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A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative

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ಕನ್ನಡ & English

By- Nandan Sir

October 1st Week 2026

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- SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 1st WEEK 2026

Increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi crops Economy

News

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2027-28.

Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)

- Definition** - It is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- Announcement and Recommendation** - The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces the MSP at the start of each sowing season, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- Significance** - MSP protects the producer- farmers against distress sale during bumper production years.

Crops Covered

- The Centre announces the MSP (which is not legally guaranteed) for 22 mandated crops and Fair & Remunerative Price for sugarcane.

These include

- 14 kharif crops - paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, tur/arhar, moong, urad, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, niger seed, cotton,
- 6 rabi crops - wheat, barley, gram, masur/lentil, rapeseed and mustard, and safflower
- 2 commercial crops - Jute and Copra

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane

- Recommended by** - Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- Objective** - to assure margins on account of profit and risk to farmers, irrespective of the fact whether sugar mills generate profit or not.

SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 Polity

Context

- The Calcutta High Court has observed that casteist abuses on social media can attract the provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, saying the "public view" under the Act cannot be confined to physical venues only.

SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

- Enacted:** 1989; came into force in 1990.
- Aim:** Prevent atrocities against SCs/STs and provide speedy justice, relief and rehabilitation.
- Key features:**
 - Defines and penalises specific atrocities.
 - Special/Exclusive Special Courts for speedy trials.
 - Protection and rights for victims and witnesses.
 - Relief and rehabilitation for victims.
- 2015 Amendment:** Expanded offences and strengthened victim/witness safeguards.
- 2018 Amendment:** No preliminary enquiry for FIR registration and no prior approval for arrest under the Act.
- Significance:** Legal safeguard against caste-based violence and discrimination.

GOBARdhan Scheme Environment



News

- The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched the GOBARdhan Scheme for development of the Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector.

The GOBARDhan (National Circular Bioenergy Scheme)

- It is a **10-year initiative (FY 2026–27 to 2035–36)**
- Implementation - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Key Objectives & Components

- **Target:** Boost Compressed Biogas (CBG) production tenfold to 5 MMSCMD.
- **Unified Framework:** Consolidates previous initiatives like SATAT, Market Development Assistance (MDA), and Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM).

Additional Information - Biofuels

- **Definition** - Biofuels are alternative fuels made from plant and plant-derived resources.
- **Example:** Bioethanol, Biodiesel, Green diesel, Biogas etc.

National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

- The National Policy on Biofuels 2018 (amended in 2022) provides a framework for increasing the use of biofuels in India to enhance energy security.

Government Efforts for Biofuel Expansion

- **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana** (Jaiv Indhan – Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran Yojana): It promotes 2G ethanol production from agricultural waste and residues.
- **SATAT Scheme** (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation): It promotes Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production as a fuel alternative.

Great Indian Bustards Environment



News

- Ten captive-bred Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) are set to be released into their natural habitat in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer as part of an effort to rebuild

the species' wild population.

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

- **Scientific name:** *Ardeotis nigriceps*
- **Size:** Large ground bird; about 1 m tall and 15–18 kg.
- **Ecological significance:** Keystone species of arid and semi-arid open ecosystems.
- **Population:** Critically low; latest estimates indicate about **130 ± 20 in Rajasthan**, with only **5–6 individuals** across Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- **State bird:** Rajasthan.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN:** Critically Endangered
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **CMS:** Listed under the Convention on Migratory Species.

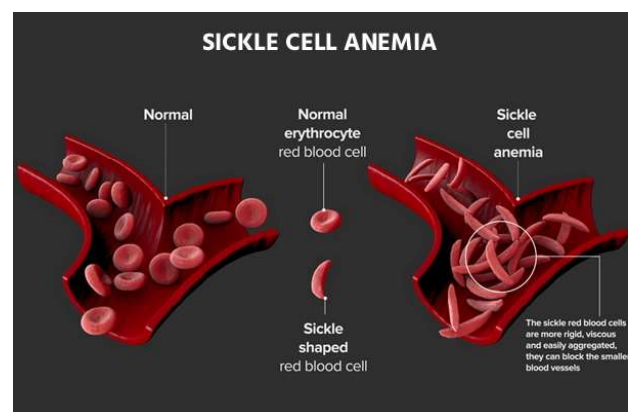
Major Threats

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Poaching
- Predation of birds and eggs
- **Collision with overhead power transmission lines**, particularly those associated with renewable-energy projects.

