



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

19th Sep. - 25th Sep., 2025

★★ Useful for ★★

**UPSC ESE, PSUs,
RRB, SSC, Banking &
State Services Exams**

Dadasaheb Phalke Award, 2023

Legendary actor "**Mohanlal**" conferred upon
the highest award of **Indian Cinema**



19th SEPTEMBER 2025

Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Defence Pact

- **Context:** Recently, Pakistan signed a mutual defence agreement with Saudi Arabia.



Key Highlights

- The agreement was signed in the aftermath of an emergency summit of Arab and Muslim nations hosted by Qatar following Israel's military strikes against Hamas leaders.
- The meeting brought together almost 60 countries that are members of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- Called the "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement" states that "any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both".
- It aims to develop aspects of defence cooperation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression.
- The Ministry of External Affairs said that it was aware that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had been considering such a pact.
- India responded by saying that it will study the implications of this development for national security as well as for regional and global stability.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan and the 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah Campaign in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Facts

- It marks the largest ever health outreach for women and children in India.
- Led jointly by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).
- It aims to provide women-centric preventive, promotive, and curative health services at the community level.
- It will involve organising more than 10 lakh health camps at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres (CHCs), District Hospitals and other government health facilities across the country.
- It will strengthen screening, early detection, and treatment linkages for non-communicable diseases, anaemia, tuberculosis, and sickle cell disease, while also promoting maternal, child, and adolescent health.

India-AI Impact Summit 2026

- **Context:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) officially unveiled the logo and key initiatives for the India-AI Impact Summit 2026.

Key Facts

- It is a global platform bringing together policymakers, innovators, researchers, and industry leaders to demonstrate AI's transformative potential for humanity and the planet.
- The first summit of its kind hosted by a Global South nation, positioning India as a thought leader in responsible and equitable AI adoption.
- It will democratize access to AI resources like data, compute, and models — fostering safe, trusted ecosystems.

Guiding Principles (Three Sutras)

- **People:** AI for human dignity, cultural inclusion, and equitable opportunities.
- **Planet:** Resource-efficient AI supporting sustainability and climate action.
- **Progress:** Democratizing AI resources and distributing benefits equitably.

Exercise Pacific Reach

- **Context:** Indian Navy's latest indigenously designed INS Nistar is participating in the multinational Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 in Singapore.

Key Highlights

- Exercise Pacific Reach 2025, being hosted by Singapore will see participation of more than 40 nations as active participants or as observers.
- The exercise will mainly be conducted in two phases viz. harbour and sea phase.
- Started in 1996, the biennial exercise is hosted in rotation by participating nations.

20th SEPTEMBER 2025

Universal Postal Union's Governing Councils

- **Context:** India has been re-elected to the Council of Administration (CA) and the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) during the 28th UPU Congress held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Key Highlights

- The Universal Postal Union is a United Nations specialized agency and the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.
- On 9 October 1874, 22 countries signed the Treaty of Bern, creating the General Postal Union. Later it became known as the Universal Postal Union.
- The UPU has 192 member countries. Any member country of the United Nations may become a member of the UPU. India has been a member of the UPU since 1876.
- **Headquarters:** Berne (Switzerland)
- **It consists of 4 bodies:**
 - **The Congress:** It is the supreme authority; meets every four years.
 - **The Council of Administration:** It supervises its activities and studies regulatory, administrative, legislative and legal issues.

- **The Postal Operations Council:** It is the technical and operational mind of the UPU and consists of 48 member countries, elected during Congress.
- **The International Bureau:** It provides logistical and technical support.

H-1B Visas

- **Context:** The U.S. President has signed a proclamation to raise the fee for H-1B visas to a staggering \$1,00,000 annually, representing a dramatic increase from the current \$1,500 administrative costs.

About H-1B Visa

- An H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa in the United States that allows US companies to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.
- These are jobs that typically require technical expertise, a bachelor's degree or higher, or its equivalent in fields like IT, engineering, science, medicine, and finance.
- It is designed to fill specialised skill gaps in the US labor market where qualified Americans are unavailable.
- Initially valid for 3 years, extendable up to 6 years. The visa is tied to the employer, meaning the worker cannot switch jobs without a new H-1B petition.
- There is an annual cap of 85,000 visas, including 20,000 reserved for US master's degree holders.
- Indians have been the biggest beneficiaries of the H-1B program, accounting for more than 70% of successful H-1B petitions followed by China, who account for 12-13%.

ICGS Adamya

- **Context:** Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Adamya, the first of eight Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs), was commissioned at Paradip Port, Odisha.

