

# WBCS GAZETTE



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**NOVEMBER 2025**

## A Monthly Digest for GK & State News



### TOPICS COVERED

- Bengal Related News
- West Bengal Related Static GK
- Appointments
- Awards
- Books & Authors
- Sports
- Important Days
- Static GK
- Current Affairs GK
- Learning Through Infographics



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**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**

## BENGAL RELATED NEWS

### Gorkha Issues and Centre–State Relations

#### Context

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to the Prime Minister protesting the Centre's decision to appoint a retired IPS officer as an **interlocutor** for talks on Gorkha-related issues in Darjeeling.

#### Background

- The demand for a **separate State of Gorkhaland** has shaped hill politics since the 1980s.
- The region has witnessed multiple agitations, including the **2017 unrest**, in which 11 people died and the hills remained shut for 100 days.

- Recently the Ministry of Home Affairs appointed former BSF Director General **Pankaj Kumar Singh** to hold discussions with political parties in the hills.

#### Objection Raised by the State Government

- The Chief Minister termed the move **unconstitutional, arbitrary and politically motivated**.
- She argued that the Centre's action interferes in the **internal affairs of the State** and violates India's **federal structure**.

#### Concerns over Federalism

- The State government argued that unilateral action by the Centre **undermines the constitutional federal structure**, weakens cooperative federalism and risks disturbing peace and stability in the sensitive hill region.

#### Gorkhaland Movement

The **Gorkhaland movement** is a long-standing demand for a **separate state** within India by **Nepali-speaking Indians** living in the **Darjeeling hills, Kalimpong** and parts of the **Dooars and Terai** regions of West Bengal. Rooted in the community's distinct **ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity**, the demand began in **1907** and intensified in the 1980s under the leadership of **Subhash Ghisingh**, leading to violent unrest and the creation of the **Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council** in 1988. The movement revived in **2007** under **Bimal Gurung**, resulting in the formation of the **Gorkhaland Territorial Administration** in 2011 as a semi-autonomous body to address regional aspirations. However, dissatisfaction over **limited autonomy** and continued **state intervention** reignited the demand, triggering major agitations in **2013** and **2017** marked by shutdowns, clashes, casualties and allegations of **human rights violations**. The movement remains a powerful expression of the community's quest for **political recognition, administrative autonomy** and protection of its **unique identity** within the Indian Union.

### Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

#### Context

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit the streets in Kolkata to protest against the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

#### What is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)?

- A **door-to-door, comprehensive verification** of voter lists by the ECI to ensure accuracy, detect errors and update entries.

#### Legal Basis

- Section 21(3)** of the Representation of the People Act, 1950
- Article 324:** ECI's plenary powers for elections

### Key Features

- House-to-house verification by BLOs
- Addition of eligible voters
- Deletion of deceased, duplicate and ineligible voters
- Mandatory document submission for citizenship & residency
- Draft roll publication + claims & objections

### What Are Electoral Rolls?

- A list of all eligible voters in a constituency
- Updated regularly under Articles 324, 325, 326 and the RPA 1950
- Types: General Roll, Service Roll, Overseas Roll

### Why Is SIR Needed?

#### Correcting Old Errors

- Large inaccuracies have built up over years. Bihar's last SIR was in 2003.

#### Removing Duplicate & Bogus Voters

- Strengthens the principle of "one person, one vote."

#### Including New Voters

- Millions who turned 18 must be added to prevent disenfranchisement.

#### Migration & Delimitation

- Updates rolls to match shifting populations and constituency boundaries.

#### Transparency & Trust

- Draft rolls, public scrutiny and verification improve voter confidence.

#### Illegal Immigrant Concerns

- Weak Aadhaar-based verification earlier allowed illegal entries into voter lists.

#### Judicial Backing

- The Supreme Court (Mohinder Singh Gill case, 1977) upheld ECI's wide powers to ensure free and fair elections.

### Major Challenges in Conducting SIR

#### Documentation Barriers

- Migrants, tribals, homeless individuals often lack proofs → risk of exclusion.

#### Risk of Illegal Entries

- Faulty legacy Aadhaar data (pre-2016) raises doubt about citizenship verification.

#### Operational Difficulties

- Massive workload for BLOs leads to errors, deletions and mismatched data.

### Technological Limitations

- Poor data quality, connectivity issues and inaccurate earlier entries.

### Political Manipulation

- Risk of partisan inclusion/exclusion, allegations of bias, or gerrymandering.

### Limited Public Consultation

- Bihar's 2025 SIR saw criticism for inadequate civil society involvement.

### Balancing Rights & Security

- Need to keep rolls clean without violating citizens' voting rights.

### Measures to Make SIR More Effective and Inclusive

#### Simplify Documentation

- Accept commonly used IDs--Aadhaar, voter ID, ration card, etc.

#### Stronger Verification Mechanisms

- Use biometrics, facial recognition, AI cross-checking, blockchain tools.

#### Public Awareness Campaigns

- Clear communication of deadlines, documents and grievance mechanisms.

#### Better Training for BLOs

- Provide digital devices, supervision and streamlined protocols.

#### Engage Political Parties

- Involve Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in the verification and objection process.

#### Civil Society Consultations

- Improves transparency and reduces accusations of political bias.

#### Phased Rollout

- Start with high-risk districts and refine procedures mid-process.

#### Judicial & Constitutional Oversight

- Ensure compliance with Article 326 and RPA 1950 to protect voting rights.

### Conclusion

- Accurate electoral rolls form the **foundation of free and fair elections**. A well-executed SIR--backed by strong verification, public participation, technological support and transparent processes--can reduce duplicate entries, prevent illegal enrolment and ensure every eligible Indian is included, strengthening democratic legitimacy.

## Cyclone Montha

### Context

- Heavy rain was triggered by cyclone Montha, in Kolkata.

### What Is Cyclone Montha?

- Cyclone Montha is a **Severe Cyclonic Storm (SCS)** that made landfall in **Andhra Pradesh**, causing **heavy rainfall, strong winds and large-scale damage** across coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and parts of Tamil Nadu.

### How Did Cyclone Montha Form?

- Originated as a **low-pressure system** over the **west-central Bay of Bengal**.
- Rapidly intensified into a **Severe Cyclonic Storm**, with winds between **89–117 kmph**.
- Strengthened due to warm sea surface temperatures, high moisture and favourable upper-air conditions.

### Why Cyclones Form Easily in the Bay of Bengal?

- The **easterly trade winds** between **5°–20° N** push cyclonic systems westward toward the **Indian east coast**.
- This mechanism is similar to Atlantic hurricanes moving toward the Americas.
- The BoB also has warmer waters and higher humidity, making storms more intense.

### Meaning and Naming of 'Montha'

- "Montha" is a **Thai word** meaning *beautiful or fragrant flower*.
- Thailand contributed this name to the **WMO–ESCAP (World Meteorological Organization**

and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) **Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC)**.

- Cyclone names must be:
  - Gender-neutral**
  - Culturally neutral**
  - No longer than eight letters**
- Purpose: promote **clarity, awareness** and **effective disaster communication**.

### Who Names Cyclones in the North Indian Ocean?

#### WMO–ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC)

- Established in **1972**.
- An intergovernmental body for countries facing cyclones in the **Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea**.

#### Members:

- Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE, Yemen**

### How Does the Cyclone Warning System Work?

- The PTC operates under the **WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme**.
- Works with **Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs)** and **Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs)**.
- India Meteorological Department (IMD)** is one of the **six RSMCs** responsible for forecasting and issuing cyclone advisories for the **North Indian Ocean region**.

## MGNREGS in West Bengal

### Context

- The Supreme Court has allowed the **resumption of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme** in West Bengal after a suspension of **three and a half years**.
- It upheld the Calcutta High Court order directing that the scheme should restart from **August 1, 2025**.

### What the Scheme Guarantees

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme provides every rural adult with **100 days of paid unskilled work** each year.

- Funding pattern: the **Central Government covers 90 percent** and the **State Government covers 10 percent**, with the **Central Government paying all wages**.
- Before the suspension in 2022, West Bengal was among the **best-performing states**, benefiting **51–80 lakh families** each year between 2014 and 2022.

### Why the Scheme Was Halted in West Bengal

- The Central Government stopped funds in **March 2022** after alleging violations under Section 27 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
- Inspections found:

- Financial irregularities
- Use of non-permissible work categories
- Splitting of projects to bypass rules
- Lack of transparency and accountability
- No improvement despite repeated warnings
- The West Bengal Government moved the Calcutta High Court, which ordered the restart.  
The Central Government appealed, but the **Supreme Court dismissed the plea.**

#### What Happens Now After the Supreme Court Order

- With the appeal rejected, the Ministry of Rural Development must now **restore funds** and begin the process to **restart the scheme** in West Bengal.
- This is significant because the ministry had earlier refused to restart the scheme due to compliance issues.

#### Labour Budget Approval: The First Step to Restart

- For the scheme to resume, West Bengal must first get its **labour budget** approved by the Ministry of Rural Development.

- A labour budget includes:
  - The expected number of rural workers seeking work
  - The list of projects planned for the year
- After approval, the state can send fund requests through the scheme's digital management system and the ministry releases funds accordingly.
- West Bengal's labour budget has **not been approved since 2021-22**, making this clearance essential.

