



CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

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DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

UPSC | SSC | CDS | CAPF | BANKING | RAILWAYS | STATE PCS | AND MORE

1. NATIONAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNANCE

1. WESTERN DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR BECOMES FULLY OPERATIONAL

Context — The final sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor were commissioned, completing the Eastern and Western dedicated freight network and strengthening India's freight-transport backbone.

About the Topic — The dedicated corridors separate heavy freight movement from much of the passenger network, allowing faster cargo movement, better line capacity and more efficient connections between production centres and ports.

Key Facts

- The Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors together cover about 2,843 route kilometres.
- The Western corridor is about 1,506 km long and connects Dadri in Uttar Pradesh with Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Maharashtra.
- The Eastern corridor is about 1,337 km long and links the Ludhiana region with Sonnagar in Bihar.
- Dedicated freight movement helps reduce congestion on conventional railway routes and can lower transit time, fuel use and logistics costs.

Relevant Background — Freight corridors are a key part of India's multimodal logistics strategy because bulk commodities and containers can move on high-capacity, freight-focused routes rather than competing directly with passenger services on saturated trunk lines.

Historical Background

- The idea of dedicated freight corridors emerged from the need to address severe congestion on the Delhi–Mumbai and Delhi–Howrah railway routes.
- Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited was established in 2006 as a special-purpose public sector company for implementing the project.
- The Eastern and Western corridors were planned as the initial national DFC network.
- The Western DFC is particularly important for containerised export-import traffic because of its connection with JNPT.
- The corridors are linked with wider logistics reforms such as PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy.

2. FIVE MULTITRACKING PROJECTS APPROVED IN SOUTHERN INDIA

Context — The Cabinet approved five railway multitracking projects covering 17 districts in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana.

About the Topic — The package aims to remove capacity constraints on important passenger and freight routes while improving connectivity to industrial, agricultural and logistics centres.

Key Facts

- The projects add about 540 km to the Indian Railways network.
- The estimated investment is about ₹10,021 crore and implementation is planned up to 2029–30.
- The projects include additional lines and doubling works on busy routes in the four states.
- The package is expected to improve freight capacity, passenger mobility and operational efficiency.

Relevant Background — Railway multitracking is a capacity-expansion measure in which additional lines allow trains to be scheduled with fewer conflicts, especially on sections carrying mixed passenger and freight traffic.

Historical Background

- India's first passenger railway service began between Bombay and Thane in 1853.
- After Independence, the country's numerous railway systems were integrated under a unified national network.
- Route doubling, gauge conversion and electrification have been major phases of railway modernisation.





CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

- Freight corridors introduced a more specialised approach to high-volume freight movement.
- Modern railway planning increasingly links track capacity with industrial corridors, ports, logistics parks and regional development.

3. NATIONAL CONSUMER HELPLINE FACILITATES MORE THAN ₹105 CRORE IN REFUNDS

Context — The National Consumer Helpline has facilitated refunds exceeding ₹105 crore by helping resolve consumer complaints before they move into formal litigation.

About the Topic — The system provides a digital grievance-redressal channel for consumers facing problems such as delayed refunds, defective products, deficient services and e-commerce disputes.

Key Facts

- More than ₹105 crore in refunds were facilitated between 25 April 2025 and 31 July 2026.
- Around 1.66 lakh refund-related grievances were addressed across 35 sectors.
- E-commerce accounted for a large share of the refund value handled through the mechanism.
- The helpline functions as a pre-litigation grievance-resolution platform rather than replacing consumer commissions.

Relevant Background — Consumer protection has become more important with the rapid growth of digital commerce, where transactions may involve consumers, platforms, sellers and service providers located in different jurisdictions.

Historical Background

- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 established a dedicated legal framework for consumer rights and dispute redressal.
- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaced the 1986 law and introduced provisions suited to modern markets and e-commerce.
- The Central Consumer Protection Authority was created under the 2019 framework to protect consumer interests at the wider market level.
- Consumer commissions operate at district, state and national levels.
- Digital grievance mechanisms complement the formal adjudicatory system by encouraging early resolution.

