

# APTI PLUS OAS GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2025



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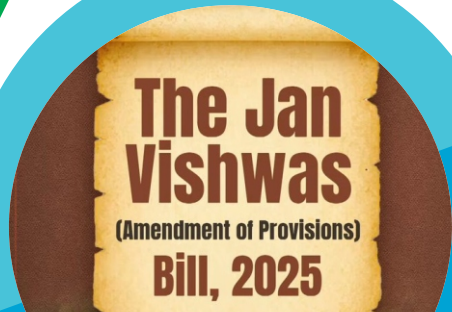
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CREATING CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE NATION



Human–Animal Conflict  
In Odisha



Konark Festival



Jan Vishwas  
Bill 2025



Olive Ridley  
Turtles



Irrawaddy  
Dolphin

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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS



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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**

## Human-Animal Conflict in Odisha (Last 10 Years)

### Context

- **Human-animal conflict** has emerged as a major ecological and administrative challenge in Odisha.
- Increasing **habitat fragmentation, forest encroachment** and **human activity near wildlife zones** have led to significant loss of life over the past decade.

### Details

- A total of **1,398 human deaths** occurred due to **human-animal conflict** in the last 10 years.
- **Highest fatalities by Forest Division:**
  - Dhenkanal – 251
  - Keonjhar – 125
  - Angul – 119
- **Wild Animal Mortality (10 years):**
  - **5,609 wild animals** died, including **elephants, tigers and leopards.**
- **Measures Taken by Forest Department:**

- Strengthening **wildlife habitats**
- **Plantation drives**
- Development of **pasturelands**
- Deployment of **anti-poaching squads**
- **Technology-based surveillance**
- **Community awareness initiatives**
- **Wildlife Census Findings:**
  - **2,103 elephants**
  - **30 tigers**
  - **696 leopards**
- **Marine & Coastal Wildlife (2024–25):**
  - **Olive ridley turtles:**
    - ✓ **9.04 lakh** at **Rushikulya river mouth.**
    - ✓ **6.07 lakh** at **Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary.**
  - **Dolphins:**
    - ✓ **159 Irrawaddy dolphins**
    - ✓ **710 other dolphins** in **Chilika Lagoon** and **Odisha coast.**

### Olive Ridley Turtles

The **Olive Ridley Sea Turtle** is the world's **most abundant** yet **globally declining** sea turtle species, listed as **Vulnerable** under **IUCN** and in **CITES Appendix I**. Known for their unique **arribada** mass nesting, thousands of females come ashore together to lay eggs. They inhabit **tropical and warm waters** of the **Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans**. India is a major habitat, with **Odisha's Gahirmatha, Rushikulya and Devi River mouth** forming one of the **largest arribada (mass nesting phenomenon) sites globally**. Despite their resilience, populations have fallen sharply due to **habitat loss, bycatch, poaching, coastal pollution and climate change**. Conservation measures like **Marine Protected Areas, coastal patrolling, beach protection and community-based monitoring** are crucial for their survival.

### Irrawaddy Dolphin

The **Irrawaddy Dolphin (Orcaella brevirostris)** is an **endangered, euryhaline** dolphin found in coastal, estuarine and river systems across South and Southeast Asia, with major populations in the **Ganges, Mekong, Ayeyarwady rivers** and only two significant lagoon populations worldwide – **Chilika Lake in Odisha and Songkhla Lake in Thailand**. Protected under **IUCN Endangered** and **CITES Appendix I**, it is known for its **slate-grey colour, rounded head, absence of a beak, a small dorsal fin** and a unique **U-shaped blowhole**. The species exhibits shy behaviour, slow swimming, group sizes of **2–6** and distinctive **water-squirting** used for herding fish. Feeding on **fish, crustaceans and cephalopods**, it uses **suction feeding** and performs long dives of up to **12 minutes**. With a **14-month gestation** and one calf every **2–3 years**, its slow reproduction makes it vulnerable to threats such as **gill-net entanglement, boat strikes, pollution, habitat degradation and freshwater decline**. Odisha's **Chilika Lake**, hosting around **156 dolphins**, remains a critical conservation site.