Power Lines & Supreme Court

- Power-line collisions have emerged as a major conservation challenge in GIB habitats.
- The **Supreme Court** has directed that renewable-energy project power lines in specified GIB areas **outside the Desert National Park (DNP)** be shifted underground, with implementation targeted by **December 2027**.

India-specific tool to predict Sickle Cell Anaemia severity Science and Tech



News

- Scientists at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have developed an India-specific disease severity score for sickle cell anaemia (SCA).

Sickle cell anaemia

- **Disease** - It is an **inherited group of blood disorders that is genetic in nature**.
- **Cause** - It is caused by a **mutation in the hemoglobin- β gene found on chromosome 11**. This mutation results in defective haemoglobin (Hb).
- **Characteristics** - After giving up oxygen, these defective Hb molecules cluster together resulting in formation of rod like structures.
- **The red blood cells become stiff and assume sickle shape**. (Haemoglobin (Hb) is a protein found in the red blood cells that carries oxygen in your body and gives blood its red colour)
- **Transmission** - It is usually **transferred from the parents to the child during birth** i.e. both parents can be carriers of SCDs.
- **Symptoms** - Babies who are born with sickle cell anaemia might not show symptoms for many months.
- **Extreme tiredness, fussiness and painfully swollen hands and feet and jaundice**.
- **Effects** - The misshapen cells lack plasticity and can **block small blood vessels, impairing blood flow**.
- The sickle cells die prematurely, resulting in a chronic lack of red blood cells (anaemia), often called sickle-cell anaemia.
- **Treatment** - Medication, **blood transfusions** and rarely a **bone-marrow transplant** are done.

Buxa Tiger Reserve Environment



Context

- A three-year-old tigress, T138, has been released into West Bengal's Buxa Tiger Reserve, marking the beginning of a phased tiger reintroduction

programme to establish a self-sustaining tiger population.

Buxa Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Alipurduar district, **northern West Bengal**, along the **India–Bhutan border**.
- **Established:** Declared a **Tiger Reserve in 1983** under **Project Tiger**.
- **Ecological significance:**
 1. Located in the **Eastern Himalayan foothills**.
 2. Provides ecological linkages with forests of **Assam and Bhutan**.
- **Important fauna:** **Asian elephant, gaur, sambar, clouded leopard, Indian leopard and Asian golden cat**.
- **Tiger status:** Historically faced a prolonged absence of a stable resident tiger population due to **habitat degradation, fragmentation and reduced prey availability**.
- **Rivers:**
 1. **Sankosh River:** Forms part of the eastern boundary along the Assam border.
 2. **Jayanti River:** Important seasonal river flowing through the Buxa landscape.

Additional Information - Project Tiger

- Launched in **1973** with **9 tiger reserves**.
- **Legal basis:** Tiger Reserves are constituted under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, particularly after the **2006 amendment**.
- **NTCA:** Established in **2006** as a statutory body for tiger conservation.
- **Core area:** Legally designated as **Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)**; receives the highest protection.
- **Buffer area:** Peripheral area adjoining the core, aimed at promoting **coexistence and reducing pressure on the core**.
- **Tiger Census:** Conducted every **4 years** under the **All India Tiger Estimation (AITE)**.
- **Latest national tiger estimate:** **3,682 tigers (2022)**.
- **Highest tiger population:** **Madhya Pradesh**, followed by **Karnataka and Uttarakhand** (2022 estimate).
- **Largest Tiger Reserve by area:** **Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem** (Andhra Pradesh–Telangana landscape).
- **Smallest Tiger Reserve:** **Bor Tiger Reserve**, Maharashtra.
- **First Tiger Reserve:** **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve**, Uttarakhand.
- **Newest tiger reserves:** India has continued adding reserves under Project Tiger; the exact total changes with new notifications.
- **Tiger reserves are not necessarily National Parks:**

A tiger reserve can include **National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and other forest areas.**

- **Global significance:** India contains the **largest share of the world's wild tiger population.**

G7 Nations to Release 100 Million Barrels of Oil International



Context

- The **Group of Seven (G7)** nations have agreed to release **100 million barrels of oil** over four months to ease soaring fuel prices, with a substantial release of diesel planned in the first 20 days.