2. ECONOMY, BANKING & FINANCE

4. INDIA PUSHES WOMEN-LED ENTERPRISES IN BRICS GLOBAL TRADE

Context — India called for stronger BRICS cooperation to expand international trade opportunities for women entrepreneurs and women-led enterprises.

About the Topic — The proposal links inclusive trade with easier access to finance, buyers, markets, predictable business rules and greater participation in international business platforms.

Key Facts

- India proposed a common BRICS trade platform to improve business opportunities.
- Greater participation of women-owned enterprises in exhibitions and buyer-seller meetings was advocated.
- India called for the BRICS Women's Advancement Fund to become a concrete initiative.
- Digital trade documentation and greater services trade were highlighted as areas for cooperation.

Relevant Background — Women-led businesses contribute to employment, innovation and household income, but access to finance, markets and formal business networks remains a recurring constraint.

Historical Background

- Women have historically played a major role in India's agricultural, artisanal, household and small-enterprise economy.
- Self-help groups created an important institutional route for women's savings, credit and collective enterprise.
- Bank-linked self-help group programmes expanded formal financial access among rural women.
- Government entrepreneurship programmes increasingly combine credit, skills, digital tools and market access.





CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

- Gender-responsive trade policy seeks to ensure that women-owned firms participate more fully in cross-border value chains.

5. DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDORS AND INDIA'S LOGISTICS TRANSFORMATION

Context — The completion of the DFC network has renewed attention on the role of rail freight in reducing logistics bottlenecks and improving India's competitiveness.

About the Topic — High-capacity freight corridors can support faster movement of coal, minerals, containers, agricultural commodities and industrial goods while freeing conventional routes for additional passenger services.

Key Facts

- The Eastern and Western corridors together form a network of about 2,843 km.
- The Western corridor connects the country's major western port gateway with the northern freight market.
- The corridors support higher-capacity and more predictable freight operations than conventional mixed-use routes.
- Rail-based freight can reduce dependence on road transport for suitable bulk and container traffic.

Relevant Background — India's logistics costs have long been influenced by congestion, fragmented transport modes and dependence on road movement for a large share of freight.

Historical Background

- Railways historically carried a major share of India's long-distance bulk freight.
- The growth of road transport increased competition but also highlighted the need for integrated multimodal logistics.
- Dedicated freight corridors were conceived to improve rail freight speed and reliability.
- The National Logistics Policy seeks greater coordination among road, rail, ports, waterways, aviation and logistics services.
- Multimodal integration is important for reducing total supply-chain time rather than merely improving one transport mode.

3. DEFENCE, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SPACE

6. EXERCISE VEER GUARDIAN 2026 BEGINS WITH JAPAN

Context — The Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force began the bilateral air exercise Veer Guardian 2026 at Jodhpur.

About the Topic — The exercise is designed to improve tactical proficiency, mission planning, professional exchanges and operational understanding between the two air forces.

Key Facts

- The exercise is scheduled from 9 to 22 September 2026.
- The Indian side is participating with LCA Tejas, Su-30MKI and Rafale aircraft.
- Japan is participating with F-2A fighter aircraft.
- The exercise includes mission planning, subject-matter exchanges and interaction on engineering and aerospace safety.

Relevant Background — Air exercises with partner countries help build interoperability and professional familiarity without requiring permanent military integration.

Historical Background

- India and Japan have developed a Special Strategic and Global Partnership covering security, technology, economics and people-to-people relations.
- Bilateral military exercises have expanded across the Army, Navy and Air Force domains.
- Japan is a key partner in India's Indo-Pacific strategy and maritime-security cooperation.
- Defence technology and co-development have become increasingly important elements of the bilateral relationship.
- Regular exercises help improve coordination, communication procedures and understanding of operational practices.





CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

7. INDIA-SRI LANKA DEFENCE AND MARITIME COOPERATION STRENGTHENED

Context — During the Defence Minister's visit to Colombo, India and Sri Lanka reaffirmed cooperation on regional security, defence capacity and maritime stability.

About the Topic — The engagement focused on secure sea lanes, freedom of navigation, respect for international law and practical cooperation in defence and humanitarian assistance.