### Rushikulya River

The **Rushikulya River** is a major river of **Odisha**, originating from the **Daringbadi hills** of the Eastern Ghats – often called the **"Kashmir of Odisha"** – and flowing **165 km** through **Kandhamal and Ganjam districts** before meeting the **Bay of Bengal** at **Puruna Bandha** near Chhatrapur. The river is fed by tributaries like the **Baghua, Dhanei and Badanadi** and passes through important towns such as **Surada, Aska, Purusottampur, Taratarini, Brahmapur and**

**Ganjam.** It is globally significant as one of India's largest **olive ridley arribada (mass nesting)** sites, discovered in 1993 near the river mouth, with key nesting villages including **Pali Bandha, Puruna Bandha, Gokhara Kuda and Kantia Pada**. The basin also hosts several industries—such as **Grasim Industries, Aska Co-operative Sugar Industries, Aska Spinning Mills** and numerous small-scale units—supported by rich mineral resources like **clay, limestone, manganese and black sand**.

### Chilika Lake

Chilika Lake is India's **largest brackish water lagoon** and one of the **world's biggest coastal lagoons**, spreading over **1,100 sq km** across Puri, Khordha and Ganjam districts. Fed by **52 rivers** including the **Daya** and linked to the **Bay of Bengal** through old and new sea mouths, it exhibits a dynamic mix of **freshwater, brackish and marine salinity**. A **Ramsar Site (1981)** and a **UNESCO Tentative World Heritage Site**, it hosts the famed **Irrawaddy dolphins**, rich biodiversity, 400+ vertebrate species and massive migratory bird populations. Geological and archaeological evidence from **Golabai Sasan** traces human activity and maritime trade here to **Neolithic-Iron Age phases**, with Chilika serving as a major port during the reign of **Kharavela** and later referenced by **Ptolemy, Fa-Hien and Hiuen-Tsang**. Over time, the lagoon faced threats like **siltation, weed infestation, salinity decline, aquaculture expansion and shrinking water spread**, leading to its inclusion in the **Montreux Record (1993)**. The **Chilika Development Authority (CDA)**, established in 1992, revived the lagoon through adaptive hydrological interventions, including opening a new sea mouth, restoring salinity balance, improving fisheries and rejuvenating biodiversity, making Chilika a globally acclaimed model of **wetland conservation**.

## **Konark Festival**

### Context

- **36th Konark Festival** inaugurated on **Dec 2, 2025** by **Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** at **Konark Sun Temple**.

### Konark Sun Temple

- **Konark Sun Temple** is a 13th-century Hindu temple located in **Konark, Puri district, Odisha, India**, approximately 35 km northeast of Puri and 65 km southeast of Bhubaneswar.
- The temple is dedicated to **Surya**, the Hindu Sun god and reflects the pinnacle of **Kalinga architecture**, a style unique to Odisha.
- It was constructed during the reign of **King Narasingha Deva I** of the **Eastern Ganga dynasty**, around **1250 CE** and is often referred to as the **Surya Devalaya**.
- The temple was originally a massive structure, over **200 feet (61 m) high**, designed in the form of a **chariot with 24 stone wheels** and seven horses, symbolizing the Sun god's journey across the sky.
- Each of the **24 wheels** is carved intricately, measuring **9 feet 9 inches in diameter** and serves as a **sundial** capable of tracking time accurately.
- The seven horses represent the **seven meters of Sanskrit prosody**: Gayatri, Brihati, Ushnih, Jagati, Trishtubh, Anushtubh and Pankti.
- The temple complex also includes the **Jagamohana (audience hall), Nata Mandira (dance hall), Bhoga Mandapa (offering hall), Mayadevi Temple and Vaishnava Temple**, all arranged in a **mandala-based square plan**.
- The main sanctum, or **Rekha Deul**, has collapsed, but the surviving **Jagamohana** stands at **128 feet (39 m) tall**, with intricate carvings of musicians, dancers and deities.
- The temple walls are adorned with **sculptures and reliefs** depicting Hindu deities, daily life scenes, animals and **erotic maithuna motifs**, reflecting both spiritual and worldly themes.
- Major Hindu deities represented include **Durga, Vishnu (Jagannatha form), Shiva, Gajalakshmi** and various Vedic gods like **Indra, Agni, Varuna and Kubera**.
- The temple was historically referred to as the **Black Pagoda** by European sailors due to its dark stone and tiered appearance, while the **Jagannath Temple** in Puri was called the White Pagoda.
- The **Aruna Stambha**, a 33-foot-high pillar depicting Aruna, the Sun charioteer, was moved from Konark to the **Jagannath Temple in Puri** in the 18th century.
- Preservation efforts began in the 19th century by the **Asiatic Society of Bengal** and later continued under **British India and ASI**, including sand stabilization, structural reinforcement and archaeological studies.
- Konark was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984**, recognizing its cultural, architectural and historical significance.
- The temple is central to Odia culture and religion, forming part of the **Golden Triangle of Odisha** along with Puri and Bhubaneswar.

