

Daily Current Affairs

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NBWL Meeting At Sasan Gir

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** at Sasan Gir in Junagadh district of Gujarat on the occasion of World Wildlife Day today. The **NBWL has 47 members, including** the Chief of Army Staff, members from different states, representatives from NGOs working in this field, chief wildlife wardens and secretaries from various states.



- This board works for the promotion of the conservation and development of wildlife and forests with the Prime Minister as its chairperson. The PM will also participate in the tree **plantation at Sinh Sadan Campus** in Gir. Mr Modi will also flag off the patrolling bikes for field staff for conservation and management of wildlife.
- The PM is also scheduled to **interact with the eco guides, trackers and field staff**. Before the meeting, the Prime Minister is taking a lion safari in Gir National Park. Our correspondent reports that Sasan Gir, the only habitat of

Asiatic lions in the world has witnessed a consistent increase in the number of lions, as per the census conducted in 2020, the total population of lions in the Gir forest area is 674.



- **Currently, Asiatic lions inhabit approximately 30,000 square kilometres** across 53 talukas in 9 districts of Gujarat. The centre and state governments have undertaken numerous initiatives to conserve these majestic creatures and protect other wildlife species.
- As part of a national **Project Lion**, a **National Referral Center for Wildlife** is being established on over 20.24 hectares of land at New Pipalya in Junagadh district.
- Moreover, a high-tech monitoring centre for wildlife tracking and a state-of-the-art hospital has also been set up in Sasan to strengthen conservation efforts. The growth of **eco-tourism in Gir has not only contributed to wildlife** conservation but has also transformed the livelihoods of thousands of residents, fostering sustainable development in the region. More than 33 lakh tourists visited the Gir protected area during the last five years.

US Exit From NATO

- Amid emerging **differences between the US and its European allies** on the Ukraine conflict, President Donald Trump's close adviser and Department of Government Efficiency chief Elon Musk has publicly today supported the withdrawal of the US from both NATO and the UN.



- In response to a post on X by 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) activist Gunther Eagleman, Musk posted that for the US, it's time to leave NATO and the UN. Last month, Senator Lee of Utah introduced the Disengaging Entirely from the **United Nations Debacle (DEFUND) Act**.
- In the act, Lee proposed a complete US withdrawal from the UN, alleging that the world body is a platform for tyrants that attack America and its allies and has not been **able to stop wars, genocides, human rights violations**, and pandemics despite all its funding.



- Musk had supported Lee's stand, noting in a post on X that the US provides way too much funding to the UN and associated entities.
- This is not the first time that **Musk has questioned the US membership in NATO**, which last month only he termed anachronistic and not relevant in the post-Cold War era. He also questioned the rationale behind American taxpayers covering a significant portion of Europe's defence costs.
- He highlighted that the **US pays for nearly 67 percent of NATO's military expenses**, despite spending only 3.5 percent of its GDP on defence. Trump has also criticised NATO, urging members to increase defence expenditure and threatening to withdraw from it on the grounds that the US bears an unfair financial burden for European security.

Geological Survey Of India

- **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, one of the oldest scientific organizations in the country, is set to **celebrate its 175th year of geoscientific legacy**. To mark this historic milestone, Union Minister of Coal & Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy will inaugurate the **Foundation Day celebrations on 4th March 2025** at Central Headquarters, Kolkata.



- **Established in 1851 by Sir Thomas Oldham**, GSI has played a pioneering role in geological mapping, mineral exploration, disaster studies, and geoscientific research, significantly contributing to India's industrial and economic growth.

During the 175th Foundation Day celebrations on 4th March 2025, GSI will showcase its rich legacy and scientific contributions through a series of engaging events, insightful publications and unveiling of Special Postal Cover, My stamp and two geoscientific mobile apps.

Jahan-e-Khusrau Festival

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the Sufi music festival **Jahan-e-Khusrau on its 25-year journey**, highlighting its role in preserving India's cultural and artistic heritage. Jahan-e-Khusrau, a **three-day festival running from** February 28 to March 2, brings together artists from across the world to celebrate the legacy of Amir Khusrau.



- **Organized by the Rumi Foundation**, the festival was founded by renowned filmmaker and artist Muzaffar Ali in 2001 and has since become a revered annual cultural event.
- During the festival, the **Prime Minister visited the TEH Bazaar**, which features One District-One Product crafts and other various exquisite artefacts from across the country, short films on handicrafts and handlooms, among others.

Firefly Aerospace

- **US firm Firefly Aerospace** achieved its **first successful moon landing** with the Blue Ghost spacecraft, touching down near Mare Crisium. The uncrewed lander, carrying **10 scientific payloads**, marks Firefly as the second private company to land on the moon, following Intuitive Machines' partial success last year.



