

Daily Current Affairs

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Sundarbans Tiger Reserve Expansion

- **Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR)** is set to **become India's second-largest tiger sanctuary**. A proposal to expand the reserve by 1,100 sq km has reached the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). This expansion will increase the reserve's area **from 2,585.89 sq km to 3,629.57 sq km**. The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has already granted technical clearance. The final approval now rests with the Standing Committee of the **National Wildlife Board (NWLB)**.



- The expansion proposal includes three forest ranges in South 24-Parganas – **Raidighi, Matla, and Ramganga**. Once incorporated, the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve will be second only to **Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in size**. The NTCA and NWLB are both chaired by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. The expansion aims to improve **tiger management by unifying the core and buffer forest areas**. It will facilitate better patrolling and monitoring of tiger populations. Central funding and resources for conservation efforts are expected to increase.



- The move is also intended to strengthen the ecological integrity of the mangrove forest ecosystem. The idea of expanding STR to include adjoining forest areas dates back nearly two decades. **Initial efforts in 2005-06 stalled but were revived in 2022-23 by a committee** led by the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve director. The integration was recommended to enhance ecological and administrative coherence. Forest officials and wildlife experts have welcomed the expansion. They view it as a long-overdue step for better tiger conservation. The **latest tiger census estimates 101 tigers in the region**, with 80 inside the current STR and 21 in adjacent forests. Conservationists expect the tiger population to rise with improved management.



- **Small-scale fishers in the region have expressed concerns** about potential livelihood losses. They fear that expansion could lead to stricter restrictions on fishing activities. Representatives of fishers claim there was no prior consultation with local communities. Forest officials have reassured that fishing rights and activities will remain unchanged.

71st National Film Awards

- **Hindi Movie 12th Fail has won the Best Film Award** in the 71st National Film Awards. Announcing the awards today in New Delhi this evening, Chairman of Jury (Feature Film) Ashutosh Gowariker said, **Shah Rukh Khan and Vikrant Massey** have won the National Film Awards in Best Actor category for Jawan and 12th Fail. He said, Rani Mukerji has been given Best Actress award for her performance in the film Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway.



- Chairman of Jury (Non- Feature Film) P Sheshadri said, **Flowering Man directed by Soumyajit Ghosh Dastidar** has bagged the Best Non-Featuring Film Award. He said, Piyush Thakur has got the Best Direction Award. Mr Sheshadri said, God Vulture and Human has got award for Best Documentary.

- **Hindi Film Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani bagged** the award for best popular film for wholesome entertainment, while Sam Bahadur was named best feature film promoting national, social and environmental values. Best Music Direction has been given to **GV Prakash Kumar for his work in Tamil film Vaathi.**



- **Shilpa Rao and PVN S Rohit have bagged** the awards for Best Playback Singers for songs in Hindi film Jawan and Telugu Film Baby. Malayalam Film Pookalam has been selected for Best Editing Award. **Marathi Film Naal 2 has been given the award for Best Children's Film,** while The Kerala Story has won Best Cinematography Award. Utpal Dutta has been selected as the Best Film Critic.

Category	Winner	Film
Best Actor (Leading Role)	Shah Rukh Khan	Jawan
	Rani Mukerji	Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway
	Vikrant Massey	12th Fail
Best Actress (Supporting Role)	Urvashi	Ullozhukku
	Janki Bodiwala	Vash
	Vijayaraghavan	Pookalam
	Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar	Parking

