

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Cabinet Approves DSIR/CSIR Scheme on Capacity Building and Human Resource Development.



In September 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research / Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR/CSIR) scheme on “Capacity Building and Human Resource Development (CB&HRD)” to strengthen India’s research and innovation ecosystem.

- The scheme provides a broad platform for young researchers aspiring for careers in universities, industries, national R&D laboratories, and academic institutions, with guidance from eminent scientists and professors in STEMM fields (Science, Technology & Engineering, Medical, and Mathematical Sciences).
- The initiative has been approved for the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26) with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2,277.397 crore.

Key Points:-

- (i) The scheme will be implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

(CSIR), covering R&D institutions, national laboratories, Institutes of National Importance, Institutes of Eminence, and universities across India.

(ii) The programme aims to build a robust pool of skilled researchers, enhance India’s global competitiveness in science and technology, and accelerate innovation-led development in multiple scientific domains.

2. Cabinet Committee Approves Major Highway and Railway Projects in Bihar.



In September 2025, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved two major infrastructure projects in Bihar to enhance connectivity, reduce travel time, and support economic growth in the state.

- The first project involves the construction of a four-lane Sahebganj–Areraj–Bettiah section of National Highway (NH)-139W under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM).
- The project spans 78.942 km with an estimated capital cost of Rs. 3,822.31 crore, strengthening road links between Patna and Bettiah while connecting multiple districts of North Bihar.

- The new NH-139W highway will significantly improve connectivity across districts including Vaishali, Saran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, East Champaran, and West Champaran, extending access to the Indo-Nepal border areas. This is expected to ease transport and trade in the region.

Key Points:-

- The second project approved is the doubling of the Bakhtiyarpur–Rajgir–Tilaiya single railway line in Bihar at a total cost of Rs. 2,192 crore. This project will modernize rail infrastructure and accommodate higher passenger and freight traffic demand in the state.
- Covering four districts of Bihar, the Bakhtiyarpur–Rajgir–Tilaiya railway line doubling will expand the Indian Railways network by about 104 km. The project will reduce congestion, cut travel time, and improve railway operational efficiency.
- Together, these highway and railway initiatives underline the government's commitment to developing modern transport infrastructure in Bihar under the broader vision of boosting regional economic integration and connectivity.

3. PM Modi Chairs 49th PRAGATI Meeting and Reviews ₹65,000 Crore Infrastructure Projects.



On September 24, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 49th meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), an ICT-enabled platform aimed at expediting the execution of key infrastructure projects. The meeting focused on eight critical initiatives spanning sectors such as Mines, Railways, Water Resources, Industrial Corridors, and Power, collectively valued at over ₹65,000 crore.

- The reviewed projects encompass 15 states and Union Territories, reflecting a nationwide effort to enhance infrastructure.
- PM Modi underscored the importance of adhering to project timelines, highlighting that delays lead to increased costs and deprive citizens of essential services. He called for a result-oriented approach to ensure prompt and efficient project delivery.
- The meeting stressed the need for effective coordination among various governmental agencies to resolve bottlenecks swiftly. This collaborative approach is crucial for the seamless implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects.

Key Points:-

- The projects under review span multiple sectors, including Mines, Railways, Water

Resources, Industrial Corridors, and Power. This diversification underscores the government's commitment to comprehensive infrastructure development.

(ii) PM Modi reiterated that delays in project execution not only escalate costs but also hinder the timely delivery of services to the public. He emphasized the need for proactive measures to mitigate such delays and ensure projects are completed within stipulated timelines.

4. Union Cabinet Approves Productivity Linked Bonus for Railway Employees and Expansion of Medical Education Capacity.



On September 24, 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved key proposals aimed at incentivizing railway employees and expanding medical education capacity across India. The decisions focus on disbursing Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) for railway staff and enhancing both Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) medical seats to strengthen healthcare delivery nationwide.

