

Daily Current Affairs

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India - Brazil

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target to scale up **bilateral trade with Brazil from the existing 12.2 billion to 20 billion dollars** in the next five years. Prime Minister said that both the countries will work closely to **expand the Mercosur preferential trade agreement** to cover more products and improve market access for Indian exporters. **Mercosur is a regional trade block comprising Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.**



- Mr Modi announced plans to **enable Unified Payments Interface adoption** in Brazil on the lines of India's digital payments infrastructure. He identified key sectors for enhanced bilateral cooperation including agriculture, food processing, digital public infrastructure and space technology. **Agri tech and value added food exports** were other areas that the Prime Minister spoke to enhance trade.
- On this occasion, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Brazil's highest civilian award, the Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross.** Brazilian President Lula da Silva presented the award in recognition of PM

Modi's notable contributions to strengthen bilateral relations and enhancing India Brazil cooperation across key global platforms. He informed that the Brazilian President welcomed the idea of providing greater access to cost effective Indian drugs into Brazil.



- The talks were also held on **Visa liberalisation for businessmen and tourists from India**. He said that the Brazilian President welcomed the idea of inviting Indian pharma manufacturing companies to set up base in Brazil. Another sector that came up for discussion was access to **the critical mineral assets of Brazil**. Ideas were floated to allow Indian investments in Brazil to exploit the minerals or form a Joint Venture.
- **Mr Lula informed that a policy on rare earth minerals will provide** incentive to Indian businessmen. Secretary Kumaran also informed that three MoUs were signed during the bilateral. **They are exchanging intelligence on terrorism and transnational crime**, on biofuel, including ethanol blended fuel and on

Renewable energy. The Secretary added that three more MoUs will also be signed later on agriculture research, exchange of classified information and Intellectual Property regime.



- **Three agreements were signed today and exchanged** in front of the President of Brazil and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr Kumaran said, these were the agreements on cooperation in **combating international terrorism and transnational organised crime**, an MoU on cooperation for the sharing of successful large-scale digital solutions for digital transformation and an MoU on cooperation in renewable energy.

900 Crore Rupees For Smart Classrooms In Govt Schools

- **Delhi Cabinet has approved over 900 crores of rupees for Smart Classrooms** in the Delhi Government's schools. It has also approved the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP)-2020** in the national capital. The decisions were taken in the 10th Cabinet Meeting chaired by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.



- Briefing the media in New Delhi, Education Minister Ashish Sood unveiled a **comprehensive digital classroom expansion plan**. He added that under the plan, two thousand 446 smart blackboards will be installed across the 75 Chief Minister Shri Schools.
- He informed that the **cabinet has also cleared proposals to create 18 thousand 966 additional smart classrooms** for Classes 9 to 12 over five phases, taking the total number of smart classrooms to more than 21 thousand by 2029-30.

Agricultural Technology Innovation Centre

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the **Agricultural Technology Innovation Centre** at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Agricultural University, Meerut, emphasising the government's push to transform farmers into entrepreneurs.



- Highlighting AI's role in doubling farm income and ensuring fair prices, he noted **IIT Ropar's lead in the Centre of Excellence for AI in Agriculture**. Mr. Pradhan announced the establishment of a Skill Development Centre at the university to boost farmer-focused research and startups.

Artistic Gymnastics World Championships

- **Indonesia is set to host the 2025 Artistic Gymnastics World Championships**, scheduled to take place in Senayan, Jakarta, from October 19 to 25. This marks the first time that **Indonesia and, indeed, any Southeast Asian nation** will host the prestigious event.



- **Ita Yuliati, Chair of the Indonesian Gymnastics Federation**, announced that a record 86 countries and regions have already registered for the 53rd edition of the championships. She stated that usually, this world championship is attended **by around 70 countries, and this time**, there are already 86 countries that have registered.



