

# Daily Current Affairs

## 20 September 2025

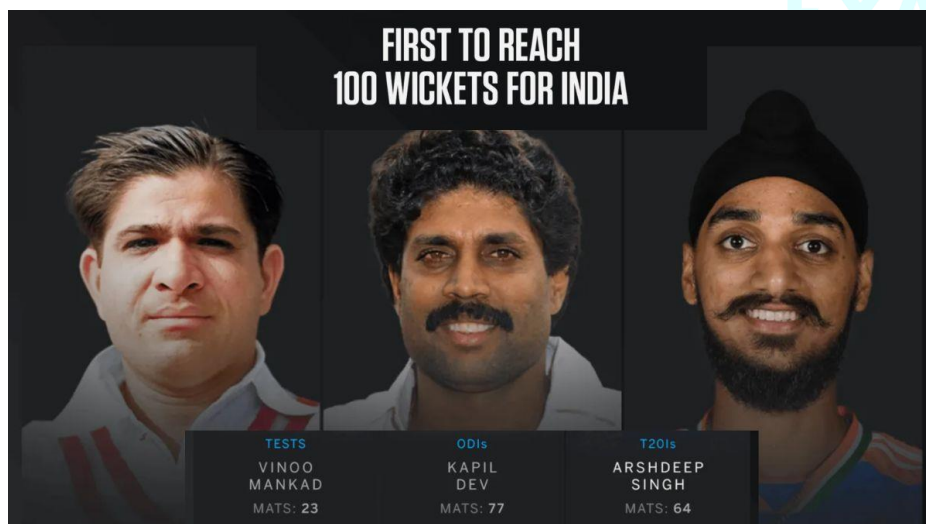
### International Red Panda Day 2025

- International Red Panda Day 2025 is being celebrated on Saturday, September 20 (3rd Saturday of September) Launched in 2010 by the Red Panda Network, this day has grown into a global campaign involving zoos, schools, and communities worldwide.
- Native to the Eastern Himalayas, red pandas are found in **Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, and China**. Though about the size of a house cat, their bushy, striped tails and rich red fur give them a foxlike appearance.
- Red pandas are endangered — population halved in 20 years.
- Human actions are the primary threat — including habitat destruction, poaching, and the pet trade.
- Solutions exist — reforestation, education, patrols, and community involvement are making a difference.



## Arshdeep Singh Becomes First Indian to Reach 100 T20I Wickets

- Arshdeep Singh has etched his name in the record books by becoming the first Indian bowler to claim 100 T20I wickets, reaching the milestone during India's final group game of the 2025 Asia Cup against Oman.
- He dismissed Vinayak Shukla to get there in just 64 matches, making him one of the fastest to achieve this landmark globally.
- **Fastest to 100 T20I Wickets for a Fast Bowler**
- Debut: July 2022 vs England
- Time Taken: 3 years, 74 days
- Matches: 64
- Deliveries: 1,329
- Global Rank: Fastest among fast bowlers by matches and balls
- Overall Rank: Fourth-fastest bowler behind Rashid Khan, Sandeep Lamichhane, Wanindu Hasaranga



## First Hilsa Consignment from Bangladesh Reaches India

- Bangladesh has resumed its seasonal export of hilsa fish to India, but in its lowest volume since 2019. On September 17, 2025, the first consignment of

around 32 tonnes arrived in West Bengal via the Petrapole border, marking the beginning of a restricted trade window approved by the Bangladesh gov.

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- Hilsa, often called the “**Queen of Fish**”, holds not only culinary but also cultural significance during Bengal’s biggest festival. However, this year’s reduced quota and tight shipment window have raised concerns among importers and consumers alike.
- **Origin Matters:** The Bangladeshi hilsa, especially from the Padma River, is widely considered superior in taste and texture compared to its Indian counterpart from the **Hooghly River**.
- **Cultural Demand:** In West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura, hilsa is not just a delicacy but also part of ritualistic and celebratory meals, especially during Durga Puja.



## India Records First Half-Year CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Drop in 2025

- For the first time outside a crisis period like the COVID-19 lockdown, India has recorded a fall in carbon dioxide emissions from its electricity sector.
- According to an analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) for the UK-based Carbon Brief, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions dropped by 1% between January and June 2025, compared to the same period in 2024.

- Given that the electricity sector accounts for nearly 40% of India's total greenhouse gas emissions, this minor but symbolic decline is a landmark development in the country's environmental trajectory.
- India added 25.1 GW of clean energy capacity in the first half of 2025—a 70% jump over last year. These additions included solar, wind, hydropower, and nuclear installations.
- India is currently the third-largest CO<sub>2</sub> emitter in the world, behind China and the US.
- Historically, its emissions have risen steadily with economic growth.
- The government has set a national target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.



## QS Global MBA Rankings 2026

- Fourteen Indian institutions have featured in the QS Global MBA and Business Master's Rankings 2026, with three of the country's premier IIMs securing spots in the global top 100. IIM Bangalore leads the pack at 52nd place, climbing one position from last year.
- **IIM Bangalore** leads the pack at **52nd place**, climbing one position from last year. **IIM Ahmedabad** follows at **58th**, up two places, while **IIM Calcutta** has reached **64th**, improving by one rank.
- According to QS, these gains reflect consistently strong performance in employability, return on investment, and thought leadership.
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the higher education analytics firm best known for its annual World University Rankings, evaluated over 390 full-time MBA programmes across 80 countries for this edition.