- It hosts the **Chandrabhaga Mela** annually, attracting thousands of Hindu pilgrims during February.
- Konark Sun Temple is also depicted on the **reverse side of the Indian ₹10 currency note**.
- Poets and writers like **Sachidananda Routray, Gopabandhu Das, Mayadhar Mansingh, Manoj Das and Pratibha Ray** have written extensively about Konark.

## Odisha Districts Reeling Under Sea Erosion

### Context

- The **Odisha state government** revealed that several villages across six coastal districts have been severely affected by **sea erosion**.

### Details

- Between **1990 and 2018**, **26 villages** in **Kendrapara**, **14 in Ganjam** and **6 in Puri** were submerged due to sea tide.
- **Cultivable land** in **Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore** has been affected, with a total of **140.73 hectares degraded** due to sea erosion.
- To address the problem, the government is **creating mangrove forests** along the coastline to **prevent sea tide** and protect vulnerable areas.

## Khurda Road Division In Odisha

### Context

- **Khurda Road Division in Odisha** has emerged as the **top division in Indian Railways for freight handling**.

### Details

- The division continues to deliver **record-breaking results**, highlighting its **critical role in India's freight movement**.
- Its performance **significantly contributes to economic growth**, underlining Odisha's importance in the railway network.

## Jan Vishwas Bill 2025

### Context:

- Odisha Assembly passes Jan Vishwas Bill 2025 to decriminalise minor offences and streamline penalties.

### Details:

- The Bill aims to enhance governance and improve regulatory framework for **ease of doing business and living** in the state.
- The legislation promotes **trust-based governance** by decriminalising minor, technical, or procedural

offences in agriculture, health, labour, trade and urban governance sectors.

- Objectives include **promoting trust** among businesses and citizens, **streamlining legal processes** and **reducing the burden on judiciary**.
- The reforms ensure **penalties are proportionate** to offence severity while keeping **stringent punishment for serious violations**.
- Proposed changes in 16 existing legislations:
  - Removal of **criminal penalties like imprisonment** for minor offences, replaced by civil penalties.
  - Introduction of **administrative adjudication** for minor violations to ease pressure on justice delivery.
  - Conversion of fines to **civil penalties**.
  - **Rationalisation of monetary penalties**.
- Many existing regulations were **excessively punitive** and created compliance burdens, stifling business growth and hindering citizen access to government services.
- The Bill **does not cover offences affecting human health, public administration, or environment** and does not amend general criminal laws like **Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita, 2023**.
- Inspired by the central **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023**, Odisha becomes the **10th state** to implement similar reforms; others include Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Tripura and Meghalaya.
- The reforms have resulted in a **vibrant business climate attracting investments** in other states.
- The **Odisha Jan Vishwas Act, 2025** comes into force from **November 3, 2025**, the date the earlier ordinance was promulgated, which now stands **repealed**.

## Per Capita Debt Burden

### Context:

- Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi reports per capita debt burden and fiscal status in the State Assembly.

### Details:

- **Per capita debt** in Odisha stands at **Rs 26,978** as of October 2025.
- **Total outstanding public debt** of the state: **Rs 1,26,799 crore** as on 31 October 2025.
- Debt has increased from **Rs 92,775.18 crore in 2019-20** to **Rs 1,20,710.18 crore in 2024-25**.