- The Union Cabinet approved the disbursement of PLB equivalent to wages of 78 days, amounting to Rs.1,865.68 crores, for 10.91 lakh non-gazetted railway employees. The PLB is designed

to incentivize employees to improve efficiency and overall output in Indian Railways.

- The maximum PLB payable to each employee is Rs.17,951. It will be provided to categories including Track Maintainers, Loco Pilots, Train Managers (Guards), Station Masters, Supervisors, Technicians, Technician Helpers, Pointsmen, Ministerial Staff, and other Group 'C' staff. The bonus is paid annually before Durga Pooja and Diwali holidays.

- The announcement comes following a record operational performance by Indian Railways, which loaded 1,614.90 Million Tonnes (MT) of cargo and carried 7.3 billion passengers in the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY 25).

Key Points:-

(i) The Cabinet approved Phase-III of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Strengthening and Upgradation of existing State and Central Government Medical Colleges, Standalone PG Institutes, and Government Hospitals. This will create an additional 5,000 PG medical seats across the country.

(ii) The Cabinet also approved the extension of the CSS to upgrade existing Government Medical Colleges, adding 5,023 UG seats. The enhanced cost ceiling per seat has been set at Rs.1.50 crores, aiming to boost the number of doctors and introduce new medical specialties.

(iii) The estimated budget for these schemes is Rs.15,034.50 crores for 2025-26 to 2028-29, with a central share of Rs.10,303.20 crores and state share of Rs.4,731.30 crores. India currently has 808 medical colleges with 1,23,700 MBBS seats (127% growth) and 43,041 PG seats (143% growth), reflecting significant progress in

medical education.

5. CAG Signs MoU with CBDT to Enhance Public Financial Management and Tax Administration.



On September 23, 2025, the Office of the Controller and Auditor General of India (CAG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under the Department of Revenue (DoR), Ministry of Finance (MoF), in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The collaboration aims to improve operational effectiveness in auditing, taxation, and public financial management through training, research, and technology-driven solutions.
- The MoU was signed by Ravi Agarwal, Chairman of CBDT, and Anand Mohan (A.M) Bajaj, Deputy CAG, in the presence of K Sanjay Murthy, CAG, marking a significant step in strengthening institutional collaboration between the two organizations.

Key Points:-

(i) The partnership is designed to enhance efficiency in public financial management, auditing, and tax administration. It emphasizes training and capacity building, collaborative research, and the adoption of

technology-driven solutions to improve the quality and speed of audit and tax processes.

(ii) The MoU will implement initiatives including training workshops, joint seminars, sharing audit insights using advanced data analytics, and introducing innovative methods such as remote audits in Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other audit areas, aiming to modernize and streamline audit and tax procedures.

6. Union Finance Minister Launches Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) to Streamline Tax Dispute Resolution.



On September 24, 2025, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) in New Delhi. The move is aimed at strengthening India's indirect tax regime by establishing a dedicated, technology-driven litigation forum for GST appeals.

- GSTAT is designed to provide a specialized appellate forum for hearing appeals against orders passed by GST Appellate Authorities, thereby improving consistency, credibility, and

predictability in dispute resolution across the nation.