Group of Seven (G7)

- **G7:** Informal grouping of **7 major advanced economies.**
- **Members:** France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA and Canada.
- **Origin:** Emerged from the **1973 oil crisis.**
- **Initial Group of Five (G5):** France, West Germany, USA, UK and Japan.
- **Canada joined:** 1976 → G7.
- **EU:** Began participating in 1977; EU is **not a G7 member**, but participates in meetings.
- **G8 phase:** Russia joined in 1997, making it G8.
- **Back to G7:** Russia ceased to be part of the group in 2014 following the **annexation of Crimea.**
- **Nature:** **Informal grouping**, not a treaty-based international organisation.
- **Presidency:** **Rotates annually** among member countries.
- **Key areas:** Global economy, trade, security, climate change, energy, development and geopolitical issues

Additional Information - International Energy Agency (IEA)

- **Established:** 1974, in response to the **1973–74 oil crisis.**
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.

- **Parent framework:** Operates within the framework of the **OECD.**
- **Members:** **32 member countries.**
- **India:** **Association country**, not a full IEA member.
- **Other Association countries:** China, Indonesia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand etc.
- **Main objective:** Ensure **energy security** and coordinate responses to major disruptions in oil supply.

Ramappa Temple Art and Culture



News

- Heritage conservationists in Telangana are apprehensive about an impending **threat to Ramappa temple** from the proposed **deep opencast coal mining project.**

Ramappa Temple

- **Official name:** Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple
- **Location:** Palampet, Telangana, about 200 km northeast of Hyderabad.
- **Dedicated to:** Lord Shiva — presiding deity Ramalingeswara Swamy.
- **Built:** 1213 AD, during the reign of **Kakatiya King Ganapati Deva.**
- **Builder:** **Recharla Rudra**, a Kakatiya general.
- **Name:** Called **Ramappa Temple** after **Ramappa**, the sculptor associated with its construction.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site:** 2021.

Architectural Features

- Built on a **6-foot-high star-shaped platform.**
- Intricate carvings on **walls, pillars and ceilings.**
- Constructed mainly using **sandstone**, with carved **granite and dolerite** elements.
- Distinctive pyramidal **Vimana** made using lightweight porous bricks, popularly called **“floating bricks.”**
- Famous **bracket figures and sculptures** carved

from hard **dolerite**, displaying exceptional Kakatiya craftsmanship.

Additional Information - UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- The World Heritage Committee **selects and monitors sites, administers the World Heritage Fund**, and allocates preservation assistance.
- India served on the World Heritage Committee during 2021–2025.
- **India ranks 6th globally with 45 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.**
- **Sarnath has been on UNESCO's Tentative List since 1998.**

PM-SETU- One Year of Transforming India's ITIs Government Schemes

Context

- The **PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) scheme** marks one year of implementation.

PM-SETU

- **Launched:** 2025
- **Full form:** Prime Minister's Scheme for Upgradation of ITIs
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
- **Aim:** Transform **1,000 Government ITIs** into modern, industry-aligned skill-training institutions.
- **Focus:** Modern infrastructure, smart classrooms, advanced labs, digital content and **new-age industry-oriented courses.**

AI Accord of the U.S Science and Tech

News

- U.S. President Donald Trump announced the "White House Accord on Super Intelligence: Joint Commitment on Frontier Responsibilities,"

AI Accord

- **Nature:** Voluntary agreement among major **US-based AI/technology companies to promote safe AI development and public trust.**
- **Key participants:** Leaders associated with **Google, Anthropic, Meta, OpenAI, xAI and Nvidia.**
- **Objective:** Strengthen **AI safety, corporate**

accountability and public trust.

Significance

- Addresses concerns over:
 - AI safety and alignment
 - Privacy risks
 - Child safety
 - AI agents attempting unauthorised/harmful actions
 - Need for greater corporate accountability.

Key Limitation

- Voluntary and non-legally binding.
- **No penalties** for violations.

