



CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

10 SEP 2026

DAILY EDITION

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNANCE

1. FIRST REGIONAL REVIEW CONFERENCE ON FOREST RIGHTS ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Context — The first regional review conference on implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 was held in Bengaluru on 10 September, bringing together officials from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

About the Topic — The review focused on disposal of claims, recognition of Community Forest Rights and Habitat Rights, and the need for time-bound administrative roadmaps. The Forest Rights Act recognises rights of eligible forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

Key Facts

- The conference was convened by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and involved tribal welfare, revenue and forest departments of five southern States.
- Community Forest Resource rights allow Gram Sabhas and eligible communities to participate in the protection, regeneration and management of customary forest resources.
- Habitat rights are particularly relevant to vulnerable tribal groups whose customary habitation and livelihood spaces require recognition.
- Effective implementation depends on coordination among Gram Sabhas, district administration, forest authorities and tribal welfare institutions.

Relevant Background — The Forest Rights Act seeks to correct the historical denial of customary forest rights while linking recognition of rights with conservation, livelihood security and community participation. Implementation requires accurate evidence, transparent claim verification and convergence of welfare and forest-management institutions.

Historical Background

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act was enacted in 2006 and came into force in 2008.
- The Gram Sabha is the statutory starting point for initiating and verifying many individual and community forest-rights claims.
- Individual Forest Rights concern habitation and self-cultivation subject to the Act, while Community Forest Rights cover customary community uses and resources.
- The Act was preceded by long-standing debates on historical injustice, colonial forest laws and the exclusion of forest communities from formal forest governance.
- The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and later forest-governance reforms created a wider legal setting in which rights recognition and conservation had to be balanced.
- The 2006 law marked a major shift towards recognising forest-dependent communities as rights-holders rather than treating them only as beneficiaries.

2. PROPOSED ARTICLE 371(K) FOR LADAKH

Context — The Centre has proposed a special constitutional provision, Article 371(K), for Ladakh as part of ongoing discussions on a distinctive governance arrangement for the Union Territory.

About the Topic — The proposal envisages an elected governing body with legislative authority over specified subjects. Its final powers and institutional design remain subject to further discussion and constitutional approval.

Key Facts

- Ladakh became a Union Territory without a legislature after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- The proposal is described as a sui generis model, meaning a governance arrangement designed specifically for Ladakh.





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- The discussion seeks to address concerns relating to land, employment, cultural identity and local representation.
- A constitutional amendment would be required, making parliamentary approval central to the process.

Relevant Background — The issue combines federalism, Union Territory governance, constitutional safeguards and protection of fragile Himalayan social and ecological systems. It is distinct from the Sixth Schedule, which operates primarily through autonomous district councils in specified tribal areas of the Northeast.

Historical Background

- Article 371 and related provisions in Part XXI of the Constitution provide special arrangements for particular States and regions.
- The Sixth Schedule provides autonomous district councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram and is constitutionally different from Article 371 safeguards.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 created the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Ladakh has strategic importance because of its international borders with China and Pakistan and its high-altitude Himalayan geography.
- Demands for stronger local safeguards gained prominence after the 2019 reorganisation, especially around land, jobs, environment and political representation.
- Any new constitutional arrangement would have to balance local participation with the Union Territory framework and national security considerations.

3. FIVE MULTITRACKING RAIL PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN INDIA

Context — The Cabinet approved five multitracking projects covering about 540 km across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, with the aim of increasing rail capacity and improving network efficiency.

About the Topic — Multitracking removes bottlenecks on busy routes by adding additional lines, enabling more trains, smoother freight movement and better operational flexibility.

Key Facts

- The projects cover 17 districts in four southern States.
- The approved network addition is about 540 km.
- The projects are expected to improve connectivity to industrial, agricultural and population centres.
- Multitracking complements electrification, signalling modernisation and multimodal logistics planning.

Relevant Background — Indian Railways has historically expanded through new lines, doubling, gauge conversion and electrification. Contemporary infrastructure planning increasingly treats rail capacity as part of an integrated logistics system linking production centres, ports and consumption markets.

Historical Background

- The early Indian railway network was developed during the nineteenth century and expanded around trunk routes linking ports and major inland centres.
- Post-independence railway planning progressively emphasised national integration, industrial development and regional connectivity.
- The Uni-Gauge policy encouraged conversion of metre and narrow gauges to broad gauge for network-wide interoperability.
- Railway electrification reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels and supports lower-emission transport.
- Dedicated Freight Corridors and multimodal logistics planning have shifted attention from simple route expansion towards higher-capacity freight networks.
- Modern multitracking projects are therefore part of a broader effort to reduce congestion and improve railway productivity.





