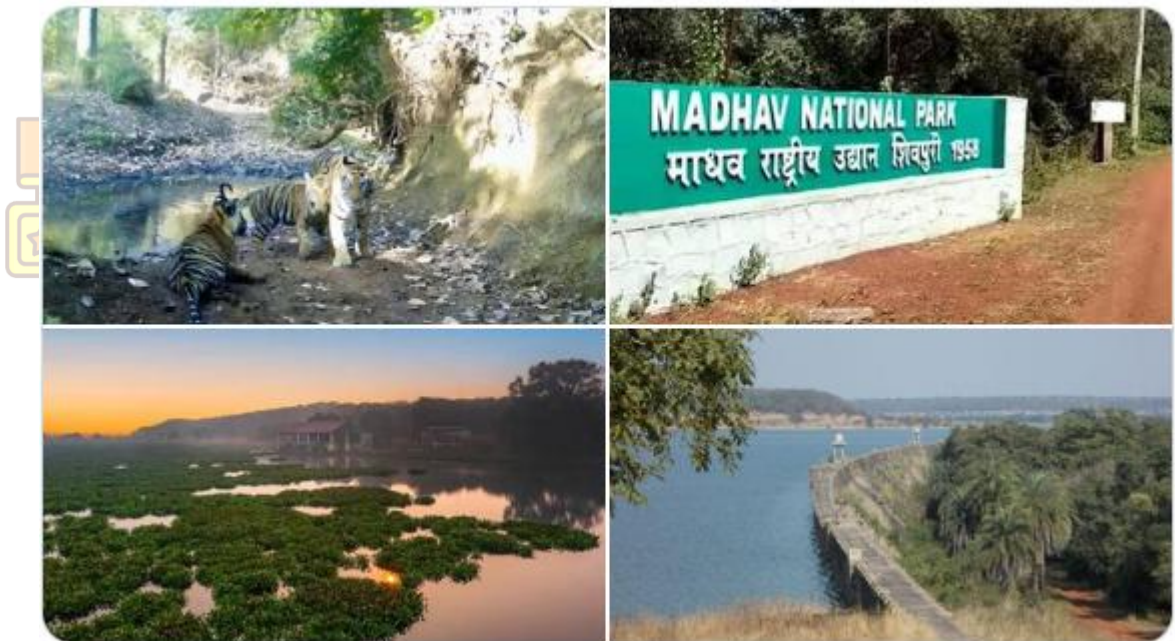


Daily Current Affairs

10 March 2025

Madhav National Park

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav has announced that **Madhav National Park of Madhya Pradesh** has become the country's 58th Tiger Reserve. It is also the 9th Tiger Reserve in the State. In a social media post, Mr Yadav said, with **historic emphasis laid on restoring** the ecological diversity on planet Earth by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India continues to make great strides in environmental protection and wildlife conservation.



- Madhav Tiger Reserve , **A tiger safari spread over an area of 100 hectares** has also been planned, with an **infrastructure investment of Rs 20 crore**, which is expected to boost ecotourism and the local economy.
- At present, **there are 8 major tiger reserves** in the state (Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura, Sanjay Dubri, Ratapani and Nauradehi Tiger Reserve).
- Ratapani is the eighth tiger reserve .

DPIIT And Mercedes- Benz

- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** and **Mercedes-Benz India Private Limited** have signed an MoU to advance India's manufacturing ecosystem, road safety, and environmental sustainability.



Mercedes-Benz

- The partnership aims to **support startups, innovators**, and entrepreneurs in achieving technological excellence and, fostering societal development.
- The collaboration will focus on creating structured programs that provide startups with infrastructure, mentorship, funding opportunities, and market linkages. MD of Mercedes-Benz India – Santosh Iyer.

'Project Hifazat'

- **Punjab launched 'Project Hifazat'**, a transformative initiative aimed at boosting support for women and children facing violence. The project was unveiled on the eve of International Women's Day.
- **This initiative seeks to create a comprehensive response** mechanism to address domestic violence and harassment, ensuring a safer environment for victims to report abuse.
- The **primary goal of Project Hifazat is to eliminate the fear that** prevents victims from seeking help. It aims to provide an integrated support system for women and children in distress. The project focuses on enhancing last-mile connectivity, ensuring that victims have immediate access to assistance. The **project features a 24x7 helpline, number 181**, which categorises calls into emergency, non-emergency, and informational.



- Emergency cases are directly transferred to the **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112) for swift action**. This structured approach ensures that urgent situations are prioritised. **Project Hifazat promotes collaboration** among various departments, including social security, health, and the Punjab police. This coordination facilitates efficient rescue operations, legal assistance, medical aid, and psycho-social support for victims.