- During FY 2022-23, the government **reduced debt** by Rs 9,040.16 crore, but it rose by Rs 8,145.59 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 24,399.78 crore in 2024-25.
- Current financial year (till October) borrowing: Rs 14,725.79 crore (including Rs 7,000 crore from open market and Rs 2,301.43 crore from the Centre).
- As per 15th Finance Commission & FRBM Act 2005, debt should stay within 25% of GSDP; interest payment to revenue ratio (IP/RR) within 15%.
- Odisha's debt-to-GSDP ratio for 2024-25: 12.72%; IP/RR ratio: 2.87% – both below limits.
- Opposition raised concerns over **poor budget expenditure**; till October, Rs 1,14,518 crore spent (39% of budget estimate).
- Remaining 61% of budget to be utilised in next four months; focus on **infrastructure development** despite delays.

## Odisha Among States With Highest Crime Rate Against Women (NCRB 2023)

### Key Highlights:

- Odisha ranks **4th** in overall crime rate against women with **112.4 cases per lakh population**, after Delhi, Telangana and Rajasthan.
- Total **25,914 cases** of crimes against women reported in 2023 – the **6th highest** in the country.
- Odisha leads in **women-related cybercrime** with **761 incidents** (e.g., online harassment, blackmail, fake profiles).
- **Rape cases**: 1,195 registered, placing Odisha **7th nationally**.
- Cases involving **child pornography**: 30 reported, **4th highest** nationally.
- **Assault on women with intent to outrage modesty**: 9,367 cases; Odisha has **highest crime rate** in this category (40.6 per lakh).
- **Kidnapping and abduction**: 5,611 cases; Odisha ranks **7th**, but **crime rate is 2nd highest** nationally at 24.3 per lakh.

### Implication:

- The report signals a worsening trend in both physical and cyber crimes against women in Odisha, highlighting the need for stricter law enforcement and preventive measures.

## Odisha Reviews District Mineral Foundations (DMFS) Operations

### Context

- Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chaired a review meeting on DMF operations and progress.

### Details

- **Collections & Expenditure**: Rs 34,052 crore collected from 11 DMF districts by October 2025, with around 55% already spent.
- **Acceleration of Projects**: CM urged officials to **speed up utilization** to deliver basic services effectively.
- **Annual Reporting**: Every DMF must submit an **annual report with an audit report**.
- **Fund Utilization**: DMF funds from minor minerals must be **used within the same district**, focusing on **education, health, water supply and transportation**.
- **Comprehensive Coverage**: Saturation-mode provision of basic facilities in areas adjacent to mining zones, along with **pollution prevention measures**.
- **Trust Board Meetings**: Reconstitution in 10 districts completed, meetings successfully conducted to **expedite projects** and identify affected villages.
- **Endowment Fund**: In districts with **annual DMF collections ≥ Rs 10 crore**, funds to be invested in **government securities, bank bonds, or fixed deposits** to create **livelihood opportunities** after mining ceases.

The DMF, established under the **Mine and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015**, mandates mining lease holders to contribute a portion of royalties for the welfare of communities affected by mining. The funds, totaling ₹8,840 crore in Keonjhar, are used to improve **drinking water, health care, education, environment protection and infrastructure** under guidelines aligned with the **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)**, ensuring long-term sustainable livelihoods for local, mostly tribal, communities. Odisha's **Keonjhar district** is the highest recipient of funds under the **District Mineral Foundation (DMF) scheme**, having spent ₹3,000 crore over the past seven years. Rich in **iron ore reserves** with 2,555 million tonnes beneath its soil and an annual extraction of around 50 million tonnes, Keonjhar is a key driver of Odisha's economy.



## ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK

**Mahameghavahana dynasty** was established in **Kalinga** in the 1st century BCE.

**Kharavela** was the **third ruler** of the Mahameghavahana dynasty.

Most information about Kharavela comes from the **Hathigumpha inscription** at **Udayagiri** near **Bhubaneswar**.

**Pishtapura** (modern **Pithapuram**) is considered the **capital of Kalinga** during **Samudragupta's** time.

**Indravarman I** (c. 537 CE) is the earliest known king of the **Eastern Ganga dynasty**. His **Jirjingi grant** mentions his 39th regnal year and no predecessors.

Chinese traveller **Xuanzang** (c. 639 CE) noted **Mahayana Buddhism** flourishing in Kalinga.

**Kulottunga I** invaded and plundered Kalinga in **1100 CE** when **Anantavarman Chodaganga** stopped paying tribute. The Tamil epic **Kalingattuparani** celebrates Kulottunga's invasion of Kalinga.

The **Jagannath Temple** was **completed by Anangabhimha Deva III**.

