



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

10 Oct. - 16 Oct., 2025

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



MASAKI KASHIWARA

Awarded the Abel Prize 2025

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10th OCTOBER 2025

Nobel Peace Prize, 2025

- **Context:** The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to María Corina Machado, the Venezuelan opposition leader, for her efforts in promoting democracy and driving political change.

About Nobel Peace Prize

- It is awarded by a committee elected by the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget). Peace was the fifth and final prize area that Alfred Nobel mentioned in his will.
- Since 1901 the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded 105 times, to 139 laureates: 92 men, 19 women and 28 organizations.
- Mahatma Gandhi, despite being nominated five times, never won, though his ideals closely align with the UN Charter.
- In 2024, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Japanese organisation Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as Hibakusha.

Do you know?

- The Nobel Peace Prize cannot be awarded posthumously. It has been skipped 19 times, mostly due to wars or absence of a suitable candidate, including during 1914–16, 1918, 1923, 1924, 1928, 1932, 1939–43, 1948, 1955–56, 1966–67, and 1972.

UK PM Visit to India

- **Context:** The Prime Ministers of India and the UK have reaffirmed the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the recent official UK PM visit to India, announcing significant progress across multiple sectors.

Key Highlights

- **Economic & Trade:** Strengthening of the UK-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

(CETA), expected to boost market access, reduce tariffs, and generate jobs. 64 Indian investment projects worth £1.3 billion, creating 6,900 UK jobs across engineering, tech, and creative sectors.

- **Climate & Energy:** Establishment of advanced R&D centres in AI and climate change, and launch of Phase 2 of the Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory, including a new campus at IIT-ISM Dhanbad.
 - Agreed to cooperate on Offshore Wind and through the Global Clean Power Alliance (GCPA).
 - Launched the India–UK Climate Finance Initiative.
- **Defence and Security:** Enhanced cooperation on maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, including establishing a Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSCE) under India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. Agreement for Government-to-Government supply of Lightweight Multirole Missile systems to strengthen India's air defense.
- **Education, Culture, and People-to-People Exchange:** Authorization for Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University to open campuses in GIFT City, Gujarat, promoting transnational education and skill development.
- **Technological Cooperation:** Expansion of the Technology Security Initiative (TSI) with new joint entities:
 - India–UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre
 - UK–India Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory
 - UK–India Critical Minerals Processing and Downstream Collaboration Guild

Significance:

- The 2025 visit marks deepened strategic ties, reinforcing India as a key UK partner post-Brexit.
- Extends the India–UK Vision 2035 with new cooperation pillars on critical minerals, defence co-production, and digital economy.
- Aligns both countries' Indo-Pacific policies for regional security and strengthens resilient global supply chains.

World Mental Health Day

- **Context:** On October 10, every year, World Mental Health Day highlights the extent of mental illness in the world.

Key Facts

- As per WHO, more than a billion people are living with mental health disorders.
- An estimated 727,000 people across all ages lost their lives to suicide in 2021, with one suicide death happening in over 20 suicide attempts.
- Suicide accounts for one in every 100 deaths globally.
- Anxiety and depressive disorders together accounted for more than two-thirds of all mental health conditions in 2021.
- Between 2011 and 2021, the number of people living with mental disorders increased faster than the global population.
- India has a 13.7% lifetime prevalence of mental disorders in the country.
- According to the latest NCRB data, 1,71,418 suicides were reported in India in 2023, a 0.3% increase from 2022, with Maharashtra recording the highest number. Even more alarming, student suicides reached 13,892, a 64.9% rise over the past decade.

11th OCTOBER 2025

Global Peacekeeping Force

- **Context:** The United Nations is going to reduce its global peacekeeping operations by 25%, with 13,000–14,000 personnel expected to withdraw from nine missions due to significant U.S. funding cuts.

About UN Peacekeeping

- It is a key mechanism used by the United Nations to maintain global peace and security. It operates alongside other UN efforts, including conflict

prevention, peacemaking, peace enforcement, and peacebuilding.

