



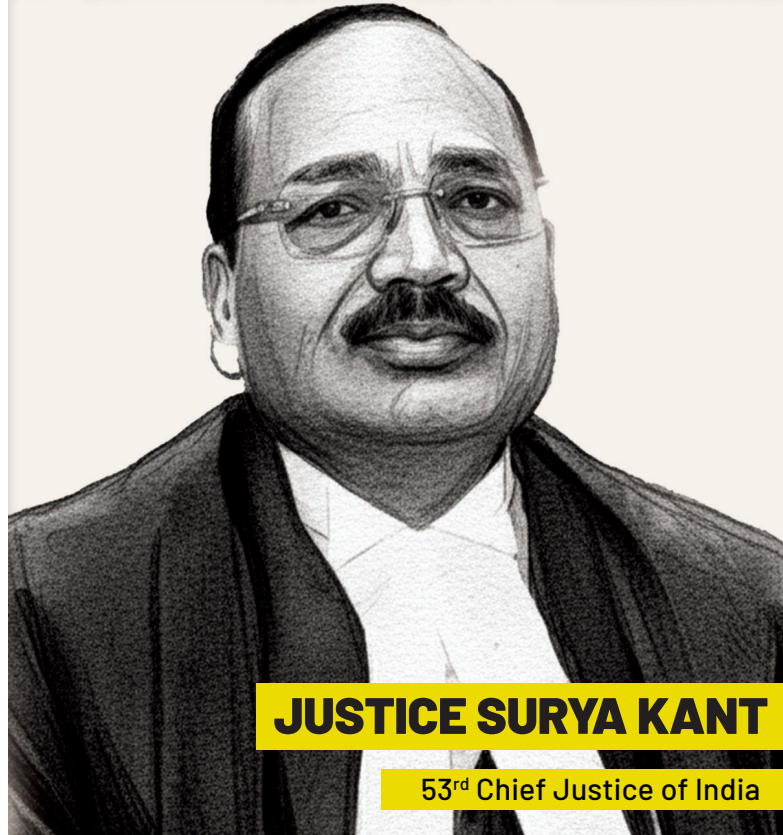
WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

24 Oct. - 30 Oct., 2025

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



JUSTICE SURYA KANT

53rd Chief Justice of India

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24th OCTOBER 2025

Sevilla Forum on Debt

- **Context:** At the 16th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD16) held in Geneva, a new global initiative, the Sevilla Forum on Debt, was launched.

About Sevilla Forum

- The Forum, led by Spain and supported by UNCTAD and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), aims to create a permanent, inclusive platform for dialogue and coordinated action on sovereign debt challenges.
- It marks one of the first tangible outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and is part of the broader Sevilla Platform for Action, which operationalizes the Sevilla Commitment.
- The Sevilla Commitment lays down a roadmap for strengthening development financing and ensuring debt sustainability in developing economies.

Rising Global Debt Levels

- According to UNCTAD, global public debt reached a record \$102 trillion in 2024.
 - Developing countries accounted for \$31 trillion of this debt.
 - These countries collectively paid \$921 billion in interest payments, a burden exceeding spending on health and education in many cases.
- As per the World Bank 2024 Report, Developing countries spent a record \$1.4 trillion to service their foreign debt as their interest costs climbed to a 20-year high in 2023.
 - Currently, more than half of developing countries allocate at least 8% of government revenues to interest payments, a figure that has doubled over the past decade.
- This unsustainable debt trajectory threatens progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) and has amplified calls for comprehensive sovereign debt reform.

Public Debt of India

- India's public debt-to-GDP ratio has barely increased from 81% in 2005-06 to 84% in 2021-22, and is back to 81% in 2022-23.
- As per the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2003, the general government debt was supposed to be brought down to 60% of GDP by 2024-25.
- The IMF states that India's general government debt, including the Centre and States, could be 100% of GDP under adverse circumstances by fiscal 2028.
- It has projected the ratio at 82.4% for 2024-25.

UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative

- **Context:** The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at its Extraordinary Congress in Geneva, rallied its 193 Member States to commit to universal early warning coverage by 2027 under the UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

About UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative

- The UN-backed EW4All initiative was launched in 2022 by Secretary-General António Guterres, co-led by WMO, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- Its goal is to ensure that every person — regardless of where they live — is protected by life-saving alerts for hazards such as cyclones, floods, heat waves or droughts.
- The EW4All initiative aims to address the growing threat of weather, water, and climate-related hazards—from cyclones and floods to heatwaves and droughts.
- The initiative focuses on strengthening the entire early warning "value chain"

- Monitoring and forecasting hazards
- Assessing risks
- Disseminating alerts
- Ensuring communities can act on them
- **The EW4All initiative has catalyzed global action:**
 - WMO's 2025 Congress saw 193 Member States endorse a Call to Action for universal coverage by 2027.
 - Country-led assessments and partnerships are driving improvements in hazard monitoring, forecasting, and governance.
 - Integration with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction ensures alignment with broader UN goals.
- An Early Warning System (EWS) is an integrated approach that combines hazard monitoring, forecasting, disaster risk assessment, communication, and preparedness to enable timely action for saving lives, livelihoods, and assets at risk.

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism

- **Context:** Iran ratified a law joining a United Nations convention against terror financing.

Key Facts

- **Adoption:** It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1999. Entered into force in 2002.
- **Purpose:** To criminalize the financing of terrorism.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Criminalization of Financing:** Making funds available with intent or knowledge that they will be used to carry out terrorism.
 - **Jurisdiction:** States must establish jurisdiction over offenses committed in their territory, by their nationals, or on board their ships/aircraft.
 - **Extradition & Cooperation:** Facilitates extradition of offenders and promotes international cooperation in investigations and prosecutions.

- **Preventive Measures:** Encourages countries to freeze funds linked to terrorist activities and share information to prevent financing.
- India ratified the convention in 2003. It supports India's legal framework under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and anti-money laundering laws.

25th OCTOBER 2025

Cloud Seeding

- **Context:** Delhi Government conducted cloud seeding, which is essential for the national capital as it could play a key role in controlling rising pollution levels during the winter season.

Reasons of Air Pollution in Delhi in Winter

- **Temperature Inversion:** During winter, the air near the ground becomes cooler than the air above it.
 - This inversion layer traps pollutants (such as particulate matter and gases) close to the surface, preventing their vertical dispersion into the upper atmosphere.
- **Low Wind Speeds:** Winds are generally weaker in winter, which reduces horizontal dispersion of pollutants, allowing them to accumulate in the lower atmosphere.
- **Crop Residue Burning:** Each year, post-harvest stubble burning in neighbouring states like Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh releases large amounts of smoke and particulate matter.
 - Prevailing wind patterns carry this pollution towards Delhi, worsening air quality.
- **Dust and Urban Pollution Entrapment:** Urban dust and vehicular emissions linger longer in the atmosphere due to low boundary layer height in winter, compounding the pollution problem.

About Cloud Seeding

- Cloud seeding is a weather modification method to enhance a cloud's ability to produce rain or snow.

- First demonstrated in 1946 by Vincent J. Schaefer, an American chemist and meteorologist.
- Clouds are usually injected with salts like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or sodium chloride to trigger condensation.
 - Silver iodide and dry ice (solid CO₂) – effective in supercooled clouds (below freezing).
 - Calcium chloride – used for warmer clouds (above freezing).
- The salts, or the seeding agents, serve as nuclei around which water droplets can form or ice can crystallise.
 - As water droplets grow, they collide with others in the cloud. As they become heavy, the cloud gets saturated and it rains.
 - Meteorologists identify clouds for seeding which have sufficient moisture but are unable to produce enough precipitation on their own.
- These particles are dispersed into clouds using special aircraft, rockets, or dispersion devices kept on the ground.
- A Final Assembly Line is being set up in Vadodara, Gujarat, to manufacture the remaining 40 out of 56 aircraft in India.

ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit

- **Context:** The Indian Coast Guard launched two advanced Fast Patrol Vessels—ICG Ship Ajit and ICGS Aparajit—at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

About ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit

- These vessels are the seventh and eighth in a series of eight indigenously built FPVs being constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the ICG, underscoring India's growing self-reliance in defence shipbuilding.
- The 52-metre-long vessels displace 320 tonnes and are equipped with Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP) — the first of their kind in this class of ships in India — ensuring superior manoeuvrability and propulsion efficiency.
- The FPVs are designed for multi-mission roles such as fisheries protection, coastal patrol, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, and search and rescue operations, especially around India's island territories and Exclusive Economic Zone.
- This marks a key step in enhancing India's coastal defense and maritime surveillance capabilities.

26th OCTOBER 2025

Exercise Ocean Sky 2025

- **Context:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Ocean Sky 2025, a multinational air combat exercise hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base, Spain.

Key Facts

- The exercise aims to foster mutual learning, enhance interoperability, sharpen air combat skills, and strengthen defence cooperation with friendly nations.
- The exercise brings together more than 50 aircraft from Spain, Germany, Greece, Portugal, India, and the United States, including India's Su-30MKI fighter jets.
- In August 2025, India received the final delivery of 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft at the Airbus Defence and Space facility in Seville, Spain.
- The C-295 project marks India's first private sector venture in military aircraft production, under a partnership between Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus Spain.

East Timor: 11th Member of ASEAN

- **Context:** The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) welcomed East Timor as its newest member.

Key Facts

- East Timor, also known as Timor-Leste, had long attempted to join ASEAN, given the organisation's significance in maintaining economic, political and security coordination in the region.
- It also marked ASEAN's first expansion in years, after Cambodia last joined it in 1999.

About East Timor

- East Timor is located in the Pacific Ocean to the north of Australia.
- It constitutes the eastern side of a larger island, while most of the western side is under Indonesian control.
- East Timor was a Portuguese colony for over four centuries before it gained independence in 1975, but was invaded by Indonesia just nine days later.

About Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- It was established in 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- **It was founded by five countries:** Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- **Aim:** To promote regional cooperation and stability amid Cold War tensions.
- **Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **Current Member States:** ASEAN currently consists of 11 member countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and East Timor.
- ASEAN maintains dialogue partnerships with multiple countries and organizations, including India, China, the USA, Japan, Australia, the EU, and others.

Maha MedTech Mission

- **Context:** Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Gates Foundation, has launched the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA)-Medical Technology (Maha MedTech).

About Maha MedTech Mission

- It will provide funding support to a wide range of entities including Academic and R&D institutions, Hospitals, Startups, MSMEs, MedTech industry and collaborations between entities.
- It will support projects that bring impactful MedTech solutions to market.

- It aims to accelerate innovation in India's medical technology sector, reduce reliance on high-cost imports, and promote equitable access to affordable and high-quality medical technologies.

India's MedTech sector

- India's MedTech sector is a fast-growing "sunrise" industry poised to expand from roughly USD 11–14 billion today toward USD 30–50 billion by 2030.
- India is the 4th largest medical devices market in Asia, after Japan, China, and South Korea.
- Government Initiatives & Policies opted recently are PLI Scheme for Medical Devices (2020), PRIP Scheme (2023), & National Medical Device Policy (2023) & Medical Device Parks etc.

27th OCTOBER 2025

United Nations Convention against Cybercrime

- **Context:** 72 nations have signed a landmark United Nations Convention against Cybercrime treaty in Hanoi aimed at tackling cybercrime.

About United Nations Convention against Cybercrime

- **Aim:** It proposes a legislative framework to boost international cooperation among law enforcement agencies and offer technical assistance to countries that lack adequate infrastructure for combating cybercrime.
- **First Universal Convention:** The Convention against Cybercrime establishes the first universal framework for investigating and prosecuting offences committed online – from ransomware and financial fraud to the non-consensual sharing of intimate images.
- **Adoption:** It was adopted by the General Assembly in 2024 after five years of negotiation.
 - The signing process is expected to remain open till next year.