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4. NATIONAL CONSUMER HELPLINE REFUNDS CROSS ₹105 CRORE

Context — The National Consumer Helpline has facilitated refunds exceeding ₹105 crore to consumers over a 15-month period, highlighting the role of pre-litigation grievance redressal.

About the Topic — The helpline provides a structured route for consumers to raise complaints and seek resolution before approaching consumer commissions. Digital commerce has become a major source of grievances.

Key Facts

- More than 1.66 lakh refund-related grievances were facilitated across dozens of sectors.
- E-commerce and digital transactions form a significant part of modern consumer complaints.
- The mechanism operates as a pre-litigation alternative and does not replace statutory consumer commissions.
- The broader consumer-protection framework combines grievance redressal, regulatory enforcement and consumer awareness.

Relevant Background — Consumer protection has evolved from a primarily court-based model to a mixed framework involving helplines, digital platforms, mediation, commissions and regulatory authorities. The expansion of online markets has made speed and traceability especially important.

Historical Background

- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 established a three-tier consumer dispute redressal mechanism.
- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 introduced stronger provisions for product liability, mediation, e-commerce and the Central Consumer Protection Authority.
- The CCPA can act against unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements.
- Consumer commissions operate at district, State and national levels under the statutory framework.
- Digital grievance systems have expanded access to pre-litigation assistance and improved complaint tracking.
- Consumer awareness remains a key component of effective market regulation because informed consumers can compare products, prices and contractual terms.

ART & CULTURE

1. KALINGA RATNA AWARD 2026

Context — Former Chief Justice of India Justice Dipak Misra was conferred the Kalinga Ratna Award 2026 in Cuttack for his contributions to public life and jurisprudence.

About the Topic — The award is associated with Sarala Sahitya Sansad, a cultural and literary organisation in Odisha. The occasion also highlighted Odisha's literary and cultural traditions.

Key Facts

- The award was presented in Cuttack, Odisha.
- Sarala Sahitya Sansad is associated with promotion of Odia literature, culture and social service.
- The award recognises distinguished contributions by eminent personalities connected with Odisha.
- The event is relevant to questions on regional cultural institutions, awards and personalities in public life.

Relevant Background — Odisha has a long literary and cultural history linked with the Kalinga region, classical Odissi traditions, temple architecture and the Odia language. Modern cultural institutions continue this tradition through literary, artistic and civic recognition.

Historical Background

- Ancient Kalinga was a major eastern Indian polity with important maritime and cultural links across the Bay of Bengal.
- The Kalinga region is associated with the ancient Kalinga War, which influenced Emperor Ashoka's later policy orientation.
- Odisha's temple architecture is represented prominently by the Kalinga architectural tradition.
- Odissi developed as a major classical dance form with roots in temple and court traditions.





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- Odia was recognised as a classical language of India in 2014.
- Modern Odia literary institutions have played an important role in preserving language, literature and cultural identity.

ECONOMY, BANKING & FINANCE

1. INDIA'S GDP REVISIONS AND THE SHIFT TOWARDS PPI-BASED DEFLATION

Context — Recent revisions to India's historical GDP growth estimates have renewed attention to the new national accounts series, its 2022–23 base year and greater use of the Producer Price Index for deflation.

About the Topic — GDP revisions are a normal part of national accounting. The 2026 methodological changes have also widened the use of double deflation, which separately adjusts output and intermediate inputs for price changes.

Key Facts

- The base year of the new GDP series is 2022–23, replacing 2011–12.
- Double deflation adjusts output and intermediate consumption using separate price movements.
- Producer Price Index measures prices received by producers and is more closely linked to production-side price changes.
- Quarterly GDP estimates are revised as better source data and more complete annual information become available.

Relevant Background — Real GDP is obtained by removing price effects from nominal economic values. The choice of deflator matters because input and output prices can move differently, especially in manufacturing and other sectors.

Historical Background

- India's national accounts have undergone periodic base-year revisions to reflect structural changes in the economy.
- The 2011–12 GDP series replaced the earlier 2004–05 base series.
- GVA measures the value added by production sectors and is conceptually linked to output minus intermediate consumption.
- Under single deflation, a common price index can be applied to inputs and outputs; double deflation uses separate measures.
- WPI primarily tracks goods, while a producer-price framework can better capture producer-level price movements across a wider range of activities.
- Regular revisions are necessary because statistical agencies receive improved surveys, administrative data and benchmark information over time.

2. FISHERIES SECTOR AND INDIA'S BLUE ECONOMY

Context — The fisheries sector was highlighted on 10 September as a major component of India's blue economy, with the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana continuing to support production, livelihoods, cold-chain infrastructure and market connectivity.