Key Facts

- India and Sri Lanka signed understandings concerning upgrading L70 guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force and cooperation between their National Cadet Corps and National Defence Colleges.
- Three Bailey bridges constructed by Indian defence personnel were virtually inaugurated.
- Both sides emphasised the importance of a secure maritime environment in the Indian Ocean Region.
- India reiterated its role as a first responder to crises in its neighbourhood.

Relevant Background — Sri Lanka occupies a strategically important location near major Indian Ocean sea lanes, making maritime cooperation significant for regional trade and security.

Historical Background

- India and Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations after Sri Lanka became independent in 1948.
- Defence cooperation has included training, capacity building, maritime surveillance and humanitarian assistance.
- The Indian Peace Keeping Force was deployed in Sri Lanka from 1987 to 1990 under the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord framework.
- The two countries regularly cooperate through naval exercises and maritime-security mechanisms.
- The relationship is also influenced by close geographical proximity, fisheries issues and the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean.

8. ORV SAGAR MANTHAN LAUNCHED FOR INDIGENOUS OCEAN RESEARCH

Context — India launched the advanced Ocean Research Vessel Sagar Manthan in Kolkata, adding a major indigenous platform for oceanographic research.

About the Topic — The vessel was designed and built in India for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Key Facts

- Sagar Manthan was launched on 9 September 2026 at the Rishi Bankim Shipyard in Kolkata.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers designed, engineered and constructed the vessel.
- The vessel is intended for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.
- It strengthens India's capacity for marine observation, oceanographic research and indigenous maritime technology.

Relevant Background — Ocean research supports understanding of climate processes, marine ecosystems, seabed resources, polar-ocean linkages and the role of oceans in the global climate system.

Historical Background

- India's organised oceanographic research expanded substantially after Independence through dedicated research institutions.
- The National Institute of Oceanography was established in 1966 under CSIR.
- India developed specialised capabilities in polar research through its Antarctic and Arctic programmes.
- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research coordinates major polar and ocean research activities.
- Research vessels provide laboratories and specialised equipment for observations that cannot be carried out from land.





CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

9. AADHAAR FACE AUTHENTICATION SDK AND SANDBOX LAUNCHED

Context — UIDAI launched an Aadhaar Face Authentication SDK and Sandbox at the Global Fintech Fest 2026 to simplify integration of face authentication into digital applications.

About the Topic — The tools are aimed at banks, fintech companies, government departments and other ecosystem partners that need secure identity authentication within their own applications.

Key Facts

- The SDK supports integration into native Android and iOS applications.
- It uses AI/ML-based liveness and anti-spoofing capabilities.
- The Sandbox allows developers to test authentication journeys before production onboarding.
- The approach can reduce the need for users to switch between separate applications during authentication.

Relevant Background — Aadhaar is a foundational digital identity system in India, and authentication services form an important layer of the country's digital public infrastructure.

Historical Background

- The Unique Identification Authority of India was established to implement the Aadhaar programme.
- UIDAI became a statutory authority under the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- Aadhaar authentication uses demographic and biometric information according to the selected authentication mode.
- Digital identity services have expanded to support public-service delivery and financial-service workflows.
- Privacy, consent, security and responsible handling of identity data remain central considerations in digital authentication.

4. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

10. 9TH ASEAN-INDIA MINISTERIAL MEETING ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Context — India and ASEAN held the ninth ministerial meeting on agriculture and forestry in New Delhi, focusing on food security, sustainability and resilient agricultural value chains.

About the Topic — The meeting strengthened the agriculture dimension of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and emphasised practical, farmer-centred cooperation.

Key Facts

- The meeting was held on 9 September 2026 in New Delhi.
- Discussions covered climate-resilient agriculture, digital innovation, food security and resilient supply chains.
- The participants welcomed ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future and the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026–2030.
- Cooperation includes agricultural research, technology, innovation and sustainable resource management.

Relevant Background — India and ASEAN have large rural populations and face common challenges involving food security, climate adaptation, farm productivity and sustainable resource use.

