

Daily Current Affairs

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India & Maldives

- **India signed six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with the Maldives to enhance cooperation across multiple sectors following wide-ranging talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu** at the President's Office in Male.



- The **key areas include fisheries and aquaculture**, meteorology, digital public infrastructure, UPI, Indian pharmacopoeia and concessional Line of Credit. India announced a new Line of Credit of 4850 crore rupees to support the infrastructure development and other activities in the Island Nation. An Amendatory agreement was also exchanged between the two countries which reduces **Maldives' annual debt repayment obligations by 40 per cent, from 51 million dollars to 29 million dollars**. Both sides also announced the commencement of negotiations for the launch of a Free Trade Agreement.



- They exchanged Terms of Reference of the proposed FTA in this regard. During their talks, **Prime Minister Modi and President Muizzu** reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the ties. They called for further strengthening defence and maritime security cooperation **between India and the Maldives**.
- **The two leaders discussed cooperation in the fields of development partnership, capacity building, health, infrastructure, digital economy, aquaculture, climate change and renewable energy.**



- In a joint press statement after the talks, Prime Minister Modi said India and the Maldives are **celebrating sixty years of diplomatic ties**, describing their

relationship as older than history and as deep as the sea. He also assured India's continued support to the Maldives in strengthening its defence capabilities.

- He added that mutual cooperation in defense and security reflects the mutual trust between the nations. **Prime Minister Modi emphasized that peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region** is a shared goal. He announced that both nations will work together to strengthen regional maritime security at the Colombo Security Conclave. Prime Minister Modi underscored that the **proposed Free Trade Agreement and the Bilateral Investment Treaty** would open new opportunities for both sides. Noting that the two countries must take advantage of the digital economy, especially to promote tourism, he welcomed the recent understandings on UPI adoption, acceptance of RUPAY card and trade in local currencies.



- **The two leaders also virtually inaugurated a road and drainage system project** in Addu city and 6 High Impact Community Development Projects in other cities. **Prime Minister Modi handed over 3,300 social housing units** and 72 vehicles for Maldives National Defence Force and Immigration authorities. Mr Modi reached Male yesterday on a two-day visit to Maldives after concluding his tour to the United Kingdom.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated road and drainage System **project in Addu City of the Maldives**. The project includes 111 km of roads, 106 km of drainage works and 160 km of street lighting. India's Exim Bank has provided a line of credit for this project and works are carried out by the Afcons Infrastructure Limited.

- **Network-to-Network Agreement between NPCI International Payment Limited and Maldives Monetary Authority for launching UPI in Maldives is also signed between two countries.**



PM Modi Becomes Second Longest Serving PM

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the second-longest serving Prime Minister of the country with an uninterrupted tenure.** He said, Mr. Modi has completed four thousand **78 days of continuous** tenure by surpassing the record of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He said, Prime Minister Modi's tenure has been marked by golden chapters of development.



France To Officially Recognise Palestinian State

- **French President Emmanuel Macron** said that **France** will officially recognise a Palestinian state during the **United Nations General Assembly in September**. In his social media post, the French President said this decision to recognise the **State of Palestine has been taken in accordance** with the historic commitment of France to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.
- He said, the urgent need today is for the war in Gaza to end and for the civilian population to be rescued.



- **Saying that peace is possible, he pointed out that we need an immediate** ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and massive humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. He further added that the world must also guarantee the demilitarisation of Hamas, and secure and rebuild Gaza.
- **Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** has criticised this decision in the wake of the **October 7th massacre**. He has called this plan a grave mistake, accusing the French President of ignoring the risks posed by Hamas and other groups. Currently, the State of Palestine is recognised by more **than 140 of the 193 member states of the UN**

Atal Pension Yojna

- **Atal Pension Yojana, APY has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 8 crore total gross enrolments** with an addition of 39 lakh new subscribers in the current Financial Year alone.
- It is a flagship social security scheme of the Government of India administered by PFRDA. This milestone comes as the scheme celebrates its 10th anniversary since **its launch on 9th May, 2015.**



- Launched with a vision to create a universal social security system for all Indians, the APY is a voluntary, contributory pension scheme, focused on poor, underprivileged, and workers in the unorganized sector.
- Key-Features:
- **Minimum guaranteed pension of Rs.1,000/- or 2,000/- or 3,000/- or 4,000 or 5,000/- per month.**
- **Pension will start after attaining the age of 60 years** depending on the contributions by subscribers.
- Eligibility: Any citizen of India **between the age of 18 and 40.**
- Should have a savings bank account/ post office savings bank account.
- Administered by :**Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**



Projects Worth Over Rs 4800 Crore In Tamil Nadu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a **two-day visit to Tamil Nadu starting**. After completing his **two-nation tour to the UK and Maldives**, Mr Modi will travel directly to Tuticorin.
- The Prime Minister will inaugurate, **dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of various development projects** worth over four thousand eight hundred crore rupees at Tuticorin tonight. The projects will significantly enhance regional connectivity, boost logistics efficiency, strengthen clean energy infrastructure, and improve the quality of life for citizens across Tamil Nadu.



- **These include new terminal building at Tuticorin airport**, four laning of Sethiathoppu- Cholapuram, six laning of Thoothukudi port road, electrification

of the 90 km Madurai-Bodinayakkanur rail line, doubling of the 21 km Nagercoil Town-Kanniyakumari section.

- Mr Modi will lay the **foundation stone for a major power transmission project- the Inter-State Transmission System** for evacuation of electricity from Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant.