Rabies S&T



In News

- An ICMR-led study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases estimated that **India has about 5,726 human rabies deaths every year.**

Rabies

- **It is a zoonotic viral disease** (Disease Transmitted from Animals to Humans).
- **Pathogen** - It is caused by the Rabies virus, of the **Lyssavirus genus, within the family Rhabdoviridae.**
- **It is a Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) virus that is present in the saliva of a rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc).**
- **Rabies is 100% fatal but 100% vaccine-preventable.**
- **33% of global rabies deaths are recorded in India.**

Common Vectors/ Reservoirs of Virus

- **Most mammals can carry the virus and hence can cause the disease.**
- In South Asia and Africa, the most common reservoir of the virus is the domestic/street dog.
- In developed nations like the USA, animals that transmit **rabies are bats, foxes, raccoons, and skunks.**

Symptoms

- Anxiety, Confusion, salivation, seizures, hallucinations and paralysis.

National Action Plan for dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030 (NAPRE)

- Under this, the union will **encourage all the States and UTs to make Rabies a notifiable Disease.**
- A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities.
- “Joint Inter-Ministerial Declaration Support Statement” for **Elimination of Dog mediated Rabies from India by 2030** was also launched.

World Rabies Day

- Celebrated on 28 September which marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur’s death.
- Louis Pasteur was a French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.
- He also discovered Pasteurisation, Vaccines for Anthrax and Cholera and Chamberland filters.

Agnipath Scheme Government Scheme

Context

- The first batch of Agniveers is approaching the completion of its four-year service tenure.
- In this backdrop, the Army, Navy and Air Force have submitted their feedback and recommendations on the implementation of the Agnipath Scheme to the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) .
- Agnipath Scheme
- **Objective - It allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.**

Features of the scheme

- **Agniveer - Under this scheme, the youth joining the army will be called Agniveer.** Youth will be able to be recruited into the army for a short duration.
- **Recruitment for Short term - Under the new scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.**

- However, **after four years, only 25% of the batch will be recruited back into their respective services, for a period of 15 years.**

Eligibility Criteria

- **It is only for personnel below officer ranks** (those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers).
- Aspirants **between the ages of 17.5 years and 23 years** will be eligible to apply.

Benefits for Agniveers

- **Seva Nidhi package** - Upon the completion of the 4-years of service, **a one-time ‘Seva Nidhi’ package of Rs 11.71 lakhs will be paid to the Agniveers.**
- **Life Insurance** - They will also get a **Rs 48 lakh life insurance cover for the four years. In case of death, the payout will be over Rs 1 crore, including pay for the unserved tenure.**
- **Rehabilitation** - **The government will help rehabilitate soldiers who leave the services after four years.** They will be provided with skill certificates and bridge courses.

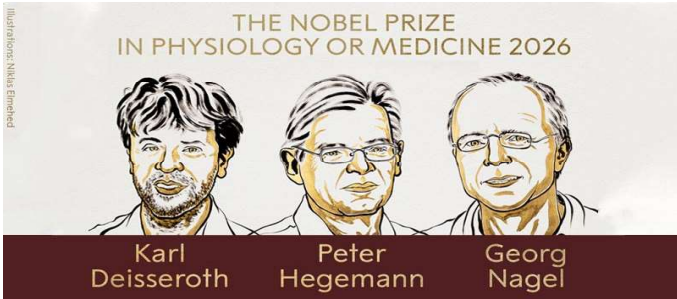
Related Concerns

- **Difficult to Find Another Job** - The ‘Agnipath’ scheme opens the way for recruitment of soldiers for a short-term contract of four years. After the completion of the contract, 25% of them will be retained and the rest will leave the forces.
- **No Pension Benefit** - Those hired under the ‘Agnipath’ scheme will be given a one-time lump sum of Rs 11 lakh. However, they do not receive any pension benefits.
- **Training May Remain Unutilized** - Forces will lose experienced soldiers. The jawans joining the Army, Navy and Air Force will be given technical training so that they are able to support the ongoing operations. But these men and women will leave after four years, which could create a void.