#### Pending Dues Under Rural Development

- The West Bengal Government claims that nearly **₹18,000 crore** is pending from the Central Government under:
  - The rural employment guarantee scheme
  - The rural housing scheme
  - The rural road development programme
- However, the Central Government reported a lower pending amount of **₹13,965 crore** in a 2023 Parliament reply.
- This gap highlights the ongoing **disagreement between the Centre and the state** over unpaid dues.

#### Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005

The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005** is a landmark social welfare legislation that guarantees the **right to work** for rural households in India. Enacted in **August 2005** and implemented from **February 2006**, it assures **100 days of guaranteed wage employment** annually to every rural household with adult members willing to undertake **unskilled manual work**. The Act seeks to strengthen **livelihood security**, promote **gender equity** by ensuring that **at least half of all jobs** go to women and create **durable rural assets** such as roads, ponds, canals and water conservation structures. Employment must be provided within **5 km** of residence at the **statutory minimum wage** and failure to allot work within **15 days** entitles applicants to an **unemployment allowance**, making the guarantee legally enforceable. Rooted in the **Directive Principles of State Policy**, the Act advances **Article 41** (right to work), **Article 21** (right to life with dignity) and **Article 48A** (environment protection), while empowering **Gram Panchayats** as the primary implementing agencies and reinforcing decentralised governance under the **73rd Constitutional Amendment**. Over time, the Act has expanded to all districts of India and has been recognised globally as one of the **largest public works and social security programmes**, contributing to poverty reduction, women's empowerment, environmental conservation and rural asset creation.

## **SAIME Aquaculture Model: Climate-Smart Mangrove-Based Livelihoods in the Sundarbans**

### Context and Background

- The Sundarbans--India's largest mangrove ecosystem and a climate-vulnerable region--has long depended on aquaculture for rural

income. However, conventional shrimp farming often degraded mangroves and intensified ecological stress. In this backdrop, the **SAIME (Sustainable Aquaculture in**

Mangrove Ecosystems) model from West Bengal has emerged as a **climate-smart, conservation-linked alternative**, recently earning **Global Technical Recognition from the FAO (2025)**. This positions the Sundarbans as a global leader in eco-friendly aquaculture.

#### SAIME Aquaculture Model

- SAIME is an **ecosystem-based aquaculture model** developed by the **Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS)**. It integrates aquaculture with **mangrove conservation**, ensuring sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities.

#### Core Features of the Model

- Native Species Focus:** Promotes cultivation of **black tiger shrimp** in brackish waters.
- Climate-Resilient:** Low input, nature-based aquaculture suited to fragile deltaic regions.
- Conservation-Centric:** Aquaculture ponds coexist with regenerated mangrove belts.

#### Objectives of SAIME

- Improve rural incomes in mangrove-dependent communities.
- Reduce **blue carbon emissions** using mangroves as natural carbon sinks.
- Ensure better market access through **branding, certification and farmer cooperatives**.
- Encourage **low-input aquaculture** based on natural food cycles and tidal flushing.

#### Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture (IMA) Principle

- IMA is the operational backbone of SAIME.
- Extensive culture**, low stocking density.
- Zero additional feed or fertilizers**--relies on natural productivity.
- Zero-chemical and zero-waste** approach aligned with global blue economy goals.

- This makes the system **climate-adaptive, biodiversity-friendly** and **cost-effective** for small farmers.

#### Global Recognition by FAO

- In **October 2025**, the **FAO** recognised SAIME as a global model for **sustainable aquaculture in fragile ecosystems**, validating its technical framework, ecological outcomes and community-centric approach. This recognition enhances its potential for replication across **South Asia**.

#### Funding Support & Collaborators

- SAIME is backed by strong international partnerships:
  - Global Nature Fund (GNF)**
  - Naturland e.V.**
  - Mercedes Benz (CSR initiative)**
- This blend of grassroots implementation and global financing ensures scalability and long-term sustainability.

#### Why the Sundarbans?

- The Sundarbans provide the ideal testing ground due to their **unique ecology and livelihood dependence** on fisheries.
  - World's largest mangrove forest** (India-Bangladesh).
  - UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
  - Habitat of the **Royal Bengal Tiger** in a mangrove ecosystem.
  - Complex network of **tidal creeks, mudflats and salt-tolerant species**.
  - West Bengal holds 42.45% of India's mangrove cover** (highest).
  - India's total mangrove cover: 4,991.68 km<sup>2</sup> (ISFR 2023)**.
- The region's **ecological vulnerability**, exposure to cyclones and reliance on aquaculture make SAIME a **model intervention** for climate-smart livelihood diversification.

## WEST BENGAL RELATED STATIC GK

- The major ancient janapadas (kingdoms) in the region of Bengal include Banga, Pundra, Gauda, Radha (or Rarha), Samataa and Harikela.
- Bakhtiyar Khilji was the Muslim invader who conquered Bengal during the time of Lakshmana Sena. He defeated Sena king Lakshman Sen at his capital, Nabadwip.



around 1203-1204, which led to the establishment of Muslim rule in the region.

- **Ghiyasuddin Mahmud Shah** was the last sultan of the Husain Shah dynasty of Bengal.
- The Partition of Bengal came into effect on October 16, 1905. The partition, which divided the province into Eastern Bengal and Assam and Western Bengal, was announced by the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, on July 20, 1905, but the reorganization was implemented later that year.
- The partition of Bengal was withdrawn in 1911 due to widespread protests, such as the Swadeshi movement, which was a direct result of the 1905 partition. The annulment was announced by Lord Hardinge II in December 1911.
- The Tropic of Cancer passes through **Nadia** and other districts like **Purulia, Bankura and Bardhaman** in West Bengal.
- The Belpahari hill ranges lie in the **Jhargram district** of West Bengal. This is part of the Chotanagpur Plateau region.
- The region in West Bengal that receives the highest amount of rainfall is the **foothills of the Himalayas**, specifically the districts of **Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar**. Within this region, areas like Buxaduar in Jalpaiguri receive particularly high rainfall, sometimes exceeding 500 cm annually.
- The soil of the Sunderbans is typically **fine-textured, deep and slow-draining**, with a **silt loam or clay loam composition**. Key characteristics include high salinity (especially in the west), which can make cultivation difficult and varying pH levels. Despite challenges, the soil is rich in elements like sodium, potassium and organic carbon, which supports the unique mangrove ecosystem.
- Abul Kasem Fazlul Huq popularly known as Sher-e-Bangla, was a Bengali lawyer and politician who served as the first and longest prime minister of Bengal during the British Raj. He is well-known for presenting the Lahore Resolution which had the objective of creating an independent Pakistan.
- Domni is a folk drama form from Malda, West Bengal, that combines dance, song and dialogue to portray daily life and social issues through satire. It is a group performance featuring performers called 'Nachari' or 'Lachari' and is accompanied by instruments like the harmonium, dholak and flute. Modern, unrelated projects may also use the name, such as a contemporary dance piece called "Domni: The Dance Within," which explores women's emotions.
- Alkap is a Bengali folk dance popular in the districts of Murshidabad, Malda and Birbhum in West Bengal and Chapai Nawabganj, Rajshahi in Bangladesh.
- "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow." – Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- **Deshbandhu Chittaranjan** is a Bengali biographical drama film directed by Ardhendu Mukhopadhyay. Anil Chatterjee performed the title role of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, appreciated by Basanti Devi, the wife of the Deshbandhu.
- Sukanta Bhattacharya (1926–1947), called "Young Nazrul" and **Kishore Bidrohi Kobi**, wrote fiercely against colonial rule and social injustice. A Marxist poet who dreamed of an exploitation-free society, he authored works like **Chharpatra, Ghum Nei, Purbabhas, Abhijan, Mithe-Kadha, Hartal** and **Giti Guccha**.
- **Vajjabhumi** was a part of Rarh in ancient times. It is located in what is now Birbhum district. The more rugged western part of the

district was known as Vajjabhumi. There is mention of the Rarh region in the Jain text Acaranga Sutra.

- The **Jalangi River** is a branch of the Ganges flowing through Murshidabad and Nadia districts in West Bengal, eventually joining the **Bhagirathi** and strengthening its lower Hooghly channel. The stretch of the river below the Jalangi-Ganges meeting point is known as the **Hooghly**, while the upper course--from its separation from the Ganges to its confluence with the Jalangi--is called the **Bhagirathi**. **Ghurni** in Krishnanagar, famous for its Krishnanagar clay dolls, lies on the banks of the Jalangi, while **Nabadwip**, the birthplace of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, stands on the west bank of the Bhagirathi and **Mayapur** is located at the confluence of the Jalangi and Bhagirathi.

- Premendra Mitra was a prolific Bengali director and screenwriter who helmed fourteen films, including **Chupi Chupi Asey** (1960), **Dakinir Char** (1955), **Moyla Kagaj** (1954) and **Hanabari** (1952), often adapting his own novels for the screen. His directed works include **Samadhan** (1943), **Bideshini** (1944), **Rajlaxmi** (1945), **Path Bendhe Dilo** (1945), **Natun Khabar** (1947), **Kalo Chhaya** (1948), **Kuasha** (1949), **Kankantala Light Railway** (1950), **Setu** (1951), **Hanabari** (1952), **Dui Beyai** (1953), **Moyla Kagaj** (1954), **Dakinir Char** (1955) and **Chupi Chupi Ase** (1960). He also wrote the story for **Kapurush O Mahapurush** and several of his novels--such as **Haat Baralei Bondhu**, **Ora Thake Odharey** and **Pratishodh**--were adapted into films; additionally, he contributed to works like **Sagar Sangame** (1959) and **Bhabikal** (1946), earning a BFJA Award.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Brand Ambassador of the Haryana State Women's Commission.