- **Legally Binding:** The UN Cybercrime Convention is a powerful, legally binding instrument to strengthen the collective defences against cybercrime.
- **Key Provisions:** It criminalises the following types of crimes:
 - **Cyber-dependent crimes:** Unauthorized access (hacking), data interference.
 - **Cyber-enabled crimes:** Online fraud, non-consensual dissemination of intimate images.
 - **Child exploitation:** Online sexual abuse, distribution of abuse material, solicitation/grooming.
 - It facilitates the sharing of electronic evidence across borders and establishes a 24/7 cooperation network among States.
 - It also makes history as the first international treaty to recognise the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images as an offence – a significant victory for victims of online abuse.
- **Enforcement:** It will enter into force 90 days after the 40th State deposits its ratification.
- **Conference of the States Parties:** After entry into force, a Conference of the States Parties will convene periodically to improve the capacity of and cooperation between States Parties.
- **Secretariat:** The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime serves as the secretariat to the Ad Hoc Committee and to the future Conference of the States Parties.

Green Cess

- **Context:** Uttarakhand has announced the introduction of a 'Green Cess' on vehicles entering the state from other parts of India.

Key Features

- The cess will be levied on all non-Uttarakhand vehicles entering the state.
- **Exemptions:** Electric, hydrogen, solar, and battery-operated vehicles will be exempted.
- **The funds collected will be utilized for:**
 - Air pollution control measures.

- Green infrastructure and smart traffic management.
- Expansion of air quality monitoring systems.
- Road dust control and tree plantation campaigns.
- Development of green zones.
- It aligns with India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which targets a 40% reduction in particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentrations by 2026 in non-attainment cities.

About Cess

- A cess is a special-purpose levy imposed over and above the existing taxes (such as income tax, GST, or excise duty).
- It is collected to raise funds for a particular objective or sector, such as education, health, environment, or infrastructure.
- Unlike general taxes, which go into the Consolidated Fund of India or State, the proceeds from a cess are usually earmarked for a designated fund to be used only for that purpose.

Burevestnik Missile

- **Context:** Russia has successfully tested its nuclear-powered Burevestnik cruise missile.

About Burevestnik Missile

- It was first revealed by Russia in 2018 and recently it reportedly flew 14,000 km over 15 hours during test.
- NATO refers to it as the SSC-X-9 Skyfall and is named for the storm petrel, a bird that some believe foreshadows a storm.
- It boasts an unlimited range and the ability to evade missile defenses.

28th OCTOBER 2025

8th Central Pay Commission

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister approved the Terms of Reference of 8th Central Pay Commission.

Key Facts

- The 8th Central Pay Commission was announced in January, 2025.
- The commission aimed to examine and recommend changes in the Salaries and other benefits of Central Government employees.
- It will be a temporary body.
- The Commission will comprise one Chairperson Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai; One Member (Part Time) and one Member-Secretary.
- It will make its recommendations within 18 months of the date of its constitution.

About Central Pay Commission

- The Central Pay Commissions are periodically constituted to go into various issues of emoluments structure, retirement benefits and other service conditions of Central Government employees and to make recommendations on the changes required thereon.
- The first CPC was established in 1946, and subsequent commissions have been set up roughly every 10 years.
- Going by this trend, the effect of the 8th Central Pay Commission recommendations would normally be expected from 01.01.2026.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025

- **Context:** The Government of India (GoI) has announced the full list of winners of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025.

About Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- **Aim:** To celebrate outstanding contributions by scientists, technologists, and innovators in diverse fields of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.
- The award is organized and presented by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is conferred under four categories:**

- **Vigyan Ratna (VR)** award will recognise lifetime achievements and contributions made in any field of science and technology.
- **Vigyan Shri (VS)** award will recognise distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
- **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB)** award will recognise and encourage young scientists up to the age of 45 years who have made an exceptional contribution in any field of science and technology.
- **Vigyan Team (VT)** award to be given to a team comprising three or more scientists/ researchers/ innovators who have made an exceptional contribution working in a team in any field of science and technology.
- **Awards are conferred across 13 domains:** Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, and other allied fields.