The **Portuguese** were the first Europeans to build **factories in Odisha**, with a settlement at **Pipili (Puri)**.

Major ancient Kalinga coastline ports included **Tamralipta, Khalkatapatna, Manikapatna (Chelitalo), Palur (Dantapura)** and **Gopalpur (Mansurkota)**.

**Sita Bibaha (1936)** is the **first Odia film**, made by **Mohan Sundar Deb Goswami**.

**Roles Two Eight (1951)** was the **first Odia film with an English title**.

The **largest thermal field in Odisha is the Tarabalo Hot Spring**, located in the **Nayagarh district**.

Odisha holds the vast majority, around **92%**, of India's total **nickel ore reserves**, making it the country's primary source, with significant deposits in districts like **Jajpur, Mayurbhanj** and **Keonjhar**.

**Ansapa Lake** is a freshwater oxbow lake located on the left bank of the **Mahanadi River** near the town of **Banki** in **Cuttack district**. It is bounded by the **Saranda Hill** on the west and **Bishnupur Hill** on the northeast.

Odisha is consistently India's top producer of **manganese**, leading significantly with around **34-37%** of the nation's output, followed by **Madhya Pradesh** and **Maharashtra**.

**Odisha ranks first in India** in the production of **sweet potato**.

**Odisha is a leading producer of black gram and green gram**.

**Koraput Coffee** is a **GI-tagged product** from Odisha.

The **Sukinda Valley** has one of the world's largest **chromite reserves**.

**Jharsuguda** has often been referred as "Little India" because of its diverse demography, language and culture. This district has major tribal populations among them important tribes are **Sabara, Kisan, Kurukh, Bhuiyan, Munda** and **Santal**.

The town of **Brajrajnagar**, in the **Jharsuguda district**, is historically known as the 'Paper Town of Odisha'. It earned this moniker because it was the location of the first and a major paper mill in the state, the **Orient Paper Mills**.

Between **October 2019** and **December 2024**, the state recorded cumulative FDI equity inflows of **\$172.79 million** (approx. ₹1,476 crore).

Odisha's **salt industry** is concentrated in **Ganjam** and **Balasore**.



## 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

### Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

#### Context

- Former Chile President **Michelle Bachelet** receives 2024 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.

#### Details

- 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.

**Bhagidari Awards** on **18 November 2025** in New Delhi, celebrating excellence in **water conservation, efficient water use** and **community-led initiatives**.

#### Details

- 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.

### Sixth National Water Awards

#### Context

- President **Droupadi Murmu** presented the **Sixth National Water Awards** and **Jal Sanchay-Jan**

- 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

### Context

- **Tom Cruise** received an **honorary Oscar** at the **2025 Governors Awards** in Los Angeles.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- The Ministry of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD)** has announced the **National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025**.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- **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.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025** winners announced by **Sahitya Akademi**.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- President Smt. Droupadi Murmu presented the 6th National Water Awards 2024 on November 18, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- **Hungarian-British author David Szalay** has won the **2025 Booker Prize** for his novel **Flesh**, marking a major moment in **Hungarian-British literature**.

### Details

- 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.

### Context

- **Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan** of **IISc Bengaluru** receives the prestigious **Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025**.

### Details

- **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

### Context

- **Jyotiraditya Scindia** conferred **Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Awards**.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- **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-Jamunitehzeeb**.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- Padma Shri chef **Sanjeev Kapoor** has been honoured by the **World Food Prize Foundation (WFPF)**.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- 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.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- Indian-origin historian **Sunil Amrith** has won the **2025 British Academy Book Prize**.

### Details

- 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 [CURRENT]

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>ManBooker Prize</b> (2022)
"In a Free State" and "A House for Mr. Biswas"	V. S. Naipaul



## SPORTS

### 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup

#### Context

- Belgium and the Netherlands will co-host the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup.

#### Details

- 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

#### Context

- 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.

#### Details

- 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

#### Context

- Raahul VS has become **India's 91st Grandmaster (GM)** after clinching the **6th ASEAN Individual Championship 2025**.

#### Details

- 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

### Context

- **India** marks a century of hockey excellence with centenary celebrations at **Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium**, New Delhi.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- **India and Australia** continue their dominance in ICC cricket, with Australia leading in total trophies and India showing consistent success across formats.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- **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.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- **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'.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- **India** has won **14 ICC trophies across men's, women's and youth cricket**, showcasing its global cricketing dominance.