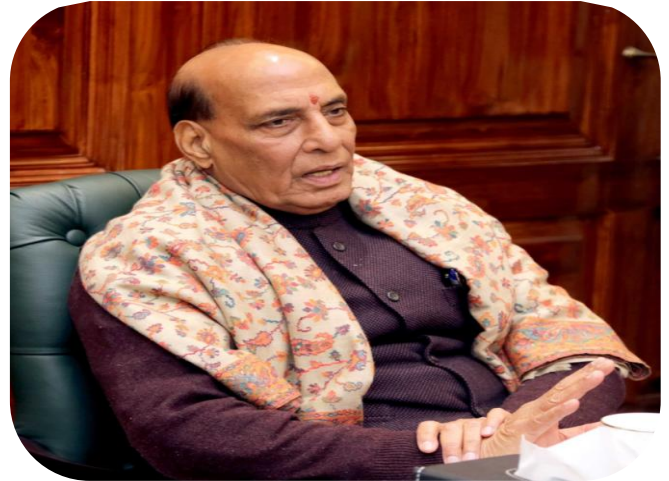
- The Tribunal is to emphasize jargon-free decisions, simplified checklists and formats, “digital-by-default” filings, virtual hearings, and time standards for listing, hearings, and pronouncements.
- Alongside the launch, the GSTAT e-Courts Portal was unveiled, enabling online filing of appeals, progress tracking, and participation in hearings digitally. Staggered filing of appeals is allowed up to 30 June 2026.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Tribunal will operate via a Principal Bench in New Delhi and 31 State Benches across 45 locations. Each bench will consist of two Judicial Members and two Technical Members (centre and state) to ensure balanced expertise.
- (ii) GSTAT is expected to reduce legal frictions, proactively address litigation delays, and restore confidence among MSMEs, exporters, and taxpayers by ensuring timely justice and smoother cash flow. It is viewed as a continuation of GST reforms under the vision of “One Nation, One Forum for Fairness and Certainty.”

INTERNATIONAL

1. Rajnath Singh Undertakes First-Ever Official Visit to Morocco and Signs Defence Cooperation MoU and Inaugurates India’s First Defence Plant in Africa.



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), paid a two-day official visit to Morocco from September 22 to 23, 2025, at the invitation of Abdeltif Loudiyi, Morocco’s Minister Delegate for National Defence. This historic visit marked the first ever by an Indian Defence Minister to the North African nation, showcasing the growing strategic and defence ties between India and Morocco.

- During the bilateral meeting in Rabat, Rajnath Singh and his Moroccan counterpart Abdeltif Loudiyi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation, institutionalising defence collaboration between the two countries.

- Rajnath Singh announced the establishment of a new Defence Wing at the Embassy of India in Rabat, aimed at enhancing defence diplomacy and strengthening institutional linkages with Morocco.

Key Points:-

- (i) In a landmark development, Rajnath Singh and Abdeltif Loudiyi jointly inaugurated Tata Advanced Systems Limited’s (TASL) state-of-the-art defence manufacturing unit in Berrechid, Morocco.
- (ii) The TASL facility, spread over 20,000

square metres, will produce India's indigenously developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8×8 vehicles, making it India's first defence manufacturing plant in Africa and the largest such facility in Morocco.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. NPCI's NIPL and Qatar National Bank Launch UPI Services in Qatar, Making it the 8th Country to Adopt UPI.



In September 2025, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in collaboration with Qatar National Bank (QNB), launched the Quick Response (QR)-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services in Qatar. The service was first enabled at Qatar Duty Free at Hamad International Airport in Doha, marking Qatar as the 8th country to adopt UPI integration.

- The agreement enabling UPI services was signed between NIPL and QNB on July 11, 2024. The first merchant to implement the system was Qatar Duty Free at Hamad International Airport in Doha.

- UPI transactions are facilitated through NETSTARS, a Japanese Payment Aggregator (PA), with payments converted instantly from Indian Rupees (INR) to Qatari Riyals (QAR) at prevailing foreign exchange rates.

Key Points:-

- (i) The UPI service was launched in phases, beginning with Qatar Duty Free outlets and expanding gradually across QNB's merchant network through Point of Sale (POS) terminals.
- (ii) With this launch, Qatar became the 8th country globally to integrate UPI, joining Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- (iii) The initiative will benefit over 8 lakh Indian expatriates residing in Qatar and Indian tourists visiting the country, boosting retail and tourism sectors by enabling seamless and secure cross-border transactions.

2. RBI Reaffirms Commitment to FX Global Code by Renewing Statement of Commitment.



In September 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) renewed its Statement of

Commitment (SoC) to the Foreign Exchange (FX) Global Code, reinforcing its adherence to international best practices in the FX market and promoting transparency, integrity, and effective functioning.