Regional Film Winner List

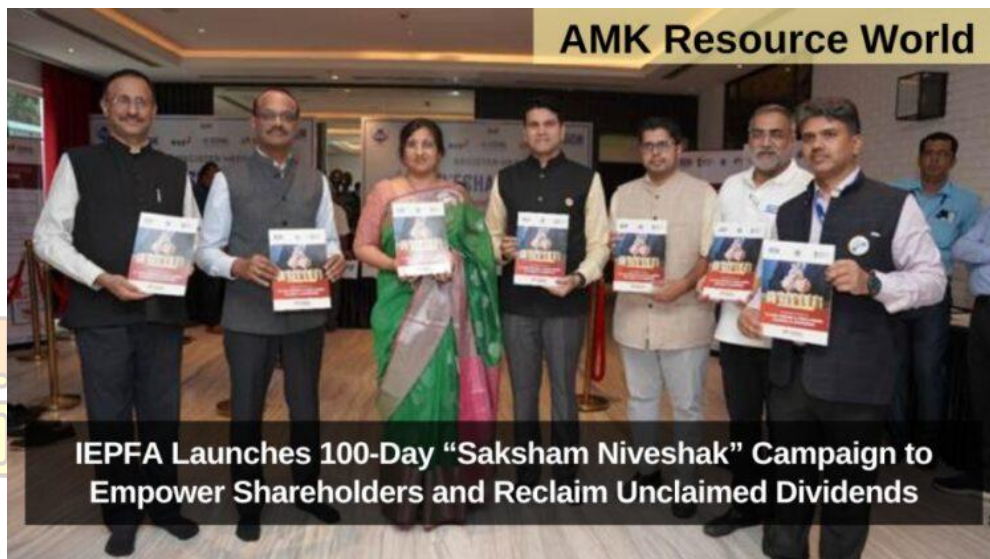
Category	Winner
Best Hindi Film	Kathal
Best Telugu Film	Bhagavanth Kesari
Best Tamil Film	Parking
Best Malayalam Film	Ullozhukku
Best Marathi Film	Shyamchi Aai
Best Kannada Film	Kandeelu
Best Punjabi Film	Godday Godday Chaa
Best Assamese Film	Rongatapu 1982
Best Bengali Film	Deep Fridge
Best Gujarati Film	Vash
Best Odia Film	Pushkara

Best Film Category Winners List

Category	Winner
Best Film in AVGC	HanuMan
Best Children's Film	Naal 2
Best Film Promoting National, Social Values	Sam Bahadur
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani
Best Debut Film	Aatmapamphlet
Best Film	12th Fail
Best Documentary Film	God Vulture and Human
Best Short Film	Giddh The Scavenger
Best Non-Fiction Film	Flowering Man

“Saksham Niveshak”

- **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs launched the Saksham Niveshak campaign in 2025. This 100-day national drive ran from 28th July to 6th November. It focused on **empowering shareholders by raising awareness** about unclaimed dividends and guiding them to update KYC and nomination details.
- The campaign aimed to help investors reclaim their dividends and prevent transfer of shares to the IEPFA. The campaign was initiated to address the issue of **unclaimed dividends held by companies**.



- Many shareholders remain unaware of dividends owed to them due to outdated records or lack of communication. **Saksham Niveshak sought to bridge this gap by encouraging companies to reach out proactively.** It also urged shareholders to update their KYC and nomination information to ensure smooth dividend payouts.
- The campaign had three main goals:
 - Resolve pending cases of unclaimed dividends with companies.
 - Support shareholders in updating KYC and nomination details.
 - Ensure direct dividend payments reach rightful investors without delay.
- **IEPFA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.** It protects investor interests and promotes financial literacy. The authority manages unclaimed **dividends and shares transferred** after a specified period. Through initiatives like Niveshak Didi, Niveshak Panchayat, and Niveshak Shivir, IEPFA builds investor awareness and empowerment across India.



- Recently, the **Department of Posts collaborated with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** to simplify KYC verification for over 24 crore mutual fund investors. This partnership benefits all Asset Management Companies under **AMFI by enabling seamless KYC compliance**. The move supports the growing investor base, which added nearly 10 million new investors in FY25 alone, enhancing financial inclusion and operational efficiency.

PM Modi Releases ₹1,000 Coin

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a **₹1,000 commemorative coin in Gangaikonda Cholapuram** to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the naval expedition of **King Rajendra Chola I**, celebrating India's rich maritime history.



