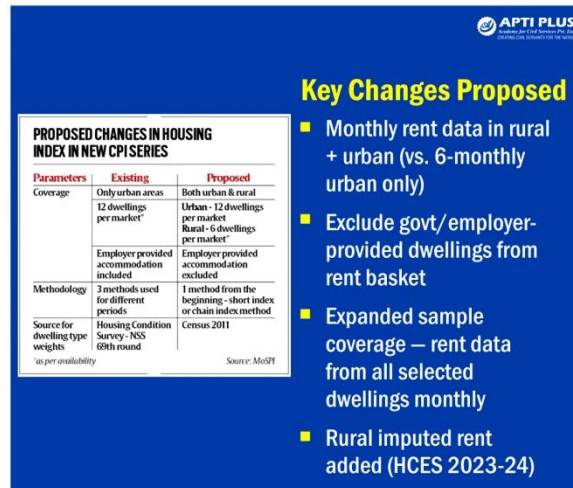
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PROPOSED CHANGES IN HOUSING INDEX IN NEW CPI SERIES

Parameters	Existing	Proposed
Coverage	Only urban areas	Both urban & rural
	12 dwellings per market	Urban - 12 dwellings per market Rural - 6 dwellings per market
	Employer provided accommodation included	Employer provided accommodation excluded
Methodology	3 methods used for different periods	1 method from the beginning - short index or chain index method
Source for dwelling type weights	Housing Condition Survey - NSS 69th round	Census 2011

Source: MoSPI

Key Changes Proposed

- Monthly rent data in rural + urban (vs. 6-monthly urban only)
- Exclude govt/ employer-provided dwellings from rent basket
- Expanded sample coverage – rent data from all selected dwellings monthly
- Rural imputed rent added (HCES 2023-24)

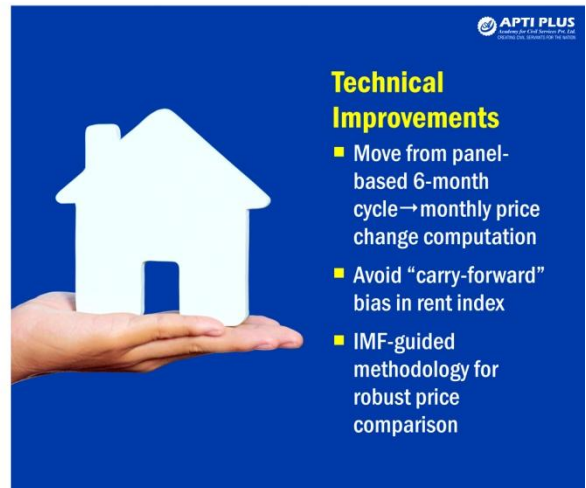
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Technical Improvements

- Move from panel-based 6-month cycle → monthly price change computation
- Avoid “carry-forward” bias in rent index
- IMF-guided methodology for robust price comparison

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Expected Impact

- More accurate inflation reading
- Better policy decisions for housing & monetary policy
- Reflects true rental market trends across India.

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