- Shafali Verma, a key member of India's World Cup-winning women's cricket team, has been appointed Brand Ambassador of the Haryana State Women's Commission.

### Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

- Sanjay Garg, IAS-1994 Kerala cadre, assumed charge as Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

### Controller General of Defence Accounts

- Shri Vishvajit Sahay has taken over as the new **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)**, the chief financial adviser to the Ministry of Defence. The CGDA oversees

budget management for the Army, Navy, Air Force and DRDO, handles defence pensions for over **32 lakh** beneficiaries, audits and accounts for all military expenditure and manages procurement finance, especially for major capital acquisitions.

### Financial Advisor (Defence Services)

- Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) officer **Shri Raj Kumar Arora** has assumed charge as the **Financial Advisor (Defence Services)**, one of the most significant financial positions in India's defence structure. He oversees major **financial decisions**, ensuring **transparency, efficiency** and robust **budgeting, procurement** and **financial planning** across the defence sector.

## AWARDS IN NEWS

### Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- Former Chile President **Michelle Bachelet** receives **2024 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize**.
- Former Chile President **Michelle Bachelet** has been awarded the **2024 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize** for her strong advocacy of **human rights, gender equality** and **global peace**. Serving two terms as Chile's President (2006–2010 and 2014–2018), she established the **Ministry of Women and Gender Equality**, implemented major **education** and **tax reforms**, set up the **National Institute for Human Rights** and the **Museum of Memory and Human Rights** and advanced **LGBT rights** along with political **gender quotas**.
- The **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize**, instituted in **1985**, honours exceptional contributions to **international peace, development cooperation, democratic governance** and **scientific discoveries** that advance human welfare.

### Sixth National Water Awards

- President **Droupadi Murmu** presented the **Sixth National Water Awards** and **Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari Awards** on **18 November 2025** in New Delhi, celebrating excellence in **water conservation, efficient water use** and **community-led initiatives**.
- She highlighted India's cultural reverence for water, recalling Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's use of the word "**Sujalam**" and urged collective action as **per capita water availability** declines due to population pressure and **climate change**. A major achievement showcased was the creation of **35 lakh+ groundwater recharge structures** under the **JSJB initiative** within just one year, marking a significant step in artificial groundwater recharge. The President also praised industries adopting **circular water economy** practices, water recirculation and **zero liquid discharge**. She stressed that water conservation is a **shared responsibility**

involving governments, local bodies, panchayats, educational institutions, NGOs, citizens and farmers using innovative, water-efficient methods. Emphasizing respect for water as a **precious and limited resource**, she called for nationwide awareness and community participation.

- The **National Water Awards** promote awareness and best practices in water use, while the **Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari Awards** honour community-driven models, resource convergence and scalable success stories.

### Honorary Oscar at the 2025 Governors Awards

- **Tom Cruise** received an **honorary Oscar** at the **2025 Governors Awards** in Los Angeles.
- This marks his first Academy Award and celebrating over **40 years of cinematic excellence**.
- The ceremony featured a two-minute standing ovation and a montage of classics like *Taps*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Jerry Maguire*, *Top Gun: Maverick* and *Mission: Impossible -- The Final Reckoning*.

### National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025

- The Ministry of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD)** has announced the **National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025**.
- It is one of India's highest honours in the livestock and dairy sector. The awards--presented on **National Milk Day, 26 November 2025**, in memory of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**--recognize top performers among **dairy farmers, dairy cooperatives/FPOs/MPCs** and **Artificial Insemination Technicians (AITs)** from **2,081 applications**. Initiated in **2021** under the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**, the NGRA promotes **scientific cattle management, indigenous breed development, innovation in dairy**

practices and strengthens India's status as the world's largest milk producer.

### Padma Awards 2026

- Neeraj Chopra, Abhinav Bindra and Leander Paes lead the list of sportspersons recommended for Padma Awards 2026. The nominations reflect India's growing global sporting stature and honour achievers shaping the nation's athletic excellence.
- India's **Padma Awards 2026** spotlight major sporting icons, with **Abhinav Bindra** and **Leander Paes** recommended for the **Padma Vibhushan**, recognising Bindra as **India's first individual Olympic gold medallist** (Beijing 2008) and Paes as an **18-time Grand Slam champion** and India's **only Olympic tennis medallist**. For the **Padma Bhushan**, nominees include **Neeraj Chopra**, Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist and World Champion in javelin and **Gagan Narang**, London 2012 Olympic bronze medallist and a key contributor to Indian shooting. The **Padma Shri** list features rising and influential contributors such as **Manu Bhaker** (Paris 2024 double bronze), **Harmanpreet Singh** (Indian hockey captain, Paris 2024 bronze), **Randhir Singh** (President, Olympic Council of Asia), **Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala** (India's leading sports injury specialist), **Viren Rasquinha** (former hockey captain and sports development leader) and **Sandip Pradhan** (former SAI DG and architect of Khelo India).

### Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025

- Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 winners announced by Sahitya Akademi.
- The **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025**, instituted by the **Sahitya Akademi**, recognises outstanding contributions to **children's literature** across **24 Indian languages**, promoting culturally grounded and diverse writing for young readers. Announced ahead of **Children's Day**, the awards carry a **₹50,000 cash prize** and a **bronze plaque** and will be presented on **14 November 2025** at **Triveni Auditorium, New Delhi**. The ceremony will be presided over by

**Madhav Kaushik**, with **Varsha Das** as the Chief Guest. Awardees represent a wide spectrum of literary forms--**poetry, stories, novels, plays, memoirs** and more--across major Indian languages such as **Bengali, Assamese, English, Malayalam, Odia, Tamil, Sindhi, Punjabi, Nepali** and others, reflecting India's strong **multilingual literary tradition**. An **Awardees' Meet** on **15 November** at **Ravindra Bhawan** further highlights the Akademi's role in nurturing literary dialogue and encouraging young readership.

### 6th National Water Awards 2024

- President Smt. Droupadi Murmu presented the 6th National Water Awards 2024 on November 18, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The **6th National Water Awards 2024**, instituted by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, honour outstanding efforts in **water conservation, management and sustainability** across India. This time a total of **46 winners across 10 categories** have been selected after rigorous evaluation by the **CWC (Central Water Commission)** and **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)**. **Maharashtra** topped as the **Best State**, followed by **Gujarat** and **Haryana**, while key recognitions also include **Best District, Urban Local Body, Institutions, Village Panchayats, Water User Associations, Industries and Individuals**. Launched in **2018**, the awards promote innovative water practices to realise a '**Jal Samridh Bharat**', advancing India's commitment to **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**.

### 2025 Booker Prize

- Hungarian-British author **David Szalay** has won the **2025 Booker Prize** for his novel **Flesh**, marking a major moment in **Hungarian-British literature**.
- Announced at **Old Billingsgate, London**, the award recognises Szalay's "**hypnotically tense and compelling**" portrayal of desire, alienation and moral collapse. Szalay, born in **Canada**, raised in **London** and based in **Vienna**, is



known for exploring **identity, displacement and globalisation**. His earlier works earned the **Betty Trask Award, Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize** and a **2016 Booker shortlist**. *Flesh* follows **István**, a Hungarian boy whose traumatic early relationship shapes his rise and unraveling across Europe, exposing themes of **power, class, loneliness and self-destruction** through Szalay's **minimalist, psychologically rich prose**.

### Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025.

- Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan of IISc Bengaluru receives the prestigious Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025.
- **Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan**, Associate Professor at IISc Bengaluru, has been conferred the **Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025**, the country's highest-value national science award (₹5 lakh). Instituted by the **Government of Goa** in memory of **Manohar Parrikar**, the award honours exceptional young researchers driving India's scientific future. Selected by a committee chaired by **Dr. Anil Kakodkar**, Dr. Gopalakrishnan was recognised for his pioneering work in **computational materials science**, especially in **atomic-level simulations, AI-enabled materials design** and innovations powering **energy storage, aerospace, electronics and renewable technologies**. Chosen from **50 applicants** and **10 shortlisted finalists**, his research strengthens India's push for **technological self-reliance, innovation and global scientific leadership**.

### Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Awards

- Jyotiraditya Scindia conferred Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Awards.
- The **Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Awards 2025** were conferred in Guwahati by Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, honouring the centenary year of **Bhupen Hazarika**, the legendary cultural icon of Assam. Organised by **Sarhad Pune**, the

ceremony celebrated Hazarika's legacy of **unity, empathy and cultural synthesis** through music, poetry and cinema. Six distinguished personalities from the **Northeast** received the honour --**Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi (Arunachal Pradesh), Laishram Mema (Manipur), Rajni Basumatary (Assam), L. R. Sailo (Mizoram), Dr. Surjya Kanta Hazarika (Assam) and Prof. David R. Syiemlieh (Meghalaya)**-- recognised for their contributions to **literature, cinema, language preservation and regional history**.