About the Topic — Fisheries combine food security, employment, exports and coastal development. PMMSY seeks to modernise the value chain while improving infrastructure and strengthening fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods.

Key Facts

- The 2026–27 Budget Estimate includes a ₹2,500 crore allocation under PMMSY.
- Fish production increased from 141.64 lakh tonnes in 2019–20 to 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024–25.
- Fisheries exports increased from ₹46,663 crore in 2019–20 to ₹73,890 crore in 2025–26.
- Cold-chain, marketing and Fisheries Farmer Producer Organisations are being supported to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access.

Relevant Background — India's blue economy includes fisheries, shipping, ports, offshore resources, marine biotechnology and coastal tourism. Fisheries policy increasingly links production growth with sustainable resource management and value-chain development.





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Historical Background

- India has a long coastline of about 7,500 km including island territories and a large marine fishing zone.
- Traditional marine and inland fisheries have supported coastal and riverine communities for centuries.
- The Blue Revolution framework sought to improve fisheries production, infrastructure and aquaculture.
- PMMSY was launched in 2020 as a major fisheries-sector scheme with a focus on sustainable development and value-chain modernisation.
- Fisheries are important for nutrition because fish provides high-quality protein and micronutrients.
- Sustainable fisheries management must address overfishing, habitat degradation, climate impacts and the livelihood needs of fishing communities.

3. SMALL HYDRO POWER IN INDIA'S CLEAN-ENERGY TRANSITION

Context — The government highlighted small hydropower as a useful source of decentralised renewable electricity, especially for remote and hilly regions.

About the Topic — Small hydro projects use flowing water on a relatively modest scale and can complement solar and wind by providing location-specific, often more predictable generation.

Key Facts

- India's assessed small-hydro potential is around 21 GW across more than 7,100 identified sites.
- Small hydro can support decentralised generation and energy access in remote areas.
- Projects can also create local employment and support rural economic activity.
- Site-specific ecological assessment is important because river flows and aquatic ecosystems can be affected.

Relevant Background — Hydropower has been part of India's electricity system since the early twentieth century. Small hydro became an important component of renewable-energy policy because of its suitability for mountainous and dispersed settlements.

Historical Background

- Hydropower converts the potential and kinetic energy of water into electricity through turbines.
- India's major hydroelectric development expanded after independence alongside large multipurpose river-valley projects.
- Small hydro generally involves smaller generating capacities and can use run-of-river or small storage arrangements.
- Hilly States and Himalayan regions have substantial hydro resources because of elevation gradients and river systems.
- Renewable-energy policy increasingly emphasises a diversified mix rather than dependence on a single source.
- Environmental flows, sediment movement, biodiversity and community concerns are important considerations in hydropower planning.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SPACE

1. INTERNATIONAL SPACE SUMMIT IN PARIS

Context — Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the first International Space Summit in Paris by video conference, emphasising peaceful, secure, sustainable and cooperative use of outer space.

About the Topic — The summit brought space sustainability and international cooperation into focus as satellite numbers, commercial space activity and strategic uses of space continue to expand.

Key Facts

- The summit was held in Paris and addressed international cooperation in the space domain.
- India emphasised safety, security, peaceful use and sustainability anchored in international law.





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- Space applications support areas such as climate monitoring, agriculture, communications and disaster management.
- India's space programme is increasingly connected with commercial, scientific and international partnerships.

Relevant Background — Outer space is a shared domain governed by international legal principles, but congestion, debris and dual-use technologies have created new governance challenges. India has also expanded its human-spaceflight, lunar, solar and commercial-space ambitions.

Historical Background

- The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 established foundational principles for peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
- India's space programme began with the establishment of INCOSPAR in 1962 and the later creation of ISRO in 1969.
- Aryabhata, launched in 1975, was India's first satellite.
- India's launch vehicles evolved from SLV-3 to PSLV and GSLV families, expanding domestic launch capability.
- Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan demonstrated India's planetary exploration capabilities.
- Growing satellite constellations have increased attention to space debris, collision avoidance, responsible behaviour and long-term sustainability.

2. INDIA'S DEEP-TECH ECOSYSTEM AND LONG-TERM R&D CAPABILITY

Context — Current UPSC-oriented coverage has highlighted the challenge of building a self-reliant and globally competitive deep-tech ecosystem by connecting research institutions, industry and long-term capital.

About the Topic — Deep technology is built on substantial scientific or engineering advances and often requires long development cycles, specialised talent and patient investment before commercialisation.