- The event will bring together **more than 600 athletes from around the world**, competing at the highest level of artistic gymnastics. The **Artistic Gymnastics World Championships are held annually**, featuring competitions in both men's and women's events.
- **The first championship was held in 1903 for men, while** women first competed in 1934. Since then, the event has grown into one of the most significant fixtures on the international gymnastics calendar

Vietnam, China Agree To Boost Trade

- **Vietnam and China have agreed to boost trade and investment ties** between the two countries during a meeting of the Prime Ministers of both countries on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Brazil.



- The move came days after **U.S. President Donald Trump announced a new trade deal with Vietnam that would slap a 20% tariff** on all Vietnamese exports to the **United States but also put a 40% levy** on trans shipments through Vietnam from third countries.
- In a statement, the **Vietnamese government said that Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh met** with Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Rio de Janeiro and decided to enhance their trade relations along with other strategic cooperation.

Rainfall Decline In Meghalaya's Sohra

- **Meghalaya's Sohra, also called Cherrapunji**, known as the wettest place on Earth, has experienced a drastic drop in rainfall in 2025. June recorded only about one-third of last year's rainfall. This sharp decline marks the growing impact of climate change on regional weather patterns.
- Recently, **Sohra received 1,095.4 mm of rainfall compared to 3,041.2 mm in June 2024**. May also showed a shortfall of around 400 mm. This represents one of the steepest year-on-year declines in the region's rainfall. Over the past 15 years, the average annual rainfall has **dropped to 8,000-9,000 mm from a normal average of 11,000 mm**.



- Sohra's rainfall has fallen far below historic levels. **In the 1970s, the town often recorded nearly double the current averages.** The world record of 24,555 mm rainfall in 1974 remains unmatched. Today's annual rainfall is about a third of that record, marking shift in the local climate. Experts cite multiple causes for the rainfall decline.



- **Shifting monsoon patterns have altered precipitation cycles.** Deforestation reduces moisture retention and rainfall generation. Rising sea surface temperatures influence monsoon intensity. Urbanisation increases water demand and disrupts natural water cycles.
- **Despite its heavy rain reputation, Sohra now faces water shortages,** especially in dry months. Villagers rely on fragile springs. Some areas depend on water

tankers to meet basic needs. **The growing population—over 70,000 from 7,000 in 1961—and rising tourism pressure water resources further.**

UAE Introduces Golden Visa For Indians

- **United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched a pilot nomination-based golden visa programme** for residents of India and Bangladesh. This new policy offers lifetime residency in the UAE on payment of a fee of **AED 100,000 (around Rs 23.3 lakh)**.
- Unlike the previous golden visa scheme, it does not require investment in property or business. This initiative reflects deepening ties between the UAE and India, especially after the **2022 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**. The UAE golden visa grants long-term residency without the need for a local sponsor. It allows expatriates and their families to live, work, and study in the country. The **visa duration ranges from five to ten years** under the existing system. It supports business growth and attracts talented individuals.



- Two main categories qualify for the golden visa –
- **Investors who commit** at least AED 2 million (Rs 4.67 crore) in business or real estate, or start projects valued at AED 500,000 (Rs 1.17 crore).

- **Outstanding talents, including doctors**, scientists, artists, inventors, executive directors, athletes, doctorate holders in engineering and science, and high-achieving students.
- The **nomination-based policy offers lifetime residency**, unlike the current five to ten years. It removes the requirement of investment in property or business. Applicants are nominated and undergo strict background checks including anti-money laundering and criminal record verification. The **policy initially applies only to India and Bangladesh**, with plans to expand to other CEPA countries like China.



- Applicants do not need to visit the UAE for pre-approval. Applications can be submitted through **visa concierge services like OneVASCO centres** in India and Bangladesh. Successful applicants can bring family members, employ domestic help, and engage in business or professional activities freely in the UAE. This programme strengthens UAE-India relations and promotes economic cooperation. It offers a legal pathway for skilled and financially capable individuals to settle in the UAE.
- The **scheme is expected to attract over 5,000 Indians** in the pilot phase alone. Such visas generate revenue and encourage investments in the host country. olden visa and citizenship-by-investment schemes exist worldwide. Countries

like Saint Kitts and Nevis and Portugal introduced them to boost economies during crises.