Historical Background

- India became an ASEAN sectoral dialogue partner in 1992 and a full dialogue partner in 1995.
- The ASEAN-India Summit relationship began in 2002.
- The partnership was elevated to a Strategic Partnership in 2012 and a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022.
- Agriculture remains a practical area of cooperation because of its importance to livelihoods and food security.
- ASEAN comprises ten Southeast Asian member states and occupies a central position in India's Act East policy.

11. INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY 2026 AND THE ULLAS MELA

Context — India concluded the International Literacy Day 2026 celebrations with a ULLAS Mela in New Delhi, highlighting adult literacy and continuing learning.





CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

About the Topic — The event brought together learners, volunteer teachers and States and Union Territories to share experiences and strengthen the literacy movement.

Key Facts

- International Literacy Day is observed annually on 8 September.
- The 2026 global observance marks the 60th anniversary of the day.
- India's ULLAS initiative focuses on adult education and functional literacy.
- States and Union Territories with high levels of functional literacy were encouraged to lead the next phase of the literacy movement.

Relevant Background — Adult literacy is increasingly understood as a foundation for meaningful participation in society, employment, access to services and informed decision-making.

Historical Background

- UNESCO proclaimed International Literacy Day in 1966.
- India's National Literacy Mission was launched in 1988 to expand adult literacy.
- Saakshar Bharat later focused on adult literacy with particular attention to women and disadvantaged groups.
- The National Education Policy, 2020 renewed emphasis on adult education and lifelong learning.
- ULLAS represents the newer national framework for strengthening adult education through community participation and continued learning.

5. ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

12. SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN 2026: LUCKNOW LEADS THE CLEAN-AIR RANKINGS

Context — The 2026 Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan recognised cities for their efforts to control air pollution, with Lucknow topping the category for cities with populations above one million.

About the Topic — The survey assesses pollution-control measures and improvements made by urban local bodies under the National Clean Air Programme.

Key Facts

- Lucknow ranked first in the million-plus city category in the 2026 assessment.
- Indore and Jabalpur followed among the leading cities in the same population category.
- Lucknow recorded a substantial decline in annual average PM10 concentration compared with its 2017–18 baseline.
- The assessment focuses on pollution-control action and improvement, not simply a single-day Air Quality Index value.

Relevant Background — Urban air pollution is driven by multiple sources including transport, road dust, construction, waste burning, industry and household fuel use, so city-level action requires coordinated interventions.

Historical Background

- The National Clean Air Programme was launched in 2019 to improve air quality through city and regional action plans.
- The programme initially focused on reducing particulate pollution and strengthening monitoring and implementation capacity.
- PM10 and PM2.5 are important particulate pollutants monitored for health and environmental assessment.
- Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan provides a performance-oriented comparison of urban clean-air efforts.
- Air-pollution control increasingly combines emission reduction with monitoring, public participation, waste management and cleaner mobility.

13. DRI INTENSIFIES CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Context — The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence reported six operations against illegal wildlife trafficking, involving protected animals and wildlife derivatives.





CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

About the Topic — The action demonstrates how customs and intelligence agencies contribute to combating organised environmental crime and cross-border wildlife trafficking.

Key Facts

- The operations resulted in seizures including two leopard pelts, 180 live Indian star tortoises, 12 tokay geckos, about 24 kg of pangolin scales and 500 grams of tiger bones.
- Thirteen persons were arrested across the six operations.
- The operations were conducted at multiple locations across India.
- Wildlife trafficking can involve organised networks, illicit finance and international movement of protected species.

Relevant Background — Illegal wildlife trade threatens biodiversity and can undermine conservation programmes by creating demand for rare animals, body parts and derivatives.

Historical Background

- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is the core Indian law for protection of wild animals and plants.
- India became a party to CITES in 1976, accepting international controls on trade in listed species.
- Project Tiger was launched in 1973 as a major species-and-habitat conservation programme.
- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was established to strengthen coordination against organised wildlife crime.
- Pangolins, big cats and many reptiles are vulnerable to illegal trade because of demand for meat, traditional products, skins or the exotic-pet market.

