

Daily Current Affairs

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Bihar's First Woman FIDE Master

- Marium Fatima, a talented young chess player from Muzaffarpur, Bihar, has etched her name in history by becoming the **first Woman FIDE Master (WFM)** from the state.
- This prestigious title, awarded by the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE), marks a new high not just in her career but also for Bihar's representation on the national and international chess stage.
- The **Woman FIDE Master (WFM)** title is awarded by FIDE based on a player's rating performance and achievements in recognized tournaments. It is one of the official international titles, ranked just below **Woman International Master (WIM)** and **Woman Grandmaster (WGM)**.



Korean Peninsula Denuclearisation

- Amid rising global tensions and regional security concerns, South Korea and the United States have reaffirmed their commitment to the **denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula**.
- The statement came from South Korea's National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac, who emphasized that the denuclearisation objective remains firm—regardless of North Korea's stance.

- **Three-Stage Plan**
- **Initial Halt:** The immediate priority is to halt North Korea's ongoing nuclear and missile development programs.
- **Trust-Building Measures:** South Korea is focusing on reducing tensions through dialogue, without weakening national security or deterrence.
- **Final Denuclearisation:** The long-term goal remains the complete dismantling of North Korea's nuclear arsenal, under international verification.
- The upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, scheduled to be held in Gyeongju, South Korea, is seen as an important multilateral platform for discussing security, trade, and regional cooperation.



India's First National Geothermal Energy Policy

- In a landmark step towards expanding India's clean energy portfolio, the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has launched the National Geothermal Energy Policy.
- This is India's first policy dedicated to harnessing geothermal energy — a renewable energy source derived from the Earth's internal heat.
- The initiative is a significant push towards **Net Zero emissions**, enhancing energy security, and promoting clean energy innovation. For competitive exam aspirants, this policy is crucial under topics such as environment, energy sector, climate goals, and government initiatives.

- Geothermal energy is the heat stored beneath the Earth's surface. It can be used for electricity generation, heating and cooling systems, greenhouse agriculture, and even desalination. Unlike solar or wind, geothermal energy offers 24×7 availability, making it a reliable renewable source.
- India has mapped out ten geothermal provinces with high thermal potential,
- Himalayas
- Cambay Basin
- Aravalli Range
- Mahanadi Basin
- Godavari Basin
- Additional areas include Sohana, West Coast, Son-Narmada-Tapti, and South India Cratons
- Geothermal Potential: India's estimated geothermal capacity stands at approximately **10 Gigawatt (GW)**.



‘I respect all religions’: CJI Gavai

- Chief Justice of India **B R Gavai** said he “respects all religions” after his oral remarks during a recent hearing of a plea seeking restoration of a **Lord Vishnu** idol in **Madhya Pradesh’s Khajuraho** set off a furore on social media.

- Presiding over a two-judge bench with Justice K Vinod Chandran, the Chief Justice of India made the comments on September 16 while dismissing the plea seeking the reconstruction of a dilapidated 7 feet tall Lord Vishnu idol at the **Javari Temple in Khajuraho Temple complex.**
- **“This purely publicity interest litigation... Go and ask the deity himself to do something. If you are saying that you are a strong devotee of Lord Vishnu, then you pray and do some meditation,”** CJI Gavai told the petitioner.
- Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, “I know the CJI for the last 10 years, my lord visits temples and places of all religions with reverence. This is serious, also, we used to know Newton’s law — every action has an equal reaction— now every action has a disproportionate social media reaction.”

GRACEFUL KHAJURAHO

Khajuraho is an ancient city known for its magnificent temples (Mandir) and intricate sculptures. The Khajuraho city is located in the Chattarpur district of Madhya Pradesh and holds spellbinding historical tales and architectural grandeurs. As per the historical archives, the Khajuraho temple site had 85 temples during the 12th century spread over 20 square kilometres. Among these, only 25 temples have survived the course of time, spread over six square kilometres.

