



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Coverage of*

**26<sup>th</sup> Sep. - 02<sup>nd</sup> Oct., 2025**

★★ Useful for ★★

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

## Asia Cup 2025

**Indian Cricket Team** clinched the Trophy,  
defeating **Pakistan** in the final.



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26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

## Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010

- **Context:** The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has cancelled the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licence of the Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), founded by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk.

### Key Provisions of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010

- **Registration of NGOs:** To receive foreign funds, NGOs, trusts, societies, and Section 8 companies must register with the Ministry of Home Affairs and have a valid certificate.
  - Registered groups can receive foreign contributions for social, educational, religious, economic and cultural programmes.
  - The Act prohibits receipt of foreign funds by candidates for elections, journalists or newspaper and media broadcast companies, judges and government servants, members of legislature and political parties or their office-bearers, and organizations of a political nature.
- **2020 Amendment:** Prohibiting the transfer of foreign contribution to any other person or organization. Reducing the limit of usage of foreign contribution for administrative expenses from 50% to 20%.
- **Validity:** The registration is valid for five years, after which the NGO has to apply for a renewal.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) monitors the implementation of the FCRA to ensure that such funds do not adversely affect the country's internal security.
- FCRA aims to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions to prohibit activities detrimental to the national interest.
- It was first enacted in 1976 but repealed and later replaced with new legislation in 2010. It was further amended in 2020.

## BRICS Grain Exchange Plan

- **Context:** India-Russia discussed plans of creating a common agricultural food exchange that will help in boosting agriculture trade among the BRICS member-countries.

### Key Facts

- At the BRICS Summit in Kazan in 2024, the President of Russia proposed the creation of a BRICS Grain Exchange as a strategic initiative.
- The proposal was subsequently endorsed in the Kazan Declaration, which called for establishing a fair and transparent agricultural trading system.

### Objectives

- **Create a new pricing index:** Establish independent benchmarks for grain pricing to counter the market influence of Western exchanges like the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), where prices are often set in U.S. dollars.
- **Facilitate trade in national currencies:** Reduce the bloc's dependence on the U.S. dollar by allowing member countries to settle grain trade in their own currencies.
- **Enhance food security:** Create a more resilient and reliable supply chain for BRICS members and other countries in the Global South.

## National Initiative on Water Security

- **Context:** The Government of India has launched the 'National Initiative on Water Security,' making water conservation a top national priority and introducing mandatory minimum spending on water-related works under MGNREGA.

### Key Features

- **Fund Allocation Mandates:**
  - 'Over-exploited'/'Dark zone' blocks: 65% of MGNREGA funds must be spent on water-related works (rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge).

- **'Semi-critical' blocks:** 40% of funds for water conservation.
- **All other blocks:** 30% minimum for such activities.
- **Budgetary Focus:** Out of the ₹88,000 crore annual MGNREGA budget (2025–26), a fixed share is now earmarked for water security.
- **Groundwater Assessment Basis:** Fund distribution and block categorisation are based on the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment Report (2024), as classified by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).
- **Water Conservation Works**
  - Construction of check dams, farm ponds, community tanks, and percolation tanks.
  - Desilting, renovation of traditional water bodies, groundwater recharge pits, soak wells.
  - Building irrigation channels, watershed management structures, afforestation and plantation works to increase water retention.

**27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

## UAE's First Sovereign Mobility Cloud

- **Context:** The UAE has unveiled its first Sovereign Mobility Cloud at the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport, marking a significant advancement in the country's autonomous mobility strategy.

### Key Facts

- Sovereign Mobility Cloud is a sovereign-enabled platform providing trusted infrastructure for mobility data and autonomous systems, ensuring all data is securely hosted within UAE jurisdiction and governed under national regulations
- Autonomous mobility revolves around autonomous vehicles, which operate with little or no human input using advanced technologies like LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), AI (Artificial Intelligence), and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

- These technologies enable vehicles to perceive their surroundings, make decisions, and navigate safely without manual control.

## Agni-Prime Missile

- **Context:** India successfully tested the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime Missile from a rail-based mobile launcher system.

