

Daily Current Affairs

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PM Modi, EU Chief Von Der Leyen

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with the **President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen**, in New Delhi. During the talks, **both sides committed to deepening engagement** in trade, investment, technology and innovation, clean and green energy, connectivity, and people-to-people ties.



- **India and the EU set an ambitious agenda for 2025** and beyond. After the talks, in a joint statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the two-decade-old strategic partnership between India and the EU is natural and organic. He said **that at its core, there is trust, a shared belief** in democratic values, and a shared commitment to progress and prosperity.
- The Prime Minister mentioned that several decisions had been made to elevate and accelerate the partnership between India and the EU. Mr. Modi informed that a **blueprint for cooperation on trade, technology, investment**, innovation, green growth, security, skilling, and mobility has been prepared.



- In his remarks, the Prime Minister added that to enhance connectivity, concrete steps will be taken to move forward with the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**. Mr. Modi expressed confidence that this will prove to be an engine to drive global commerce, sustainable growth, and prosperity.
- Mr. Modi said India welcomes the **EU's decision to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**. Prime Minister Modi further said that people-to-people connections are the strongest asset of the India-EU relations. He said India welcomes the **EU's new visa "cascade" regime**.



- **President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen**, said that India is a like-minded friend of Europe and both are the two largest democracies in the

world. She said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the relationship has been thriving. **India and Europe are bound by shared convictions and values.** She added that both sides have agreed to work on a new strategic agenda, which includes working together on economic growth. She also mentioned that **Europe is already India's biggest trading partner.**

- President von der Leyen arrived in Delhi for a two-day visit to India, **accompanied by 22 EU commissioners.** This is the first-ever visit of the EU College of Commissioners to India and marks the first trip outside Europe for the new College of Commissioners, which took office in December last year. Earlier, the commissioners of the European Commission travelled to Hyderabad House in New Delhi on a bus powered by hydrogen fuel cell technology.



- The bus has been developed and operated in **collaboration with Tata Motors and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.** India and Europe have been strategic partners since 2004, and their bilateral ties have expanded and deepened across a wide range of areas. There are extensive industry collaborations between Indian and European companies in the renewable and hydrogen sectors. The EU has joined **India's flagship international initiative** on solar energy, the International Solar Alliance.

Russia Offers US Restoration of Direct Air Links

- **Russia has offered the United States the restoration of direct air links** between the two countries during the latest round of consultations with Washington. The **Russian Foreign Ministry said that diplomats from both countries** met in Istanbul yesterday to discuss normalising the operation of their respective embassies, which have been crippled by multiple rounds of diplomats' expulsions in previous years.



- The Russian Foreign Ministry hailed the talks as substantive and businesslike. It said that joint steps were agreed upon to ensure **unimpeded financing of the activities of the diplomatic missions** of Russia and the United States on a reciprocal basis and to create appropriate conditions for diplomats to perform their official duties.
- The ministry also said it offered the U.S. the possibility of restoring direct air traffic. The U.S. and other Western nations cut air links with Russia as part of a **slew of sanctions imposed on Moscow** after it sent troops into Ukraine on February 24, 2022.



- The U.S.-Russia talks in Istanbul followed an understanding reached during U.S. President Donald Trump's call with Russian President Vladimir Putin and negotiations **between senior Russian and U.S. diplomats** and other officials in Saudi Arabia earlier this month. In Riyadh, Moscow and Washington agreed to start working toward ending the conflict in Ukraine and improving their diplomatic and economic ties.

India Criticises Pakistan At UNHRC

- At the seventh meeting of the **58th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**, India strongly criticized Pakistan, calling it a failed state reliant on international aid. **Kshitij Tyagi, India's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva**, accused Pakistan's leaders of spreading falsehoods from their military-terrorist complex.



- He reaffirmed that **Jammu and Kashmir, along with Ladakh**, will always remain an integral part of India, citing the region's remarkable political, social, and economic progress in recent years.
- Tyagi condemned Pakistan for using the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** as a mouthpiece, stating it was unfortunate that the Council's time was wasted by a state that thrives on instability and survives on international handouts.
- He also said that India remains **focused on democracy, progress and ensuring** dignity for its people, values that Pakistan would do well to learn from. This statement followed similar comments by India's Permanent Representative to **the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, who also reiterated** that Jammu and Kashmir will always be a part of India, dismissing Pakistan's misinformation campaigns.

'One Nation-One Port'

- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched** a series of major initiatives of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) aimed at modernising India's maritime infrastructure, strengthening its global trade presence, and to promote sustainability.
- These initiatives were launched during a stakeholder meeting in Mumbai, to discuss on various possibilities from the major announcements made in the Union Budget for the maritime sector.



- Sonowal launched the **‘One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP)’** an initiative to standardise and streamline operations across India’s major ports. The step aims at removing inconsistencies in documentation and processes that led to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays.
- **Sonowal also launched Sagar Ankalan** — the Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for FY 2023-24, as a significant step towards enhancing efficiency and global competitiveness in India’s maritime sector.



- Sonowal also launched **Bharat Global Ports Consortium to Strengthen global trade** by expanding India’s maritime reach and enhance global trade resilience; and **MAITRI logo (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface)** with an aim to streamline trade processes, reduce bureaucratic redundancies and expedite clearances, reinforcing India’s commitment to ease of doing business.
- Minister also launched the **National Centre of Excellence in Green Port and Shipping (NCoEGPS) website**. It is a significant milestone in advancing sustainability in the maritime sector. This platform will offer insights and best practices for green port and shipping operations, focusing on carbon footprint reduction, cleaner fuels, and eco-friendly port management to drive a more sustainable future.