Key Facts

- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation is intended to strengthen research collaboration and innovation.
- The Research, Development and Innovation scheme seeks to expand support for technology development and private-sector participation.
- Deep-tech areas include advanced materials, semiconductors, biotechnology, quantum technologies and advanced communications.
- A strong university-industry-government link is important for converting research into scalable technologies.

Relevant Background — India's scientific institutions have historically generated strong basic research, but commercial translation has often lagged behind leading innovation economies. Recent policy efforts focus on improving research funding, technology transfer, intellectual property and private participation.

Historical Background

- India established the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1942 as a major network of applied research laboratories.
- The Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy became important pillars of strategic science and technology after independence.
- The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council and later innovation programmes promoted technology foresight and industry linkages.
- The National Research Foundation concept was developed to strengthen research funding and collaboration across universities and institutions.
- Deep-tech firms typically face higher capital requirements and longer gestation periods than conventional software businesses.
- Public procurement, standards, intellectual-property protection and patient capital can help research-intensive technologies move from laboratories to markets.

3. INDIA ENDORSES THE CALL TO ACTION FOR 6G LEADERSHIP AND SECURITY

Context — India has endorsed an international Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security, joining a group of governments seeking open, interoperable, secure and resilient next-generation networks.





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About the Topic — The initiative links telecommunications leadership with national security, supply-chain resilience, standards and research collaboration. India aims to increase its role in global 6G standards and patents.

Key Facts

- India joined more than 20 like-minded governments in the initiative.
- The Department of Telecommunications will coordinate follow-up work with government, industry and academia.
- Participants emphasise openness, interoperability, security, resilience and resource efficiency.
- The initiative includes cooperation on research, supply-chain security and international standards.

Relevant Background — Mobile communications evolved from first-generation analogue systems to 5G networks that support high-speed data, low latency and massive device connectivity. 6G is expected to integrate advanced sensing, AI, communications and distributed computing.

Historical Background

- 1G introduced analogue mobile voice communication.
- 2G brought digital voice and SMS, enabling more efficient spectrum use.
- 3G expanded mobile internet and multimedia services.
- 4G enabled high-speed mobile broadband and app-based digital ecosystems.
- 5G introduced enhanced mobile broadband, lower latency and massive machine-type communication.
- 6G research is expected to focus on integrated sensing and communication, AI-native networks, extreme reliability and energy efficiency.

4. ORV SAGAR MANTHAN AND INDIGENOUS OCEAN RESEARCH

Context — India's advanced Ocean Research Vessel, ORV Sagar Manthan, was launched at Rishi Bankim Shipyard in Kolkata for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.

About the Topic — The vessel is designed for oceanographic research and supports India's growing capability in marine science, polar studies and maritime technology.

Key Facts

- The vessel was designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers for NCPOR under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It is intended for advanced oceanographic and marine research activities.
- Ocean research supports climate studies, marine biodiversity assessment, resource mapping and disaster understanding.
- Indigenous construction strengthens domestic capability in specialised research vessels.

Relevant Background — India's oceanographic programme has expanded from coastal observations to deep-sea, polar and climate research. Marine observations are essential for understanding monsoons, ocean circulation, fisheries and climate variability.

Historical Background

- The National Institute of Oceanography was established in 1966 under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- India's National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research was established to coordinate polar research; it was later renamed NCPOR.
- India began its Antarctic scientific programme in 1981–82 and established permanent research stations.
- Oceanographic research supports understanding of monsoon variability, cyclones and sea-level change.
- Deep-ocean exploration also contributes to knowledge of seabed geology, marine minerals and biodiversity.
- Research vessels act as mobile laboratories for sampling, sonar surveys, atmospheric observations and ocean measurements.





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5. ENDOMETRIOSIS AND GENETIC RISK

Context — A recent Indian study has highlighted the contribution of genetic factors to the risk of endometriosis, a chronic condition in which tissue similar to the uterine lining grows outside the uterus.

About the Topic — Endometriosis can cause pelvic pain, painful menstruation and fertility-related problems. Its causes are multifactorial, involving genetic, hormonal, immune and environmental influences.

Key Facts

- Endometriosis commonly affects people from menarche through menopause.
- The condition can affect physical, psychological and social well-being.
- Genetic predisposition can contribute to individual risk.
- Diagnosis may be delayed because symptoms overlap with other menstrual and pelvic conditions.

Relevant Background — Endometriosis is an example of a complex disease in which biological susceptibility interacts with environmental and hormonal factors. Research increasingly uses genomics to identify risk pathways and potential therapeutic targets.

