



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

03 OCTOBER 2025



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Unmesha International Literature Festival 2025 to be held in Patna.



The third edition of the Unmesha International Literature Festival 2025 will be hosted in Patna, Bihar, from 25 to 28 September. Recognized as Asia's largest multilingual literary gathering, the event will bring together more than 550 writers, poets, and translators from India and abroad, representing over 100 languages.

- The festival will showcase 90 sessions across four days, covering diverse themes such as historical fiction, Dalit literature, Dharma literature, postmodern Indian cinema, translation studies, LGBTQ narratives, and the role of literature in education.
- Delegates from nearly 15 countries will participate, making it a platform for both Indian and global literary voices.

Key Points:-

(i) Unmesha 2025 will also host special events including the Tribal Writers' Meet and LGBTQ Writers' Meet, with a strong focus on marginalized voices. Alongside the literary sessions, cultural evenings will feature performances, with Grammy Award winner

Ricky Kej being one of the key attractions.

(ii) The festival is being organized by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Government of Bihar.

(iii) Entry has been kept free for the public to encourage participation. The valedictory session on 28 September will be graced by the Vice President of India as the Chief Guest, underlining the national importance of the event.

2. Balod Becomes India's First Certified Child Marriage-Free District.



Balod district in Chhattisgarh has been declared India's first fully certified child marriage-free district under the national "Child Marriage-Free India" campaign launched on 27 August 2024. This milestone is based on Balod achieving two consecutive years with zero reported child marriage cases, followed by thorough verification and legal formalities.

- All 436 gram panchayats and nine urban bodies in the district have been awarded formal certificates.
- To earn the status, Balod had to maintain a clean record for two years with no child

marriage cases registered anywhere in its jurisdiction. That record was verified district-wide, covering all 436 rural gram panchayats and 9 urban local bodies of Balod. After satisfying document checks and legal verification, the district was certified under the campaign.

Key Points:-

- (i) The declaration comes under the “Child Marriage-Free India” campaign initiated by the Union government (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) in August 2024.
- (ii) Local administration, Anganwadi workers, public representatives, and community involvement were critical in achieving awareness, monitoring, and enforcement. The campaign also had technical support and programmatic guidance from UNICEF.
- (iii) With Balod now setting a national benchmark, the Government of Chhattisgarh has adopted the goal of turning the entire state child marriage-free by 2028-29. Moreover, similar certifications are underway in other areas: for example, 75 gram panchayats in Surajpur district have also been declared child marriage-free after no reported cases in two years. This suggests scaling of the model across districts.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. CCI Approves Jindal Power’s Acquisition of Debt-Ridden Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL) in September 2025.



The Competition Commission of India (CCI), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), approved the acquisition of Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL) by Jindal Power Limited through the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).

- The approval was granted under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, as part of JAL’s ongoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), highlighting a major restructuring move in India’s corporate sector.
- Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL) is currently under heavy financial stress with outstanding debt obligations of around Rs 57,185 crore, making the acquisition a high-stakes resolution effort.

Key Points:-

- (i) Jindal Power Limited, incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, is a leading entity in the power sector. It is part of a larger group with global business presence in steel, energy, and mining industries.
- (ii) JAL is a diversified company with operations in real estate, cement, hospitality, and Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC), making this acquisition significant for both industrial and infrastructural sectors.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Piyush Goyal Announced India-EFTA Free Trade Agreement to Come into Effect from 1st October.



Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, announced that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries — Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland — will come into effect from 1st October 2025. Speaking at the valedictory session of the UP International Trade Show in Greater Noida, he highlighted India's growing global economic standing, ongoing international trade discussions, and the government's focus on promoting local enterprises and exports.

- India has already signed FTAs with the UAE, Australia, and the UK, and the FTA with EFTA strengthens its trade relations with developed nations. Mr Goyal stated that India is also in active discussions with the US, EU, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, and Chile, while Qatar and Bahrain have expressed interest. The Terms of Reference with Eurasia have also been finalized, reflecting India's strong global economic position.

- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has progressed from a fragile economy in 2014 to become the world's 4th largest economy.

- Mr Goyal projected that India is on track to become the 3rd largest economy, reaching a 5 trillion USD size in the next two years. India's foreign exchange reserves have recently reached 700 billion USD, indicating strong economic stability.