THE HISTORY OF KHAJURAHO GROUP OF TEMPLES

Built in the mediaeval century by the Chandela Dynasty, the UNESCO site of 'Khajuraho Group of Monuments' is famous for its Nagara-Style architecture and graceful sculptures of nayikas (Hindu Mythological female protagonists) and deities. The splendour of the intricate statues is one of the reasons that makes it a popular site to visit among tourists. Built between 950-1050 AD by the Chandela Dynasty, these temples represent various forms of meditation, spiritual teachings and relationships through stimulating art. The temples are famous for their craftsmanship that consist of splendid demonstrations of fine sculptures and exceptional architectural skill, making them one of the most stunning UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India.



THE EASTERN GROUP OF TEMPLES

Vamana Temple

Vamana Temple is dedicated to the fifth incarnation of Lord Vishnu and is built between 1050-75. This temple has few erotic carvings and a four-armed standing Lord Vishnu on its lintel.

Javari Temple

Built between 1075 and 1100, Javari Temple stands on a high plinth and has a raised Shikhara. Its delicately carved Makara Torana arch is a fine example of the stone carving skills of the people of that era.

Parsvanatha Temple

This temple is one among the couple of old temples that were constructed using honey-coloured sandstone. This Jain temple was built between 950-970 but also holds images of deities of the Vaishnava faith, Lord Vishnu.

Adinatha Temple, Santinatha Temple, Chantai Temple and Brahma Temple are a [few other Jain temples](#) in this group with significant architectural and historical features.

Bima Sugam

- The Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF) has launched Bima Sugam, a digital platform envisioned as the world's largest integrated online insurance marketplace.

- **About:** Bima Sugam is a unified digital marketplace for all insurance needs-life, health, and general, where users can buy, renew, manage, and claim policies on a single platform.
- It will securely store policy documents and function like UPI, creating a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for insurance.
- **Insurance Sector in India**
- India is the **10th largest** insurance market globally and is projected to become the **6th largest** by 2032, surpassing Germany, Canada, Italy, and South Korea.
- Insurance Density increased from USD 92 in FY23 to USD 95 in FY24, calculated as the per capita premium (ratio of premium to population).



19 September - International Talk Like a Pirate Day

- International Talk Like a Pirate Day is celebrated on 19 September annually. The day encourages people to talk and dress like the sea plunderers of yesteryears.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. By mid-2025, how many unicorns did India have?

- A. 50
- B. 75
- C. 118
- D. 200

ANSWER: C

2. Which of the following is NOT an Indian unicorn?

- A. Zomato
- B. Razorpay
- C. Meesho
- D. Tesla

ANSWER: D

3. What valuation defines a unicorn startup?

- A. Over USD 10 million
- B. Over USD 100 million
- C. Over USD 1 billion
- D. Over USD 10 billion

ANSWER: C

4. When was the Startup India initiative launched?

- A. 2014
- B. 2015
- C. 2016
- D. 2017

ANSWER: C

5. What is Bima Sugam?

- A. A banking app
- B. A digital insurance marketplace
- C. A healthcare program
- D. A financial literacy campaign

ANSWER: B

6. Who became the first Woman FIDE Master (WFM) from Bihar?

- A. Koneru Humpy
- B. Marium Fatima
- C. Tania Sachdev
- D. Harika Dronavalli

ANSWER: B

7. When is International Talk Like a Pirate Day celebrated?

- A. 15 August
- B. 19 September
- C. 1 October
- D. 25 December

ANSWER: B

8. What is the main objective of International Talk Like a Pirate Day?

- A. To honour sailors
- B. To celebrate maritime trade
- C. To talk and dress like pirates
- D. To commemorate naval battles

ANSWER: C

9. _____ and Saudi Arabia signed a mutual defence pact on Wednesday, formalising a defence and security partnership?

- A. Pakistan
- B. China
- C. USA
- D. Iran

ANSWER: A

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