- The **spacecraft travelled 2.8 million miles** over three loops around Earth before landing, beginning a 14-day research mission powered by solar panels. This milestone is part of the growing private sector competition in space exploration, with **NASA's over 100 million dollar contract supporting** Firefly's efforts under the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program.
- The **mission precedes the U.S. plans to send** astronauts to the moon by 2027. Five nations have made successful soft landings in the past—the then-Soviet Union, the U.S., China, India, and, last year, Japan.

Hague Service Convention

- **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) requested** assistance from the Government of India under the Hague Service Convention. This request aims to serve summons on **Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani regarding** allegations of bribery related to the Adani Group's solar projects.
- The SEC's filing follows recent charges from the U.S. Department of Justice concerning a **\$250 million bribery scheme**. The Hague Service Convention was established in 1965. It aims to facilitate the service of judicial documents across international borders.



- The Convention ensures that defendants receive timely notice of legal actions. It is a multilateral **treaty with 84 signatory states**, including India and the U.S. Each member state designates a central authority to handle service requests. The primary method of service is through designated central authorities. However, alternative methods are also available.
- These include postal services and direct communication between judicial officials. **Signatory states can choose which methods to implement**. In India, judicial documents must be served through the Ministry of Law and Justice. India joined **the Hague Service Convention on November 23, 2006**.



- However, it made **reservations against alternative service methods** outlined in Article 10. This means service cannot occur through diplomatic channels unless the recipient is a national of the requesting country. All service requests must be in English or accompanied by an English translation.

‘Bond Central’

- **Portal, Bond Central, has been developed by the Online Bond Platform Providers Association (OBPP Association) in collaboration with Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), which include stock exchanges and depositories.**
- **The Bond Central aims to create a single, authentic source** of information on corporate bonds issued in India and is intended as an information repository for the public at large and is accessible free of cost. This database is expected to enhance transparency and facilitate informed decision-making among investors and other market participants.



Bond Central

- It will be **operated by the OBPP Association**, a not-for-profit entity supported by MIs. Additionally, investors can compare corporate bond prices with Government Securities (G-Secs) and other fixed-income indices to make better decisions.



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EXAMS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **When Will The Geological Survey Of India Celebrate Its 175th Foundation Day**

- A. 1st March 2025
- B. 2nd March 2025
- C. 3rd March 2025
- D. 4th March 2025

ANSWER: D

2. **Name Of The Sufi Music Festival Praised By Prime Minister Narendra Modi For Its 25-year Journey**

- A. Ruhaniyat
- B. Jahan-e-Khusrau
- C. Sufi Sutra
- D. Basant Utsav

ANSWER: B

3. World Wildlife Day 2025 Celebrated On

- A. 01 March
- B. 02 March
- C. 03 March
- D. 04 March

ANSWER: C

4. What Is The Theme For World NGO Day 2025

- A. Strengthening Global Partnerships
- B. NGOs for a Better Future
- C. Empowering Grassroots Movements for a Sustainable Future
- D. Innovation in Social Work

ANSWER: C

5. Theme Of World Wildlife Day 2025

- A. "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet"
- B. "Connecting People and Planet"
- C. Investing in People and Planet"
- D. Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation

ANSWER: A

6. Hague Service Convention Established In

- A. 1962
- B. 1965
- C. 1969
- D. 1970

ANSWER: B

7. India Joined Hague Service Convention

- A. 2000
- B. 2006
- C. 2010
- D. 2015

ANSWER: B

8. 'Bond Central' Was Established By

- A. SEBI
- B. RBI
- C. OBPP Association
- D. WTO

ANSWER: C

9. Kirkuk Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

10. Umiam Lake Seen In The News, Is Located In Which State

- A. West Bengal
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: D

11. Where Was The 9th National Summit On Public Health Care Organized

- A. Odisha
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Telangana
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: A

12. Which Country Won 3rd SABA Women's Basketball Championship Title 2025

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Maldives
- C. India
- D. Nepal

ANSWER: C

13. Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

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

ANSWER: A

14. Which Country Boris Spassky, 10th World Chess Champion, Originally From

- A. France
- B. Russia
- C. United States
- D. Iceland

ANSWER: B

15. When Is Zero Discrimination Day Celebrated Annually

- A. February 28
- B. March 15
- C. March 1
- D. April 5

ANSWER: C

16. Where Did The Army Chief Pay Tribute To Indian Soldiers Who Fought In World War I

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. United Kingdom
- D. Belgium

ANSWER: B

17. Where Was COP16 Held, Where Global Leaders Committed \$200 Billion Annually For Biodiversity Protection

- A. Rome
- B. Paris
- C. New York
- D. London

ANSWER: A

18. Which Planet Did China's Zhurong Rover Explore To Find Evidence Of Ancient Beaches

- A. Mars
- B. Venus
- C. Earth
- D. Jupiter

ANSWER: A

19. Cabinet Declared Which Day As 'National Space Day' In India

- A. August 20
- B. August 23
- C. August 25
- D. August 27

ANSWER: B

20. Lal Ded Was A Saint From Which Region

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kashmir
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: D