Key Points:-

(i) Mr Piyush Goyal highlighted the GST reforms, describing them as the biggest reform since Independence. He emphasized that these reforms will have a lasting impact, benefiting businesses and consumers by improving tax compliance and reducing cascading taxes across sectors.

(ii) The UP International Trade Show provided a platform for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women entrepreneurs, and export-oriented units to showcase their products. The event emphasized Swadeshi products and promoted the government's vision of 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local Goes Global', creating opportunities for international market exposure.

(iii) Mr Goyal urged all stakeholders to commit to using Swadeshi products and ensure that the benefits of GST reforms flow directly to consumers. He emphasized active participation from businesses and citizens to further India's economic growth, promote exports, and strengthen local manufacturing.

2. India Retains Top Spot as World's Largest Milk Producer, Empowering Over 8 Crore Farmers.



India continues to hold the top position in global milk production, contributing nearly 25% to the world's supply. The dairy sector has become the country's largest agricultural product, significantly impacting rural livelihoods, nutritional security, and economic growth.

- India's milk production has experienced substantial growth, increasing from 146.3 million tonnes in 2014–15 to 239.3 million tonnes in 2023–24. This 63.56% rise underscores India's dominance in the global dairy industry.
- The dairy sector contributes approximately 5% to India's national economy, highlighting its importance in the agricultural landscape and its role in sustaining rural economies.

Key Points:-

- (i) Over 8 crore farmers are engaged in dairy farming, with women constituting nearly 70% of the workforce. This substantial involvement of women in dairy farming promotes gender equality and empowers rural communities.
- (ii) India boasts a vast network of dairy cooperatives, with over 48,000 women-led societies operating at the village level. These cooperatives play a crucial role in enhancing milk production and ensuring fair

prices for farmers.

- (iii) Per capita milk availability in India has risen to 471 grams per person per day, surpassing the global average of 322 grams. This increase reflects improved access to nutritious dairy products for the population.

MOUs and Agreement

1. India and Bhutan Sign MoUs on Rail Connectivity, Developmental Aid, and Hydropower Financing During Pema Choden's Visit.



Aum Pema Choden, Foreign Secretary (FS) of the Royal Government of Bhutan, undertook a 2-day official visit to India from September 29–30, 2025, at the invitation of Vikram Misri, Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI). The visit underscored the deepening of India-Bhutan relations through discussions on infrastructure, developmental assistance, and energy cooperation.

- During her visit, Aum Pema Choden held bilateral consultations with MEA Secretary Vikram Misri in New Delhi. The discussions focused on strengthening strategic ties, enhancing connectivity, and advancing the long-

standing partnership between the two neighbors.

- India announced plans to construct two cross-border rail links with Bhutan spanning 89 kilometers at an estimated cost of Rs 4,033 crore.
- A formal intergovernmental MoU was signed between Satish Kumar, Chairman of the Railway Board, Ministry of Railways (MoR), and Bhutanese FS Aum Pema Choden, marking a historic step in Indo-Bhutan transport connectivity.

Key Points:-

- The Government of India pledged over Rs 10,000 crore in developmental assistance to Bhutan for its 13th Five-Year Plan (2024–2029).
- September 2025, Bhutan's Kholongchhu Hydropower Limited (KHPL) signed a Rs 4,829 crore loan agreement with India's Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). The financing will support the 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydropower Project in Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag, Bhutan, furthering cooperation in clean energy.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Major General G. Srinivas Appointed as Commandant of College of Defence Management.



On October 1, 2025, Major General G. Srinivas officially assumed the role of Commandant at the College of Defence Management (CDM) in Secunderabad, succeeding Lieutenant General Harsh Chhibber, AVSM, VSM, who has been promoted to Director General of Information Systems.

- Major General G. Srinivas is a distinguished Gunner Officer with an illustrious career spanning several critical Command and Staff appointments. He is an alumnus of both the College of Defence Management and the National Defence College, reflecting his deep expertise in operational logistics and strategic planning.
- Prior to his appointment as Commandant, Major General Srinivas played a pivotal role in the Western Command theatre, overseeing the planning and execution of Operational Logistics, including during the recent Operation Sindoor.
- His leadership in high-stakes operational environments has earned him recognition for his strategic foresight and executorial excellence.

Key Points:-

- The College of Defence Management, under his leadership, continues to uphold its mission of delivering cutting-edge

management education to officers of the Indian Armed Forces. With a focus on jointness and integrated strategic thinking, CDM plays a crucial role in preparing officers for higher responsibilities in national security and defence planning.