Significance of Such Step for the Country

- **Future Ready Soldiers** - It will create “future-ready” soldiers.
- **More Employment Opportunities** - It will increase employment opportunities and because of **the skills and experience acquired during the four-year service such soldiers will get employment in various fields.**

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026 Science & Technology



Context

- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2026) was awarded for discoveries that enabled optogenetics, a **technique that uses light to precisely control selected nerve cells**.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

- Awarded to:** Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel.
- Discovery:** Scientific foundations of **optogenetics**.
- Optogenetics:** Combines **genetic engineering + light** to control specific neurons.
- Mechanism:** **Opsins** (light-sensitive proteins) regulate ion movement, switching neuronal activity on/off.
- Key breakthrough:** Hegemann and Nagel identified **channelrhodopsins**; **ChR2** enables rapid light-controlled electrical signals.
- Deisseroth:** Developed the approach of combining light-sensitive proteins with **genetic targeting of specific neurons**.
- Applications:** Research on **pain, memory, sleep, epilepsy, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, depression** and restoration of vision/hearing.

Nobel Prize

- Established:** Through the **will of Alfred Nobel**; Nobel died in **1896**.
- First awarded:** **1901**.
- Original 5 prizes:** **Physics, Chemistry, Physiology/Medicine, Literature and Peace**.
- Economic Sciences:** Established by **Swedish National Bank (1968)**; first awarded **1969** — **not an original Nobel Prize**.

Awarding Institutions

- Physics & Chemistry:** Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- Medicine:** Nobel Assembly, Karolinska Institutet
- Literature:** Swedish Academy
- Peace:** Norwegian Nobel Committee

- Economic Sciences:** Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Key Fact

- Peace Prize:** Awarded in **Oslo, Norway**.
- All other prizes:** Awarded in **Stockholm, Sweden**.
- Prize:** Medal + Diploma + Monetary Award.

Five New Centres of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages

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ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು
History & Culture

Context

- The Ministry of Education has approved **five Centres of Excellence (CoE)** for the study of classical languages.

Classical Languages

- India has **11 Classical Languages:** Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Assamese, Bengali, Pali and Prakrit.

5 New Centres of Excellence

- Objective - For advanced research, preservation and digitisation of classical linguistic heritage:**

Classical Language	Centre of Excellence	State
Assamese	Tezpur University	Assam
Bengali	Visva-Bharati University	West Bengal
Marathi	Deccan College PG & Research Institute	Maharashtra
Pali	Central University of Odisha	Odisha
Prakrit	Central University of Gujarat	Gujarat

Recognition Timeline

- Tamil** — 2004
- Sanskrit** — 2005
- Kannada & Telugu** — 2008
- Malayalam** — 2013
- Odia** — 2014

Criteria for Classical Language

- Antiquity:** Early texts/recorded history of **1,500–**

2,000 years.

- **Ancient literature:** Rich body of ancient texts regarded as heritage.
- **Knowledge tradition:** Includes prose, poetry, epigraphic and inscriptional evidence.
- **Discontinuity:** Classical form/literature may be distinct from its modern form or show discontinuity with later forms.

Russia Plague Outbreak Health



Context

- A suspected outbreak of pneumonic plague in **Siberia, Russia**, has triggered quarantine and precautionary measures after a laboratory worker at an anti-plague research institute died.

About -

- **Pathogen - :** Bacterial disease caused by *Yersinia pestis*.
- **Reservoir:** Mainly **small mammals and their fleas**.
- **Transmission:**
 1. Bite of infected fleas
 2. Contact with infected body fluids/materials
 3. Inhalation of respiratory droplets in **pneumonic plague**
- Three clinical forms:
 1. **Bubonic:** Swollen, painful lymph nodes (buboes); usually flea-borne.
 2. **Septicemic:** Infection spreads into the **bloodstream**.
 3. **Pneumonic:** Infection of the **lungs**; can spread person-to-person via respiratory droplets.
- **Symptoms:** High fever, chills, headache, weakness; pneumonic form may cause cough, chest pain and breathing difficulty.
- **Fatality:** 30–100% if untreated.
- **Treatment:** Antibiotics such as **gentamicin, ciprofloxacin and doxycycline**; early treatment is crucial.