### Details

- **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

### Context

- 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.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- India's **women cricketers created history** in the 2025 World Cup final against South Africa, setting multiple new benchmarks.

### Details

- **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

### Context

- The ICC Women's World Cup 2025 saw spectacular bowling performances

### Details

- 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

### Context

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

### Details

- 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

### Context

- At just **16 years old**, **Ilamparthi AR** from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, has become **India's 90th Grandmaster**.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- The **FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 trophy** has been renamed the **Viswanathan Anand Cup**, honoring India's chess legend and five-time world champion.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- Jalandhar's **Namitbir Singh Walia** earned the prestigious **International Master (IM) title**.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- India sweeps Kabaddi Gold at 2025 Asian Youth Games.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- 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**.

### Details

- Gukesh dominated **Board 1** for SuperChess, 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

### Context

- FIFA Launches ASEAN Cup to Boost Southeast Asian Football.

### Details

- 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.

### Context

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

### Details

- 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

### Context

- 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.

### Details

- 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

### Context

- India hosted the **11th Asian Aquatics Championships** from **Sept 28–Oct 11, 2025**, at **Ahmedabad**.

### Details

- 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: National Press Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On <b>16 November</b>, India celebrates <b>National Press Day</b> to honour a free and responsible press and the <b>Press Council of India</b>. The day highlights ethical journalism, freedom of expression and accountability. Recent reforms like the <b>Press and Registration of Periodicals Act 2023</b> and the <b>Press Sewa Portal</b> have digitised and simplified media registration. The <b>Indian Institute of Mass Communication</b> trains journalists and the <b>Journalist Welfare Scheme</b> provides support. Awards such as the <b>Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award</b> recognise excellence.</li> </ul>
November 15: Birsa Munda Jayanti 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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>.</li> <li>Major government initiatives like <b>PM-JANMAN Abhiyan</b>, <b>Dharti AabaJanjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan</b> and <b>Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana</b> today focus on education, healthcare, livelihood and skill development in tribal areas.</li> </ul>
14 November: World Diabetes Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
14 November: Children's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
12 November: World Pneumonia Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><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, universal vaccine access, medical oxygen and early diagnosis and treatment</b>. It also affects <b>older adults</b> and</li> </ul>

	<p>those with <b>chronic illnesses</b>, especially in <b>low- and middle-income countries</b> like <b>India</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
11 November: National Education Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><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>.</li> <li>Born in <b>1888</b>, Maulana Azad was a <b>freedom fighter, scholar and 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. He also founded <b>Sahitya Akademi</b>, <b>Lalit Kala Akademi</b> and <b>Sangeet Natak Akademi</b> to nurture Indian arts and culture.</li> </ul>
10 November: World Science Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World Science Day</b>, observed annually on <b>10 November</b>, was established by <b>UNESCO</b> in <b>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
9 November: National Legal Services Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><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.</li> <li>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>.</li> </ul>
8 November: World Radiography Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><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 <b>1895</b> 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 <b>2007</b>, this day highlights radiology's continuing impact on <b>public health, clinical efficiency and personalized medicine</b>.</li> </ul>
November 7: National Cancer Awareness Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><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</b> and <b>8.51 lakh deaths</b> annually in India, the observance emphasizes <b>public awareness, screening drives, lifestyle modification and community engagement</b>.</li> </ul>
November 6: International Day for Preventing the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><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</b> in <b>2001</b> and reinforced by the <b>United Nations Environment Assembly</b> in <b>2016</b>, the day emphasizes that <b>ecosystems, wildlife and</b></li> </ul>



Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 2025	<b>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 <b>peace, stability and sustainable development</b> , supporting goals such as <b>clean water, climate action, life on land and peace and justice</b> . 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> .
November 1: Foundation Day of Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <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>.</li> <li>• <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.</li> <li>• <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.</li> <li>• <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.</li> <li>• <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.</li> <li>• <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.</li> </ul>
October 31: National Unity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <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 "<b>Iron Man of India</b>," 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.</li> </ul>
October 27: Vigilance Awareness Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <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.</li> </ul>
October 24: Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <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 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.</li> </ul>



October 24: World Polio Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Polio Day 2025 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 <u>developed the first polio vaccine in 1955</u>, 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.</li> </ul>
October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><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.</li> </ul>



## 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 risers 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 Mohenj o-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 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 (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>)** 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, Atmanirbhar 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)**.

