

Daily Current Affairs

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World Environment Day 2025

- **World Environment Day is observed every year** on June 5. It is the United Nations' flagship initiative to raise global awareness and drive action on the most pressing environmental issues. **Since its inception in 1972**, it has evolved into a powerful global platform, engaging more than 150 countries annually.
- **Launched during the Stockholm Conference** on the Human Environment, the first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973. Each year, a different country hosts the celebrations and a specific theme is chosen to highlight a global environmental priority.



- The theme for World Environment Day 2025 is **“Beat Plastic Pollution.”** This theme underscores the urgent need to address the growing plastic crisis that threatens ecosystems, wildlife, and human health. **Republic of Korea is the host country for World Environment Day 2025.**
- The main global celebrations will take place in Jeju Province, a region recognized for its environmental policies and innovative waste management systems. Korea's efforts to combat plastic pollution make it a fitting host for this year's theme.

- Plastic pollution has become one of the world's most urgent environmental threats: **Over 400 million tonnes of plastic** are produced every year.
- **Only 9 percent of plastic waste ever produced** has been recycled.
- **Plastics can take up to 500 years to decompose**, contaminating land and water.



- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will lead a special tree plantation drive at Bhagwan Mahavir Vanasthali Park in New Delhi , during World Environment Day. The Prime Minister will plant a Banyan sapling under the **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative**. This will be a part of the Aravalli Green Wall project, which aims to reforest the 700 kilometres Aravalli range.



- The **Prime Minister will also flag off 200 electric buses** under the Delhi Government's sustainable transport initiative, promoting clean urban mobility and symbolising the nation's collective responsibility towards ecological balance.

Ramsar list

- Two more wetlands from India have been added to the list of Ramsar sites, taking the number of such sites in the country to 91. The latest to join the list of Ramsar sites in India are **Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur**, both in Rajasthan. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said, The achievement is yet another testament to the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on environmental conservation is successfully helping India build a greener tomorrow.



Economic, Social Council Of United Nations

- **India has been elected to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations for the period from 2026-28.** The council is at the heart of the UN's mechanism to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.
- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has** thanked member states for their overwhelming support and for reposing their trust in India. In a social media post, he said, India remains committed to championing development issues and keeps working to strengthen the ECOSOC.



- The ECOSOC is considered a key organ that plays an important role in recommending policies related to economic and social issues.
- , **Established by the UN Charter in 1945**, it is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- **It has 54 members, elected by the UN General Assembly** for overlapping three-year terms.
- It is the UN's central platform for reflection, debate and innovative thinking on sustainable development.
- Each year, ECOSOC structures its work around an annual theme of global importance to sustainable development.

Population Census – 2027

- Government has decided to conduct the **Population Census – 2027** in two phases, along with the enumeration of castes.
- The first phase will be conducted in hilly and snow-hit areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Ladakh beginning 1st of October, 2026. **The second phase covering other parts** of the country will be held from 1st of March 2027. The last census was conducted in 2011 in two phases. These were Phase I for House Listing and Phase II for Population Enumeration.



- The notification for the intent of conducting Population Census is likely to be published in the official gazette on 16th of this month. The process of Census begins with the issuance of the notification.
- **Census 2021 was also proposed to be conducted in two phases** with phase I during April-September 2020 and second phase in February 2021. All the preparations for the first phase of the Census to be conducted in 2021 were completed. However, the census work was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic across the country.
- **The Indian Census is one of the largest administrative and statistical exercise** in the world. Census provides a picture of the country's demographic, economic, social, and cultural profile. The Census also serves as a foundation for conducting other surveys across the country.

International Institute Of Administrative Sciences

- India has won the presidency of the **International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)** in the election, which was held between India and Austria.



- India's candidacy received widespread support from across the membership **with 87 votes out of 141 votes**. India, through the Department of Administrative Reforms, is a member state of the IIAS. The **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**, in a statement, said that IIAS maintains a close working relationship with the United Nations and participates in the UN's Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN).
- **IIAS is a federation of 31 Member Countries**, 20 National Sections, and 15 Academic Research Centres jointly collaborating for scientific research on public administration.

Abbreviation	IIAS
Formation	1930
Legal status	International non-profit Organisation
Headquarters	Brussels, Belgium

President Trump Banned Travel From 12 Nations

- **US President Donald Trump** has signed a proclamation to ban travel from 12 countries, citing national security and public safety threats. The **proclamation signed by the President fully restricts** and limits the entry of **nationals from 12 countries**: Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.



- The White House further informed that entry of **people from seven other countries** would also be **partially restricted, which includes**: Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela. It is similar to the travel ban issued by President Trump against some majority-Muslim countries during his first term, though this time the ban includes more countries.
- President Trump enacted this through a presidential proclamation – similar to an executive order – and the Trump administration feels it is in their purview to enact such a measure. But like the travel ban of Trump's first term, a legal fight will likely be waged against it.

Discovery Of Ancient Astrolabe At Raigad Fort

- Recent archaeological excavations at Raigad Fort have revealed an ancient astrolabe, **known as 'yantraraj'**. This discovery was made by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in collaboration with the **Raigad Development Authority**. The excavations spanned several years and covered multiple sites within the fort, revealing structures dating back to the **era of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**.



- About Raigad Fort : Situated in North Konkan, Maharashtra, on the Sahyadri hills. It is surrounded by deep valleys on three sides. **Known for its steep and strategic position** – only accessible by a steep path in the front.
- Originally built by **Chandraraoji More**, a local feudal lord of Jawali.
- Captured by Shivaji in 1656 CE**, renamed from Rairi to Raigad (meaning royal fort). Became the **capital of the Maratha Empire** under Shivaji.
- Later controlled by:**
 - Fateh Khan (Ahmadnagar Sultanate) in 1707 CE,
 - Marathas again until 1813 CE,
 - British took over in 1818 CE after cannon bombardment.
 - Called it the “Gibraltar of the East” for its strength and location.