Desert National Park Environment

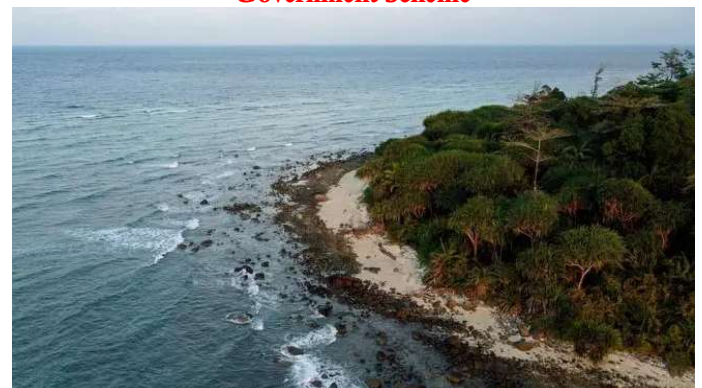
Context

- The Union Environment Minister and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) released two great Indian bustards (GIB) in Rajasthan's Desert National Park.

About Desert National Park

- **Location:** Jaisalmer & Barmer, **Rajasthan** — Thar Desert.
- **Established:** 1980 under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- **Purpose:** Conservation of the Thar's fragile desert ecosystem.
- **Climate:** Extremely hot & arid; rainfall <100 mm/year in parts.
- **Landscape:** Barchan & longitudinal dunes, gravel plains, rocky areas, interdunal depressions.
- **Vegetation:** Sparse grasslands, thorny bushes & desert-adapted plants.
- **Khejri:** *Prosopis cineraria*; important Thar tree, traditionally protected by the **Bishnoi community**.
- **Key Species:** Great Indian Bustard (Godawan) — **Critically Endangered**.
- **Other Fauna:** Chinkara, desert cat, desert hare, long-eared hedgehog, saw-scaled viper, Persian gecko & toad-headed agama.

National Coastal Mission 2.0 Government Scheme



News

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, launched the Guidelines for implementation of National Coastal Mission (NCM 2.0).

National Coastal Mission 2.0

- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
 - **Ministry:** MoEFCC
 - **Period:** 2025–26 to 2030–31

- **Coverage:** 9 coastal States + 4 UTs
- **Focus:** Coastal resilience, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity, pollution control & sustainable tourism.
- **Key measures:**
 1. Climate adaptation & mitigation
 2. Conservation of mangroves and marine ecosystems
 3. ICZMP & Coastal Marine Spatial Planning
 4. Resilient livelihoods for coastal communities
 5. Coastal pollution management
 6. Research, capacity building & awareness
- **Goal:** Promote **climate-resilient Blue Economy**, Atmanirbhar Bharat and fulfil international environmental commitments.

Mahanadi Water Dispute Polity



News -

- The Union Home Minister chaired a meeting with the Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Odisha in New Delhi to resolve the long-standing Mahanadi water dispute.

Mahanadi Water Dispute

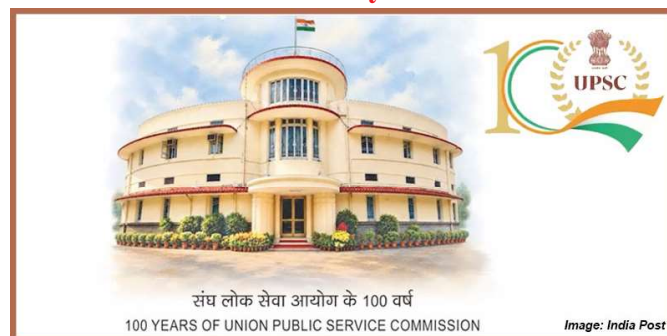
- **Parties:** Odisha & Chhattisgarh over sharing of Mahanadi waters.
 - **Issue:** Odisha alleges that **upstream barrages in Chhattisgarh** reduce non-monsoon flow into the Hirakud Reservoir.
 - **Tribunal:** Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal, constituted in **March 2018** under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**.
 - **Constitutional basis:** Article 262.
 - **Riparian position:** Chhattisgarh = **upper riparian**; Odisha = **lower riparian**.
 - **Other parties:** Jharkhand, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh.
- Article 262**
- Parliament may provide for **adjudication of inter-State river water disputes**.
 - Parliament may **exclude the Supreme Court and**

other courts' jurisdiction over such disputes.

Additional Information - Mahanadi

- **Length:** ~851 km; major east-flowing Peninsular river.
- **Source:** Near **Pharsiya village, Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh**.
- **Course:** Chhattisgarh → Odisha → Bay of Bengal; forms a delta near **Cuttack**.
- **Tributaries:**
 1. **Left:** Seonath (longest), Hasdeo, Mand, Ib
 2. **Right:** Ong, Tel, Jonk
- **Major Projects:** Ravishankar Sagar, Hirakud Dam, Naraj Barrage.
- **Hirakud Dam:** Near Sambalpur, Odisha; noted as the **world's longest earthen dam** (~25.8 km including dykes).
- **Hirakud Reservoir:** Ramsar site (2021).
- **Satkosia Gorge:** Mahanadi cuts through the **Eastern Ghats** in Odisha; located within **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**.