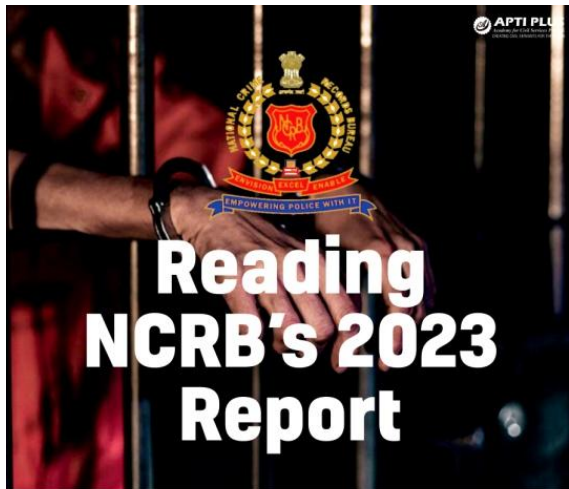
**African Swine Fever** is a highly contagious viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs, caused by the **African Swine Fever Virus**, with **up to 100% mortality** but no risk to humans. With **no vaccine or cure**, control relies on **strict biosecurity, movement restrictions, quarantine, disinfection 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



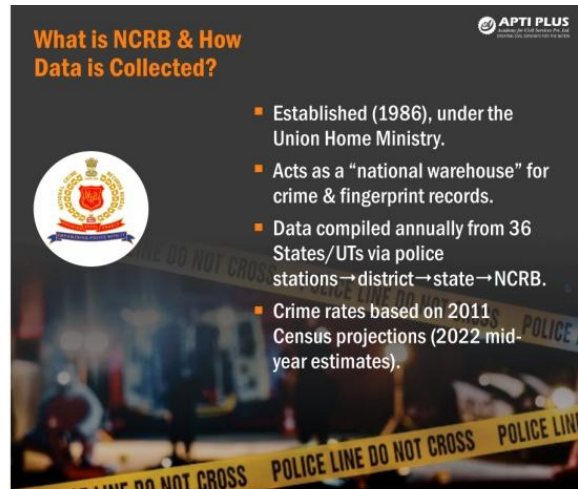
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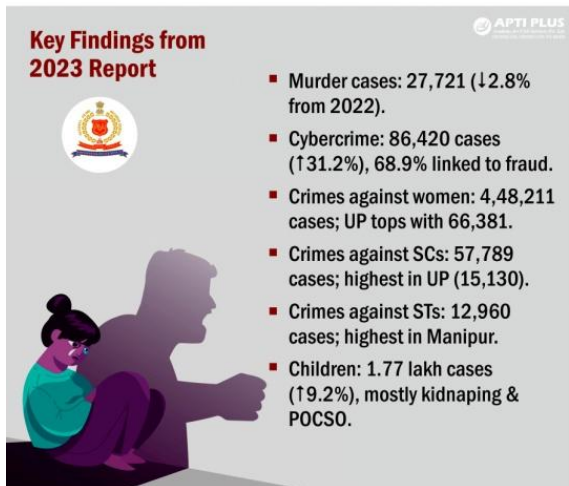
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# Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Models in India



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## Concept & Purpose

- Definition:** Collaboration between government and private entity for delivering public assets/services.
- Goal:** Mobilize private investment, improve efficiency, share risks.
- Need:** Bridge India's huge infrastructure funding gap and enhance service delivery.



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## Core PPP Models (Part I)

- BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer):** Private builds, operates, transfers to govt after concession.
- DBFOT (Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer):** BOT variant with private financing.
- BOOT (Build-Own-Operate-Transfer):** Private owns & operates before transfer.
- BOO (Build-Own-Operate):** Private builds, owns, operates—no transfer.



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## Core PPP Models (Part II)

- HAM (Hybrid Annuity Model):** Govt pays 40%, private 60%; returns via annuities.
- BOLT (Build-Own-Lease-Transfer):** Private leases asset to govt, then transfers.
- BLT (Build-Lease-Transfer):** Govt leases from private before final transfer.
- LDOT (Lease-Develop-Operate-Transfer):** Private upgrades existing facility, operates, transfers.
- O&M/Management Contract:** Govt retains ownership; private handles operation/maintenance.



