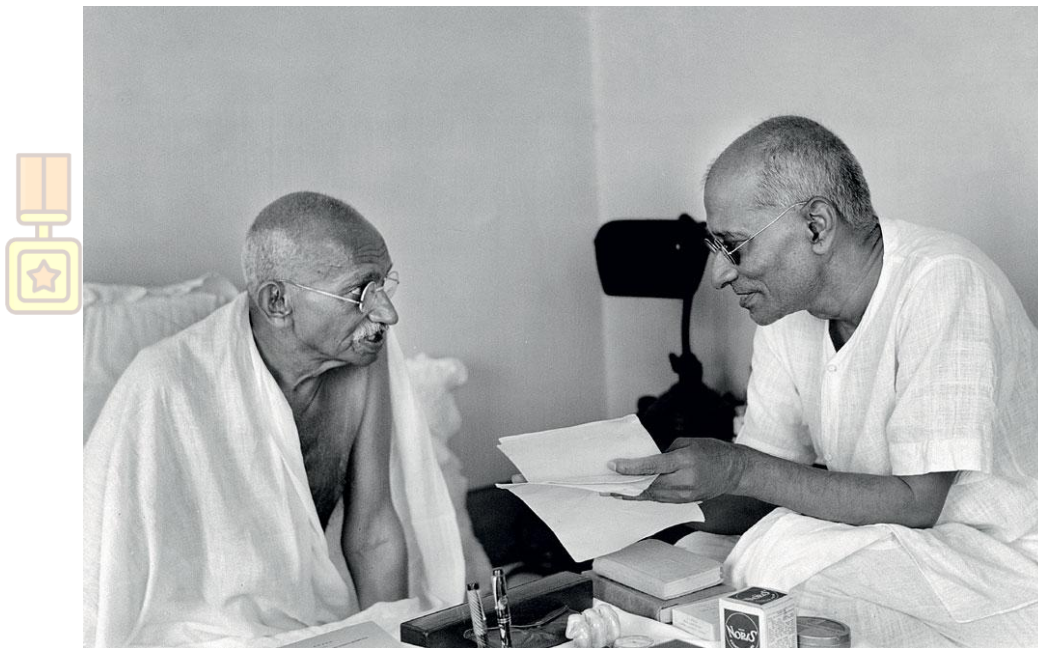


# Daily Current Affairs

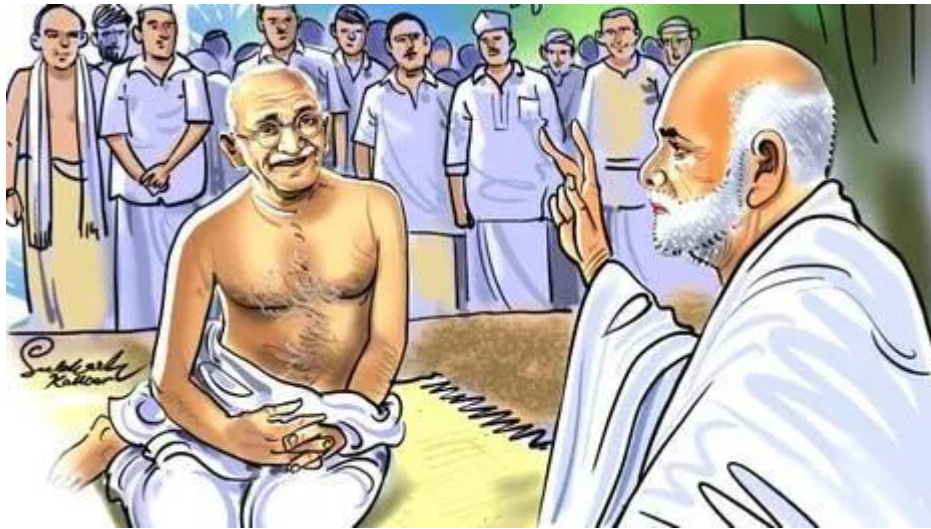
## 24 June 2025

### Gandhi–Narayana Guru Dialogue

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **centenary celebration** of the historic conversation **between two of India's greatest** spiritual and moral leaders, Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi, in New Delhi.
- The celebration will bring **together spiritual leaders and other members** to reflect upon and commemorate the visionary dialogue that continues to shape India's social and moral fabric.



- It stands as a **powerful tribute to the shared vision of social justice**, unity, and spiritual harmony championed by both Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi. This centenary marks 100 years since the landmark interaction between two of India's most revered spiritual and moral leaders. The original **conversation took place on March 12, 1925**, at the Sivagiri Mutt during Mahatma Gandhi's visit.