### 'City of Gastronomy' under the Creative Cities Network 2025

- Lucknow has been officially recognised by **UNESCO** as a '**City of Gastronomy**' under the **Creative Cities Network 2025**, honouring its rich **Awadhi culinary heritage** and composite **Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb**.
- Lucknow's inclusion as a **UNESCO 'City of Gastronomy' (2025)** places it among India's elite **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)** members. With this, India now has **nine UCCN cities**: Jaipur (Crafts & Folk Art, 2015), Varanasi (Music, 2015), Chennai (Music, 2017), Mumbai (Film, 2019), Hyderabad (Gastronomy, 2019), Srinagar (Crafts & Folk Art, 2021), Gwalior (Music, 2023), Kozhikode (Literature, 2023) and Lucknow (Gastronomy, 2025). Lucknow now becomes India's **second City of Gastronomy** after Hyderabad, reinforcing India's culinary depth and cultural diversity. Established in 2004, the **UCCN** promotes cities that use **culture, creativity and innovation** for sustainable urban development across fields like **Music, Film, Literature, Design, Gastronomy, Crafts & Folk Art and Media Arts**, connecting over 350 cities worldwide.

### World Food Prize

- Padma Shri chef **Sanjeev Kapoor** has been honoured by the **World Food Prize Foundation (WFPF)**.
- He has been honoured as a **2025 Top Agri-Food Pioneer (TAP)** for his pioneering contribution to **nutrition, sustainable sourcing**

and **food-system innovation**. Recognised for delivering **2.5 million nutrient-rich meals** to schoolchildren and promoting **bio-fortified crops** like **iron-rich pearl millet** and **zinc-rich wheat**, Kapoor's initiatives such as '**Nutri Pathshala**' link schools, farmers and nutrition programmes. His work integrates **culinary innovation**, **public health nutrition** and **farmer-centric sourcing**, positioning Indian gastronomy within global agri-food transformation.

- Founded by **Dr. Norman Borlaug** in **1986**, the **World Food Prize Foundation** (Des Moines, USA) advances global efforts in **food security**, **sustainable agriculture** and **nutrition**, through programmes like the **World Food Prize**, **Top Agri-Food Pioneers** and the **Borlaug Dialogue**.

### Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025

- India announced the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025** on **26 October 2025**, recognising outstanding contributions across **13 scientific disciplines** including **Physics**, **Chemistry**, **Biological Sciences**, **Agriculture**, **Engineering**, **Space Science** and more.
- Presented under four categories --**Vigyan Ratna** (lifetime achievements), **Vigyan Shri** (exceptional contributions), **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar** (young scientists under 45) and **Vigyan Team Award** (collaborative research) -- the awards highlight India's growing scientific excellence. The **Vigyan Ratna** was conferred **posthumously** on **Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar** for his contributions to **Physics**. The **Vigyan Shri** awardees include **Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh** (Agricultural Science), **Dr. Yusuf Mohammad Seikh** (Atomic Energy), **Dr. K. Thangaraj** (Biological Sciences), **Prof. Pradeep Thalappil** (Chemistry), **Prof. Aniruddha Bhalchandra Pandit** (Engineering), **Dr. S. Venkata Mohan** (Environmental Science), **Prof. Mahan Mj** (Mathematics & Computer Science) and **Shri**

**Jayan N** (Space Science & Technology). The **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award** honoured young scientists such as **Dr. Jagdis Gupta Kapuganti**, **Shri Debarka Sengupta**, **Dr. Deepa Agashe**, **Prof. Sabyasachi Mukherjee**, **Prof. Amit Kumar Agarwal**, **Prof. Surhud Shrikant More**, **Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam** and others. The **Vigyan Team Award** went to the **CSIR Aroma Mission Team** for pioneering work in **agricultural science**. With nominations accepted through the **National Awards Portal**, the awards underscore India's commitment to **innovation**, **research excellence** and **science-led national development**.

### 2025 British Academy Book Prize

- Indian-origin historian **Sunil Amrith** has won the **2025 British Academy Book Prize**.
- He received the prize for his work ***The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years***, a **£25,000** award recognising outstanding non-fiction in the **humanities and social sciences**. A **Professor of History at Yale University**, Amrith brings a **global perspective** shaped by his **South Indian heritage**, upbringing in **Singapore** and education at **Cambridge**. His award-winning book traces **500 years of environmental change**, linking **colonisation**, **industrialisation**, **mining**, **deforestation** and **20th-century global conflicts** to the **roots of today's climate crisis**. Judges praised the book as a "**magisterial**", "**beautifully written**" and essential account of the deep connections between **human history** and **environmental transformation**.
- The 2025 shortlist also included: **William Dalrymple** (*The Golden Road*), **Lucy Ash** (*The Baton and the Cross*), **Bronwen Everill** (*Africonomics*), **Sophie Harman** (*Sick of It*) and **Graeme Lawson** (*Sound Tracks*). Established in 2013, the **British Academy Book Prize** honours accessible, research-driven works that broaden global understanding.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

| Book Name  | Author and Details   |
|--|--|
| The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny                            | The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny by Kiran Desai, shortlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize, delves into love, family and cultural identity across India and America.  |
| The Last Day as Antim Din                                    | The Sahitya Akademi releases the Hindi translation of Lithuanian novel <i>The Last Day as Antim Din</i> , marking the first Lithuanian fiction available in Hindi. |
| Economic History of Medieval India                           | Irfan Habib  |
| An Introduction to the Study of Indian History               | Damodar Dharmananda Kosambi  |
| The God of Small Things                                      | The first Indian to win the Booker Prize was Arundhati Roy for her debut novel <i>The God of Small Things</i> in 1997.   |
| Prison and Chocolate Cake                                    | Nayantara Sahgal: A memoir of her childhood and upbringing during the independence movement; provides a personal perspective.                                      |
| The Inheritance of Loss                                      | Kiran Desai. Booker Prize (2006)   |
| Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom | Ramachandra Guha. Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography (2023)   |
| Tomb of Sand (Ret Samadhi)                                   | Geetanjali Shree. <b>Man Booker Prize</b> (2022)   |
| "In a Free State" and "A House for Mr. Biswas"               | <b>V. S. Naipaul</b>   |

## SPORTS

### 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup

- Belgium and the Netherlands will co-host the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup.
- Scheduled from 15-30 August 2026, matches will be held at Belfius Hockey Arena in Wavre and Wagener Stadium in **Amsterdam**, with the men's final in Wavre and the women's final in Amsterdam. The tournament will feature 16 teams per gender in a revised dual-group progression format and the **first-ever ParaHockey World Cup will run alongside the main event**, promoting inclusivity and equal opportunity in global hockey.

### Sheetal Devi, the Nation's First Para Archer in Mainstream Team

- Sheetal Devi** has become the first **Indian para-archer** to join the **able-bodied national archery team**, marking a historic milestone for **inclusion in Indian sports**.
- At **18**, the **Jammu & Kashmir-born** archer, born with **phocomelia**, will represent **India** in the **Asia Cup 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**. She adapts her **archery using legs and shoulders** and has already won multiple **international medals**, including **gold** at the **2023 Asian Para Games** and **2025 World Archery Para Championships**. Selected through **rigorous trials**, **Sheetal** finished **third**

among 60 **able-bodied archers**, underscoring a shift towards **merit-based inclusivity** and inspiring a new era for **para-athletes** in **mainstream competitions**.

### India's 91st Grandmaster

- **Raahul VS** has become **India's 91st Grandmaster (GM)** after clinching the **6th ASEAN Individual Championship 2025**.
- His achievement adds to India's expanding **chess legacy**, following **Illamparathi AR** (90th GM) and **S Rohith Krishna** (89th GM) in 2025.
- The **Grandmaster title**, awarded by **FIDE**, is the highest honor in **chess**, requiring players to earn **three GM norms** and surpass a **2500 Elo rating**, symbolizing exceptional **tactical skill**, **mental endurance** and **international excellence**.

### India Celebrates 100 Years of Hockey

- **India marks a century of hockey excellence** with centenary celebrations at **Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi**.
- The event highlighted India's journey from **colonial-era beginnings** to **Olympic glory**, paying tribute to legends like **Dhyan Chand** and **Balbir Singh Sr.** Over **1,400 matches** were played across **550 districts**, connecting every region to India's hockey legacy.
- With **8 Olympic gold medals** and **13 podium finishes**, India remains the most **successful hockey nation** and the centenary celebrations reinforced hockey as an enduring symbol of the **nation's identity and sporting spirit**.

### Cricket Teams with the Most ICC Tournament Wins

- **India and Australia continue their dominance** in ICC cricket, with Australia leading in total trophies and India showing consistent success across formats.
- Australia tops the chart with **10 ICC titles**, including **6 ODI World Cups**, **1 T20 World Cup (2021)**, **2 Champions Trophies (2006, 2009)** and the **2023 World Test Championship**. India follows with **7 trophies**, highlighted by **1983 and 2011 World Cups**,

**T20 World Cups in 2007 and 2024** and **3 Champions Trophy wins (2002 shared, 2013, 2025)**. West Indies have **5 titles**, while Pakistan, Sri Lanka and England each have **3** and New Zealand and South Africa have **2 and 1**, respectively.

- In women's cricket, **Australia** leads with **7 World Cups**, **England** has **4** and **India** achieved a historic milestone by winning their **first-ever ICC Women's ODI World Cup in 2025**, defeating South Africa, with **Shafali Verma** as Player of the Match and **Deepti Sharma** as Player of the Tournament.

### FIFA Announces Peace Prize to Debut at 2026 World Cup Draw

- **FIFA to launch its inaugural Peace Prize** at the 2026 World Cup draw in Washington, honouring individuals who use football to promote unity and peace.
- The **FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World** will celebrate exceptional efforts to foster harmony through football. Announced by **FIFA President Gianni Infantino**, the award reflects the sport's moral responsibility to bring people together globally. The debut presentation is scheduled for **5 December 2025** during the **World Cup draw in Washington DC**, symbolising football's role in diplomacy and cultural outreach.