6. EDUCATION, SOCIAL SECTOR, HEALTH & SCHEMES

14. RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH 2026 BEGINS

Context — The ninth Rashtriya Poshan Maah began on 9 September with a nationwide campaign centred on nutrition, Anganwadi services and community participation.

About the Topic — The campaign seeks to improve dietary diversity, protein intake, early-childhood nutrition and community ownership of Anganwadi Centres.

Key Facts

- Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026 runs from 9 September to 8 October.
- The theme is “Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari”.
- Key areas include dietary diversity, adequate protein intake and fresh hot cooked meals at Anganwadi Centres.
- The campaign also marks ten years of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and emphasises maternal and early-childhood nutrition.

Relevant Background — Nutrition outcomes depend on more than food availability; maternal health, infant feeding, sanitation, health services, early stimulation and household behaviour all influence nutritional status.

Historical Background

- Integrated Child Development Services was launched in 1975 with Anganwadi Centres as a major delivery platform.
- Poshan Abhiyaan was launched in 2018 to place nutrition at the centre of a multi-sectoral development approach.
- Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada were developed as mass-participation campaigns around nutrition awareness.
- The POSHAN Tracker introduced digital monitoring of service delivery and beneficiary-related activities.
- Community participation is treated as an important component of sustained nutrition improvement.

15. FOOD SAFETY ENFORCEMENT INTENSIFIES AHEAD OF THE FESTIVE SEASON

Context — Food-safety enforcement received heightened attention in Maharashtra as authorities increased inspections and compliance checks before the festive season.

About the Topic — The issue highlights the importance of licensing, hygiene, safe storage, testing, traceability and compliance with national food-safety standards.





CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

Key Facts

- The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration has intensified inspections of food businesses and festive food preparation.
- Public events and community kitchens are also being brought within food-safety compliance efforts.
- Food businesses are required to follow applicable licensing, hygiene and safety standards.
- Food safety regulation is intended to protect consumers from contamination, adulteration and unsafe handling.

Relevant Background — Food safety is a public-health issue because unsafe food can cause acute illness as well as longer-term exposure to contaminants and adulterants.

Historical Background

- The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 created the statutory framework for food safety regulation in India.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India was established under the 2006 Act.
- The law consolidated several earlier food-related standards and regulatory provisions.
- Food businesses are subject to licensing, inspection, sampling and enforcement mechanisms.
- Food safety requires a farm-to-fork approach covering production, processing, transport, storage, preparation and sale.





CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

7. IMPORTANT ONE-LINERS

Section	Topic	One-Liner
National Affairs	Western Dedicated Freight Corridor	The Eastern and Western DFCs together form a network of about 2,843 route kilometres.
National Affairs	Southern multitracking projects	Five railway multitracking projects add about 540 km across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana.
Consumer Affairs	National Consumer Helpline	More than ₹105 crore in refunds were facilitated between April 2025 and July 2026.
Economy	Women-led enterprises in BRICS	India proposed stronger access to finance, markets and predictable trade rules for women-led enterprises.
Defence	Veer Guardian 2026	The India–Japan air exercise is being conducted at Jodhpur from 9 to 22 September 2026.
Defence	India–Sri Lanka cooperation	The two countries strengthened defence and maritime cooperation, including agreements on L70 guns and military education.
Science	ORV Sagar Manthan	The indigenous ocean research vessel was launched at the Rishi Bankim Shipyard in Kolkata.
Digital Governance	Aadhaar Face Authentication SDK	UIDAI launched an SDK and Sandbox for easier integration and testing of face authentication.
International Affairs	ASEAN–India agriculture	The ninth ministerial meeting focused on food security, climate resilience and sustainable agriculture.
Education	International Literacy Day 2026	The year marks the 60th anniversary of International Literacy Day, proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966.
Environment	Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2026	Lucknow topped the million-plus city category for clean-air efforts.
Environment	Wildlife trafficking	Six DRI operations led to seizures of protected wildlife and derivatives and 13 arrests.
Nutrition	Rashtriya Poshan Maah	The 2026 campaign runs from 9 September to 8 October under the theme “Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari”.
Health	Food safety	The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is the central statutory framework for food safety regulation in India.