- However, these **programmes face criticism for risks related to money laundering**, tax evasion, and misuse by criminals. Some nations have restricted or scrapped such visas due to security concerns and local economic impact. The UK ended its investor visa in 2022 amid fears of illicit funds linked to geopolitical tensions.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. PM Modi Set A Target To Scale Up Bilateral Trade With Brazil To

- A. 15 Billion Dollars
- B. 20 Billion Dollars
- C. 25 Billion Dollars
- D. 30 Billion Dollars

ANSWER: B

2. UAE Launched Nomination-based Golden Visa Programme On Payment Of

- A. 20 lakh
- B. 23.3 lakhs
- C. 24.5 lakhs
- D. 25 lakhs

ANSWER: B

3. Which State Government Allocated 900 Crore Rupees For Smart Classrooms In Govt Schools

- A. Kerala
- B. Haryana
- C. Delhi
- D. Himachal Pradesh

ANSWER: C

4. Artistic Gymnastics World Championships Will Be Hosted In

- A. Argentina
- B. Indonesia
- C. Thailand
- D. Hong Kong

ANSWER: B

5. Which State Government Has Launched Mukhyamantri Vrindavan Gram Yojana To Develop Model Rural Villages

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

ANSWER: C

6. Seine River, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Indonesia
- B. France
- C. Australia
- D. China

ANSWER: B

7. National Commission For Minorities Is A Statutory Body Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Minority Affairs
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Women and Child Development

ANSWER: A

8. AIR LORA Is An Advanced Air Launched Ballistic Missile Developed By Which Country

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

ANSWER: D

9. Which Institution Has Launched The Financial Fraud Risk Indicator

- A. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- C. Department of Telecommunications' Digital Intelligence Unit (DoT-DIU)
- D. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre

ANSWER: C

10. Woolah Tea, Secured Patent For India's First Bagless Tea, Is Primarily Associated With Which State

- A. Meghalaya
- B. Sikkim
- C. Assam
- D. Tripura

ANSWER: C

11. Which State Has Become The Third State In India To Cross 1 Crore Registered Investors, As Per National Stock Exchange (NSE) Data

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Haryana
- C. Gujarat
- D. Punjab

ANSWER: C

12. What Is The Theme For International Cooperatives Day 2025

- A. Cooperatives Build a Better World
- B. Cooperatives: Partners for Sustainable Development
- C. Cooperatives for building a people-centred
- D. Cooperatives for Climate Action

ANSWER: A

13. PM POSHAN Scheme Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Finance

ANSWER: B

14. International Treaty On Plant Genetic Resources For Food And Agriculture Was Adopted By Which Organization

- A. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- B. World Health Organization (WHO)
- C. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- D. International Labour Organization

ANSWER: C

15. Tokara Islands, Are Located In Which Country

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

ANSWER: B

16. Where Is The Phenome India 'National Biobank' Located

- A. Mumbai
- B. Hyderabad
- C. New Delhi
- D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: C

17. Which State Became The First In India To Use Aadhaar- Based Face Authentication For Ration Distribution

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: A

18. What Was India's Rank In Global Biofuel Consumption In 2024

- A. 3rd
- B. 4th
- C. 5th
- D. 6th

ANSWER: B

19. Who Has Won The Rapid Title At The 2025 Grand Chess Tour's Rapid And Blitz Tournament In Zagreb, Croatia

- A. Vidit Gujrathi
- B. Arjun Erigaisi
- C. Nihal Sarin
- D. Gukesh Dommaraju

ANSWER: D

20. The Famous Konark Sun Temple Was Built By Whom

- A. Narshimhadeva I
- B. Angabhima deva I
- C. Konkanivarman
- D. Narsimhavarman II

ANSWER: A