### Knight Bachelor

- **David Beckham was knighted as a Knight Bachelor** for his services to football and philanthropy, becoming the 17th football icon to receive the title '**Sir**'.
- The honour was conferred by **King Charles III** at **Windsor Castle** on 4 November 2025, following Beckham's inclusion in the **King's Birthday Honours List 2025**. Beckham's knighthood recognises not only his illustrious football career--**115 England appearances**, **captaincy from 2000–2006** and titles with **Manchester United, Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, AC Milan and PSG**--but also his global philanthropic contributions, including work



with UNICEF, the 7: The David Beckham Fund and the King's Foundation.

- Joining an elite lineage of knighted football figures like **Sir Stanley Matthews, Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Alex Ferguson**, Beckham's knighthood celebrates his enduring impact on sport, charity and British values worldwide.

## India's ICC Trophy Wins

- **India has won 14 ICC trophies across men's, women's and youth cricket**, showcasing its global cricketing dominance.
- **Men's Senior Team (7 ICC Trophies)**
  - **1983 ODI World Cup** – Beat West Indies; Kapil Dev led India to its first ICC title.
  - **2002 Champions Trophy** – Shared with Sri Lanka after rain-hit final.
  - **2007 T20 World Cup** – Beat Pakistan; MS Dhoni's first T20 title.
  - **2011 ODI World Cup** – Beat Sri Lanka at home under Dhoni.
  - **2013 Champions Trophy** – Beat England; Dhoni became the only captain to win all three ICC white-ball trophies.
  - **2024 T20 World Cup** – Beat South Africa, ending an 11-year ICC trophy drought.
  - **2025 Champions Trophy** – Beat New Zealand under Rohit Sharma.
- **Women's Senior Team (1 ICC Trophy)**
  - **2025 Women's ODI World Cup** – Beat South Africa by 52 runs; India's first senior women's ICC title.
- **India's U-19 Teams (6 ICC Titles)**
  - **Men's U-19** – 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018, 2022 (U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup)
  - **Women's U-19** – 2023, 2025 (U-19 Women's T20 World Cup)
- **Key Highlights**
  - India ranks among the most successful cricket nations with **14 ICC trophies**.
  - Milestones include **Kapil Dev's 1983 win, MS Dhoni's T20 and Champions Trophy victories** and **Rohit Sharma's 2025 Champions Trophy**.
  - The **2025 Women's ODI World Cup** marked a historic moment for Indian women's cricket.

- Strong U-19 success underscores India's robust youth cricket development system.

## 2025 Asian Youth Games

- **India achieved its best-ever performance at the 2025 Asian Youth Games** in Manama, Bahrain, winning **48 medals (13 gold, 18 silver, 17 bronze)** and securing spots for the 2026 Youth Olympics.
- The **Indian contingent of 222 athletes (119 women, 103 men)** excelled across disciplines such as **kabaddi, boxing, beach wrestling, athletics and weightlifting**. Standout performances included **Khushi's bronze in kurash, Ranjana Yadav's silver in 5000m race walk** and the **girls' kabaddi team winning India's first gold**. **Priteesmita Bhoi** set a **world youth record** in the 44kg clean and jerk, securing individual gold. On the final day, India clinched **15 medals, including seven golds**, highlighting a dominant finish.
- This historic medal haul surpasses India's previous bests at **2009 (11 medals)** and **2013 (14 medals)**, underscoring India's growing prominence in **Asian youth sports**.
- **Medal Summary:**
  - **Total:** 48
  - **Gold:** 13
  - **Silver:** 18
  - **Bronze:** 17
- India's strong showing not only shattered past records but also strengthens its qualification prospects for the **2026 Youth Olympics in Dakar, Senegal**, reflecting the country's rising youth sports capabilities.

## Records Broken in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025

- **India's women cricketers created history** in the 2025 World Cup final against South Africa, setting multiple new benchmarks.
- **Smriti Mandhana Surpasses Mithali Raj** – Scored **434 runs** in the tournament, breaking Mithali's 409-run record (2017).
- **Shafali Verma's Highest Score by an Indian Opener in a Final** – Surpassed **Punam Raut**

(86, 2017) with a fearless innings, showcasing top-order dominance.

- **Harmanpreet Kaur Top Scorer in Knockouts** – Scored **331 runs**, surpassing Belinda Clark's 330 in knockout stages.
- **Deepti Sharma's All-Round Feat** – First player to score **200+ runs** and take **15+ wickets** in a single Women's World Cup edition.
- **Richa Ghosh Equals Most Sixes in a WC Edition** – Hit **12 sixes**, matching Deandra Dottin's record.
- **India's Second-Highest Final Total** – Team scored **298 runs**, second only to Australia's 356/5 (2022).
- **Highest Opening Partnership in a Final** – Mandhana-Verma stand set a new benchmark for India.
- **Fastest Fifty in a Final by an Indian** – Shafali reached fifty in just **35 balls**.
- **Most Batters Crossing 40 in a Final** – Four Indian batters scored 40+ runs, showing **depth in batting**.
- **10. India's Highest Team Average in a WC Edition** – Reflects **dominance and consistency** throughout the tournament.

### Highest Wicket-Takers – ICC Women's World Cup 2025

- The ICC Women's World Cup 2025 saw spectacular bowling performances
- India's **Deepti Sharma** led the charts with **22 wickets**, followed by Australia's **Annabel Sutherland** with 17 wickets.
- **Alana King**: Recorded **7/18 vs South Africa**, the best bowling figures in Women's World Cup history.
- **Marizanne Kapp**: Surpassed **Jhulan Goswami's record** for most wickets in Women's World Cup history (44).
- **Linsey Smith**: Best economy rate among the top 10 bowlers (3.60).

### Indian Tennis Star Rohan Bopanna Announces Retirement

- **Rohan Bopanna** has officially retired after a stellar 20-year career.
- **Career Highlights:**

- **Grand Slam Titles:**
  - 2017 French Open Mixed Doubles with Gabriela Dabrowski
  - 2024 Australian Open Men's Doubles with Matthew Ebden
- **Grand Slam Finals Appearances:**
  - Men's Doubles: 2010 US Open, 2023 US Open
  - Mixed Doubles: 2017 French Open (won), 2018 Australian Open, 2023 Australian Open
- **World No.1 in Doubles:** Achieved in 2024 at **age 43**, the oldest player to reach the top spot.
- Represented India in **Davis Cup** and multiple **Olympic Games**.
- **The Legendary 'Indo-Pak Express':**
- Bopanna's partnership with Pakistan's **Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi** became iconic, earning the nickname **'Indo-Pak Express'**. Their collaboration promoted peace and unity, highlighted by reaching the **2010 US Open final**.

### India's 90th Grandmaster

- At just **16 years old**, **Ilamparthi AR** from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, has become **India's 90th Grandmaster**.
- **Journey to Grandmaster:**
  - **First GM norm:** Ha Noi Tournament, Vietnam, 2023
  - **Second GM norm:** Singapore International Open, 2024
  - **Final norm:** Bijeljina Open, Bosnia, 2025
- Crossed **2500 Elo rating** during the Rilton Cup (2024-25), fulfilling all requirements for the Grandmaster title, the highest in chess.

### Viswanathan Anand Cup

- The **FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 trophy** has been renamed the **Viswanathan Anand Cup**, honoring India's chess legend and five-time world champion.
- The announcement was made at a grand ceremony in **Panjim, Goa**, attended by **Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Goa**

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich.

- **Key Highlights of the 2025 World Cup:**
  - **Participants:** 206 players from 80 countries competing across eight knockout rounds.
  - **Indian Contenders:** D. Gukesh and R. Praggnanandhaa aiming for top performances.
  - **Notable Absences:** Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura opted out.
  - **Event Draw:** Conducted by World Women's Chess Cup champion Divya Deshmukh.
- **Legacy of Viswanathan Anand:**
  - Known as the "Tiger of Madras", Anand is India's first chess Grandmaster and a five-time World Chess Champion. His achievements popularized chess in India and inspired a generation of players, including Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa and Nihal Sarin.

### Punjab's Second Chess International Master

- Jalandhar's Namitbir Singh Walia earned the prestigious **International Master (IM)** title.
- He received the title at the 3rd Annemasse International Masters in France, becoming Punjab's second-ever IM after Dushyant Sharma. He won multiple state and national titles, including the **65th Odisha Senior State FIDE Rating Open (2025)** and achieved a peak FIDE rating of 2,408.

### 2025 Asian Youth Games

- India sweeps Kabaddi Gold at 2025 Asian Youth Games.
- India dominated youth kabaddi at the **2025 Asian Youth Games in Bahrain**, winning gold in both U-18 boys' and girls' events.
- The girls' team thrashed Iran 75-21, the largest margin in AYG kabaddi finals since 2013. Neha Patel scored 28 points, while Riya Singh led the defence. Across five matches, they scored 312 points and conceded just 89.

- The boys' team edged Iran 35-32 in a nail-biting final, showcasing resilience and tactical composure under pressure.
- Matches were held at **Isa Sports City Arena, Riffa**, with athletes aged 14-18 competing across the Games. India's clean sweep reinforced its youth kabaddi supremacy in Asia.