- As per the renewed Statement of Commitment, RBI acts as a Market Participant, as defined under the FX Global Code.
- The central bank has pledged to conduct all its FX market activities strictly in alignment with the principles outlined in the Code, ensuring ethical and standardized practices in wholesale FX trading.
- The FX Global Code is a set of internationally recognized principles designed to promote integrity, transparency, and effective functioning of the wholesale foreign exchange market.

Key Points:-

- (i) The FX Global Code was developed through a strategic partnership between central banks and global market participants, reflecting collective insights and best practices. It was first published in 2017 to establish consistent global standards for FX market conduct and enhance confidence in the international currency markets.
- (ii) The Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC), the apex body responsible for maintaining and promoting the FX Global Code, has reviewed it twice since its publication.
- (iii) The first review occurred in July 2021, followed by the second review in December 2024, ensuring that the Code remains up-to-date with evolving market practices and regulatory standards.

3. SEBI Raises Minimum Net Worth Requirement for Custodians to Rs 75 Crore via 2025 Amendment.



In September 2025, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended the SEBI (Custodian) Regulations, 1996, increasing the minimum net worth requirement for custodians from Rs 50 crore to Rs 75 crore. The move aims to strengthen risk management systems and enhance the governance and operational standards of custodians in India.

- The amended regulations are now known as the 'SEBI (Custodian) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025.' SEBI has stated that the provisions will come into effect six months from their publication in the official gazette, giving custodians a structured timeline to comply with the new norms.
- Existing custodians are required to meet the revised net worth requirement of Rs 75 crore within three years from the commencement of the new regulations. SEBI has clarified that this capital must be maintained separately from other business requirements to ensure dedicated financial stability for custodian operations.

Key Points:-

(i) Under the new regulations, custodians are expected to maintain a robust governance structure, implement comprehensive risk management policies, and ensure scalable infrastructure along with adequate technical capacity.

(ii) The amended regulations prohibit custodians from making exaggerated statements—oral or written—about their qualifications, capabilities, or achievements.

(iii) Additionally, custodians must implement internal controls and financial and operational measures to prevent financial loss arising from theft, fraud, professional misconduct, or other operational risks.

Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, in New Delhi.

- The MoU between the Ministry and Zepto seeks to integrate Zepto's job postings with the NCS Portal, providing a structured platform for job seekers to access employment opportunities in the urban sector.

- Zepto has committed to providing 10,000 job postings during the duration of the MoU, focusing on gig and full-time roles, thereby enhancing employment prospects for youth, women, and first-time job seekers in urban areas.

- Since its inception, the NCS Portal has mobilized nearly 7.5 crore vacancies, serving as a bridge between employers and job seekers. With over 52 lakh registered employers, the platform has become a comprehensive solution for employment-related services.

MOUs and Agreement

1. Ministry of Labour & Employment Signs MoU with Zepto to Enhance Youth Employment via NCS Portal.



On September 24, 2025, the Ministry of Labour & Employment, in collaboration with Zepto, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at bolstering youth employability and expanding employment opportunities through the National Career Service (NCS) Portal. The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth

Key Points:-

(i) The Ministry plans to strengthen the NCS Portal by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other advanced digital tools. These enhancements aim to provide job seekers with tailored opportunities based on their location and qualifications, improving the efficiency of the job-matching process.

(ii) This partnership with Zepto adds to the Ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance employment opportunities.

(iii) Over the past year, MoUs have been signed with organizations such as Amazon, Swiggy, Rapido, and Quikr Jobs, collectively mobilizing nearly five lakh vacancies on the NCS Portal.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. ACC Extends Tenure of General Anil Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary of DMA until May 2026.



In September 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, extended the tenure of General Anil Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) until 30th May 2026 or until further orders. The extension was sanctioned before his original term was scheduled to end on 30th September 2025.