- **Main Structures**

- Chitta Darwaja – lower entry gate.
- Khoob Ladha Burj – watchtower.
- Maha Darwaja – grand main entrance with 20-metre-high bastions.
- Palkhi Darwaja – special entry for queens.
- Ranivasa – queen’s chambers (6 rooms in a row).
- Nagarkhana Darwaja – 3-storey gate facing the royal throne.
- Raj Sadar – hall for public court and meetings.



- **Water and Worship**
- Ganga Sagar – large artificial lake below the fort.
- Jagadishwar Mandir – Shiva temple still in use.
- Samadhi of Shivaji Maharaj – his tomb built here after his death in 1680 CE.
- Excavations took place over **three to four years at 10 to 12 locations**. Key areas included the ropeway upper station, Kushavarta lake, and the marketplace near the Jagdishwar temple. This **extensive search aimed to uncover artefacts** from Shivaji Maharaj's reign. The astrolabe was discovered near a historic mansion above Kushavarta lake.



- The **astrolabe is rectangular and made of copper-bronze**. Its upper surface features inscriptions in **Sanskrit and Devanagari script**. Notably, it bears engravings of two animals resembling a tortoise or snake. The inscriptions **“mukh” and “poonchh” denote the head and tail positions**. This suggests it was used for determining north-south orientations.
- **The astrolabe dates back to Shaka 1519, equivalent to 1597** in the Gregorian calendar. It was likely in use during the fort's renovations in 1656 and the coronation of **Shivaji Maharaj in 1674**. This instrument was essential for seafarers and astrologers to navigate and make astronomical observations.



- The discovery of the astrolabe marks the **advanced knowledge of astronomy in the Maratha Empire**. It suggests that the fort's construction may have been influenced by astronomical sciences. Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati, head of the Raigad Development Authority, noted that the astrolabe could provide vital information about the administrative practices of Shivaji Maharaj.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Environment Day Celebrated On

- A. 4 June
- B. 5 June
- C. 6 June
- D. 7 June
- E. September 16

ANSWER: D

2. Headquarters Of United Nations Economic & Social Council Is Located In

- A. New York
- B. New Delhi
- C. Brussels
- D. Sweden

ANSWER: A

3. HQ Of International Institute Of Administrative Sciences

- A. New York
- B. New Delhi
- C. Brussels
- D. Sweden

ANSWER: C

4. Where Is India's 1st AI Special Economic Zone Being Established

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Nava Raipur
- D. Pune

ANSWER: C

5. Raigad Fort, Is Located In Which State, South Korea

- A. Punjab
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

6. What Position Did India Secure In The Medal Tally At The Asian Athletics Championships 2025 Held In Gumi, South Korea

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

ANSWER: B

7. Which Indian State Was Formed On June 2, 2014, Marking Its Separation From Andhra Pradesh

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Telangana
- C. Odisha
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

8. Under Which Article Of The WHO Constitution Was The World's First Global Pandemic Agreement Adopted

- A. Article 21
- B. Article 25
- C. Article 19
- D. Article 15

ANSWER: C

9. Which Ministry Launched The Bharat Gen Multimodal Large Language Model

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ANSWER: A

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

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

ANSWER: D

11. Which Country Is The Host Of 81st Annual General Meeting (AGM) Of The International Air Transport Association

- A. Indonesia
- B. Japan
- C. China
- D. India

ANSWER: D

12. The Kheer Bhawani Festival Is Celebrated In Which State/UT

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Andaman and Nicobar
- D. Himachal Pradesh

ANSWER: A

13. What Is The Route Of Kashmir's First Cherry Cargo Train Aimed At Helping Small Fruit Farmers

- A. Katra to Mumbai
- B. Srinagar to Delhi
- C. Jammu to Pune
- D. Udhampur to Ahmedabad

ANSWER: A

14. Name Of Operation Under Which CBI Arrested 6 Members Of A Transnational Cybercrime Syndicate

- A. Operation Chakra-V
- B. Operation Cyber Shield
- C. Operation Digital Hawk
- D. Operation Tech Guard

ANSWER: A

15. Who Was Crowned Miss World 2025 At 72nd Edition Of Pageant In Hyderabad

- A. Krystyna Pyszkova
- B. Opal Suchata Chuangsri
- C. Monica Kezia Sembiring
- D. Issie Princesse

ANSWER: B

16. Which country's container vessel, MSC ELSA3, involved in plastic nurdle spill incident off the coast of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- A. Panama
- B. Liberia
- C. India
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

17. Which Article Of The Indian Constitution Mandates The Election Of The Deputy Speaker Of The Lok Sabha

- A. Article 94
- B. Article 180
- C. Article 93
- D. Article 110

ANSWER: C

18. What Disease Is Associated With TR1 Cells Playing A Dominant Role In Fighting Reinfections

- A. Tuberculosis
- B. Dengue Fever
- C. HIV/AIDS
- D. Malaria

ANSWER: D

19. Which International Organization Introduced Silver Notice System To Help Trace Criminal Assets And Enhance International Police Cooperation

- A. United Nations
- B. INTERPOL
- C. World Customs Organization
- D. Europol

ANSWER: B

20. The Nitisara Of Kamandaka, Also Known As The Kamandakiya-nitisara, Was Composed During The Period Of

- A. Satavahana dynasty
- B. Gupta dynasty
- C. Kalachuri dynasty
- D. Nanda dynasty

ANSWER: B

