

Daily Defence Current Affairs

18 September 2025

World Bamboo Day 2025

- World Bamboo Day 2025 will be observed on **18 September** across the globe to promote awareness about bamboo as a sustainable and versatile resource. Often called “**green gold**”, bamboo is vital for rural livelihoods, environmental protection, and innovation in design and industry.
- World Bamboo Day was first celebrated in 2009, during the 8th World Bamboo Congress in Bangkok. The World Bamboo Organization initiated this observance to showcase bamboo’s cultural, economic, and ecological importance.
- The theme for 2025 is: “**Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design.**”
- India has recognized bamboo as a strategic resource for climate action, employment generation, and economic growth. The country has launched the **National Bamboo Mission (NBM)** to promote large-scale bamboo cultivation, processing, and innovation.
- India hosts over 14 million hectares of bamboo area and about 136 species. Bamboo supports sectors like handicrafts, furniture, paper, packaging, and even construction.



UPI Increases Daily P2M Limit to ₹10 Lakh

- In a major move to support high-value digital transactions, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has revised the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) limits for **Person-to-Merchant (P2M) payments**. The revision, effective from 15 September 2025.
- Aims to ease large transactions in sectors like insurance, investments, and government marketplaces. This update is seen as a step towards enhancing India's growing digital payment ecosystem and reducing dependence on traditional banking methods for high-value payments.
- **Revised Limits Include**
 - ₹5 lakh per transaction for P2M payments
 - ₹10 lakh daily cap across all P2M transactions
 - Applies only to verified merchants
 - No change in Person-to-Person (P2P) daily limit, which remains ₹1 lakh
- **Sectors covered**
 - Insurance Premium Payments
 - Capital Market Investments (e.g., mutual funds, equities)
 - Travel and Tourism Services
 - Loan Collections and EMI Payments
 - Government e-Marketplace transactions



Global Innovation Index 2025

- India has shown a notable improvement in innovation performance, moving up to **38th place** in the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025**, as published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**.
- This ranking places India ahead of its 2020 position of **48**, and importantly, **#1** among lower-middle-income economies and in the Central and Southern Asia region.
- **India's Strength Areas**
 - Knowledge and Technology Outputs: Ranked 22nd
 - Market Sophistication: Ranked 38th
 - Human Capital & Research: Ranked in the top 40
- **India's Weaker Areas**
 - Business Sophistication: Ranked 64th
 - Infrastructure: Ranked 61st
 - Institutions: Ranked 58th



Sentient AI Launches Open AGI Network for 2 Million Users World Patient Safety Day 205

- In a landmark development for global artificial intelligence, AI startup Sentient has launched its open-source Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) network, providing access to 2 million waitlisted users.

- This launch, announced on September 17, 2025, positions India at the forefront of open AI innovation and sets the stage for direct competition with global giants like OpenAI and Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- **Key Features of Sentient's AGI Network**
- **Real-Time AI Agent Collaboration**
- Sentient's platform allows over 40 AI agents and models, integrated with more than 50 data sources, to collaborate in real time.
- **Blockchain Integration and Open Access**
- The AGI network is also integrated across multiple blockchains, with agents accessible via Sentient Chat, a consumer interface.



PM Modi Inaugurates PM Mitra Park in Dhar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM Mitra) Park** in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, marking a significant step in revitalising India's textile sector.
- The launch was coupled with a heartfelt tribute to the legacy of **Maheshwari sarees**, rooted in the vision of **Devi Ahilyabai Holkar**, and reaffirmed the government's commitment to empowering artisans, weavers, and women in rural India.
- Maheshwari sarees, known for their unique patterns and lightweight texture, have gained global appreciation. Reviving this craft within a modern industrial hub,
- **The newly inaugurated PM Mitra Park in Dhar will,**
- Function as a self-contained textile ecosystem
- Support spinning, dyeing, designing, processing, and exports
- Facilitate cotton (kapas) and silk (resham) availability at one location
- Offer quality checks and market expansion opportunities for local producers

- Enhance India's competitiveness in the global textile market



‘Yatri Sewa Diwas 2025’

- Minister of Civil Aviation Rammohan Naidu launched the initiative of ‘Yatri Sewa Diwas’ at airports across the country.
- The occasion was marked with free medical check-ups and health awareness campaigns at the airports, with a special focus on women travelers under the **Swastha Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan**.
- Supported by the visionary regional connectivity **scheme UDAN**, air travel in the country today is more available, accessible and affordable.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When will World Bamboo Day 2025 be observed?

- A. 17 September
- B. 18 September
- C. 19 September
- D. 20 September

ANSWER: B

2. World Bamboo Day was first celebrated in which year?

- A. 2005
- B. 2007
- C. 2009
- D. 2011

ANSWER: C

3. Where was the first World Bamboo Day celebrated?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bangkok
- C. Beijing
- D. Colombo

ANSWER: B

4. What is the theme of World Bamboo Day 2025?

- A. Bamboo for Sustainable Development
- B. Bamboo: The Green Resource
- C. Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design
- D. Bamboo for a Better Tomorrow

ANSWER: C

5. Which organization initiated World Bamboo Day?

- A. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- B. World Bamboo Organization
- C. International Bamboo Council
- D. Global Green Initiative

ANSWER: B

6. India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 is:

- A. 48
- B. 42
- C. 38
- D. 35

ANSWER: C

7. The AI startup Sentient launched its open-source AGI network on:

- A. 15 September 2025
- B. 16 September 2025
- C. 17 September 2025
- D. 18 September 2025

ANSWER: C

8. The PM Mitra Park inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi is located in which state?

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

ANSWER: C

9. The legacy of which sarees was honoured during the launch of PM Mitra Park in Dhar?

- A. Banarasi Sarees
- B. Maheshwari Sarees
- C. Kanjeevaram Sarees
- D. Paithani Sarees

ANSWER: B

10. Who launched the initiative of 'Yatri Sewa Diwas' at airports across India?

- A. Jyotiraditya Scindia
- B. Rammohan Naidu
- C. Ashwini Vaishnaw
- D. Piyush Goyal

ANSWER: B