### European Chess Club Cup 2025

- Indian chess stars **D Gukesh** and **Divya Deshmukh** clinched individual gold at the **European Chess Club Cup 2025**, boosting momentum ahead of the **Chess World Cup in Goa**.
- Gukesh dominated **Board 1** for Super Chess, leading his team to victory, while Divya excelled on **Board 2**, helping Cercle d'échecs de Monte Carlo secure top honors.
- The **Chess World Cup 2025** (Oct 31-Nov 27, Goa) features **24 Indian players**, with Gukesh as the top seed. The **top three finishers** will qualify for the **2026 Candidates Tournament**.

### ASEAN Cup

- FIFA Launches ASEAN Cup to Boost Southeast Asian Football.
- FIFA President **Gianni Infantino** announced the **FIFA ASEAN Cup** at the **47th ASEAN Summit** in Kuala Lumpur on **October 27, 2025**. The tournament aims to strengthen national football teams across **11 ASEAN member states**, including newly admitted **East Timor** and promote regional development.
- Modeled on the **FIFA Arab Cup**, the ASEAN Cup will involve **AFC, AFF and national football associations**, providing consistent competitive exposure, elevating standards and fostering youth talent pipelines. The initiative also strengthens **regional unity** and positions Southeast Asia more prominently in global football diplomacy.

### Vice-Chair of COP10 Bureau on Anti-Doping.

- India Re-Elected Vice-Chair of COP10 Bureau on Anti-Doping.

- India has been re-elected Vice-Chairperson of the COP10 Bureau under the International Convention against Doping in Sport for the 2025–2027 term, reaffirming its leadership in promoting clean and ethical sports. The announcement came during the 10th COP session at UNESCO, Paris, coinciding with the convention's 20th anniversary. India advocated for integrating Values Education through Sport (VETS), promoting ethics, integrity and fair play, particularly among youth.
- The re-election strengthens India's influence in shaping anti-doping policies, tackling emerging threats and harmonizing education-based initiatives across nations, highlighting its growing global stature in sports governance.

### FIDE World Cup 2025 Logo and Anthem

- India launched the official logo and anthem for the FIDE World Cup 2025 in Goa, marking the return of elite global chess to India after 23 years.
- The event runs from October 31 to November 27, 2025, in North Goa, hosting 206 players from 82 countries with a prize purse of USD 2 million (~INR 17.58 crore).
- The logo reflects Goa's culture and chess strategy:
  - Green: palm tree over waves (coastline)
  - Red: checkerboard (chess)
  - Yellow: stylized sun (festivity)
- The anthem, "It's Your Move" by Daler Mehndi, features PM Narendra Modi and

Indian chess stars D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, Koneru Humpy, Tania Sachdev, Vidit Gujarati.

### 11th Asian Aquatics Championships

- India hosted the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships from Sept 28–Oct 11, 2025, at Ahmedabad.
- With 1,100+ athletes from 29 countries competing in 65 events across swimming, artistic swimming, diving and water polo. The event also served as a qualifier for the 2026 Asian Games.
- Medal Highlights:**
  - China topped with 54 medals (40G, 10S, 4B)
  - India achieved its best-ever performance, finishing 11th with 13 medals (0G, 4S, 9B)
- Star Performers:**
  - Srihari Nataraj: 7 medals (Silver – 200m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke; Bronze – 100m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke, 4×100m Medley & Freestyle)
  - Bhavya Sachdeva: India's first women's medal (Bronze, 400m Freestyle)
  - Kushagra Rawat: Bronze, 1500m Freestyle
  - Benediction R. Beniston: Silver, 50m Butterfly
- Men's 4×200m Freestyle Relay set a National Record: 7:23.38 (Silver)
- India's strong showing underlined the country's growing aquatic capabilities and highlighted promising talent for future international events.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