- The involvement of multiple agencies enhances the overall support network for those in need. **Victims can access One Stop Centres (OSCs) and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)** for non-emergency cases. These facilities provide psychological counselling, legal aid, and rehabilitation services. Additionally, information on shelter homes and welfare schemes is made available to empower victims.
- **A state-of-the-art control room in Chandigarh** manages helpline traffic and monitors the effectiveness of the initiative. This facility generates reports to evaluate the project's impact and ensure that no victim remains unheard or unsupported.
- **Project Hifazat aims to strengthen the implementation of key laws**, such as the Domestic Violence Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. By enhancing legal and social support, the initiative encourages a safer society for women and children.

1st Captive-Bred Great Indian Bustard

- Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav shared the news of **the first captive-bred Great Indian Bustard, GIB chick** of 2025. In a social media post, the minister said that the egg was laid on 12th February by **4-year-old female Rewa** after mating with a **breeding male, Leo**, on 7th February at the Sam centre in **Rajasthan's Jaisalmer**. It was artificially hatched by the Project GIB team.



Mark Carney To Become Canada's Next PM

- **Former central banker Mark Carney** will become Canada's next Prime Minister after the governing Liberal Party elected him as its leader. He will be sworn in as Prime Minister in the coming days.
- He will replace Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who announced his resignation in January. **59 year old Mark Carney previously served as Governor** of the Bank of Canada before making history in 2013 as the first non-citizen to lead the Bank of England.
- His leadership **comes at a critical time, as Canada grapples** with US President Donald Trump's trade war and threats of annexation, and a federal election looms. In his acceptance speech, **Carney said that Canada faces dark days, brought on by a country** they can no longer trust. He also pledged to maintain retaliatory tariffs on US goods until Americans show respect.



Glass- Ceiling Index 2025

- **2025 Glass-Ceiling Index reveals** that while significant improvements have been made globally, disparities still persist. This year, Sweden has reclaimed its position as the **best country for working women, surpassing Iceland**, which held the top spot for the past two years. Meanwhile, countries like Japan, Turkey, and South Korea continue to struggle due to entrenched societal norms and wage gaps.
- **The year 2024 was remarkable for women's participation** in politics. According to the OECD, the average women's parliamentary representation rose to 34%, a testament to global efforts toward gender inclusivity.
- Japan saw a substantial increase in representation, jumping from 10% to 16%.
- **Britain experienced notable growth**, with representation rising from 35% to 41%. The United States, however, witnessed a slight decline, with female parliamentary representation falling to 28.7%.
- This data highlights the evolving role of women in governance, though many nations still lag behind in achieving gender parity in politics.
- On the economic front, the **percentage of women on corporate boards reached 33%, reflecting** a growing acceptance of gender diversity in leadership roles. Additionally, the labour-force participation rate for women increased to 66.6%, **up from 65.8% in the previous year**. However, this figure remains significantly lower **compared to the 81% male participation rate**.
- Despite these **advancements, women continue to** face obstacles such as wage disparities, unequal career advancement opportunities, and underrepresentation in top managerial positions.

LIC Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has been ranked third among the world's strongest insurance brands, achieving a **Brand Strength Index (BSI)** score of 88 out of 100, as per the Brand Finance Insurance 100 2025 report.
- **Poland-based PZU secured the top spot** with a BSI score of 94.4, followed by China Life Insurance, which ranked second with a BSI score of 93.5.
- In terms of overall brand value, LIC holds the 12th position among the most valuable insurance brands globally, **while SBI Life ranks 76th**, making them the only two Indian insurers in the top 100.



- As per the **Brand Finance report**, the **top 100 insurance brands** have grown 9 per cent in brand value in 2025, driven by improved underwriting results, higher investment income, rising interest rates, and increased profitability.

Modified Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme

- Government of India has introduced a modified **Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme**. This initiative aims to enhance the operational viability of Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs). The scheme allows these mills to convert their existing **sugarcane-based ethanol plants into multi-feedstock facilities**.
- This **enables the use of grains such as maize and damaged food grains (DFG)** alongside sugarcane. The goal is to ensure continuous operation and improve productivity throughout the year.



- Ethanol production in India primarily relies on sugarcane. However, sugarcane has a limited **crushing period of only 4-5 months each year**. This restricts the operational capacity of sugar mills. The government has sought to diversify feedstocks to maintain consistent production levels. The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme aims for **20% ethanol blending** with petrol by 2025.
- Under this scheme, the government offers interest subvention at 6% per annum **or 50% of the bank interest rate**. This support is applicable for loans extended by banks or financial institutions over five years, including a one-year moratorium. This financial assistance encourages CSMs to expand their operations beyond sugarcane.