(ii) Major General Srinivas's appointment is expected to further modernize and strengthen the training curriculum at CDM, particularly in areas of logistics, technology integration, and defence resource management.

2. Rajeev Verma Appointed Delhi's New Chief Secretary, Effective October 1, 2025.



Senior IAS officer Rajeev Verma, a 1992-batch officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD). He will assume office on October 1, 2025, succeeding Dharmendra, who is set to retire on September 30, 2025.

- Rajeev Verma hails from Uttar Pradesh and holds an MTech degree from IIT. He began his administrative career in 1994 as the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) in Aizawl, Mizoram. Over the years, he has held various significant positions, including Chief Secretary of

Chandigarh and Advisor to the Administrator of Chandigarh.

- Before his tenure in Chandigarh, Verma served in the Delhi government as the Finance and Revenue Secretary between 2018 and 2022.

- Additionally, he held key positions in the Transport Department and other senior roles within various Delhi government departments.

Key Points:-

(i) One of Verma's primary responsibilities as Delhi's Chief Secretary will be overseeing the cleanup of the Yamuna River, a significant environmental and administrative focus for the Delhi government.

(ii) With over three decades of experience in the Indian Administrative Service, Verma brings a blend of technical expertise and administrative acumen to his new role. His extensive experience positions him to effectively address the governance challenges in Delhi.

(iii) As Chief Secretary, Verma will be tasked with implementing key initiatives and policies aimed at improving governance, infrastructure, and public services in Delhi. His leadership will be crucial in steering the administration towards achieving the city's developmental goals.

AWARDS

1. Novotel Vijayawada Varun Wins 'Best 5-Star Deluxe Hotel' Award at Andhra Pradesh Tourism Excellence Awards 2025.



On October 1, 2025, Novotel Vijayawada Varun was honored with the prestigious 'Best 5-Star Deluxe Hotel' award at the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Excellence Awards. This recognition underscores the hotel's commitment to providing exceptional hospitality and elevating the tourism standards in the region.

- **Novotel Vijayawada Varun stands as the first and only international 5-star deluxe hotel in Vijayawada, offering 233 elegantly designed rooms equipped with modern amenities to cater to both business and leisure travelers.**

Key Points:-

(i) The hotel boasts a diverse range of facilities, including multi-cuisine restaurants, a rooftop bar, an infinity swimming pool, a spa, and versatile event spaces, making it a preferred destination for weddings, corporate events, and leisure stays.

(ii) Strategically located near Benz Circle in the heart of Vijayawada, the hotel is approximately a 25-minute drive from the Vijayawada International Airport, offering convenient access for travelers.

(iii) The award was presented by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, with Manish Pathak, the hotel manager, receiving

the honor and dedicating it to the hotel's dedicated team, highlighting their passion for excellence in hospitality.

App and Web Portal

1. MP launches Gaj Rakshak App to track elephants and reduce human-elephant conflicts.



In a bid to increase safety in forest-fringe zones and curb rising human-elephant clashes, the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has unveiled the Gaj Rakshak mobile application. The app enables real-time tracking of elephant movements and sends alerts to nearby villages, aiming to protect both residents and elephants from fatal encounters.

- **The Gaj Rakshak App provides real-time location data of elephants, enabling forest officials and villagers to monitor movements and patterns. It pushes alerts (via SMS and app notifications) to users in proximity to the animal's path, helping them stay away from danger zones.**

- **Launched on Tiger Day (29 July 2025), the app is being rolled out among both forest staff and local communities in elephant-prone areas. The goal is to bridge the gap between wildlife**

monitoring networks and vulnerable human populations.

Key Points:-

(i) This app complements a Rs 47 crore mitigation plan recently approved by the Madhya Pradesh government to address human-elephant conflict. The plan includes AI and satellite tracking, installation of deterrent measures (such as chili barriers, bee-hive fences, trip alarms), formation of Rapid Response Teams, and community training programs.

(ii) To broaden the anti-conflict framework, the state is also implementing supportive measures such as radio bulletins ("Haathi Samachar"), WhatsApp alerts, a 24x7 control room, and district-level "Haathi Mitra" teams. These are intended to ensure timely information flow and coordinated action across affected zones.

Nations General Assembly in 2017, this day honors the vital role of translators and interpreters in bridging linguistic and cultural divides, thereby fostering global understanding and peace.