- The proposal to release the coin was made by R. Komagan, chairman of the **Gangaikondacholapuram Development Council Trust**, who also designed the coin featuring King Rajendra Chola I on horseback with a ship in the backdrop.



- **Rajendra Chola I (1014 to 1044 AD)**, son of **Rajaraja Chola I**, was one of the greatest rulers of the Chola Empire. He was the first Indian king to lead overseas **military expeditions, extending Chola influence** across South and Southeast Asia.



- **Titles and Legacy:** He assumed titles like **Gangaikonda Cholan** (after defeating the Palas in Bengal) and **Kadaram Kondan** (after naval victories in the Srivijaya Empire), **Pandita Cholan**, and **Mudikondan**.

- Founded a new capital, Gangaikondacholapuram, to commemorate his northern conquests. **Built Brihadisvara Temple** (Gangaikondacholeeswaram) and Chola Gangam Lake (Ponneri) in present-day Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu.
- Military and Naval Prowess: He reasserted control over **Chera and Pandya regions; defeated Jayasimha II** of Western Chalukyas, Tungabhadra River became the northern frontier.
- **His conquests included** Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Kedah, Tambralinga, and Burma, establishing one of India's earliest blue-water navies.

Australia Bans Youtube For Children Under 16

- **Australia has expanded its child online safety law to ban YouTube** for users under 16, adding it to the list of restricted platforms alongside Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat.



- The inclusion of **YouTube** came after a survey revealed that **37% of minors** encountered harmful content on the platform, despite its earlier exemption for educational purposes.
- **The law, effective from December 10, 2025, imposes** fines up to 49.5 million Australian dollars on companies that fail to comply, reinforcing Australia's strict approach to protecting teenagers from online harm.

Bhils' Gavri Festival

- **Bhil community of Mewar in Rajasthan annually** celebrates Gavri, a 40-day ritual festival. This event involves dance-dramas, songs, and religious ceremonies dedicated to their **deity Gorkhiya Mata**. For the first time, this vibrant tradition has been showcased to a **wider audience through a photo exhibition at the India International Centre Art Gallery**.



- The exhibition marks the rich oral literature and cultural heritage of the Bhils. Gavri is performed after the **full moon night of Raksha Bandhan in August**. It honours the goddess Parvati, whom the Bhils regard as their sister. The festival is a deeply spiritual and social event where Bhil troupes travel to villages across Udaipur and nearby districts. **They perform khels—dance-dramas filled with trance-like states, songs,** and religious rites. These performances invoke the deity Gorkhiya Mata and celebrate Bhil identity and faith.



- The **Gavri festival creates a carnivalesque atmosphere**. It combines dance, parody, and humour to challenge caste and class hierarchies. No authority figure, including kings and gods, escapes satire. Male performers enact female roles due to the patriarchal nature of the society, creating rare moments of gender fluidity.



- During the festival, Bhils are revered as gods, a status that contrasts sharply with their usual social position. **Popular dance dramas like 'Badliya Hindwa' express the Bhils' deep connection to nature. Others, such as 'Bhilurana', narrate their historical resistance against invaders like the Mughals and the British East India Company. These plays end with salutations to the goddess and warnings against violating nature or Bhil sovereignty.** The festival thus serves as a medium for cultural preservation and political expression.

Mascot Of Asia Rugby

- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** unveiled the **mascot of Asia Rugby Under 20 (Sevens) Championship** to be held at Rajgir on 9th and 10th August. Under the **Championship Men's and Women's teams** of Asia will lock horns for the trophy at Rajgir Sports Complex. This event is being **organised first time in Bihar**. The top eight countries of Asia will participate in the championship which is a seven-member team event. Besides India, rugby-playing Asian countries like Hong

Kong, China, UAE, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Nepal will play in the Championship.