| Date                                      | Event & Details  |
|---|--|
| 16th November:<br>National Press Day 2025 | On 16 November, India celebrates National Press Day to honour a free and responsible press and the Press Council of India. The day highlights ethical journalism, freedom of expression and accountability. Recent reforms like the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act 2023 and the Press Sewa Portal have digitised and simplified media registration. The Indian Institute of Mass Communication trains journalists and the Journalist Welfare Scheme provides support. Awards such as the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award recognise excellence. |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>November 15: Birsa Munda Jayanti 2025</b>    | <p>On <b>15 November 2025</b>, India celebrated <b>Birsa Munda Jayanti</b>, marking the 150th birth anniversary of the legendary tribal freedom fighter and social reformer. Known for leading the <b>Ulgulan uprising</b> against British rule, Birsa fought to protect tribal land, forest rights and culture, leading to the <b>Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (1908)</b>.</p> <p>Major government initiatives like <b>PM-JANMAN Abhiyan</b>, <b>Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan</b> and <b>Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana</b> today focus on education, healthcare, livelihood and skill development in tribal areas.</p>  |
| <b>14 November: World Diabetes Day 2025</b>     | <p>The 2025 theme, "<b>Diabetes Across Life Stages</b>", highlights how this chronic condition affects children, adults, pregnant women and the elderly, emphasizing the need for age-specific prevention, care and support.</p> <p>Diabetes occurs when the body cannot regulate blood sugar due to insufficient insulin or insulin resistance. Major types include <b>Type 1</b>, <b>Type 2</b>, <b>gestational diabetes</b> and <b>prediabetes</b>. Symptoms include frequent urination, excessive thirst, fatigue, blurred vision and slow-healing wounds. India is among the top three countries with the highest diabetic population, with nearly 50% of cases undiagnosed.</p>   |
| <b>14 November: Children's Day</b>              | <p>Children's Day is celebrated on <b>14 November</b> every year, marking the birth anniversary of <b>Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru</b>, India's first Prime Minister, who was fondly called "Chacha Nehru." The day honors his love for children and underscores their importance as the future builders of the nation. The theme for 2025 is "<b>For Every Child, Every Right</b>," focusing on equal access to education, healthcare and safety for all children.</p>  |
| <b>12 November: World Pneumonia Day</b>         | <p><b>World Pneumonia Day</b>, observed on <b>12 November</b>, highlights <b>pneumonia</b>, a <b>preventable</b> yet deadly disease and the <b>leading infectious killer of children under five</b>. The 2025 focus is on <b>strengthening health systems</b>, <b>universal vaccine access</b>, <b>medical oxygen</b> and <b>early diagnosis and treatment</b>. It also affects <b>older adults</b> and those with <b>chronic illnesses</b>, especially in <b>low- and middle-income countries</b> like <b>India</b>.</p> <p>Key actions include <b>vaccination</b> against <b>pneumococcal disease</b>, <b>Haemophilus influenzae type b</b>, <b>measles</b> and <b>whooping cough</b>; promoting <b>exclusive breastfeeding</b>, <b>child nutrition</b> and <b>clean environments</b>; and <b>training health workers</b> for early detection. Ensuring <b>oxygen access</b> and integrating <b>pneumonia care</b> into routine health services is critical, with a focus on <b>equity</b> so no child or elder is left behind.</p> |
| <b>11 November: National Education Day 2025</b> | <p><b>National Education Day</b>, observed on <b>November 11</b>, marks the birth anniversary of <b>Maulana Abul Kalam Azad</b>, India's first <b>Education Minister</b> and a pioneer of <b>modern education</b>. The day celebrates his vision of <b>inclusive, quality education</b>.</p> <p>Born in <b>1888</b>, Maulana Azad was a <b>freedom fighter</b>, <b>scholar</b> and <b>journalist</b>, founding Urdu weeklies <b>Al-Hilal</b> and <b>Al-Balagh</b> to promote nationalist thought. As Education Minister (1947–1958), he established the <b>University Grants Commission</b>, supported <b>Indian Institutes of Technology</b>, <b>Indian Institute of Science</b> and strengthened technical and scientific education.</p>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | He also founded <b>Sahitya Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi</b> to nurture Indian arts and culture.  |
| <b>10 November: World Science Day</b>  | <b>World Science Day</b> , observed annually on <b>10 November</b> , was established by <b>UNESCO in 2001</b> to highlight the role of <b>science in society</b> . The day emphasizes how scientific knowledge fosters <b>peace, sustainable development and global cooperation</b> . The <b>2025 theme</b> , <i>"Trust, transformation and tomorrow: The science we need for 2050,"</i> encourages students and youth to actively engage in <b>scientific inquiry, creativity and problem-solving</b> to address future challenges. The day connects <b>science with real-world issues</b> like <b>climate change, health crises and resource management</b> , stressing that science is not limited to laboratories.                              |
| <b>9 November: National Legal Services Day</b>   | <b>National Legal Services Day</b> is observed annually on <b>9 November</b> to commemorate the <b>Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987</b> , which came into force on this date in <b>1995</b> . The day highlights India's commitment to <b>legal equality</b> and ensures that citizens, especially the disadvantaged, have <b>access to justice</b> . It also promotes <b>legal awareness</b> , empowering people to exercise their rights effectively. The Act established a <b>three-tier legal aid system</b> : <b>NALSA</b> at the national level, <b>State Legal Services Authorities</b> and <b>District Legal Services Authorities</b> .   |
| <b>8 November: World Radiography Day</b>   | <b>World Radiography Day 2025</b> , observed on <b>November 8</b> , celebrates the discovery of <b>X-rays</b> by <b>Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen</b> in 1895 and honors the vital role of <b>radiographers and radiologists</b> in modern healthcare. Radiography has revolutionized medicine, enabling <b>early detection, accurate diagnosis and advanced treatment planning</b> through imaging techniques like <b>X-ray, CT, MRI, PET and ultrasound</b> , now enhanced by <b>AI and hybrid imaging</b> . Designated by the <b>International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT)</b> in 2007, this day highlights radiology's continuing impact on <b>public health, clinical efficiency and personalized medicine</b> . |
| <b>November 7: National Cancer Awareness Day 2025</b>  | <b>National Cancer Awareness Day 2025</b> , observed on <b>November 7</b> , aims to promote <b>early detection, prevention and timely treatment</b> of cancer in India. Initiated in <b>2014</b> by <b>Dr. Harsh Vardhan</b> , the day coincides with the birth anniversary of <b>Marie Curie</b> , whose work in <b>radioactivity</b> paved the way for modern <b>cancer therapy</b> . With over <b>13.24 lakh new cases and 8.51 lakh deaths</b> annually in India, the observance emphasizes <b>public awareness, screening drives, lifestyle modification and community engagement</b> .  |
| <b>November 6: International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 2025</b> | <b>International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 2025</b> is observed on <b>November 6</b> to highlight the urgent need to protect the <b>environment during wars and armed conflicts</b> . Established by the <b>United Nations General Assembly in 2001</b> and reinforced by the <b>United Nations Environment Assembly in 2016</b> , the day emphasizes that <b>ecosystems, wildlife and natural resources</b> are often the hidden victims of conflicts, suffering from <b>pollution, deforestation and habitat destruction</b> . Protecting the environment during conflicts promotes  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>peace, stability and sustainable development, supporting goals such as clean water, climate action, life on land and peace and justice. The observance urges <b>global cooperation</b>, documenting environmental damage, enforcing international laws and investing in <b>environmental peacebuilding</b>, highlighting that safeguarding nature is vital for <b>human survival, rights and dignity</b>.</p>   |
| <p><b>November 1:</b><br/><b>Foundation Day of Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh</b></p> | <p><b>Foundation Day of Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh</b> is celebrated every year on <b>November 1</b> to mark their formation and progress. This day commemorates the <b>1956 reorganization of states</b> based on language and culture, honoring each state's <b>heritage, unity and development</b>.</p> <p><b>Karnataka</b> celebrates <b>Kannada Rajyotsava</b>, formed in 1956 as Mysore and renamed Karnataka in 1973, with <b>flag hoisting, parades and Rajyotsava Awards</b> for excellence in literature, art, education and social service.</p> <p><b>Kerala</b> observes <b>Kerala Piravi</b>, formed by merging Malabar, Cochin and Travancore in 1956. The state celebrates its <b>natural beauty, backwaters and cultural heritage</b> with performances and traditional attire.</p> <p><b>Chhattisgarh</b>, formed on <b>November 1, 2000</b>, after separating from Madhya Pradesh, highlights its <b>tribal culture, mineral wealth and folk traditions</b> through music, dance and cultural programs.</p> <p><b>Haryana</b>, formed in <b>1966</b> from Punjab, known as <b>Jatland</b>, celebrates its <b>historical significance, Green Revolution legacy and industrial growth</b>, including Gurugram as an IT hub.</p> <p><b>Madhya Pradesh</b>, the "<b>Heart of India</b>", formed in 1956, showcases its <b>rich history, UNESCO heritage sites, national parks and cultural traditions</b> with fairs and folk performances.</p> |
| <p><b>October 31: National Unity Day</b></p>   | <p><b>National Unity Day 2025</b> is observed on <b>October 31</b> to mark the <b>150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel</b>, the "Iron Man of India," who played a pivotal role in uniting over <b>560 princely states</b> after independence. Born in 1875 in Gujarat, Patel rose from humble beginnings to become a freedom fighter, leading movements like the <b>Kheda Satyagraha, Bardoli Satyagraha, Non-Cooperation, Salt March and Quit India Movement</b>. As the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, he used the <b>Instrument of Accession</b> to integrate princely states peacefully, including <b>Junagadh, Hyderabad and Kashmir</b>, preventing the fragmentation of India.</p>   |
| <p><b>October 27: Vigilance Awareness Week</b></p>   | <p><b>Vigilance Awareness Week 2025</b> began on <b>October 27</b> across India with the theme "<b>Vigilance – Our Shared Responsibility</b>", coinciding with the birth anniversary of <b>Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel</b>. The week emphasizes <b>ethics, transparency and accountability</b> in public life, highlighting that vigilance is a collective duty involving citizens, officials and institutions.</p>   |
| <p><b>October 24: Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising Day</b></p>   | <p><b>Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising Day 2025</b> is observed on <b>October 24</b> to honor India's high-altitude guardians along the <b>Indo-China border</b> from <b>Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh</b>. Established in <b>1962</b> after the Sino-Indian conflict, the force protects India's northern frontiers, prevents intrusions, assists border communities and undertakes disaster relief and</p>   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | mountaineering operations in extreme conditions. Celebrating <b>63 years of service</b> , the day recognizes the <b>bravery, discipline and resilience</b> of personnel who operate at altitudes above 14,000 feet and harsh temperatures below -25°C. Events include <b>parades, cultural programs and awards</b> , highlighting ITBP's role in <b>national security, environmental protection, humanitarian missions and United Nations peacekeeping operations</b> . Their motto, " <b>Valour, Determination, Devotion to Duty</b> ", encapsulates the spirit of India's frontline Himalayan defenders.  |
| <b>October 24: World Polio Day 2025</b>                             | <b>World Polio Day 2025</b> is observed on <b>October 24</b> with the theme " <b>End Polio: Every Child, Every Vaccine, Everywhere.</b> " The day honours global efforts to eradicate polio, a viral disease that causes paralysis and can be fatal, especially in children. <b>Initiated by Rotary International to mark Dr. Jonas Salk's birthday</b> , who <b>developed the first polio vaccine in 1955</b> , the day highlights vaccination campaigns that have reduced polio cases by over 99 percent worldwide. India, once a high-burden country, was declared polio-free in 2014, though ongoing surveillance continues. World Polio Day emphasizes <b>universal immunization, reaching every child and ensuring safe and effective vaccines</b> , while recognizing the efforts of health workers, governments and international organizations in making the world polio-free. |
| <b>October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</b> | <b>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</b> was observed on <b>October 17</b> to highlight the dignity, rights and support of families living in poverty. The 2025 theme, " <b>Ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families,</b> " emphasizes building inclusive institutions that prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable and respect family structures.  |

## STATIC GK

The Atomic Theory was given by John Dalton. John Dalton, an English chemist, is credited with developing the first comprehensive atomic theory, stating that matter is composed of tiny, indivisible particles called atoms.

Charles Goodyear is best known for inventing **vulcanized rubber**, a process of heating natural rubber with sulfur to make it more durable, flexible and stable under varying temperatures. This groundbreaking discovery

transformed rubber from a fragile material into a reliable industrial substance used for a vast array of products, including waterproof clothing, shoes and eventually tires.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) and Azolla are the primary organisms used as biofertilizers for rice crops. These organisms are beneficial because they can fix atmospheric nitrogen, which improves soil fertility and increases rice yield.

The main branch of science that specifically studies the influence and interactions of soils on living organisms, especially plants, is **edaphology**.

When a ship moves from a river into the sea, it ris**es slightly because the higher density of saltwater provides a greater buoyant force**. This increased upward force means the ship needs to displace a smaller volume of water to achieve the same level of buoyancy that balances its



weight, causing it to sit higher in the water.

The value of acceleration due to gravity is **maximum at the poles and minimum at the equator**. This is because the Earth is not a perfect sphere but is flattened at the poles and bulged at the equator, so the distance from the center is shortest at the poles and longest at the equator. Additionally, the Earth's rotation creates a centrifugal force that reduces the acceleration due to gravity more at the equator than at the poles.

Biologists have demonstrated the hearing and sound sensory mechanism through the acoustico-lateralis system in **fishes**. This system allows fish to sense vibrations and pressure changes in the water, which they use for detecting movement, locating prey and orienting themselves in their environment.

Gram-positive bacteria are identified by Gram staining because their cell walls have a **thick layer of peptidoglycan** that retains the crystal violet dye, making the bacteria appear purple under a microscope. This is in contrast to Gram-negative bacteria, which have a thinner peptidoglycan layer and an outer membrane, causing them to lose the crystal violet and take up the pink counterstain instead.

Passive Optical LAN (POLAN) is used when centralized management is desired or if there is little room for cabling because it offers a flexible and efficient way to connect devices within a building with minimal physical cabling.

Vishing is a type of cyberattack where criminals use phone calls to trick people into revealing sensitive information like passwords, credit card numbers, or Social Security numbers.

The Kalka-Shimla Railway, part of the Mountain Railways of India World Heritage site, is owned by two states: Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. While it is a single World Heritage site, it is located across both these Indian states, with the Kalka station in Haryana and the main part of the railway in Himachal Pradesh.

**Karl Landsteiner is famous for discovering the ABO blood group system in 1901**, a discovery that made modern blood transfusions possible and for which he won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1930.

Auxin is a group of plant hormones that regulate growth, including cell elongation, differentiation and development. It is produced in the tips of shoots and roots

and plays a key role in processes like phototropism (bending towards light) and geotropism (growing with or against gravity) by influencing how plant cells grow.