Historical Background

- Endometriosis has been recognised medically for more than a century, although its causes and mechanisms remain incompletely understood.
- The disease involves lesions of endometrial-like tissue outside the uterine cavity.
- Estrogen-dependent growth contributes to the biology of many endometriotic lesions.
- Diagnosis may involve clinical assessment, imaging and, in selected cases, surgical confirmation.
- Treatment can include pain management, hormonal therapy and surgery depending on symptoms and reproductive goals.
- Genetic studies can help identify susceptibility variants and improve understanding of disease pathways.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. BRICS 2026 AND INDIA'S CHAIRSHIP

Context — India is preparing to host the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit in New Delhi on 12–13 September 2026, with preparations highlighted on 10 September.

About the Topic — BRICS has evolved from an economic grouping into a broader platform for dialogue on global governance, development finance, trade, energy, technology and the interests of the Global South.

Key Facts

- India is hosting the 2026 BRICS Leaders' Summit in New Delhi.
- The expanded grouping includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and newer members such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the UAE.
- BRICS discussions commonly cover multilateral reform, development finance, trade, energy and cooperation among emerging economies.
- The grouping operates through annual summits, ministerial meetings and working-level mechanisms rather than a supranational authority.

Relevant Background — BRICS began as a coordination concept among major emerging economies and later developed formal institutions and an expanded membership. Its significance is closely linked to debates over reform of global governance institutions and greater representation for developing countries.

Historical Background

- The BRIC acronym was coined in 2001 to describe Brazil, Russia, India and China as major emerging economies.
- The first BRIC leaders' summit was held in 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.
- South Africa joined in 2010, creating BRICS.





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- The New Development Bank was established by BRICS in 2015 to finance infrastructure and sustainable-development projects.
- BRICS has expanded its membership to increase representation of emerging economies from different regions.
- India's chairship places emphasis on development, cooperation and the priorities of the Global South.

2. INDIA-ASEAN AGRICULTURE COOPERATION

Context — The 9th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry, held in New Delhi, reaffirmed cooperation on food security, climate resilience, digital agriculture and resilient value chains.

About the Topic — Agriculture is a practical area of ASEAN-India cooperation because both sides face common challenges involving food systems, climate variability, supply chains and smallholder livelihoods.

Key Facts

- The meeting was held in New Delhi on 9 September 2026.
- The cooperation framework links agriculture and forestry with the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Areas of emphasis include AI, digital agriculture, farmer-centred innovation and resilient supply chains.
- ASEAN 2045 and the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026-2030 provide broader regional policy context.

Relevant Background — India's engagement with ASEAN has deepened through the Act East policy and economic, strategic and cultural ties. Agricultural cooperation adds a livelihood and food-security dimension to the relationship.

Historical Background

- India became an ASEAN dialogue partner in 1992 and a full summit-level partner in 2002.
- The ASEAN-India Free Trade Area framework was developed through agreements covering goods, services and investment.
- India and ASEAN upgraded ties to a Strategic Partnership in 2012.
- The relationship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022.
- The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation framework reflects the civilisational and connectivity dimensions of India's engagement with Southeast Asia.
- Agricultural cooperation increasingly includes climate-smart practices, digital tools, research and resilient supply chains.

3. INDIA AND THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Context — Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Prince Rahim Aga Khan V on 10 September to discuss strengthening cooperation with the Aga Khan Development Network in development-oriented sectors.

About the Topic — The discussion covered healthcare, agriculture, rural development, youth empowerment and women's empowerment, areas in which non-profit development institutions can complement public programmes.

Key Facts

- Prince Rahim Aga Khan V is the 50th Imam of the Ismaili Muslim community.
- The Aga Khan Development Network works across social and economic development sectors.
- Projects in India have included water and sanitation, education, maternal health and urban redevelopment.
- The engagement illustrates the role of public-private and non-profit partnerships in development.

Relevant Background — Development networks often work across government, civil society and community institutions. In India, partnerships with such organisations have supported heritage conservation, health, education, urban renewal and livelihood initiatives.





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Historical Background

- The Aga Khan Development Network has roots in the social-development institutions associated with the Ismaili Imam.
- The Aga Khan Foundation has operated development programmes in India for decades.
- The network has supported rural development and community-based initiatives in several Indian States.
- Its work in India has included restoration and adaptive reuse of heritage sites as well as urban and social development projects.
- Non-profit partnerships can mobilise specialised expertise and long-term community engagement.
- Public-private partnerships are increasingly used to combine public authority with external technical and financial capabilities.

ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

1. UNCCD COP17 AND GLOBAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE

Context — The 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification concluded in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, with focus on drought resilience, land restoration, rangelands and financing.