Key Facts

- ICGS Adamya is built by Goa Shipyard Limited with over 60% indigenous content which reflects the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

- Paradip Port was founded in 1962, near the confluence of the Mahanadi River and the Bay of Bengal. It is the only Major Port in the State of Odisha situated 210 nautical miles south of Kolkata and 260 nautical miles north of Visakhapatnam on the east coast on the shore of Bay of Bengal.

21st SEPTEMBER 2025

Dadasaheb Phalke Award, 2023

- Context:** Legendary actor, director, and producer Mohanlal has been conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2023.

Key Facts

- The Government of India previously honoured the actor with Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2019.
- Instituted in 1969, it is India's highest award in the field of cinema, presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- It is presented on the recommendation of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee.
- The award is named after Dadasaheb Phalke (1870–1944), who is regarded as “the father of Indian cinema”. He directed India's first feature film, Raja Harishchandra (1913).
- The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus), a shawl and a cash prize of Rs. 10 Lakhs.
- The first recipient of the award was actress Devika Rani, who was honored in 1969.



World's first entirely AI-Generated Genome

- Context:** Recently, researchers at Stanford and the Arc Institute created the world's first entirely AI-generated genome.

Key Highlights

- The new virus created by AI can infect and kill bacteria.
- Scientists have already used AI to design individual proteins and even small multi-gene systems. However, creating an entire genome is way more complex.
- In simpler words the AI model learned the “language rules” of phage DNA and then generated a new, never-before-seen genome that still worked in real life.
- Scientists used Artificial Intelligence (AI) called Evo, specifically genome “language models,” to design entirely new bacteriophage (virus that infects bacteria) genomes.
- Evo was trained on about two million viral genomes so it could learn the DNA, the patterns of gene order and composition.
- The researchers guided the model to mimic phiX174, a small bacteriophage with just 11 genes and around 5,000 DNA letters that has long been a staple of molecular biology.
- Instead of tweaking a few DNA letters, AI created the whole genome from scratch. The DNA sequences were very different from any natural phage but still functional. It could be huge for phage therapy i.e., using viruses to fight against antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) 3.0

- Context:** The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry launched the Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) 3.0.

About IPRS 3.0

- Developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the initiative aims to further strengthen India's industrial ecosystem and enhance the competitiveness of industrial infrastructure.

- Under IPRS 3.0, industrial parks will be benchmarked and categorized as Leaders, Challengers, and Aspirers based on their performance across key indicators. This will provide investors with transparent and credible information, foster healthy competition among States and Union Territories, and guide policymakers in designing targeted interventions.
- Building on the pilot phase in 2018 and IPRS 2.0 in 2021, the third edition introduces an expanded framework with new parameters, including sustainability, green infrastructure, logistics connectivity, digitalization, skill linkages, and enhanced tenant feedback.

22nd SEPTEMBER 2025

Palestinian State

- **Context:** France and several other Western nations formally declared their recognition of a Palestinian state at the United Nations.

Key Highlights

- France's announcement comes as the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Portugal declared recognition recently.
- The move, however, is largely symbolic without support from the United States, which has the power to veto membership.
- The Israeli Prime Minister reiterated his position that there would be no Palestinian state and vowed to accelerate the creation of new settlements.
- Palestinian attempts for UN recognition as a full member state began in 2011. They are currently a non-member observer state, a status that was granted in 2012.
- **Recognition at UN:** The path to becoming a member-state requires at least nine of the 15 members of the Security Council to vote in favor, and none of its five permanent members – the US, France, China, Britain and Russia – to veto it.
- The US has frequently wielded its veto power in line with Israel's foreign policy, blocking a Security Council resolution.

- More than 145 UN member states had already recognized Palestinian statehood.
 - Algeria became the first country to officially recognise a Palestinian state on November 15, 1988.
 - India formally recognised Palestinian statehood in 1988.
- Under the Montevideo Convention of 1933, officially the Convention on the Rights and Duties of States, there are several criteria before Palestine can be recognised as a sovereign state under international law.

Background

- When the British mandate over Palestine ended, the UN partition plan in 1947 envisioned dividing the territory into Jewish and Arab states.
- Upon Israel's declaration of independence, the following year, war erupted with its Arab neighbours and the plan was never implemented.
- More than half of the Palestinian population fled or were forced to flee.
- Under a 1949 armistice, Jordan held control over the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Egypt over Gaza.
- Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza in the 1967 six-day war.
- The Palestinians seek these lands for a future independent state, and the idea of a two-state solution based on Israel's pre-1967 boundaries has been the basis of peace talks dating back to the 1990s.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

- **Context:** Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have announced they will immediately withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), labelling it an instrument of neo-colonialist repression.

About International Criminal Court (ICC)

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent, permanent international tribunal established in 2002 under the Rome Statute.