Cali Fund Launches In Session Of COP16

- A new international fund has been created to help protect biodiversity. The 'Cali Fund' was launched at the resumed 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Rome.



- The Cali Fund will receive money from businesses that rely on **Digital Sequence Information** (DSI). DSI includes genetic data from plants, animals, and microorganisms. **Industries like pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture, and biotechnology** use DSI to develop products.
- Under this new system, they will now have to contribute a part of their revenue to support biodiversity efforts.
- The **money collected will be used in several ways**. It will support biodiversity conservation projects, help developing countries implement their biodiversity action plans, and fund scientific research to improve how genetic data is stored and used.

UAE launched 10-Year Blue Residency Visa System

- The first phase of the Blue Visa system has been formally launched by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which grants international nationals a 10-year residency visa.
- By attracting people who support environmental sustainability, this project hopes to strengthen the UAE's commitment to a more environmentally friendly future.



- For **professionals and contributors working in the areas of sustainability, environmental protection, and climate change**, the New Blue Visa System provides a **10-year resident visa**.
- This UAE Golden Visa is in line with the UAE's overarching goal of advancing sustainable development and environmentally friendly projects.

Green Transition Alliance India

- Denmark has announced the launch of the **Green Transition Alliance India (GTAI)** to strengthen its collaboration with India on sustainable energy solutions. This initiative aims to accelerate **both nations' commitment to global carbon neutrality through business, research**, and governmental cooperation. It is part of the broader Green Strategic Partnership (GSP), established in 2020, which supports both countries' ambitious climate goals.



- Objective: To foster collaboration between Denmark and India in renewable energy, green fuels, and energy efficiency. Led by the Embassy and Consulate General of Denmark in India. Enhances **India's push for net zero emissions by 2070** and Denmark's goal of achieving net zero by 2045.



SSB Crack
EXAMS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Main Objective Of The 'One Nation-one Port Process

- A. To Privatize All Major Ports In India
- B. To Standardize And Streamline Operations Across India's Major Ports
- C. To Increase Taxation On Port Activities
- D. To Introduce New Shipping Tariffs

ANSWER: B

2. What Is The Purpose Of The Newly Launched Cali Fund

- A. To support space exploration projects
- B. To protect biodiversity
- C. To promote digital banking
- D. To fund climate change protests

ANSWER: B

3. Cali Fund Launched At

- A. COP 14
- B. COP 15
- C. COP 16
- D. COP 18

ANSWER: C

4. What Is The Theme For National Science Day 2025

- A. 'Empowering Indian Youth For Global Leadership In Science And Innovation For Viksit Bharat'
- B. 'Innovations For A Sustainable Future'
- C. 'Science And Technology For National Development'
- D. 'Celebrating Indian Science And Innovation'

ANSWER: A

5. What Is The Name Of The Bi-annual Hindi Magazine Released By Rajnath Singh

- A. Raksha Bharat
- B. Veer Sena
- C. Sashakt Bharat
- D. Shakti Samachar

ANSWER: C

6. Shiksha Sanjeevani Bima Yojana Launched In

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Punjab
- C. Haryana
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: A

7. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Chairman Of Securities And Exchange Board Of India

- A. Ajay Tyagi
- B. Raghuram Rajan
- C. Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- D. Subhash Chandra Garg

ANSWER: C

8. SPHEREx Telescope Is An Initiative Of Which Space Organization

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- B. European Space Agency (ESA)
- C. China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- D. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

ANSWER: D

9. Cholanaikkan Tribe Is Primarily Found In Which State

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Karnataka
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: A

10. Name Of India's First Indigenously Developed Air-launched Anti-ship Missile System Recently Tested By DRDO

- A. BrahMos-NG
- B. Naval Anti-Ship Missile (NASM-SR)
- C. Nirbhay
- D. Varunastra

ANSWER: B

11. Thames River, Flows Through Which Country

- A. England
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. Canada

ANSWER: A

12. TRIFED Is An Organization Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- D. Ministry of Tourism

ANSWER:C

13. What Is The Primary Objective Of The SWAYATT Initiative

- A. Encouraging foreign investments in e-commerce
- B. Promoting participation of women entrepreneurs, startups, and youth in public procurement
- C. Providing financial assistance to large corporations
- D. Establishing a global e-commerce platform

ANSWER: B

14. Which City Is The Host Of SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2025

- A. Noida
- B. Gurugram
- C. Jaipur
- D. Pune

ANSWER: A

15. From Which Location Was India's First-of-its-kind Naval Anti-ship Missile Successfully Test-fired

- A. Gujarat
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: C

16. Which Country Has Introduced The Blue Visa For A 10-year Residency Permit Focused On Environmental Sustainability

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Qatar
- C. Oman
- D. UAE

ANSWER: D

17. Which State In India Is Home To The Highest Vulture Population

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: C

18. What Substance Did The European Union Declare Harmful To Humans If Swallowed

- A. Sugar
- B. Nicotine
- C. Caffeine
- D. Aspirin

ANSWER: C

19. From Which State Did The Renowned Poet Shri Anil Joshi Originate

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: B

20. By Which Of The Following Amendments Of The Indian Constitution, Sikkim Became A State Of India

- A. 32nd, 1974
- B. 35th, 1975
- C. 36th, 1975
- D. 37th, 1978

ANSWER: C