- The theme for International Translation Day 2025 is "Translation, Shaping a Future You Can Trust". This theme underscores the importance of human expertise in translation, particularly in the context of Indigenous languages, highlighting the need for trust and cultural sensitivity in the digital age.

- The day commemorates St. Jerome, renowned for translating the Bible into Latin, known as the Vulgate. His work laid the foundation for modern translation practices.

- In 1991, the International Federation of Translators (FIT) initiated the celebration, and in 2017, the UN General Assembly officially recognized September 30 as International Translation Day through resolution 71/288.

Key Points:-

(i) Around the world, various events are held, including workshops, seminars, and conferences, to recognize the contributions of language professionals. Organizations like the International Federation of Translators (FIT) and the United Nations host activities to promote the significance of translation in global communication.

(ii) In an increasingly interconnected world, translation plays a crucial role in diplomacy, international business, and cultural exchange. It ensures that information is accessible across linguistic boundaries, promoting inclusivity and mutual respect among diverse populations.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Translation Day is observed on September 30.



International Translation Day is observed annually on September 30, coinciding with the feast day of St. Jerome, the patron saint of translators. Established by the United

2. International Coffee Day 2025 Observed Globally on October 1.



International Coffee Day (ICD) 2025 was observed across the globe on October 1 to honour coffee and the people behind it. The day highlighted fair trade, sustainable practices, and collaboration in coffee production. The theme for 2025 was “Embracing Collaboration More Than Ever.”

- The International Coffee Organization (ICO) decided in March 2014 to celebrate ICD annually on October 1. The first observance was held on October 1, 2015, during Expo Milan in Italy, coinciding with the first Global Coffee Forum (GCF).

- The theme for International Coffee Day 2025 was “Embracing Collaboration More Than Ever.” It emphasized partnerships across the global coffee value chain to enhance sustainable livelihoods and shared prosperity.

- October 1 was chosen as it marks the start of the “coffee year” in most coffee-producing countries, making it a symbolic date for global recognition.

Key Points:-

(i) Coffee originated in Ethiopia and spread to the Middle East before reaching Europe in

the 15th century. The two main species of coffee beans are Arabica, known for smooth taste, and Robusta, with stronger and bitter flavour.

(ii) Brazil, Vietnam, Colombia, Indonesia, and Ethiopia are the world’s leading coffee producers. In India, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu are the top three coffee-producing states.

(iii) As per ICO data, global coffee exports stood at 11.42 million bags in July 2025, slightly lower than 11.6 million bags in July 2024, showing a marginal decline in trade.

3. World Vegetarian Day 2025 Observed Globally on October 1.



World Vegetarian Day (WVD) 2025 was observed across the globe on October 1 to highlight the ethical, environmental, and health benefits of adopting a plant-based, meat-free lifestyle. The observance also marks the beginning of Vegetarian Awareness Month (October 1–31).

- World Vegetarian Day was established in 1977 by the North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS), based in New York, USA, to promote vegetarianism and its global impact on human health and the environment.

- The day was formally endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union (IVU) in 1978, giving it wider international reach and recognition. It also serves as the starting point of Vegetarian Awareness Month, which concludes with World Vegan Day on November 1.
- According to the United Nations (UN), animal agriculture contributes nearly 15% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, surpassing transport sector emissions. Around 70 billion land animals are farmed each year worldwide, mostly under intensive farming conditions.

Key Points:-

- (i) WVD highlights different dietary categories such as Lacto Vegetarians (consume dairy, avoid eggs and meat), Ovo-Lacto Vegetarians (eat dairy and eggs, avoid meat), Ovo Vegetarians (eat eggs, avoid dairy and meat), and Vegans (avoid all animal-derived products including meat, dairy, and honey).
- (ii) A vegetarian diet is shown to reduce the risk of heart disease by up to 50%, aid in diabetes management, help control obesity, and maintain an overall healthier lifestyle. It also encourages sustainable food practices and reduced exploitation of animals.
- (iii) India has the largest vegetarian population in the world, with around 30–40% of its citizens following a vegetarian diet, making it a significant example of plant-based living on a national scale.

Static GK

Bhutan	Capital: Thimphu	Official language: Dzongkha
International Coffee Organization (ICO)	Executive Director(ED) : Vanusia Nogueria	Headquarters : London, the United Kingdom (UK)