- General Anil Chauhan was commissioned into the Indian Army in 1981. Over his distinguished career, he has held several key command and staff positions, demonstrating exceptional leadership and strategic expertise across diverse military operations.

- Since assuming office as CDS on 28th September 2022, General Chauhan has played a pivotal role in strengthening tri-service integration. He has also led major military reforms, including the implementation of Integrated Theatre Commands to enhance operational synergy among the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Key Points:-

(i) General Chauhan's exemplary service has been recognized through numerous awards, including the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) in 2020, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM) in 2018, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) in 2015, Sena Medal (SM) in 2011, and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) in 2011.

(ii) The ACC's decision to extend his tenure underscores the government's confidence in his leadership and strategic vision, ensuring continuity in India's defence reforms and tri-service coordination during a critical period of military modernization and operational preparedness.

AWARDS

1. Virat Kohli Retains Top Spot in Kroll Celebrity Brand Valuation 2024.



In September 2025, American global financial advisory firm Kroll released the annual edition of its report titled 'Kroll Celebrity Brand Valuation 2024'. The report highlighted Indian cricketer Virat Kohli as the most valuable celebrity with a brand value of USD 231.1 million, marking a 2% increase from 2023, and detailed the rankings and brand

valuations of India's top 25 movie stars and sportspersons.

- Virat Kohli retained the 1st position with a brand value of USD 231.1 million, followed by renowned actor Ranveer Singh in 2nd place. Bollywood star and Padma Shri awardee Shah Rukh Khan continued to hold the 3rd spot for the second consecutive year, reflecting consistent brand power among India's leading celebrities.

- Cumulatively, India's top 25 celebrities accounted for a total brand valuation of USD 2 billion in 2024, registering an increase of over 8.6% compared to the previous year.

Key Points:-

(i) Alia Bhatt emerged as the most valued female celebrity in the list, ranking 4th with a brand value of USD 116.4 million. This marks an improvement from her 3rd place ranking in 2023, showcasing her rising influence and endorsement potential across various sectors.

(ii) Several celebrities significantly improved their positions in 2024: Rashmika Mandanna rose from 20th to 15th (USD 58.9 million), Kriti Sanon from 27th to 19th (USD 44.8 million), Tamannaah Bhatia from 28th to 21st (USD 40.4 million), and cricketer Jasprit Bumrah from 41st to 22nd (USD 38.1 million), reflecting increased brand visibility and marketability.

(iii) For the first time, Indian actress Ananya Pandey entered the top 25 celebrity list at the 25th position with a brand valuation of USD 35.2 million, up from 46th position in 2023, signaling her growing popularity and commercial appeal among Indian celebrities.

2. DGCA Receives ICAO Council President Certificate for Effective Aviation Safety Oversight.



In September 2025, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), India's aviation regulator, was awarded the prestigious International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council President Certificate. The recognition highlights India's significant progress in establishing an effective aviation safety oversight system and aligning with global aviation standards.

- The certificate was presented to Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Director General (DG) of DGCA, during the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly held in Montreal, Canada. This award reflects international acknowledgment of India's achievements in aviation safety oversight.

- The ICAO Council President Certificate underscores India's commitment to enhancing aviation safety and compliance with global best practices.

Key Points:-

(i) The ICAO Council President Certificate was created to support the 'No Country Left Behind' initiative, which aims to assist countries in developing robust aviation safety oversight systems and improving their

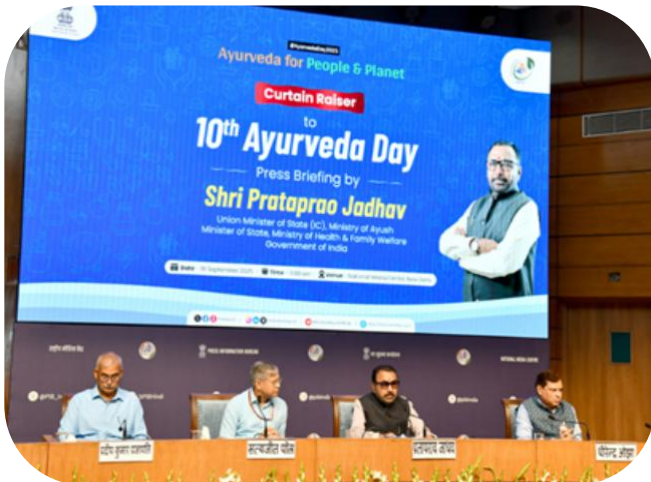
adherence to international norms.