About the Topic — Drought is a slow-onset hazard that affects food production, water security, ecosystems and rural livelihoods. Land restoration and drought preparedness are therefore closely linked.

Key Facts

- UNCCD is the principal global treaty focused specifically on desertification, land degradation and drought.
- COP17 was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Key themes included rangeland conservation, drought financing and community-led restoration.
- Pastoral communities are particularly important stakeholders in sustainable rangeland management.

Relevant Background — Land degradation occurs when land loses biological or economic productivity because of climatic and human pressures. The concept of Land Degradation Neutrality seeks to avoid further net loss of productive land while restoring degraded areas.

Historical Background

- UNCCD emerged from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit process and entered into force in 1996.
- It is one of the three Rio Conventions, alongside the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Desertification is not simply the expansion of deserts; it refers to land degradation in drylands.
- Drought differs from desertification because drought is a climatic event, while desertification is a longer-term land-degradation process.
- Land Degradation Neutrality aims to balance degradation with restoration and sustainable land management.
- Rangelands support pastoral livelihoods, biodiversity, soil carbon and water regulation.

2. ORANGUTANS AND ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Context — The rescue of five juvenile orangutans in Odisha has drawn attention to illegal wildlife trafficking and the international conservation status of great apes.

About the Topic — Orangutans are native to Southeast Asia and are among the most threatened great apes. Their presence outside their natural range can indicate illegal capture and trafficking.

Key Facts

- The orangutan genus is Pongo and includes Bornean, Sumatran and Tapanuli orangutans.
- All three recognised orangutan species are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.





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- Orangutans are native to the islands of Borneo and Sumatra.
- Wildlife trafficking is addressed in India through domestic law enforcement and international cooperation.

Relevant Background — Wildlife trafficking is driven by demand for live animals, body parts and illegal exotic-pet markets. International trade controls are complemented by domestic protected-species laws and specialised enforcement agencies.

Historical Background

- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is India's principal legislation for protecting wild animals, birds and plants.
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora regulates international trade in listed species.
- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was established to strengthen coordination against organised wildlife crime.
- Project Tiger, launched in 1973, became a landmark species-conservation programme in India.
- Habitat loss, fragmentation and illegal trade are major threats to many great ape populations.
- Conservation increasingly combines habitat protection, law enforcement, forensic tools and community participation.

3. GLOBAL DRYLAND CONGRESS 2026

Context — The Global Dryland Congress 2026 is being held in New Delhi from 10–12 September with more than 800 experts focusing on dryland agriculture and South–South cooperation.

About the Topic — Drylands cover a large share of the world's land surface and support hundreds of millions of people, particularly smallholder farmers and pastoral communities.

Key Facts

- The congress is jointly organised by ICAR and ICRISAT.
- The theme is 'Transforming Dryland Agriculture with South–South Cooperation'.
- The event also marks 50 years of partnership between ICAR and ICRISAT.
- Dryland challenges include climate variability, land degradation, water scarcity and market uncertainty.

Relevant Background — Dryland agriculture relies on careful water management, drought-tolerant crops, soil conservation and risk-resilient farming systems. South–South cooperation allows developing countries to share technologies suited to similar agro-climatic conditions.

Historical Background

- ICRISAT was established in 1972 and is headquartered in Hyderabad, India.
- Its mandate focuses on improving livelihoods and food security in the semi-arid tropics.
- Dryland agriculture commonly depends on rainfall rather than assured irrigation.
- Millets, pulses, oilseeds and other drought-tolerant crops are important in many dryland systems.
- Soil moisture conservation, watershed development and climate-resilient varieties can reduce production risks.
- South–South cooperation promotes exchange of technologies and policy experience among developing countries facing similar constraints.

EDUCATION, SOCIAL SECTOR, HEALTH & SCHEMES

1. PM SHRI SCHOOLS AND FUTURE-READY SCHOOL EDUCATION

Context — The PM SHRI scheme is being used to develop exemplar schools aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, with more than 13,000 schools selected by July 2026.

About the Topic — PM SHRI aims to demonstrate quality infrastructure, inclusive pedagogy, sustainability and 21st-century learning practices, while serving as mentor institutions for surrounding schools.





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Key Facts

- The scheme was launched on 7 September 2022.
- The target is more than 14,500 exemplar schools across States and Union Territories.
- The total outlay for 2022–23 to 2026–27 is ₹27,360 crore.
- Schools are selected through a multi-stage challenge-based process against defined quality benchmarks.

Relevant Background — School education policy in India has gradually moved from expanding access towards improving learning outcomes, inclusion, foundational skills and employability. NEP 2020 places strong emphasis on holistic and multidisciplinary education.