- It began in 1948 with the creation of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) to monitor ceasefires in the Middle East. Initially unarmed and focused on observation, missions remained limited during the Cold War due to global tensions.
- The 1990s saw a major expansion, with the UN deploying multidimensional operations that integrated military, political, and humanitarian efforts to address civil conflicts, support governance, and protect human rights.
- **Women in Peacekeeping:** Women are vital to conflict resolution and peacebuilding, as they foster community trust, prevent sexual violence, and promote inclusive, sustainable peace by engaging effectively with local populations, especially women and children.

India's Contributions

- India has played a significant role in UN peacekeeping since its participation in the Korean operation in 1953, reflecting its deep-rooted commitment to non-violence and global peace, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and the ancient principle of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”—the belief that the world is one family.
- India has been a key contributor to global peace and security, with over 2,90,000 peacekeepers serving in more than 50 UN missions.
- India has led the way in integrating women into UN peacekeeping, notably deploying the first all-female Formed Police Unit to Liberia in 2007, which boosted local security and empowered women.
- As of February 2025, over 150 Indian women peacekeepers serve in six key missions, reflecting India's strong commitment to gender parity and the crucial role of women in global peace and security.

THE World University Rankings 2026

- **Context:** Oxford University has maintained its global number one ranking for the tenth consecutive year, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026.

Key Highlights

- The 22nd edition of the UK-based THE World University Rankings evaluates 2,191 universities from 115 countries and territories across 18 performance indicators in five areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, international outlook, and industry impact.
- Beyond the top 100, universities are assigned “rank bands” instead of specific positions.
- India ranked as the second most-represented country, behind only the U.S., with a record 128 institutions — up from 107 last year and just 19 in 2016. The Indian Institute of Science is placed in the 201–250 rank band, followed by Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences at 351–400.
- Five universities from China are in the top 40, up from three last year. Tsinghua University, ranked 12th, remains Asia’s top university.
- Seven of the top 10 positions are occupied by the US. However, there is a declining trend overall, with six fewer universities in the top 20 compared to last year and 35 in the top 100, down from 38.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- **Context:** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has designated Deendayal, V.O. Chidambaranar, and Paradip ports as Green Hydrogen Hubs under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

About National Green Hydrogen Mission

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission in 2023, with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore.
- It aims to make India a Global Hub for production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives, by targeting production of 5 MMT per annum of Green Hydrogen by 2030.

- It will lead to significant decarbonization of the economy, reduced dependence on fossil fuel imports, and enable India to assume technology and market leadership in Green Hydrogen.
- The guidelines issued in June 2025, allow the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to recognize Green Hydrogen Hubs without direct financial aid, enabling these locations to access incentives under various central and state schemes.
- These hubs will serve as key centers for hydrogen production and consumption, supporting a sustainable and competitive hydrogen economy.

12th OCTOBER 2025

Afghanistan’s Taliban foreign minister visited India

- **Context:** Afghanistan’s Taliban foreign minister met external affairs minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi.

Key Highlights

- It was the first high-level diplomatic engagement between India and the Taliban regime since it took power in 2021.
- His visit follows participation in a regional meeting on Afghanistan in Russia, attended by representatives from India, China, Pakistan, Iran, and Central Asian countries.
- Afghanistan reassured India that it would not allow any group to use its territory against another country—a key security assurance relevant to India’s concerns over terrorism emanating from Afghan soil.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar announced that India would reopen its full embassy in Kabul, upgrading the existing technical mission that was set up in 2022 for humanitarian and trade purposes.
- Around a dozen countries — including China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey — already operate embassies in Kabul. India’s decision to reopen its embassy underscores a calibrated re-engagement strategy to protect its strategic and economic interests.

Significance

- **Strategic Balance:** The move reflects India's pragmatic approach to maintain influence in Afghanistan amid Pakistan and China's growing presence.
- **Counterterrorism Focus:** India's emphasis on Afghan soil not being used for terrorism directly addresses concerns about groups like LeT and JeM.
- **Diplomatic Recognition:** While India has not officially recognized the Taliban government, the engagement indicates de facto acknowledgment of its control over Kabul.
- **Regional Cooperation:** India's participation in regional formats (like the Moscow Format) underscores its multi-layered approach to Afghan stability.

Rare Earth Metals

- **Context:** China outlined new curbs on exports of rare earths and related technologies.