- It is based in The Hague, Netherlands, and is the world's only court with a mandate to prosecute individuals (not states) for the gravest international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.
- The ICC's jurisdiction applies to crimes committed on the territory of member states, by nationals of member states, or those referred to by the UN Security Council. As of early 2025, it has 125 state parties (members).
- Major powers like the United States, China, Russia, and India are not members and do not recognize its jurisdiction.

23rd SEPTEMBER 2025

National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025

- **Context:** Gram Panchayats were conferred with the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025.

Key Highlights

- NAeG are under a newly instituted category dedicated to grassroots-level initiatives in digital service delivery.
- Each award includes a trophy, certificate, and financial incentives of Rs. 10 lakh (Gold) and Rs. 5 lakh (Silver), to be reinvested in strengthening citizen-centric initiatives.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPPGP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).
- This first-of-its-kind recognition highlights the Government's vision that Good Governance is best delivered through Digital Governance.
- Rohini Gram Panchayat, Maharashtra has become the first Gram Panchayat in the State to adopt a fully paperless e-Office system.



India-Morocco Defence Cooperation

- **Context:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Morocco's Defence Minister signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation.



About Morocco

- Morocco is a mountainous country of western North Africa that lies directly across the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain.
- Morocco borders Algeria to the east and southeast, Western Sahara to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north.
- It is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

24th SEPTEMBER 2025

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- **Context:** India will submit its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) around the commencement of U.N. Climate Change Conference COP 30 in Brazil in November.

About NDCs

- The NDCs are renewable-energy adoption goals set by a country as part of being a signatory to the Paris Agreement.
- Countries must regulate their fossil fuel consumption to keep the globe from heating 2°C, and as far as possible, 1.5°C above that in pre-industrial times.

- Countries are required to update their NDCs every five years.
- India last updated its NDCs in 2022:
 - It committed to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% of 2005 levels;
 - source half of its electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources;
 - and create a carbon sink of at least two billion tonnes — all three by 2030.
- These conferences are organized under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an international treaty came into force in 1994 with the objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.
- The COP meetings are held annually, and each conference is numbered sequentially.
- The conferences provide a platform for countries to assess progress in dealing with climate change, negotiate agreements, and make decisions on a wide range of issues related to climate action.

Key Facts

- Emissions intensity of GDP refers to the amount of carbon emitted per unit of GDP and does not mean a reduction in net emissions.
- As of 2023, India reported to the United Nations climate-governing body that the emissions intensity of its GDP had been reduced by 33% between 2005 and 2019.
- By June 2025, India reported installing at least 50% of its power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.
- The updated NDCs, or NDC 3.0 as they are called, is expected to reflect the degree of emissions reductions by 2035.
- So far, only 30 of the 190-odd countries have submitted their NDCs though it is not uncommon for countries to submit their NDCs just ahead of the annual climate talks.
- India is also expected to operationalise the India Carbon Market by 2026 — under which 13 major sectors will be given mandatory emission-intensity targets — and can trade their resulting savings via emission reduction certificates.

About UN Climate Change Conference

- The United Nations Climate Change Conferences, often referred to as COP (Conference of the Parties), are international gatherings where countries come together to discuss and negotiate global efforts to address climate change.

Production Gap Report 2025

- **Context:** The 2025 Production Gap Report, recently launched by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Climate Analytics, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

Key Facts

- Planned fossil fuel production in 2030 is projected to exceed 1.5°C-aligned levels by 120% and 2°C levels by 77%.
- Coal shows the largest misalignment, with 2030 output expected to be 500% above 1.5°C pathways and 330% above 2°C benchmarks.
- Major producers ramping up extraction include China, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Nigeria.
- Fossil fuel production has grown instead of peaking in the early 2020s, locking in new infrastructure and delaying urgent cuts.
- To align with the Paris Agreement, coal use must be nearly phased out by 2040, while oil and gas production must fall by around 75 per cent by 2050 compared to 2020 levels.
- The report stresses policies for a “just transition” to support workers and communities dependent on fossil fuels.
- The International Court of Justice ruled that failure to curb fossil fuel expansion could constitute an internationally wrongful act.

2025 PN7: Quasi-Moon near Earth

- **Context:** Astronomers have recently identified 2025 PN7, a tiny asteroid that is a “quasi-moon” of Earth and has been following our planet for about 60 years.



About 2025 PN7

- The asteroid is approximately 62 feet in diameter and was observed by the Pan-STARRS observatory in Hawaii.
- The object follows a near-Earth orbital path around the Sun, maintaining a distance that ranges from 2.8 million miles to 37 million miles from Earth.