(ii) The certificate is awarded based on the results of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP CMA). This audit assesses a country's compliance with ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), ensuring effective implementation of safety regulations.

(iii) Receiving this recognition strengthens India's global aviation reputation, encourages continuous improvement in safety protocols, and demonstrates the country's leadership in promoting safe and reliable civil aviation operations internationally.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. India Observes 10th National Ayurveda Day on September 23, 2025.



National Ayurveda Day 2025 was observed across India on 23rd September 2025 to highlight Ayurveda's contribution to preventive and curative healthcare. The 2025 observance marked the 10th edition of the day, celebrated under the theme "Ayurveda for People and Planet."

● The Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) declared in 2016 that Dhanvantari Jayanti would be observed as National Ayurveda Day to mainstream Ayurveda in healthcare. The first celebration was held on 28th October 2016.

● Earlier observed on Dhanteras (with a shifting date each year), the Government of India fixed 23rd September as the permanent date for Ayurveda Day in May 2025.

Key Points:-

(i) The 2025 edition marked the 10th National Ayurveda Day, focusing on the integration of Ayurveda into sustainable healthcare approaches for both human well-being and environmental harmony.

(ii) On 23rd September 2025, the Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH, organized nationwide outreach programmes in New Delhi to commemorate the day.

(iii) The Ministry of AYUSH also celebrated the 10th National Ayurveda Day at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa, highlighting the role of Ayurveda in strengthening healthcare delivery and promoting traditional medicine.

2. World Pharmacists Day 2025 Observed Globally on September 25.



World Pharmacists Day (WPD) 2025 was observed globally on 25th September to highlight the crucial role of pharmacists as drug experts, healthcare providers, and contributors to safer communities. The day also commemorates the anniversary of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

- The 2025 theme was “Think Health, Think Pharmacist”, emphasizing pharmacists’ contribution to quality healthcare, safe medication use, and public health.
- The 2025 observance carried the theme “Think Health, Think Pharmacist,” underlining the pharmacist’s role in ensuring effective healthcare delivery, rational medicine use, and strong public health systems worldwide.
- The concept of WPD was first proposed by the Turkish Pharmacists Association (TPA) during the FIP Council meeting in Istanbul, Türkiye, in 2009. It was unanimously accepted by the FIP Council to be celebrated annually.

Key Points:-

(i) The inaugural WPD was celebrated on 25th September 2010. The date was chosen as it marks the foundation day of the International Pharmaceutical Federation

(FIP), established on 25th September 1912.

(ii) In FY24 (Financial Year 2023–24), India’s pharmaceutical market reached USD 50 billion. With an annual projected growth rate of 7.8%, the industry is expected to reach USD 130 billion by 2030 and USD 450 billion by 2047.

(iii) India ranks 3rd globally in pharmaceutical production by volume and 14th by value, supplying 20% of the world’s generic medicines. It also contributes 55–60% of UNICEF vaccines, 99% of WHO’s DPT demand, 52% of BCG vaccines, and 45% of measles vaccines.

3. Antyodaya Diwas 2025 Observed on 25th September to Mark 109th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.



Antyodaya Diwas is observed every year on 25th September across India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, former President of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BJS) and a renowned philosopher. The 2025 observance marks his 109th birth anniversary.

- The term Antyodaya is derived from Antya (poorest) and Udaya (rise), symbolising the rise

and empowerment of the poorest, which is the essence of Antyodaya Diwas.