Key Facts

- Foreign companies will need approval to export products containing even trace Chinese rare earths.
 - The rules extend to processing technologies, equipment, and intellectual property for the first time.
 - The move could complicate India's efforts to secure inputs for its EV, renewable energy and defence sectors.
- **China's Dominance in Rare Earths:**
 - **Production dominance:** Mines ~60% and processes ~90% of global rare earths.
 - Controls much of the downstream value chain — refining, separation, and permanent magnet manufacturing.

About Rare Earth Elements

- Rare earth elements are a series of seventeen substances that are present in the earth's crust. Unlike what the name may indicate, rare earths occur plentifully in nature, but the rarity comes from the ability to isolate them chemically and make them usable in industrial applications.

- Demand for rare earth metals such as neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium and yttrium are increasing alongside technological advancements.
- Heavy and light rare earths occur naturally in several countries, such as India, China, Myanmar, Japan, Australia and North Korea.
- China is the world's largest producer of rare earths followed by the USA.
- **Significance:**
 - They are used in everyday technologies like a cellphone and computer.
 - They are also used in advanced medical technologies like MRIs, laser scalpels and even some cancer drugs.
 - In defense applications, they are used in satellite communications, guidance systems and aircraft structures.
 - They are critical in a number of green technologies, especially those that are going to support net zero carbon emissions goals, like wind turbines and electric vehicles.

13th OCTOBER 2025

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- **Context:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is set to revise the base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to 2022–23, aligning it with the new base year proposed for GDP estimation.

Key Facts

- The IIP is a key short-term indicator of industrial activity, used by the government, RBI, and researchers for policymaking, forecasting, and national accounts.
- The last IIP base year revision was 2011–12 and since then, major technological changes, product diversification, and digitalization have reshaped industrial production. India's economic structure has transformed: services contribute 62.5% of GVA, agriculture 15%, and industry 22%, indicating scope for growth.

- MoSPI's Technical Advisory Committee for Base Year Revision of IIP (TAC-IIP) has recommended aligning the IIP base year with 2022–23, to capture these structural and technological shifts.
- The United Nations has recommended that the base period of the index number should be revised quinquennially (every five years).
- The Scientific Revolution during the 16th–17th centuries transformed this into “propositional” knowledge i.e. linking empirical understanding with scientific reasoning.
- This fusion of science and technology created the foundation for “useful knowledge,” enabling systematic innovation.

About Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- The IIP is an index which shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period of time.
- The IIP is compiled as a simple weighted arithmetic mean of production relatives by using Laspeyre's formula.
- It is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
 - **Broad sectors:** Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - **Use-based sectors:** Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
 - **Released by:** The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
 - **Base year:** 2011-2012
 - **Periodicity:** Monthly basis

2025 Economics Nobel Prize

- **Context:** The 2025 Economics Nobel prize was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt for their groundbreaking work on innovation and economic growth.

Key Facts

- The research explored why sustained economic growth emerged only in the last two centuries despite technological progress throughout history.
- It argued that before the Industrial Revolution, technological knowledge was largely “prescriptive” i.e. people knew how to make things work but not why they worked.

Economics of Creative Destruction

- Their 1992 model mathematically formalised how creative destruction, where new technologies replace old ones, drives long-term macroeconomic growth.
- **In this framework:**
 - Firms invest in R&D to create superior products or processes.
 - Successful innovators earn temporary monopoly profits.
 - Over time, they are replaced by new innovators — a cycle of creative destruction.
- This process explains how aggregate GDP grows steadily, even as individual firms rise and fall.
- Their general-equilibrium model links all markets (goods, labor, and capital), showing how micro-level innovations translate into macroeconomic stability.
- They also demonstrated that R&D has positive social spillovers, justifying public investment in research and education.

About Nobel Economics Prize, 2025

- The award is officially known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- This prize was established in 1968 by the central bank of Sweden as a memorial to Alfred Nobel, a 19th-century Swedish businessman and chemist, known for inventing dynamite and establishing the five original Nobel Prizes.
- The first winners of the economics prize, in 1969, were Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen.