The famous folk drama of the Bhils is **Gavari**. It is a religious folk drama and dance-drama that is performed for about 40 days, with a story based on the legend of Lord Shiva and the demon Bhasmasur.

The earliest evidence of puppetry comes from ancient sites of the Indus Valley Civilization, specifically Harappa and Mohe njo-daro, with archaeological finds including terracotta puppets from around 2500 BCE.

Udant Martand (meaning "The Rising Sun") was the first Hindi-language newspaper published in India. Launched on May 30, 1826, in Calcutta (now Kolkata) by Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla, it was a weekly newspaper that played a crucial role in promoting Hindi journalism and literature.

Printing media began in India in 1780. Radio broadcasts began in 1927.

The earliest written reference to puppets is found in the Tamil classic Silappadikaram around the 1st or 2nd century B.C., though

the Mahabharata and Panini's grammar (both around 4th century B.C.) also contain references.

The bronze image of Nataraja Shiva is ascribed to the **Chola Dynasty**. This iconic sculpture, representing Shiva as the cosmic dancer, was developed and refined during this period, with many of the finest examples dating to the 9th–11th centuries in South India.

The Mathura School of Art primarily used **red sandstone** for its sculptures and architecture.

The Kailashnath Temple of Ellora was built by the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I, who ruled from approximately 756 to 773 AD. It is a monolithic structure carved from a single rock, a marvel of 8th-century architecture and is considered a masterpiece of rock-cut architecture.

The first Bharat Ratna was awarded in 1954 to three individuals: C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and C. V. Raman. While all three were first-time recipients, C. Rajagopalachari is often cited as the very first person to receive the award.

The peacock was declared the National Bird of India in **1963**.

**India currently produces 3 atomic minerals.** Uranium, Thorium and Graphite are the ones produced in India.

The first machine-made paper was introduced in India in **1812** at a paper mill set up by missionary William Carey in Serampore, Bengal. This mill marked the beginning of the machine-made paper industry in India.

The first National Health Policy of India was created

in **1983**. Its primary goal was to achieve the objective of "Health for All" by the year 2000.

An **ad valorem tax** is a type of tax where the amount is based on the **assessed value** of an item, rather than a fixed amount per unit. The term is Latin for "according to value". Giffen goods are a rare type of inferior good where demand increases as the price increases, defying the law of demand. Examples include basic foods like rice, wheat, or potatoes in low-income populations.

Rājatarāṅgiṇī is a historical chronicle of the north-western part of Indian sub-continent, particularly the kings of Kashmir. It was written in Sanskrit by Kashmiri historian Kalhana in the 12th century CE.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS GK

**Dugong (Dugong dugon)** is a large, slow-moving herbivorous marine mammal found in shallow coastal waters of India (Gulf of Mannar, Andaman & Nicobar, Gulf of Kutch) and globally from East Africa to Australia; **IUCN status: Vulnerable, Schedule I protected in India.**

**BIRSA 101 Gene Therapy** is India's first indigenous

CRISPR-based treatment for **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)**, developed by **CSIR-IGIB** in partnership with **Serum Institute of India**, offering a low-cost, one-time potential cure. It precisely edits the defective gene causing sickle-shaped red blood cells, supporting India's goal of **Sickle Cell-Free India by 2047** and marks a milestone in

**affordable genomic medicine and medical self-reliance.**

**Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO)**, established in 1899 in Tamil Nadu, is one of India's oldest solar observatories with over **120 years of continuous solar data**, now digitised for global access.

**Sentinel-6B** is an advanced ocean-altimetry satellite

launched via SpaceX Falcon-9 to provide **high-precision global sea-level, wave and wind measurements**, continuing the legacy of Topex-Poseidon and Jason missions. It aids **climate monitoring, storm forecasting, coastal resilience planning** and offers the gold-standard reference for **sea-level rise and ocean dynamics**.

**Ammonium Nitrate ( $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ )** is a highly oxidising white crystalline compound widely used as a fertilizer and a key ingredient in industrial and improvised explosives, becoming dangerous when mixed with fuel or heated in confinement. In India, it is tightly regulated under the **Explosives Act, 1884** and **Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012**, as any mixture above 45% ammonium nitrate is legally treated as an explosive.

India's first **MWh-scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB)**, with 3 MWh capacity, was inaugurated at **NTPC NETRA, Greater Noida**, enabling **long-duration, safe and recyclable energy storage** for renewable integration. It uses **vanadium electrolyte instead of lithium**, supports **grid resilience and renewable reliability** and marks a step toward **indigenous, Atma-nirbhar clean energy solutions**.

**Exercise Malabar 2025** is a multilateral naval drill of the **Quad nations (India, USA,**

**Japan, Australia)** held in **Guam**, enhancing maritime security, interoperability and joint operations in the Indo-Pacific.

**Doha Political Declaration (2025)**, adopted at the **Second World Summit for Social Development** in Qatar, reaffirms global commitment to **poverty eradication, decent work, social inclusion** and aligns social development with the **2030 SDGs**. It emphasizes **peace, global cooperation and implementable actions**, building on the **Copenhagen Declaration (1995)**'s people-centered approach to create just, resilient and inclusive societies.

**The United Nations Environment Programme Adaptation Gap Report 2025 ("Running on Empty")** warns that developing countries face a massive climate adaptation finance gap, requiring **310–365 billion US dollars annually by 2035**, while current funding is only **26 billion US dollars**.

**Dogri** is an Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly in the **Jammu region**, recognized in the **Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution** and as an official language of Jammu and Kashmir since 2020.

**Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Balodabazar District, Chhattisgarh**, spans **66 square kilometres** and is known for its rich **biodiversity, grassland–forest ecosystems**

and thriving **herbivore and carnivore populations**. It has successfully facilitated the **recovery of the blackbuck**, declared locally extinct in 2017, under a **five-year revival plan (2021–2026)**.

**150 Years of Vande Mataram (2025–26)** marks the sesquicentennial of India's National Song, written by **Bankimchandra Chatterji** in 1875, celebrating the Motherland and uniting citizens through its **spiritual and revolutionary essence**. The song became a **rallying cry in the freedom struggle**, inspiring movements like the **Gulbarga resistance (1948)**.

**African Swine Fever** is a highly contagious viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs, caused by the **African Swine Fever Virus**, with **up to 100% mortality** but no risk to humans. With **no vaccine or cure**, control relies on **strict biosecurity, movement restrictions, quarantine, disinfection and mass culling**, as seen in Assam's recent bans on pig movement and pork sales.

**Lake Turkana**, located mainly in northern Kenya with its northern tip in southern Ethiopia, is the **world's largest permanent desert lake** and the fourth-largest in Africa's Great Rift Valley, known for its **jade-green waters and active tectonics**. The **248 km long, brackish lake** formed through

rift activity hosts volcanic islands and experiences fluctuating water levels that,

over 6,000 years, have influenced earthquake activity in the region.

## LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS



**Global Crisis in Sudan**

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**Trigger of the Current War (2023)**

- War began 15 April 2023 between:
  - Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) – Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan
  - Rapid Support Forces (RSF) – Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti)
- Power struggle after the 2021 military coup.
- Conflict spread from Khartoum to entire country.
- Result: Full civil war, state collapse, no functioning government.

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**Old Faultlines Resurfacing**

- Ethnic legacy: RSF evolved from Janjaweed militias (Darfur genocide, 2003).
- Resource battles: land, water, gold mines, Red Sea access routes.
- Climate shocks: repeated droughts & floods intensifying farmer-herder clashes.
- Foreign involvement: United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Russia (Wagner remnants) backing rival sides.

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**The Human Cost**

- 150,000+ killed | 13 million displaced (1 in 3 Sudanese).
- 8.8 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- 3.5 million refugees in neighbouring states
- Famine confirmed (Aug 2024) in Darfur's Zamzam camp.
- Hospitals destroyed, medicines unavailable, mass starvation.
- Spike in sexual violence, forced marriage, child soldier recruitment.
- Red Cross: "History is repeating itself in Sudan."

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**Why It Matters Now**

- Sudan: among earliest post-colonial African states; part of Bandung Conference 1955.
- Today: world's largest ignored humanitarian crisis.
- Urgent needs:
  - Ceasefire & civilian-led transition
  - Unhindered humanitarian access
  - Accountability for war crimes
- Warning: Without global action, Sudan risks becoming a permanent failed state.

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### What is the High Seas Treaty?

- Global pact to protect marine biodiversity beyond national borders.
- Covers Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).
- Goal: Balance conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of ocean resources.

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### Principle Conflict

#### Common Heritage of Humankind:

→ Oceans belong to all; benefits must be shared fairly.

#### Freedom of the High Seas:

→ States free to explore, navigate, and exploit resources.

→ Issue: Treaty applies "common heritage" only partly  
→ leads to unclear ownership, research rights, and profit-sharing.

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### Major Challenges

- Unclear benefit-sharing: No fixed formula for sharing profits from MGRs.
- Biopiracy fears: Developed nations may dominate marine research and patents.
- Big powers missing: U.S., China, Russia yet to ratify → weak global backing.
- Institutional overlaps: May conflict with ISA and regional fisheries bodies.
- Implementation gaps: Vague on funding, monitoring, and compliance.

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### Way Forward

- Clarify MGR governance and benefit-sharing norms.
- Secure participation of major economies.
- Ensure coordination with existing ocean laws and bodies.
- Promote science-based, climate-linked ocean management.
- Make the treaty legally coherent and inclusive for all nations.

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