### About Agni-Prime (Agni-P)

- **Developed by:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Type:** Two-stage, solid-fuel propelled ballistic missile.
- **Range:** Up to 2000 km.
- **Payload:** Can carry high explosive, thermobaric, or nuclear warheads.
- **Unique Feature:** First Indian missile tested from a rail-based mobile launcher – offers mobility, short reaction time, and reduced detectability.
- **Significance:** Only Russia, US, China, and possibly North Korea had such rail-based launch capability before; India has now joined this group.

## India's first Dugong Reserve

- **Context:** India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu, has received international recognition after the IUCN formally adopted a motion endorsing it at the World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi.





## About Dugong Conservation Reserve

- It was established in 2022 by the Tamil Nadu government under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It is home to 12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows, crucial feeding grounds for dugongs.
- Seagrasses support carbon sequestration, prevent coastal erosion, and provide habitat for fish, turtles, and other marine fauna.

## About Dugong

- The dugong is a large, herbivorous marine mammal found throughout the Indo-Pacific region, including the warm coastal waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- In India, dugongs inhabit the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kachchh, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- They are highly dependent on seagrass meadows, both as habitat and for food, and prefer warm, shallow bays or mangrove channels.
- They are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and in Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Major threats include habitat degradation, destructive fishing practices, hunting, and climate change.

28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

## Asia Cup 2025

- India clinched its record 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Cup title by defeating Pakistan in the 2025 final at Dubai, with Tilak Varma's unbeaten 69 runs anchoring the chase.

## Key Highlights

- **Edition:** 17<sup>th</sup> Asia Cup (2025), hosted in the UAE due to India-Pakistan tensions.
- **Format:** T20 International (T20I), with 8 teams including ACC full members.
- **Outcome:** India beat Pakistan by 5 wickets.
- **Man of the Match (Final):** Tilak Varma (unbeaten 69 off 53)
- **Man of the Series:** Abhishek Sharma

## About Asia Cup

- It is a continental men's cricket championship organised biennially to determine Asia's top team.
- Matches are accorded official ODI or T20I status by the ICC.
- Asia Cup is conducted under the aegis of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), established in 1983 to promote goodwill and cooperation through cricket.
- The official mascot for Asia Cup 2025 was "**Sheru**", symbolising strength, courage, and unity of Asian cricket.
- Inaugurated in 1984, the Asia Cup is the only continental cricket tournament.
- It is hosted on a rotational basis; played alternately in ODI and T20I formats since 2016.
- **India is the most successful team:** 9 titles (7 in ODI, 2 in T20I). Sri Lanka follows with 6 titles, Pakistan with 2.



## Natural Gas Discovery off Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- **Context:** Oil India Ltd (OIL) has reported a significant natural gas discovery off the Andaman Islands, marking the first confirmed hydrocarbon occurrence in the region.

## Hydrocarbon Potential of Andaman Basin

- **Hydrocarbon Resource Assessment Study (HRAS):** Estimates 371 MMTOE (Million Metric Tons of Oil Equivalent) in the A&N Basin.
- It is part of the Bengal-Arakan sedimentary system.
- Lies at the tectonic boundary of the Indian and Burmese plates lead to the creation of stratigraphic traps conducive for hydrocarbon accumulation.
- Previous gas finds in North Sumatra (Indonesia) and Irrawaddy-Margui (Myanmar) suggest similar potential in Andaman.

## Government Initiatives

- **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), 2016:** Uniform license for exploration and production; introduced Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).
- **National Deep Water Exploration Mission:** Focused on drilling a large number of deep-water wells to exploit offshore reserves.
- **National Data Repository & National Seismic Program:** Enhance data access for explorers.
- **FDI Policy:** 100% FDI allowed in the natural gas sector under automatic route.

## MiG-21

- **Context:** The Mikoyan-Gurevich (MiG-21) fighter jets were decommissioned by the Indian Airforce.



## Key Facts

- It is the country's first supersonic fighter jet.
- It is of Soviet-origin inducted into the IAF in the early 1960s.
- **Design:** Lightweight, delta-wing, highly maneuverable, capable of speeds over Mach 2.
- The supersonic jets were the dominant platforms during 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan.
- The aircraft also played a key role in the 1999 Kargil conflict as well as the 2019 Balakot airstrikes.
- It provided India with a low-cost, reliable supersonic fighter during critical phases of modernization.
- India has gradually retired MiG-21 squadrons to be replaced by LCA Tejas and other modern jets.