Maitri II: India's New Frontier in Antarctica

- **Context:** The Ministry of Finance has approved the establishment of Maitri II, India's upcoming research station in eastern Antarctica, to be completed by January 2029.

Key Facts

- In 1983, India established the first permanent base in Antarctica named Dakshin Gangotri. However, it is no longer in operation.
- India presently has two research stations at Antarctica namely 'Maitri' and 'Bharati'.
 - **Maitri:** It has been in operation since 1989 and is located in a rocky mountainous region known as Schirmacher Oasis in Queen Maud Land.
 - **Bharati:** The new station was commissioned in 2012. It is located between Thala Fjord & Quilty bay, east of Stornes Peninsula in Antarctica.

About Maitri II

- **Nodal Agency:** National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.
- **Estimated Cost:** ₹2,000 crore over seven years.
- **Location:** Eastern Antarctica, near the Schirmacher Oasis, replacing the aging Maitri station.
- **Green Research Base:** Designed to operate on renewable energy sources, solar during summer and wind energy year-round, reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

International Blue Flag Certification

- **Context:** Five beaches in Maharashtra have received the international Blue Flag certification. The list includes Shrivardhan and Nagaon beaches, Parnaka, and Guhagar and Ladghar beaches.

About Blue Flag Certification

- Blue Flag is a globally recognized eco-label for beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating operators that meet strict environmental, safety,

educational, and accessibility standards, often termed the gold standard of beach cleanliness.

- It is administered by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a Denmark-based non-profit recognized by UNEP and UNESCO.
- India implements Blue Flag under BEAMS (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) within the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme.
- The nodal agency in India is the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Blue Flag beaches in India (2025)

- **India has 12 certified beaches:** Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod (Karnataka), Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden Beach/Puri (Odisha), Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands), Kovalam (Tamil Nadu), Eden Beach (Puducherry), Minicoy Thundi (Lakshadweep), and Kadmat (Lakshadweep).

14th OCTOBER 2025

Abel Prize 2025

- **Context:** Japanese mathematician Masaki Kashiwara was awarded the Abel Prize 2025 for contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory.

Key Facts

- He pioneered the theory of D-modules, an algebraic framework to study systems of linear partial differential equations (PDEs).
- He developed tools like microsupport and characteristic varieties, which reveal how singularities in equations propagate.
- His work on sheaf theory, deepened understanding of how local analytical data connects to global geometric structure.

About Abel Prize

- The Abel Prize is an international award recognizing outstanding scientific work in mathematics, often considered the equivalent of a Nobel Prize for mathematicians.
- It is named in honor of the 19th-century Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel.
- **Awarded by:** The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters on behalf of the Government of Norway.
- **Selection process:** An expert committee of five internationally recognized mathematicians recommends the laureate(s) to the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
- The prize was established by the Norwegian Parliament in 2002 and first awarded in 2003. It can be awarded to mathematicians of any age and nationality.

Kenton R. Miller Award

- **Context:** Dr Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of Kaziranga National Park became the first Indian to receive the prestigious WCPA-Kenton Miller Award at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

About Kenton R. Miller Award

- Established in 2006, the Kenton R. Miller Award for Innovation in National Parks and Protected Area Sustainability is presented every two years by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).
- WCPA is one of the six technical commissions of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The award honors individuals who demonstrate innovation and leadership in conserving national parks and protected areas, particularly in ensuring their long-term sustainability.
- The award is named after Dr. Kenton R. Miller, a former IUCN Director General and a prominent global leader in protected area management.

LEAPS 2025

- **Context:** Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, launched the Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield (LEAPS) 2025.

Key Facts

- LEAPS is a flagship initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Purpose:** To benchmark and recognize excellence in the logistics sector, promoting efficiency, sustainability, innovation, and technology adoption.
- **Alignment:** Supports National Logistics Policy (2022), PM GatiShakti, and initiatives like Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Objectives:**
 - Promote best practices in logistics operations.
 - Encourage ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) compliance and green logistics.
 - Foster collaboration between government, industry, and academia.
- It covers a wide spectrum of logistics players — including air, road, sea, and rail freight operators; warehousing; multimodal transporters; MSMEs; Startups; and Academia.