- The mascot of the Asia Rugby Championship has been named **Ashoka** which is a rabbit and symbolizes agility which is key requisite of the game. The Chief Minister extended best wishes to the players and organizers of the Championship. resident of the Rugby India and renowned actor Rahul Bose was also present during unveiling of the mascot at the CM secretariat.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Best Film Award In 71st National Film Awards.

- A. 12th Fail
- B. Jawaan
- C. Sam Manekshaw
- D. Sky Force

ANSWER: A

2. Name Of Asia Rugby Mascot

- A. Shera
- B. Ashoka
- C. Kapa
- D. Smoky

ANSWER: B

3. What is the full form of NISAR

- A. National Indian Space and Aerospace Radar
- B. New International Satellite for Advanced Research
- C. NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar
- D. Navigation and Imaging Satellite for Aerial Reconnaissance

ANSWER: C

4. What Is Kaziranga Tiger Reserve's Global Rank In Terms Of Tiger Density According To The Latest Report

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

ANSWER: B

5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State

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

ANSWER: B

6. Where Was The First-ever Grassland Bird Census In Assam Conducted

- A. Manas National Park
- B. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- C. Nameri National Park
- D. Kaziranga National Park

ANSWER: D

7. Which State's CM Released The Book "Sustainable Wellness Of Students: A Collective Responsibility In Higher Education"

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: B

8. Which Institution Developed World's Fastest Single-shot Microscope Capable Of Visualising Molecular Motion At Angstrom Scale

- A. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- B. Stanford University
- C. California Institute of Technology
- D. Harvard University

ANSWER: C

9. Which State Announced Formation Of State Sanitation Workers Commission

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

ANSWER: D

10. Which State Signed 33 MoUs Worth \$902 Million To Boost Its Textile Sector During The Odisha-TEX 2025 Summit

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

ANSWER: C

11. What Is Tariff Rate Set By United States On EU Exports Under New Trade Deal

- A. 30%
- B. 50%
- C. 15%
- D. 10%

ANSWER: C

12. Over Which Waterfall Maharashtra's First Glass Bridge Recently Inaugurated

- A. Napne waterfall
- B. Dudhsagar waterfall
- C. Thoseghar waterfall
- D. Vajrai waterfall

ANSWER: A

13. What Is Primary Objective Of The Newly Launched 'Gyan Bharatam Mission'

- A. Digitise Ancient Manuscripts
- B. Promote Fort Tourism
- C. Launch Digital University Portals
- D. Modernise Library Infrastructure

ANSWER: A

14. Name Of Counter-terrorism Operation In Which Indian Security Forces Neutralised 3 Lashkar-e- Taiba Terrorists Near Dachigam National Park

- A. Operation Mahadev
- B. Operation Rakshak
- C. Operation Vijay
- D. Operation Trinetra

ANSWER: A

15. In Which Indian State Indian Coast Guard's Fast Patrol Vessel 'Atal' Launched

- A. Goa
- B. Kerala
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A

16. Which Country Experienced 8.7-magnitude Earthquake Kamchatka Peninsula

- A. Japan
- B. United States
- C. Indonesia
- D. Russia

ANSWER: D

17. Under Which Act Do The Environment Protection (Management Of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025 Fall

- A. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- B. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- C. Environment Protection Act, 1986
- D. Hazardous Waste Management Rules, 2016

ANSWER: C

18. Name Of Ai Powered Robot Assisting Astronauts Aboard ISS

- A. Cimon
- B. Orion
- C. HAL-9000
- D. AstroBot

ANSWER: A

19. Which Country Announced Its Conditional Intention To Recognise A Palestinian State Amid The Ongoing Conflict In Gaza

- A. India
- B. Germany
- C. China
- D. United Kingdom

ANSWER: D

20. Which Among The Following Character Of Mercury Makes It Suitable To Use In Barometers Instead Of Water

- A. Low density and low vapor pressure
- B. High density and high vapor pressure
- C. Low density and good conductor of heat
- D. High density and low vapor pressure

ANSWER: D