- Their dialogue addressed key social and moral issues of the time, including the **Vaikom Satyagraha, religious conversions, non-violence, abolition of untouchability**, the path to salvation, and the upliftment of the downtrodden. historic conversation took place at Sivagiri Madhom in Kerala on March 12, 1925, during Gandhi's visit and centred around Vaikom Satyagraha, religious conversions, non-violence, the abolition of untouchability, the attainment of salvation, and the uplift of the downtrodden, among others, it added.
- **The Vaikom Satyagraha was a non-violent movement** against untouchability in Kerala that began in 1924 and lasted for over a year.

## Israel - Iran

- Iran has launched ballistic missile attacks at the **Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar**, the largest US military installation in West Asia, in what Tehran described as retaliation for recent American bombing of its nuclear facilities.
- **The primary target was Al Udeid**, located southwest of Doha, but reports also indicate that Iran has targeted the Ain al-Assad base in Iraq. Qatari and US officials reported no casualties from the attacks, as **Qatar stated the base had been evacuated** and its air defence systems successfully intercepted the incoming missiles.



- **A US defence official confirmed that the Air Base** was attacked by short-range and medium-range ballistic missiles originating from Iran, stating that there were no reports of US casualties at the time. The attack occurred hours after Qatar closed its airspace and the US Embassy directed American nationals to shelter in place.
- **Meanwhile, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the UAE have** reopened their airspaces after temporarily closing them in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on the air base in Qatar.



- **United States President Donald Trump has announced that Iran and Israel** have agreed to a complete and total ceasefire, which will come into effect in



the coming hours. The announcement was made last night, shortly after an Iranian missile attack on a US airbase in Qatar.



- Meanwhile, **Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi** has denied any agreement on a ceasefire with Israel. In a social media post, Araghchi said that the final decision on the cessation of our military operations will be made later. He further added that Tehran has no intention to continue its response, provided the **Israeli regime stops its illegal aggression against** the Iranian people.
- Meanwhile, **Iran's Fars News Agency, which is affiliated** with the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, reported that the ceasefire plan proposed by President Trump is entirely false and was intended to divert public attention. The agency also stated that, contrary to Trump's claims, Iran has not received any official or unofficial proposal for a ceasefire.

## 'One Nation, One Time'

- India is set to implement a significant policy initiative titled "**One Nation, One Time,**" which will establish Indian Standard Time (IST) as the sole official time reference nationwide.
- IST will become the sole standard for **legal, commercial, administrative,** and digital purposes nationwide.

- The initiative will be enforced under the provisions of the **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2025**. These rules are expected to be notified soon, setting the stage for nationwide adoption.



- Background & Goals
- **Unified Timekeeping: Current systems**—banks, telecom, utilities, stock exchanges—often rely on external sources like GPS, leading to mismatches, billing errors, and vulnerabilities.
- **Digital Security & Sovereignty:** By anchoring nationwide systems to domestically controlled IST, India aims to curb cyber risks like spoofing or jamming tied to foreign time sources.
- **Fairness & Trust:** Uniform timestamping bolsters the integrity of digital transactions, billing, and incident logging across sectors, enhancing user confidence.

## King Cobra Reintroduction Plans

- **King cobras are the world's longest venomous snakes.** Recently, a king cobra died in **Bhopal's Van Vihar zoo**. This incident has sparked discussions on the reintroduction of king cobras in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** aims to address rising snakebite fatalities through this initiative. However, challenges exist regarding the feasibility and ecological implications of such plans.





- **The king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*)** can reach lengths of up to 15 feet. It thrives in humid, dense forests and prefers habitats with ample undergrowth and water sources. In India, its range includes the Western Ghats, Northeast India, and parts of the Eastern Ghats. Recent reports indicate sightings in Chhattisgarh, raising hopes for their presence in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh.
- **Despite the king cobra's potential range**, there are no confirmed historical records of its presence in Madhya Pradesh's dry deciduous forests. Experts argue that the **region lacks sufficient water sources** and dense vegetation to support a stable king cobra population. Occasional sightings may occur, but they do not indicate a sustainable habitat.



- **Recent genetic studies have redefined** the classification of king cobras. Four distinct lineages have been identified, with the Western Ghats population

**classified as a separate species** (*Ophiophagus kaalinga*). This distinction is crucial as it marks the ecological and conservation needs of different populations.

- **Introducing king cobras from the Western Ghats to central India** poses risks of hybridisation. Hybridisation can undermine conservation efforts and lead to genetic dilution. Conservationists stress the importance of sourcing local species for any reintroduction programme to ensure ecological integrity.



- The **Chief Minister's proposal for a snake census faces hurdles**. No established protocols exist for accurately counting snake populations in the wild. Experts argue that such a census is **neither feasible nor necessary for effective** conservation strategies.
- **King cobras are known for their unique nesting behaviour**. However, they do not breed well in captivity. Establishing a self-sustaining population in Madhya Pradesh could take decades. **Moreover, king cobras typically avoid human habitats, limiting their impact** on controlling other snake populations until they reach numbers.

## Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025

- In 2024, the **world's largest 65 banks committed \$869 billion** to fossil fuel companies. This marks an increase from \$707 billion in 2023. The trend raises concerns about long-term fossil fuel dependence. Notably, the **State Bank of India (SBI) was among nearly 50 banks** that increased their fossil fuel financing.

- **Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025 report** marks that achieving net zero emissions by 2050 requires reduction in investment in fossil fuels. The International Energy Agency (IEA) states that annual investments must decline by over half by 2030.



- **SBI accounted for a small increase in fossil fuel financing.** In 2024, SBI's financing rose by \$65 million, reaching \$2.62 billion. This positioned SBI as the 47th largest lender in fossil fuel financing, up from 49th in 2023. Despite this, SBI aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2055. The bank plans for at least 7.5% of its domestic gross advances to be green by 2030.
- **JPMorgan Chase remained the top lender, providing \$53.5 billion** to fossil fuel companies. This amount is higher than SBI's total fossil fuel financing from 2021 to 2024, **which was \$10.6 billion**. The increase in financing by major banks contrasts with previous trends of declining support for fossil fuels.





- **Indian banks, including SBI, face criticism** for their coal financing policies. A think-tank brought into light that only two Indian banks have explicit coal exclusion policies. The report suggests that coal is no longer an economically viable energy source compared to renewable energy options.



- **The increase in fossil fuel financing is not limited to North America.** European banks, previously seen as progressive, have also started to backtrack on climate commitments. In 2024, financing for acquisitions in the fossil fuel sector rose, indicating a consolidation trend among fossil fuel companies.
- **Political decisions have influenced the financing landscape.** The US withdrawal from the **Paris Agreement** and the **rollback of various environmental policies** under the Trump administration have contributed to increased fossil fuel financing. Major US banks have also distanced themselves from global green finance initiatives.
- **The report indicates that since the Paris Agreement,** banks have committed \$7.9 trillion to fossil fuel financing. This ongoing support for fossil fuels poses challenges to global climate goals. As the world grapples with climate change, the need for a shift towards sustainable financing becomes increasingly urgent.

## Asian Para-Badminton Championship

- In Badminton, **Indian shuttlers won 27 medals** at the Asian Para-Badminton Championship 2025 held in Thailand. The medals include four gold, 10 silver and 13 bronze. This resulted in the country's best-ever performance at the event.
- **Among the medallists were Paris Paralympics gold** medallist Nitesh Kumar, Paris Paralympics silver medallist Thulasimathi Murugesan, and Paris

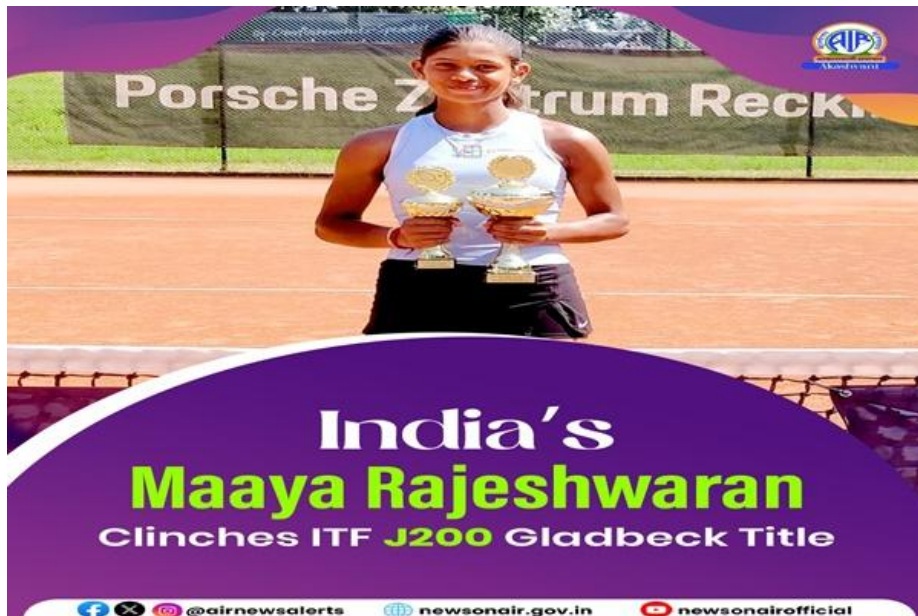
Paralympics bronze medallist Manisha Ramadass. The Championships were held in Thailand from the 17th to the 22nd of this month.



- **India dominated the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 event**, sweeping all three medals, with Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murgesan taking gold in a clinical straight-sets win over Ruthick Raghupathi and Manasi Joshi, while Chirag Baretha and Mandeep Kaur earned bronze.