- The Global MBA and Business Master's Rankings are based on indicators including employability, ROI, thought leadership, and diversity, offering insights into the world's leading study destinations for aspiring business leaders.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>2026 Rank</b>	<b>2025 Rank</b>
IIM Bangalore	52	53
IIM Ahmedabad	58	=60
IIM Calcutta	64	65
IIM Indore	151–200	201–250
IIM Kozhikode	201–250	151–200
IIM Lucknow	201–250	201–250
Woxsen School of Business	201–250	–
IIM Udaipur	251–300	201–250
XLRI Xavier School of Management	251–300	201–250
IIFT Delhi	301+	–
IMT Ghaziabad	301+	251+
International Management Institute Kolkata	301+	251+
MDI Gurgaon	301+	251+
Somaiya Vidyavihar University	301+	251+

## India Looks More FTA in Gulf, GCC

- After the UAE, government is looking at trade pacts with individual countries in West Asia, instead of the earlier plan for an agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council, commerce & industry minister Piyush Goyal said.



- "The agreement with the UAE has been the most successful trade agreement so far. The one with Oman will be signed soon and the terms of reference with Qatar are being discussed," he said.
- While India and GCC were pursuing a trade agreement, India went ahead and signed the treaty with UAE as the one with the bloc was taking time, possibly due to Saudi Arabia's reluctance. Goyal said that the proposal for an FTA with GCC is not on the table at the moment.
- In recent months, govt has been pursuing an aggressive agenda on trade agreements, engaging with several countries, ranging from the UK and EU to Peru. Sources said the agreement with Oman is undergoing vetting and translation before being sent for clearances.
- Companies in UAE have shown significant interest in partnering with Indian players to export to third countries in Africa and central Asia, industry executives said.
- **GCC**
- "GCC" can refer to several entities, but commonly refers to the Gulf Cooperation Council, a regional political and economic union in the Middle East, and the GNU Compiler Collection, a free and open-source collection of compilers.
- It can also refer to Global Capability Centers, which are large technology service centers established by multinational companies, and the Greater Chennai Corporation, the municipal corporation of Chennai, India.
- Headquarters:
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Established:
- May 25, 1981, with a charter signed by
- the member states.



## Trump Slaps \$100,000 Fee On H-1B Visas

- US President Donald Trump, in his latest efforts to crack down on immigration, signed a proclamation imposing a \$100,000 (over Rs 88 lakh) fee on H-1B visa applicants - a move that could potentially deal a significant blow to the technology sector, which relies heavily on skilled workers from India and China.
- According to Trump, the move is aimed at ensuring that the people being brought into the country are "actually very highly skilled" and do not replace American workers. "We need workers. We need great workers, and this pretty much ensures that that's what's going to happen," he said.
- **What is the H-1B visa**
- The H-1B visa is a temporary US work visa that allows companies to hire foreign professionals with specialised skills. It was created in 1990 for people with a bachelor's degree or higher in fields where jobs are deemed hard to fill, especially science, technology, engineering, and math.
- The visa is initially granted for three years, but can be extended to a maximum of six years. For those who received a Green Card (permanent residency), the visa can be renewed indefinitely. To apply, candidates register online with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), following which a lottery system randomly selects applicants.
- The Trump administration, however, is weighing further changes to the way applications are considered.
- **Impact on Indians**

- Indians have been consistently making up the majority of H-1B visa holders. According to government data, India was the largest beneficiary of H-1B visas last year, accounting for 71 per cent of approved beneficiaries, reported news agency Reuters. China was a distant second at 11.7 per cent.
- **Trump's 'Gold Card' visa program**
- Trump also signed an executive order for a 'Gold Card' visa program with fees set at \$1 million for individuals and \$2 million for businesses. "We think it's going to be very successful... It's going to raise billions of dollars, which will reduce taxes, pay off debt, and do other good things," the Republican leader said.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was established in which year?**  
A. 1975  
B. 1981  
C. 1990  
D. 2000

**ANSWER: B**

2. **Which city hosts the headquarters of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?**  
A. Abu Dhabi  
B. Doha  
C. Riyadh  
D. Muscat



**ANSWER: C**

**3. How many member states are part of the GCC?**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Which of the following is NOT a member of the GCC?**

- A. Bahrain
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Kuwait
- D. Jordan

**ANSWER: D**

**5. The H-1B visa, created in 1990, is mainly designed for which category of professionals?**

- A. Artists and entertainers
- B. Farmers and agricultural workers
- C. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) professionals
- D. Journalists and media workers

**ANSWER: C**

**6. In the QS Global MBA Rankings 2026, which Indian institute secured the highest position?**

- A. IIM Ahmedabad
- B. IIM Calcutta
- C. IIM Bangalore
- D. IIM Lucknow

**ANSWER: C**

**7. What position did IIM Ahmedabad achieve in the QS Global MBA Rankings 2026?**

- A. 52<sup>nd</sup>
- B. 58<sup>th</sup>
- C. 64<sup>th</sup>
- D. 72<sup>nd</sup>

**ANSWER: B**

**8. The Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT) was developed under which mission?**

- A. Sagar Mala Mission
- B. Cruise Bharat Mission
- C. Maritime India Mission
- D. Blue Economy Mission

**ANSWER: B**

**9. International Red Panda Day is observed on which day of September?**

- A. 1st Saturday
- B. 2nd Saturday
- C. 3rd Saturday
- D. 4th Saturday

**ANSWER: C**

**10. By mid-2025, India's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from its electricity sector dropped by how much compared to the same period in 2024?**

- A. 0.5%
- B. 1%
- C. 2%
- D. 3%

**ANSWER: B**