15th OCTOBER 2025

Google to build AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

- **Context:** Google has announced a historic investment of USD 15 billion (87,520 crore) to build its largest-ever AI hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Key Features of the Google AI Hub

- This gigawatt-scale project, planned over five years (2026–2030), aligns with India's Viksit Bharat Vision and supports the goals of the India AI Mission.
- **Purpose-built Data Centre Campus:** The hub will integrate advanced AI infrastructure, large-scale data centre capacity, renewable energy sources, and a high-speed fibre-optic network, all located in one campus.

- **International Subsea Gateway:** Construction of new international subsea cables landing at Visakhapatnam on India's eastern coast, enhancing global digital connectivity and internet speed.
- Data centres are specialized facilities that house computing infrastructure — servers, storage systems, and networking equipment — to store, process, and manage digital data. They are the backbone of cloud computing, AI, e-Governance, and digital services.
- AI-Powered Data Centres require high-performance computing (HPC) with GPU clusters; low-latency data access for real-time decision-making, and massive parallel processing to train large language models (LLMs) and generative AI systems.
- India's data centre market is projected to attract \$100 billion in investments by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 24.68%, driven by AI adoption and digital transformation.

About IndiaAI Mission

- It aims to establish public AI compute infrastructure with 10,000+ GPUs; develop indigenous foundational models; and fund AI startups from idea to commercialization.
- The government aims to set up 500 data labs under the IndiaAI Mission to support AI research and model development.

Henley Passport Index

- **Context:** India's passport ranked 85th, granting visa-free access to 57 countries, a drop from 80th place in 2024. Singapore currently holds the top spot.

About Henley Passport Index

- The Henley Passport Index is a global ranking system that evaluates the travel freedom provided by the passports of different countries, based on the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- The index is compiled and published by Henley & Partners, using exclusive data from the International

Air Transport Association (IATA) and enhanced by in-house research.

IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

- **Context:** The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) elected Wildlife Trust of India's (WTI) founder Vivek Menon as the new chair of the Species Survival Commission (SSC), making him the first Asian to hold the post.

About Species Survival Commission (SSC)

- The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of more than 10,500 volunteer experts from almost every country of the world.
- It is one of the six expert commissions under the global body that advises the IUCN secretariat on matters concerning biodiversity and species conservation.
- The commission and its specialist groups play a key role in preparing the IUCN's red list of threatened species.

About International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), founded in 1948, is the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, comprising over 1,400 member organizations and 17,000 experts.
- It serves as a global authority on nature conservation, offering a neutral platform for governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, and communities to collaborate on sustainable development.
- It incubates ideas, sets international standards, and implements conservation projects that blend scientific research with traditional knowledge to restore ecosystems, combat habitat loss, and enhance human well-being.

16th OCTOBER 2025

National Security Guard (NSG) Hub

- **Context:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that a new NSG hub will be set up in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. This will be the seventh NSG hub, joining existing ones in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Jammu.

About National Security Guard (NSG)

- The National Security Guard (NSG) was established in 1986 as a Federal Contingency Force to combat terrorism, following a Cabinet decision in 1984.
- It is modeled on the UK's SAS and Germany's GSG-9, its philosophy emphasizes swift strikes and rapid withdrawal.
- **It comprises two units:** the Special Action Group (Army) and Special Ranger Groups (CAPFs/State Police), tasked with handling all forms of terrorism nationwide.

- It was established to create a Federal Contingency Force composed of highly motivated, specially equipped, and well-trained personnel to combat terrorism.

Exercise Samudra Shakti 2025

- **Context:** The Indian Navy is hosting the fifth edition of the Indo-Indonesian Joint Bilateral Maritime Exercise, 'Samudra Shakti – 2025' at Visakhapatnam.

Key Facts

- Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' is a key bilateral engagement aimed at enhancing interoperability, strengthening mutual understanding, and sharing best practices between the two navies. The exercise was first conducted in 2018.
- **Exercise Phases:**
 - **Harbour Phase:** Aimed at building camaraderie and professional understanding.
 - **Sea Phase:** Focused on complex operational coordination. Includes Helicopter Operations, Air Defence Exercises, Weapon Firing Drills, and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) exercises.