- The conversion to **multi-feedstock plants allows CSMs to utilise** various raw materials. This flexibility enhances operational efficiency. It also improves the financial viability of these mills. By processing grains and agricultural residues, CSMs can maintain production even during the off-season for sugarcane.
- The government has set ambitious targets for ethanol production. The EBP Programme is a critical component of India's energy strategy. As of February **2025, the blending rate reached 19.6%**. This indicates progress towards the

20% target. Enhanced production capabilities from CSMs will play a vital role in achieving this goal.

- The modified **scheme opens new avenues for CSMs**. By diversifying their feedstock, these mills can enhance their sustainability. The initiative promotes the use of **locally available grains, which can reduce dependence** on sugarcane. This strategic shift is expected to contribute positively to the overall agricultural economy.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What Is The Rank Of LIC Among The World's Strongest Insurance Brands

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

ANSWER: C

2. Which Organization Has Signed An Mou With Mercedes-benz India To Advance India's Manufacturing Ecosystem, Road Safety

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- C. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- D. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

ANSWER: C

3. Which Ministry Has Launched The IndiaAI Compute Portal And Dataset Platform Aikosha

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C. Ministry of Communications
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

ANSWER: B

4. Who Has Been Announced To Return To The Indian Football Team For FIFA Window Matches

- A. Sunil Chhetri
- B. Bhaichung Bhutia
- C. Sandesh Jhingan
- D. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

ANSWER: A

5. Who Has Been Announced To Return To The Indian Football Team For FIFA Window Matches

- A. Sunil Chhetri
- B. Bhaichung Bhutia
- C. Sandesh Jhingan
- D. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

ANSWER: A

6. What Is The Theme Of International Women's Day 2025

- A. Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress
- B. Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow
- C. For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, and Empowerment
- D. Break the Bias

ANSWER: C

7. What Will Be The New Name Of Bangalore City University

- A. Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru Bengaluru City University
- C. Sardar Patel Bengaluru City University
- D. Indira Gandhi Bengaluru City University

ANSWER: A

8. Who Has Been Appointed As The Executive Board Member On The Asian Cricket Council Board From BCCI

- A. Sourav Ganguly
- B. Rajeev Shukla
- C. Ashish Shelar
- D. Anurag Thakur

ANSWER: B

9. Which Ministry Released A Publication Titled “The Life And Contributions Of Women Members Of The Constituent Assembly”

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Law & Justice
- C. Ministry of Women and Child Development of India
- D. Ministry of External Affairs

ANSWER: B

10. Which Company Has Signed An Mou With IIT Hyderabad For Establishing A Centre Of Clean Coal Energy And Net Zero

- A. NTPC
- B. Coal India Limited
- C. Power Grid Corporation
- D. Indian Oil Corporation

ANSWER: B

11. Which Country Did Razorpay Officially Enter After Its Successful Operations In Malaysia

- A. Thailand
- B. Indonesia
- C. Singapore
- D. Vietnam

ANSWER: C

12. What Is Main Objective Of Modified Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme

- A. To promote sugarcane cultivation
- B. To increase ethanol production from sugarcane
- C. To help Cooperative Sugar Mills convert to multi-feedstock plants
- D. To reduce ethanol imports

ANSWER: C

13. Term “Doubtful Voter” Has Been Primarily Used In Which Northeastern State

- A. Assam
- B. Manipur
- C. Nagaland
- D. Tripura

ANSWER: A

14. Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (BRT) Is Located In Which State

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

ANSWER: B

15. Panchaganga River, Is Tributary Of Which River

- A. Godavari
- B. Yamuna
- C. Krishna
- D. Kaveri

ANSWER: C

16. Gabon Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Region

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. Australia
- D. Asia

ANSWER: A

17. Pashu Aushadhi Initiative Has Been Launched Under Which Programme

- A. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
- B. Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCCP)
- C. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- D. National Livestock Mission

ANSWER: B

18. The 1st Sports Event To Offer Equal Prize Money To Men & Women

- A. BWF world championship
- B. US Open
- C. Australia Open
- D. NBA world championship

ANSWER: B

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. Which Among The Following Is World's Largest Freshwater Lake

- A. Caspian Sea
- B. Lake Baikal
- C. Lake Superior
- D. Lake Nero

ANSWER: B