About Quasi-Moons

- A quasi-moon differs fundamentally from a natural satellite such as Earth's Moon.
- While Earth's Moon is gravitationally bound to the planet and revolves directly around it, a quasi-moon is gravitationally bound to the Sun.
- The orbit of a quasi-moon is synchronized with Earth's orbital trajectory, creating the observational impression that it is a companion of the planet.

25th SEPTEMBER 2025

Ladakh Statehood Protests

- **Context:** Violent youth protests in Ladakh demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status have led to widespread destructions and loss of lives.

Key Facts

- In August 2019, Ladakh was separated from Jammu and Kashmir and made a Union Territory without a legislature, unlike Jammu and Kashmir.

- Initially, many Ladakhis welcomed the move, hoping for better governance and development. However, the absence of legislative power and fears of demographic change soon led to disillusionment.
- The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) emerged as key voices, representing both Buddhist and Muslim communities across Leh and Kargil.

Key Reasons for the Protests

- **Lack of Legislative Power:** Ladakhis lost representation in the J&K Assembly and Legislative Council. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) have limited authority, mostly restricted to spending development funds.
- **Fear of Demographic and Cultural Erosion:** Locals worry that opening Ladakh to outside investment could alter its fragile ecology and cultural identity. Large-scale solar and industrial projects are being planned without local consent, raising concerns about land rights and displacement.
- **Employment and Land Rights:** There is growing demand for a Ladakh Resident Certificate to protect local jobs and land ownership — similar to protections once offered under Article 35A.
 - The Union Home Ministry (MHA) has set up a High-Powered Committee (HPC) to engage with protest leaders from the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA). The committee's mandate includes:
 - Exploring constitutional safeguards for Ladakh.
 - Strengthening the LAHDCs of Leh and Kargil.
 - Ensuring protection of land, employment, and cultural identity.
 - Facilitating inclusive development and fast-track recruitment.

K Visa

- **Context:** From October 1, 2025, China is going to introduce the K Visa program to attract young science and technology professionals from across the globe.

Key Features

- **No Sponsor Required:** Applicants do not need a Chinese employer or sponsor.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Open to young foreign professionals holding at least a bachelor's degree in STEM from recognised institutions in China or abroad.
- **Inclusive Scope:** Covers those engaged in professional education or research at accredited universities and research institutions.
- **Flexible Stay Options:** Greater convenience in entries, validity, and duration of stay.
- **Wide-Ranging Activities Permitted:** Holders may pursue education, scientific research, cultural exchanges, entrepreneurship, and business opportunities.

Significance

- The K visa is being seen as an extension of the R visa for high-level talent introduced by China in 2013.
- The move comes at a time when the United States is tightening its H-1B visa regime, introducing steep filing fees of up to \$100,000 for employers beginning with the 2026 application season.
- It reflects China's broader ambition to:
 - Reposition itself as a global hub for science and technology.
 - Shift the balance of talent flows, offering a credible alternative to traditional destinations like the US.

GST Appellate Tribunal

- **Context:** The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs formally launched the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) in New Delhi.

About Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

- It is a statutory appellate body established under the Goods and Services Tax laws.
- It has been constituted to hear appeals against orders passed by the GST Appellate Authorities and to provide taxpayers with an independent forum for justice.

- It will function through a Principal Bench in New Delhi and 31 State Benches across 45 locations in India, thereby ensuring accessibility and nationwide reach.
- Each Bench of the GSTAT will comprise two Judicial Members, one Technical Member (Centre), and one Technical Member (State), ensuring a balanced composition of judicial expertise and technical knowledge from both Central and State administrations.

NOTE

Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a single indirect tax on the supply of goods and services across India. It replaces multiple taxes like excise, VAT, and service tax, creating one unified market.

Ragasa Super Typhoon

- **Context:** Super Typhoon Ragasa has caused widespread devastation across East Asia.

Key Facts

- A super typhoon is a very violent storm, equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane, packing winds of 253km/h (157 mph). Typhoons, including a super typhoon, generally form in the West Pacific, close to places like China, Japan, and the Philippines.
- Tropical cyclones like super typhoons are warm-core low-pressure systems that exhibit a spiral inflow near the ocean surface and a spiral outflow at the upper levels of the atmosphere.
- They typically develop at latitudes greater than 5° away from the equator to benefit from the Coriolis force necessary for rotation.

Terminology for Tropical Cyclones by Region

- **Hurricane:** Occurs in the North Atlantic, Eastern North Pacific, and South Pacific Oceans.
- **Cyclone:** Found in the Indian Ocean.
- **Typhoon:** Develops in the Western North Pacific Ocean.
- **Willy-Willy:** Term used in the eastern part of the Southern Indian Ocean for tropical cyclones.