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Polity



News -

- 1 October 2026 marks 100 years since the establishment of the Union Public Service Commission.
- **Present status:** Independent Constitutional Body for recruitment to **All India Services & Central Civil Services**.
- **Constitutional basis:** Articles 315–323, Part XIV.

Composition & Tenure

- **Appointment:** Chairman + members appointed by the **President**.
- **Number of members:** Not fixed by Constitution; usually **9–11 members**.
- **Qualification:** At least **½ of members** must have **10 years' government service**.
- **Tenure:** 6 years or age 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Removal — Article 317

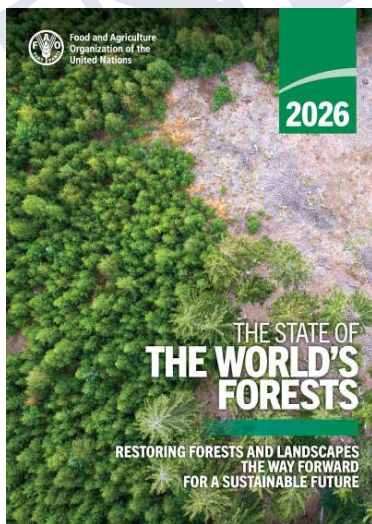
- **The President** can remove members for insolvency, outside paid employment or physical/mental infirmity.
- For **misbehaviour**: **Supreme Court inquiry** → **report** → **Presidential removal**.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 315**: Provides for a **Public Service Commission for the Union and a Public Service Commission (PSC) for each State**.
- **Article 316**: Deals with the **appointment and term of office of members**.
- **Article 317**: Deals with **removal and suspension of members**.
- **Article 318**: Provides for regulations regarding **conditions of service and staff**.
- **Article 319**: Provides restrictions on holding offices after ceasing to be a member.
- **Article 320**: Specifies the functions of Public Service Commissions.
- **Article 321**: Enables Parliament or a State Legislature to extend the functions of a State PSC.
- **Article 322**: Deals with expenses of the Commission.
- **Article 323**: Deals with submission of reports by the Commission.

State of the World's Forests 2026

Environment



News -

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has published the State of the World's Forests 2026

About

- **Published by**: FAO.
- **Theme**: *Restoring Forests and Landscapes – The Way Forward for a Sustainable Future*.

Key findings

- **Global forest cover**: 4.14 billion hectares, covering approximately **32% of the Earth's land area**.
- **Carbon storage**: Forests store around **714 gigatonnes of carbon**.
- **Biodiversity**: Forests host up to **80% of terrestrial biodiversity**.
- **Forest degradation**: More than **460 million hectares of forests are degraded**.
- **Land degradation**: Approximately **1.56 billion hectares of land are degraded globally**.
- **Restoration target**: At least **470 million hectares** need to be **brought under restoration by 2030** to meet global restoration goals.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- Established: 16 October 1945.
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Type: Specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Objective: To achieve food security for all and ensure that people have regular access to sufficient, high-quality food.
- Membership: 194 Members, including the European Union as a member organization.
- Major areas of work: Food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development.

Key reports/publications:

1. State of the World's Forests (SOFO)
2. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)
3. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)
4. The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)

People's Plan Campaign

Polity



News -

- Special Gram Sabhas were convened on Gandhi Jayanti to mark the launch of the People's Plan Campaign 2026-27, "Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas".

About

- Launched:** 2018
- Launched by -** Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).
- 2026-27 Theme:** "Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas".
- Aim:** Prepare participatory & comprehensive Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs) for economic development and social justice.
- Coverage:** All 29 subjects of the 11th Schedule.
- Process:** Gram Sabha → identifies local needs/priorities → Panchayat prepares plan → uploaded on eGramSwaraj.
- Nodal Ministry:** MoPR; State Panchayati Raj Departments coordinate with line departments.