Historical Background

- The Right to Education Act, 2009 made free and compulsory education a legal entitlement for children aged 6–14 years.
- The Samagra Shiksha framework integrates school education support from pre-school to senior secondary levels.
- The National Education Policy 2020 seeks a broader shift towards competency-based and multidisciplinary learning.
- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy became a major policy priority under the NIPUN Bharat mission.
- PM SHRI schools are intended to demonstrate implementation of NEP 2020 in practice.
- Teacher capacity, school leadership, digital access and community participation remain important for translating infrastructure into learning outcomes.

2. INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY 2026 AND ULLAS

Context — International Literacy Day 2026 activities in India highlighted adult literacy, lifelong learning and the ULLAS initiative.

About the Topic — Literacy is increasingly understood not only as the ability to read and write but also as a foundation for participation in economic, social and civic life.

Key Facts

- International Literacy Day is observed on 8 September each year.
- India's ULLAS programme focuses on adult education and lifelong learning.
- The initiative covers foundational literacy and numeracy along with other learning components.
- Adult education can improve access to welfare, financial services, employment and civic participation.

Relevant Background — Adult literacy programmes in India have evolved from mass literacy campaigns to more structured lifelong-learning frameworks supported by digital tools and community institutions.

Historical Background

- The National Literacy Mission was launched in 1988 to accelerate adult literacy.
- The Saakshar Bharat programme was introduced in 2009 with a focus on adult literacy, especially among women.
- The National Education Policy 2020 gave renewed emphasis to adult education and lifelong learning.
- ULLAS was launched as a new framework for adult education and literacy.
- International Literacy Day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966 and first observed in 1967.
- Literacy contributes to human development by strengthening agency, communication, employability and informed participation in society.

SPORTS

1. EAST ZONE WINS DULEEP TROPHY AFTER 13 YEARS

Context — East Zone won the 2026 Duleep Trophy after a 13-year gap, defeating South Zone on the basis of a decisive first-innings lead in a final that ended in a draw.





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About the Topic — East Zone dominated the final in Chennai, making 708 in the first innings and securing a 372-run lead before the match ended without an outright result.