- On 25th September 2014, to mark the 98th birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the Government of India officially declared 25th September as Antyodaya Diwas to be observed annually.

Key Points:-

(i) The first observance of Antyodaya Diwas took place on 25th September 2014, beginning the tradition of honouring Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's vision of upliftment of the marginalised.

(ii) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya is remembered for his philosophy of Integral Humanism and his focus on socio-economic upliftment, which continues to inspire Antyodaya-related initiatives in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. DRDO and SFC Successfully Test Rail-Based Launch of Agni-Prime Missile from Abdul Kalam Island.



In September 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) of the Nuclear Command

Authority (NCA), successfully conducted the first-ever test launch of the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime (Agni-P) missile from a Rail-Based Mobile Launcher (RBML) at Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast, under full operational conditions.

- This launch marked the first-of-its-kind operational test using a Rail-Based Mobile Launcher (RBML), a specially designed platform integrated with India's national railway network. The success sets a milestone in the development of mobile missile deployment systems.

- The missile's trajectory was precisely tracked during the trial, confirming a textbook launch. All test parameters and mission objectives were met, paving the way for induction of rail-based missile systems into India's strategic arsenal.

Key Points:-

(i) The RBML is designed to operate seamlessly across India's vast railway network without any pre-conditions. It offers advantages such as quick reaction time, enhanced mobility, and reduced detectability, thereby significantly strengthening India's second-strike nuclear capability.

(ii) The RBML is equipped with advanced features, including independent launch capabilities, state-of-the-art communication systems, and robust protection mechanisms, ensuring operational readiness in diverse conditions.

(iii) Agni-P is an indigenously developed, two-stage, canisterised, solid-propellant, surface-to-surface ballistic missile. With a maximum strike range of 2,000 kilometers, it adds to India's deterrence capability by providing enhanced flexibility and survivability in deployment.

OBITUARY

1. Renowned Kannada Novelist S.L. Bhyrappa Passed Away in Bengaluru on 24th September 2025.



On 24th September 2025, celebrated Kannada novelist, philosopher, and screenwriter Santeshivara Lingannaiah (S.L.) Bhyrappa passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Born on 20th August 1931 in Santeshivara village, Hassan district, Karnataka, he was one of the most respected figures in Indian literature.

- S.L. Bhyrappa pursued an academic career before establishing himself as a leading Kannada author, with his writings deeply rooted in philosophy, history, and aesthetics.
- Across his six-decade-long literary journey, he authored 25 novels, along with numerous short stories and essays, exploring the conflict between tradition and modernity.
- Some of his most acclaimed works include Vamshavruksha, Daatu, Tantu, Parva, Grihabhanga, Mandra, Anveshan, Sartha, Naineralu, Angu, Dharmashri, Doorasaradde, and Voting. Many of these works were later adapted into films and television.

Key Points:-

(i) Bhyrappa received some of India's highest literary and civilian awards, including the Saraswati Samman (2010), Sahitya Akademi Fellowship (2015), Padma Shri (2016), and Padma Bhushan (2023) in the field of Literature & Education.

(ii) He was also honoured with multiple academic recognitions, including honorary doctorates from Gulbarga University (2007), Mysore University (2015), and the Central University of Karnataka (2020). His works sparked debates, inspired generations, and remain timeless contributions to Kannada and Indian literature.

Static GK

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	Director General (DG): Dr. N.Kalaiselvi	Headquarters: New Delhi
Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)	Inaugural holder: V. Narahari Rao	Founded: 1858
Morocco	Prime Minister (PM) : Aziz Akhannouch	Capital : Rabat
Qatar	PM : Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani	Capital : Doha
RBI	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai
SEBI	Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Headquarter : Mumbai
Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)	Founded: 1950	Headquarters: New Delhi
DRDO	Chairman: Sameer V. Kamat	Headquarters: New Delhi

International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)	CEO : Dr Catherine Duggan	Headquarters : The Hague, the Netherlands
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