Mahatma Gandhi History & Culture



News -

- India observed Mahatma Gandhi's 157th birth anniversary on October 2, 2026, celebrated globally as the International Day of Non-Violence.

About

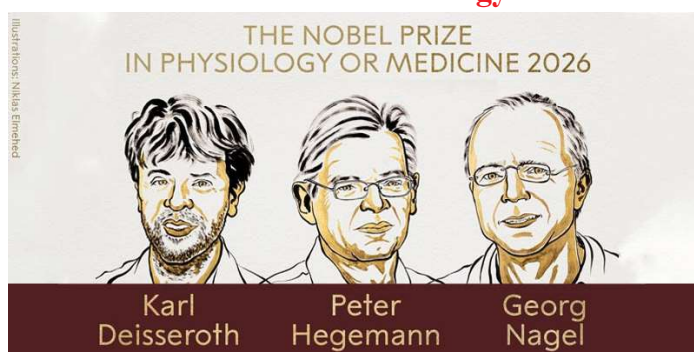
- Born:** 1869, Porbandar, Gujarat; studied law in London.
- Ideological influences:** Bhagavad Gita, Tolstoy's *The Kingdom of God Is Within You*, Ruskin's *Unto This Last*.
- South Africa (1893-1914):**

- Natal Indian Congress (1894):** Founded to fight racial discrimination against Indians in South Africa.

Indian Opinion (1903): Newspaper established to voice Indian grievances and promote Satyagraha.

- Phoenix Settlement (1904):** Communal settlement established near Durban to promote simple living and self-reliance.
- Tolstoy Farm (1910):** Communal settlement near Johannesburg that served as a centre for Satyagraha and collective living.
- Returned to India:** 9 January 1915.
- Early Satyagrahas:**
 - Champaran (1917):** Indigo/tinkathia system.
 - Ahmedabad (1918):** Mill workers' dispute; first hunger strike.
 - Kheda (1918):** Land revenue issue.
- Congress President:** Only once — Belgaum Session, 1924.
- Dandi March:** 12 March-6 April 1930; 240 miles, from Sabarmati to Dandi; 78 followers; broke Salt Law.
- Gandhi-Irwin Pact:** 1931; Gandhi attended Second Round Table Conference as Congress representative.
- Quit India Movement:** 8 August 1942, Gowalia Tank Maidan; "Do or Die" call.
- Constructive Programme:** Harijan Sevak Sangh (1932); Village Industries; Nai Talim/Wardha Scheme (1937).
- Works:** *Hind Swaraj* (1909), *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*; edited *Young India*, *Navajivan* and *Harijan*.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026 Science & Technology



Context

- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2026) was awarded for discoveries that enabled optogenetics, a technique that uses light to precisely control selected nerve cells.

Nobel Prize Winners 2026

Category	Laureate(s)	Contribution
Physiology or Medicine	Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel	Discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics .
Physics	Francis Halzen	Pioneering work on neutrinos and neutrino astronomy .
Chemistry	Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai	Research on asymmetric catalysis and the production of mirror-image molecules .
Literature	Anne Carson	Innovative literary works blending classical traditions with contemporary forms .
Peace	Navi Pillay (South Africa)	2026 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Additional Information - Nobel Prize



- It is a set of **prestigious international awards given annually for outstanding achievements**.
- Recipients of the prize are called **Laureates**.
- It was **established by the will of Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel (the inventor of dynamite)**.
- The **first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901**, and they have been awarded annually since then. They were not awarded during World War I (1914–1918) and II (1939–1945).
- It is **formally presented on December 10**, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896.
- **Given in 6 fields: Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace, and Economic Sciences**.
- Prize in **Economic Sciences was introduced in 1968** by Sveriges Riksbank (Swedish central bank)
- A **Nobel Prize can be shared by up to three**

individuals. In the case of the **peace prize**, it can also be awarded to an organisation.

- To become a Nobel Prize laureate one must be nominated for a prize by an eligible nominator. **Self-nomination is not allowed**.
- The **Nobel Prize cannot be awarded posthumously**. However, since 1974, if the recipient dies after the prize has been announced, they can still be awarded it

Note

- **First Indian Nobel Laureate was Rabindranath Tagore, for Literature (1913)**.
- **The first Indian woman Nobel Laureate was Mother Teresa, for Peace (1979)**.