## Attorney General of India

- **Context:** Senior Advocate R. Venkataramani is re-appointed as the Attorney General of India for two years.

## About Attorney General of India

- The Attorney General of India (AGI) is the highest law officer and the chief legal advisor to the Government of India, appointed by the President under Article 76 of the Constitution.
- Represents the Union Government in the Supreme Court and High Courts in all cases where the government is a party.
- Appointed by the President and holds office during the pleasure of the President without a fixed tenure.
- Must be qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court (i.e., a Supreme Court judge or an advocate for at least 10 years, or an eminent jurist as per the President's opinion).
- AGI can participate in parliamentary debates but cannot vote.

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

## Himachal Cold Desert: India's 13<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

- **Context:** The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (CDBR) in Himachal Pradesh has been included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) by UNESCO.

## Key Facts

- UNESCO has designated 26 new biosphere reserves across 21 countries — the highest number in 20 years.
- The WNBR now includes 785 sites in 142 countries, with an additional one million sq km of natural areas brought under protection since 2018.
- India has a total 18 biosphere reserves, of which 13 are now in the Unesco's world network with the latest addition.

- The global designation helps these sites adopt comprehensive measures to foster harmony between people and nature for sustainable development.

### About Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (CDBR)

- The 7,770-sq km area spread across the state's Lahaul-Spiti district was established in 2009.
- It spreads in the Trans-Himalayan region, integrates Pin Valley National Park, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandratal Wetland, and the Sarchu plains.
- Its wildlife includes 17 mammal and 119 bird species including snow leopard, Tibetan antelope and Himalayan wolf.

### About World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBOR)

- The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBOR) was formed in 1971.
- It covers internationally designated protected areas, known as biosphere reserves, which are meant to demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature.
- They are created under the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).

### About Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

- MAB is an intergovernmental scientific program, launched in 1971 by UNESCO.
- The programme enhances the human-environment relationship through combining natural and social sciences to improve livelihoods, safeguard ecosystems, and promote sustainable economic development.

## Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana

- **Context:** Prime Minister Modi launched Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana.

### About: Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana

- **Aim:** Making women Aatmanirbhar and promoting women's empowerment through self-employment and livelihood opportunities.

- **Eligibility:** Every family will have at least one woman beneficiary under this scheme.
- **Benefit:** Each beneficiary will receive an initial grant of ₹10,000 via Direct Benefit Transfer, with the possibility of additional financial support of up to ₹ 2 lakh in subsequent phases.
- The assistance can be utilized in areas of the choice of the beneficiary including agriculture, animal husbandry, handicrafts, tailoring, weaving, and other small-scale enterprises.
- **Implementation:** The scheme will be community driven in which, along with financial support, community resource persons connected to Self Help Groups will provide training to support their endeavour. To support the sale of their produce, Gramin Haat-Bazaars will be further developed in the State.

30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

## National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

- **Context:** Recently, the Crime in India 2023 report was published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

### Key Findings

- India recorded 62.4 lakh cognizable crimes, a 7.2% increase from 2022.
  - Of these, 37.6 lakh were under the IPC and 24.8 lakh under Special and Local Laws (SLL).
  - The national crime rate increased from 422.2 to 448.3 per lakh population.
  - In metropolitan cities, crime rose by 10.6% to 9.44 lakh cases, with theft accounting for 44.8%, followed by rash driving (9.2%) and obstruction on public ways (8.1%).
- Decline in traditional violent crimes such as rape and dowry deaths.
  - Surge in cybercrimes and urban-related offenses, reflecting social, technological, and lifestyle shifts.
  - Cybercrimes rose sharply by 31.2% to 86,420 cases, with nearly 69% involving online fraud.

- Karnataka reported the highest number of cybercrime cases (21,889), followed by Telangana (18,236) and Uttar Pradesh (10,794).
- Crimes against Scheduled Tribes surged by 28.8%, from 10,064 in 2022 to 12,960 in 2023.
- Crimes against women saw a marginal rise of 0.4%, with most cases involving cruelty by husbands or relatives (29.8%), kidnapping (19.8%), and assault (18.7%).

### About NCRB

- **Establishment:** 1986 on recommendations of the Tandon Committee, National Police Commission (1977-81), and MHA Task Force (1985).
- **Parent Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Functions:**
  - Acts as the national repository of crime and criminal data.
  - Manages the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).
  - Publishes three major reports: Crime in India, Accidental Deaths & Suicides, and Prison Statistics.

### Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ) Initiative

- **Context:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ) initiative.

### About Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ)

- It is a structured mentorship and collaborative action program under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- Involves 72 mentor cities paired with around 200 mentee cities based on their performance in Swachh Survekshan rankings.
- It aims to promote knowledge sharing, peer learning, and replication of best practices in urban sanitation and waste management.
- **Key Features:**
  - **Mentorship Model:** Top-performing cities (mentors) guide low-performing cities (mentees). Focus

on experience sharing, action planning, and handholding.

- **Time-bound Program:** 100 day program to demonstrate the impact of city-to-city mentorship. Each mentor-mentee pair develops action plans with defined milestones.
- **Nationwide Engagement:** Nearly 300 MoUs signed across participating cities in the presence of city officials and political leaders.
- The initiative creates a dynamic platform for collaboration, which will be evaluated in Swachh Survekshan 2026.

### Sahyog Portal

- **Context:** The Karnataka High Court dismissed X Corp's challenge to the Union government's Sahyog portal, affirming its legality under Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000.

### About Sahyog Portal

- It was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs in October 2024 and operated by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- It serves as a centralized system for issuing takedown orders to internet intermediaries under Section 79 of the IT Act.
- The Act provides "safe harbour" protection to platforms for user-generated content, this immunity is conditional — intermediaries must remove unlawful content upon receiving official notice under Section 79(3)(b).
- Sahyog automates this process and was first revealed during a Delhi High Court case involving a missing person.

1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2025

### 100 Years of UPSC

- **Context:** The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) marks a century of its establishment on October 1.

## About UPSC

- The Government of India Act, 1919, first provided for such a body, and in October 1926, the Public Service Commission was set up, following the recommendations of the Lee Commission (1924).
- Later named the Federal Public Service Commission (1937), it was renamed the Union Public Service Commission with the adoption of India's Constitution on 26th January 1950.
- The UPSC conducts civil services examinations to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service and the Indian Police Service, among others.
- Besides the chairman, it can have a maximum of 10 members. A UPSC chairman is appointed for a term of six years or until attaining 65 years of age, all members have the same term.
- The UPSC Chairman is not eligible for reappointment after completing their term.
- **Removal by President:**
  - Can only be done on the ground of misbehaviour.
  - Requires a Supreme Court inquiry and report confirming the misbehaviour.
  - Reference to the Supreme Court is made by the President.
  - Can remove without Supreme Court inquiry if the person: Is adjudged insolvent, engages in paid employment outside office duties, is unfit due to mental or physical infirmity.
- **Constitutional Provisions**
  - Article 309 empowers Parliament and State Legislatures to regulate recruitment and conditions of service.
  - Article 310 of the Constitution states that civil servants of the Union and the States hold office during the pleasure of the President or the Governor, respectively.
  - Article 311 provides safeguards for civil servants against arbitrary dismissal.

- Article 312 outlines the process for creating All India Services, such as the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Police Service (IPS), and the Indian Forest Service (IFS).
- Articles 315 to 323 of the Indian Constitution establish Public Service Commissions (PSCs) for both the Union (UPSC) and each state (SPSC).

## Key Facts about Civil Services in British India

- Lord Cornwallis is considered as 'Father of Civil Services in India'.
- Lord Wellesley founded the College of Fort William in Calcutta in 1800 to educate young recruits for the Civil Services. But the directors of the Company, in 1806, replaced it with their own East Indian College at Haileybury in England.
- The Charter Act of 1853 abolished the patronage system and introduced open competitive examinations.
- The first competitive exams for the Indian Civil Services (ICS) were held in London in 1855.
- Satyendranath Tagore was the first Indian to clear ICS in 1864.
- From 1922 onwards the Indian Civil Service Examination began to be held in India.

## About Civil Services Day

- Civil Services Day is observed on 21<sup>st</sup> April every year to commemorate the day in 1947 when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of civil servants at the Metcalfe House, New Delhi.
- He termed civil servants as the "Steel frame of India," emphasizing their role in maintaining unity and integrity.