## Maaya Rajeshwaran

- In Tennis, **India's Maaya Rajeshwaran** has clinched the women's singles ITF J200 Gladbeck title in Germany. The 16-year-old defeated Switzerland's Noelia Manta 6-2, 6-4 in the final. **This triumph marks Maaya's maiden ITF Junior title on European clay.** Earlier in the semifinals, she defeated Daphnee Mpetshi Perricard of France 6-2, 6-1.
- It is Maaya's seventh ITF Junior title overall. Her earlier titles include victories at **J100 and J300 events**. The J signifies Junior, and the number indicates the tournament's grade, with higher numbers generally representing higher levels of competition and more ranking points.



## U23 Asian Wrestling Championships

- **India's young wrestlers delivered a stellar performance** on the final day of the Under-23 Asian Wrestling Championships in Vung Tau, Vietnam, winning six medals in men's freestyle. Five wrestlers, Nikhil, Sujeet, Jaideep, Chander Mohan, and Sachin, clinched gold.
- **India also topped the team rankings in men's freestyle** and won the women's freestyle team title, marking a historic finish at the continental event. Indian women wrestlers won the team title at the Under-23 Asian Championship by winning a **medal in each of the 10 categories**, including four gold and five silver in Vung Tau, Vietnam.
- **Priyanshi Prajapat in 50kg category, Reena in 55kg category**, Shrishti in 68kg and Priya in 76kg category sealed the top podium places. Five Indian women wrestlers settled for runner-up finishes.





## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Gandhi–Narayana Guru Dialogue Originally Took Place In**

- A. 1922
- B. 1925
- C. 1927
- D. 1928

**ANSWER: B**

**2. King Cobra Reintroduction Plans Will Be Initiated In**

- A. Kerala
- B. Chattisgarh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

**ANSWER: C**

**3. BHASHINI Is AI Powered Language Translation Platform Developed By**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**4. Who Is Head Of Newly Formed Panel To Reduce Student Dependency On Coaching Centres**

- A. Subhas Sarkar
- B. Vineet Joshi
- C. Dharmendra Pradhan
- D. K. Sanjay Murthy

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Rice Yellow Mottle Virus, Is Endemic To Which Continent**

- A. Asia
- B. Europe
- C. South America
- D. Africa

**ANSWER: D**

**6. Which City Is The Venue Of World Para Athletics Championship 2025**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bhopal
- C. Chennai
- D. Hyderabad

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Yashoda AI Is An Initiative Of Which Institution**

- A. National Commission for Women (NCW)
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- D. National Human Rights Commission

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Which State Government Launched ANKUR Initiative To Boost Urban Growth**

- A. Bihar
- B. Odisha
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Madhya Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Netravati River, Flows Through Which State**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**11. What Is India's Global Rank In Terms Of Solar Power Potential From Abandoned Coal Mines**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Cook Islands Are Located In Which Ocean**

- A. Atlantic Ocean
- B. South Pacific Ocean
- C. Indian Ocean
- D. Arctic Ocean

**ANSWER: B**

**13. Where Was The Energy Asia Conference 2025 Held**

- A. New Delhi, India
- B. Tokyo, Japan
- C. Beijing, China
- D. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**ANSWER: D**

**14. Who Is The Head Of The Newly Formed Panel To Reduce Student Dependency On Coaching Centres**

- A. Subhas Sarkar
- B. Vineet Joshi
- C. Dharmendra Pradhan
- D. K. Sanjay Murthy

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Which Indian Player Won A Bronze Medal In The Men's Singles At The Asian Squash Championships**

- A. Saurav Ghosal
- B. Mahesh Mangaonkar
- C. Ramit Tandon
- D. Velavan Senthilkumar

**ANSWER: D**



**16. Karol Nawrocki Has Been Elected As The New President Of Which Country**

- A. Ireland
- B. Sweden
- C. Poland
- D. Norway

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Which City Hosted The Spiritual And Wellness Summit 2025 To Promote Ancient Traditions And Modern Health Practices**

- A. Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
- B. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- C. Varanasi, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Patna, Bihar

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Tendulkar– Anderson Trophy, A Test Series That Was Recently Seen In News, Is Associated With Which Countries**

- A. India-England
- B. India-Australia
- C. India-South Africa
- D. India-Sri Lanka

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Which Gram Panchayat Won Gold Medal In Digital Governance Category Under The National Awards For E- Governance 2025**

- A. Palsana Gram Panchayat, Gujarat
- B. Rohini Gram Panchayat, Maharashtra
- C. West Majlishpur Gram Panchayat, Tripura
- D. Suakati Gram Panchayat, Odisha

**ANSWER: B**

**20. The Dampier- Hodges Line Is Related To Which Of The Following**

- A. Bay of Cambay
- B. Palk Strait
- C. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- D. Sundarbans

**ANSWER: D**