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## Takeaways

- Flexibility:** Models differ by ownership, risk, and revenue sharing.
- Relevance:** Used across roads, ports, airports, urban infra, health, education.
- Essence:** Choose model matching sectoral needs and public interest.
- Key focus:** Balanced risk, transparency, and accountability.



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## Digital Arrest

### A New-Age Cybercrime Menace

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## What is a Digital Arrest?

- A cyber scam using fake calls/video chats by impostors posing as officials (CBI, ED, Police).
- Victims are told they're under probe and shown forged court/agency documents.
- Asked to transfer money to a "safe" account while staying isolated at home.
- Creates psychological detention through fear and manipulation.

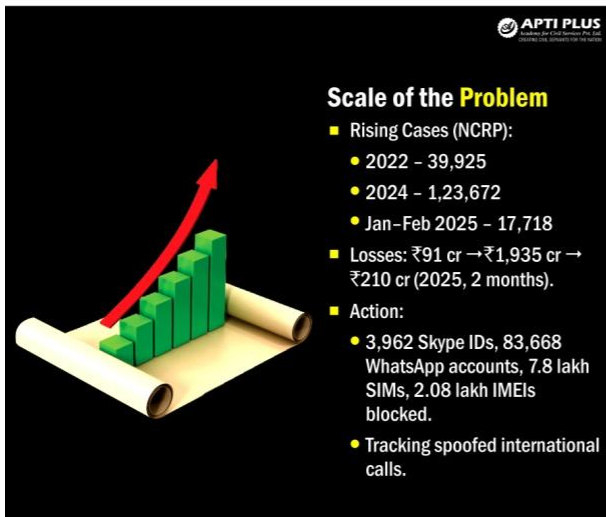
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## Scale of the Problem

- Rising Cases (NCRP):
  - 2022 - 39,925
  - 2024 - 1,23,672
  - Jan-Feb 2025 - 17,718
- Losses: ₹91 cr → ₹1,935 cr → ₹210 cr (2025, 2 months).
- Action:
  - 3,962 Skype IDs, 83,668 WhatsApp accounts, 7.8 lakh SIMs, 2.08 lakh IMEIs blocked.
  - Tracking spoofed international calls.

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## Judicial Response

- Supreme Court (Oct 2025): Suo motu action; termed it a "grave assault on rule of law."
- Rajasthan HC: Called it "sophisticated cyberfraud."
- Delhi HC: Denied bail; flagged rising difficulty in tracking such crimes.
- Bombay HC: Criticised police delay; directed better cybercrime training.

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## Way Forward

- Boost digital literacy and public awareness.
- Strengthen Cyber Helpline 1930 & NCRP portal.
- Ensure inter-agency coordination (MHA, CERT-In, State Police).
- Use AI tools to trace spoofed numbers and fake accounts.
- Restore public trust through swift detection and prosecution.

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## Cloud Seeding

### Science of Making Rain

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## What is Cloud Seeding?

- A weather modification technique to enhance rainfall.
- Involves dispersing chemicals like silver iodide, potassium iodide, sodium chloride, or dry ice into clouds.
- Purpose: Stimulate condensation and droplet formation to trigger precipitation.

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## How It Works

1. No aircraft injects other solids or other substances into the atmosphere.
2. The chemicals release the particles that serve as surfaces for condensation that creates water droplets.
3. Once the condensation creates water droplets that are large enough, the rain will fall.

- Chemicals act as cloud condensation or ice nuclei.
- Water vapor condenses around these particles, forming raindrops.
- Delivered via aircraft, rockets, or ground-based generators.
- Requires existing moisture-bearing clouds – cannot create clouds from clear sky.

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## Applications

- Enhance rainfall in drought-prone areas.
- Increase snowfall for water reservoirs.
- Disperse fog near airports.
- Reduce hail or suppress storms (used in China, UAE, USA, India trials in Maharashtra, Karnataka).

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## Concerns

- Ineffective without suitable clouds.
- Results uncertain and vary with weather conditions.
- Temporary impact on rainfall or pollution.
- Environmental concerns over chemical residues.
- Expensive and logistically challenging.

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