## SODAR System

- **Context:** On the occasion of CSIR's Foundation Day, (26<sup>th</sup> September), SODAR (Sound Detection and Ranging) system facility was inaugurated at India Meteorological Department, (IMD).



## Key Highlights

- It is designed and developed by CSIR – Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (AMPRI), Bhopal.
- The MoU facilitates the sharing of SODAR system data across various locations for forecasting, validation, and research initiatives.
- Expected to advance meteorology, climate science, environmental studies, and benefit research communities and national preparedness.
- Sound Detection and Ranging (SODAR) probes the lower atmosphere (up to 1 km) to study thermal structure, turbulence, inversion layers, fog, and plumes.
- **Applications:**
  - **Meteorology:** Measuring vertical profiles of wind, temperature, and turbulence.
  - **Air Pollution Monitoring:** Studying how pollutants disperse in the atmosphere.
  - **Renewable Energy:** Assessing wind profiles for wind turbine siting.
  - **Climate Research:** Studying boundary layer dynamics.

2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2025

## Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)

- **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) to oversee the country's payment systems.

### About Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)

- The PRB replaces the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS), a committee of the RBI's Central Board.
- The new board derives its authority from the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- It will be supported by the RBI's Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS), which will report directly to it.

### • Composition:

- It will be chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the PRB includes two other RBI officials — the Deputy Governor and Executive Director for Payment Systems — and three Central Government nominees: the Secretaries of Financial Services and Electronics & IT, along with former Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan.
- Decisions will be made by majority vote, with the chairperson (or deputy governor in absence) holding a casting vote in case of a tie.
- The Board must meet at least twice annually, and decisions may also be made via circulation if directed by the chairperson.
- The RBI's principal legal adviser is a permanent invitee to PRB meetings.

- **Functions:** The Board is responsible for the regulation and supervision of all payment systems including electronic and non-electronic, domestic and cross-border systems.

## India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

- **Context:** India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) came into effect.

### About India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

- TEPA is a modern and ambitious agreement that incorporates, for the first time in any Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed by India, a commitment linked to investment and job creation.
- The agreement was signed in March 2024 at New Delhi.
- It comprises of 14 chapters with main focus on market access related to goods, rules of origin, trade facilitation, trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, investment promotion, market access on services, intellectual property rights, trade and sustainable development and other legal and horizontal provisions.

## Key features of the agreement

- **Market Access:** EFTA has committed to 100% tariff elimination on non-agricultural goods and concessions on processed agricultural products, covering 99.6% of India's exports.
- It aims to attract USD 100 billion in foreign direct investment over 15 years and generate 1 million direct jobs in India.
- **India's Offer:** Covers 82.7% of tariff lines (95.3% of EFTA exports), with protections for sensitive sectors like pharma, food, dairy, and gold.
- **Services and Mobility:** India and EFTA offer market access in over 100 sub-sectors. Agreement allows for digital service delivery, commercial presence, and temporary stay of professionals.
  - Enables Mutual Recognition Agreements in professions like nursing and accountancy.
- **Intellectual Property:** The agreement upholds TRIPS-level IPR standards, safeguards India's generic medicine interests, and promotes sustainable development.
- **Sustainability and Skills:** Focus on sustainable development, vocational training, and technology collaboration in fields like health sciences, renewables, and R&D.
- **Sectoral Gains:** Indian exporters in machinery, chemicals, textiles, and processed foods will benefit from lower tariffs and easier access to EFTA markets.

Do you  
Know ?

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It was set up in 1960 by its then seven Member States for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members.

## Bathukamma Festival

- **Context:** The Bathukamma festival set Guinness World Records for the largest floral arrangement and the most synchronized female dance participants.



## Key Facts

- The Bathukamma was built by around 300 workers with metal, bamboo, and flowers, and the structure took 72 hours to complete.
- The Bathukamma festival is celebrated predominantly in Telangana.
- Women gather in large numbers to create intricate flower stacks, offer prayers, and dance in concentric circles, celebrating the goddess Gauri and the harvest season.

## About Bathukamma festival

- The term "Bathukamma" translates to "Mother Goddess Come Alive", reflecting the divine feminine energy and protection.
- Folklore connects the festival to legends of Goddess Gauri as well as King Dhramangada and Queen Satyavati of the Chola dynasty.
- Bathukamma's timing coincides with Navratri, celebrating life, devotion and the triumph of good over evil.