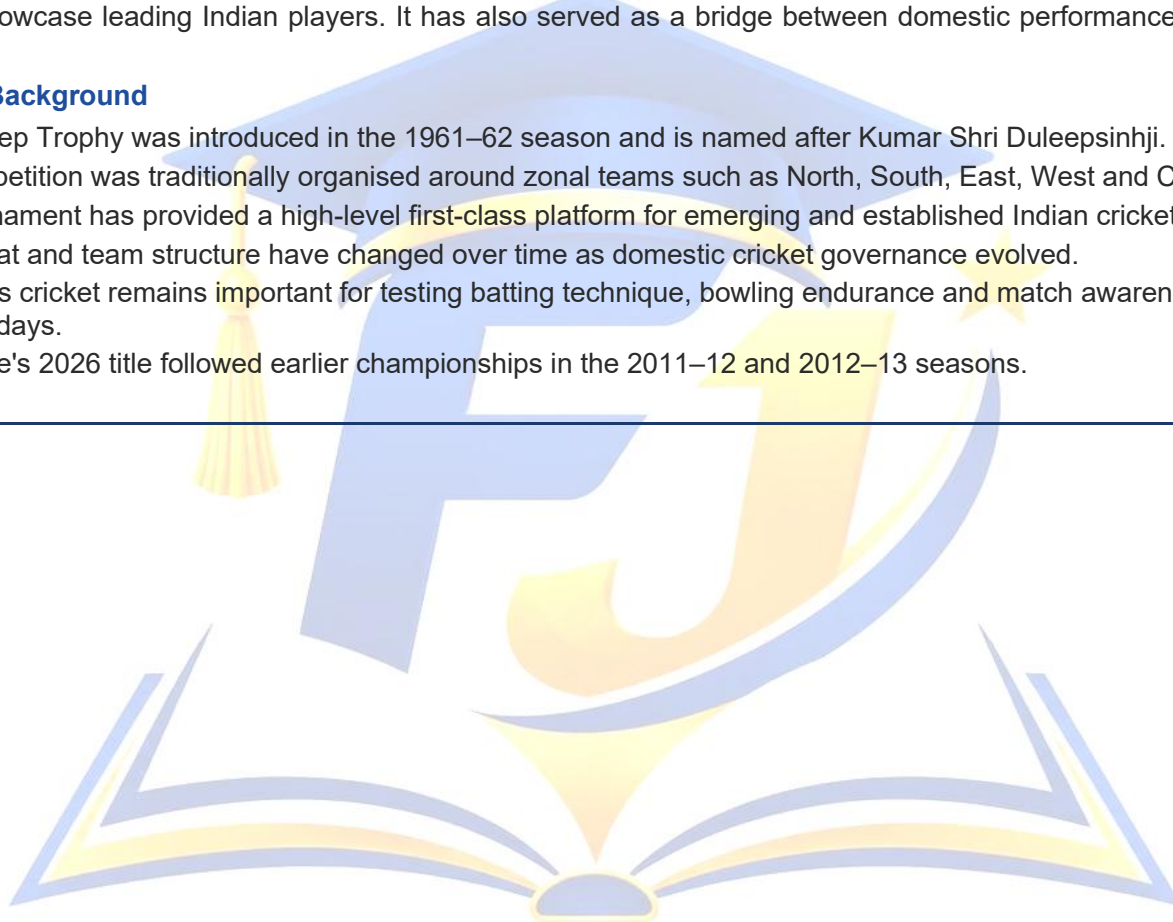
Key Facts

- Ishan Kishan led East Zone and scored 270 in the first innings.
- South Zone were dismissed for 336 in response.
- East Zone therefore secured a first-innings lead of 372 runs.
- The title ended East Zone's long wait and represented their third Duleep Trophy championship.

Relevant Background — The Duleep Trophy is a premier domestic first-class tournament that historically used zonal teams to showcase leading Indian players. It has also served as a bridge between domestic performance and national selection.

Historical Background

- The Duleep Trophy was introduced in the 1961–62 season and is named after Kumar Shri Duleepsinhji.
- The competition was traditionally organised around zonal teams such as North, South, East, West and Central.
- The tournament has provided a high-level first-class platform for emerging and established Indian cricketers.
- The format and team structure have changed over time as domestic cricket governance evolved.
- First-class cricket remains important for testing batting technique, bowling endurance and match awareness over multiple days.
- East Zone's 2026 title followed earlier championships in the 2011–12 and 2012–13 seasons.





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IMPORTANT ONE-LINERS

Section	Topic	One-Liner
National Affairs & Governance	Forest Rights Act Review	First regional review conference on FRA implementation was held in Bengaluru for five southern States.
National Affairs & Governance	Ladakh Governance	A proposed Article 371(K) is being discussed as a special constitutional framework for Ladakh.
National Affairs & Governance	Railway Multitracking	Five approved southern projects add about 540 km of railway capacity across four States.
National Affairs & Governance	Consumer Protection	National Consumer Helpline facilitated refunds exceeding ₹105 crore over 15 months.
Art & Culture	Kalinga Ratna 2026	Justice Dipak Misra was conferred the Kalinga Ratna Award 2026 in Cuttack.
Economy, Banking & Finance	GDP Series	India's new GDP series uses 2022–23 as the base year and incorporates methodological changes including wider double deflation.
Economy, Banking & Finance	Fisheries	PMMSY supports India's blue economy through fisheries production, infrastructure, exports and livelihoods.
Economy, Banking & Finance	Small Hydro	India's assessed small-hydro potential is around 21 GW across more than 7,100 identified sites.
Defence, Science, Technology & Space	International Space Summit	India emphasised peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space at the first International Space Summit in Paris.
Defence, Science, Technology & Space	6G	India endorsed an international Call to Action for open, interoperable, secure and resilient 6G networks.
Defence, Science, Technology & Space	ORV Sagar Manthan	The indigenous ocean research vessel was launched for NCPOR under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
International Affairs	BRICS 2026	India is set to host the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit in New Delhi on 12–13 September.
International Affairs	ASEAN–India Agriculture	India and ASEAN are advancing cooperation on food security, climate-resilient agriculture and digital innovation.
International Affairs	AKDN Partnership	India discussed stronger development cooperation with the Aga Khan Development Network.
Environment, Geography & Disaster Management	UNCCD COP17	COP17 focused on drought resilience, land restoration, rangelands and drought financing.
Environment, Geography & Disaster Management	Orangutans	Five juvenile orangutans rescued in Odisha highlighted the problem of illegal wildlife trafficking.
Environment, Geography & Disaster Management	Dryland Congress	Global Dryland Congress 2026 is being held in New Delhi from 10–12 September.
Education, Social Sector, Health & Schemes	PM SHRI	PM SHRI aims to develop more than 14,500 exemplar schools aligned with NEP 2020.
Education, Social Sector, Health & Schemes	ULLAS	International Literacy Day activities highlighted adult literacy and lifelong learning through ULLAS.
Sports	Duleep Trophy	East Zone won the Duleep Trophy after 13 years on the strength of a 372-run first-innings lead.