29th OCTOBER 2025

Cyclone Montha

- **Context:** Severe cyclonic storm Montha created destruction in Andhra Pradesh.

Key Facts

- The name 'Montha', meaning beautiful or fragrant flower, was contributed by Thailand.
- The next cyclone will be named Senyar, as suggested by UAE, after that it will be Ditwah (Yemen), Arnab (Bangladesh), and Murasu (India).

About Cyclones

- The word Cyclone is derived from the Greek word Cyclos meaning the coils of a snake. It was coined by Henry Peddington because the tropical storms in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea appear like coiled serpents of the sea.

- Cyclones are powerful, rotating storms that form over warm ocean waters, characterized by low pressure at the center and high winds.
- **Worldwide terminology:** Cyclones are given many names in different regions of the world: They are known as typhoons in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean; hurricanes in the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean; tornados in the Guinea lands of West Africa and southern USA.; willy-willies in north-western Australia and tropical cyclones in the Indian Ocean.

Model Youth Gram Sabha Initiative

- **Context:** The Union government launched the Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS) initiative along with a Training Module and the MYGS Portal in New Delhi.

About Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS)

- The Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS) is a pioneering initiative to strengthen Janbhagidari and promote participatory local governance by engaging students in simulated Gram Sabha sessions.
- Aligned with National Education Policy 2020, it aims to inculcate democratic values, civic responsibility and leadership among youth, nurturing future citizens committed to transparency, accountability and the vision of Viksit Bharat.
- The initiative is a joint effort of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The initiative will be rolled out across more than 1,000 schools nationwide, including Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs), and State Government Schools.

30th OCTOBER 2025

Justice Surya Kant: 53rd Chief Justice of India

- **Context:** Justice Surya Kant took over as 53rd Chief Justice of India and he will assume office on November 24, 2025, succeeding Chief Justice BR Gavai.

Appointment

- The Chief Justice of India and the other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Indian Constitution.
- The Chief Justice of India is typically the senior-most Supreme Court judge deemed fit for the role.
- The Union Law Minister seeks the outgoing CJI's recommendation, which is then forwarded to the Prime Minister, who advises the President for final appointment.
- For other judges, the collegium recommends candidates, with written opinions from senior judges.

Eligibility

- **To be eligible, a person must be an Indian citizen and either:**
 - have been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession
 - have been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts
 - be deemed a distinguished jurist by the President.

Process

- India follows the collegium system for appointing judges, involving the five senior most Supreme Court judges.
- Though not mentioned in the Constitution, it evolved through key judgments like the First and Third Judges Cases, shifting appointment power from the executive to the judiciary.
- The government may conduct background checks and raise objections, but the collegium's decision usually prevails.
- Seniority is the guiding norm, and the Law Minister forwards the collegium's recommendation to the Prime Minister, who advises the President for final appointment.

AmazonFACE Experiment

- **Context:** In Brazil's Amazon rainforest, scientists have built a unique experiment called AmazonFACE to simulate future atmospheric conditions by pumping carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the forest canopy.

Key Highlights

- The goal is to understand how the Amazon — often called the “lungs of the Earth” — will adapt to rising CO₂ levels in the coming decades.
 - AmazonFACE (Free-Air CO₂ Enrichment) is located near Manaus, Brazil.
 - The setup includes six steel tower rings, each surrounding 50–70 mature trees.
 - Three rings will be fumigated with elevated CO₂ to mirror future climate projections (2050–2060), while others serve as controls.
 - Sensors monitor forest responses every 10 minutes — tracking CO₂ absorption, oxygen release, and changes in humidity.
 - The project is led by INPA (National Institute for Amazon Research) and Universidade Estadual de Campinas, with support from Brazil and the United Kingdom.
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