- Prime Minister will participate in the birth anniversary celebrations of the great **Chola emperor Rajendra Chola I with the Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival** at Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple in Tiruchirappalli.



- **Security has been tightened around Tuticorin** in view of the Prime Minister's visit. He will inaugurate the upgraded and modernised airport at Thoothukudi which has an impressive entrance which brings back the memories of the ancient pearl diving practice and a fishermen in a boat model objectifying the rich marine resources.
- The new terminal can handle more air traffic. **Spread across 17,340 square meters, the terminal** will be equipped to handle 1,350 passengers during peak hours and 20 lakh passengers annually, with future expansion capacity up to 1,800 peak hour passengers and 25 lakh passengers annually.



- As India maintains its position as the fastest-growing major economy, with a **GDP growth forecast between 6.3% and 6.8%** as per the IMF projection, the government demonstrates its commitment to infrastructure with an allocation of INR 11.21 lakh crore, **building on the previous year's 11.11 lakh crore.**
- Exports will require a strong supply chain system and the availability of dedicated transportation vessels. To improve Regional Connectivity and also to aim at enhancing **regional connectivity to 120 new destinations** and carry 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years, the Government has facilitated the upgradation of infrastructure and warehousing for air cargo.



PM MODI TO VISIT TAMIL NADU TODAY

- **This also works for the Tuticorin port as it is called a satellite port with the state of the art facility and with a huge wealth of perishable marine resources.** He is scheduled to attend the birthday of the great emperor, Rajendra Chola 1 which falls on the auspicious month of Adi and the birth star thiruvathira which is Betelgeuse, a red supergiant star in the Constellation of Orion. It also **coincides with the 1000 years of maritime trade** with Southeast Asian countries, the birth of the Bhakti movement and also the commencement of the construction of the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple.



Henley Passport Index 2025

- **India has improved its position on the Henley Passport Index 2025**, climbing 8 spots to rank 77th, compared to 85th in 2024, despite a modest increase in visa-free access from 57 to 59 countries.
- The **Henley Passport Index, based on International Air Transport Association (IATA)** data, ranks passports by the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.



- **Singapore holds the top spot with visa-free access to 193 destinations**, followed by Japan and South Korea in second place (190 destinations), and seven EU countries (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Spain) in third place (189 destinations).
- **Traditionally strong passports like the U.S. and U.K.** have declined in ranking — the U.S. dropped to 10th place (182 destinations), and the U.K. fell to 6th (186 destinations).
- The **Philippines and Sri Lanka are the two new additions** to India's visa-free access list in 2025, contributing to its improved global ranking.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Atal Pension Yojana, Achieved Milestone By Surpassing ___ Gross Enrolments

- A. 2 Crore
- B. 5 Crore
- C. 8 Crore
- D. 10 Crore

ANSWER: C

2. India Signed _____ Memoranda Of Understanding With The Maldives

- A. 5
- B. 6
- C. 7
- D. 8

ANSWER: B

3. Atal Pension Yojana Launched In

- A. 2010
- B. 2015
- C. 2018
- D. 2020

ANSWER: B

4. Income Tax Day Is Celebrated On Which Day Every Year In India

- A. 22 July
- B. 23 July
- C. 24 July
- D. 25 July

ANSWER: C

5. Which State Government Has Launched Foreign Language Scheme Named CM-FLIGHT To Boost Overseas Employment

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

ANSWER: D

6. What Is The Name Of The Scheme That Allows Young Indians To Live, Work, Or Study In The UK For Up To 2 Years

- A. India-UK Graduate Exchange Programme
- B. India Young Professionals Scheme
- C. UK-India Skilled Worker Visa
- D. UK-India Tourist Visa Plus

ANSWER: B

7. What Is The Official Title Of The Newly Launched Artificial Intelligence Strategy By The Trump Administration

- A. AI for Global Leadership
- B. Winning the Race
- C. America First in AI
- D. Path to AI Supremacy

ANSWER: B

8. What Is The Theme Of World Food India 2025

- A. Eat Right, Live Strong
- B. Sustainable Food Future
- C. Processing for Prosperity
- D. Food for All

ANSWER: C

9. According To A Morgan Stanley Report, By Which Year Is India Expected To Become The World's Third-largest Economy

- A. 2026
- B. 2027
- C. 2028
- D. 2029

ANSWER: C

10. Who Made History By Becoming The First Indian Ever To Reach The Final Of The FIDE Women's World Cup 2025

- A. Harika Dronavalli
- B. Divya Deshmukh
- C. Vaishali Rameshbabu
- D. Tania Sachdev

ANSWER: B

11. Which Country's Passport Is Ranked Most Powerful In The Henley Passport Index 2025

- A. Japan
- B. United States
- C. Germany
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: D

12. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Chairman Of The Insurance Regulatory And Development Authority Of India

- A. Debasish Panda
- B. T.V. Somanathan
- C. Ajay Seth
- D. Rajiv Kumar

ANSWER: C

13. Which Shipyard Constructed The 'Samudra Prachet'?

- A. Hindustan Shipyard
- B. Cochin Shipyard
- C. Goa Shipyard Ltd
- D. Garden Reach Shipbuilders

ANSWER:

14. Who Became The Youngest Mountaineer To Scale Mount Elbrus

- A. Teghbir Singh
- B. Arjun Vajpai
- C. Shivangi Pathak
- D. Krushnaa Patil

ANSWER: A

15. Chola Gangam Lake, Is Located In Which State

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

ANSWER: A