Daily Current Affairs
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World Tourism Day 2025

- World Tourism Day 2025 will be celebrated on 27th September with the **theme** "**Tourism and Sustainable Transformation**." Spearheaded by the UN World Tourism Organization this global event aims to redefine tourism as a driver of sustainability, cultural preservation, and economic empowerment.

- The idea of World Tourism Day was formalized in 1980 by the UNWTO, choosing 27 September to commemorate the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes in 1970.

- It focuses on,

- Reducing carbon emissions

- Conserving biodiversity

- Empowering women, youth, and indigenous communities

- Encouraging small-scale, community-driven enterprises

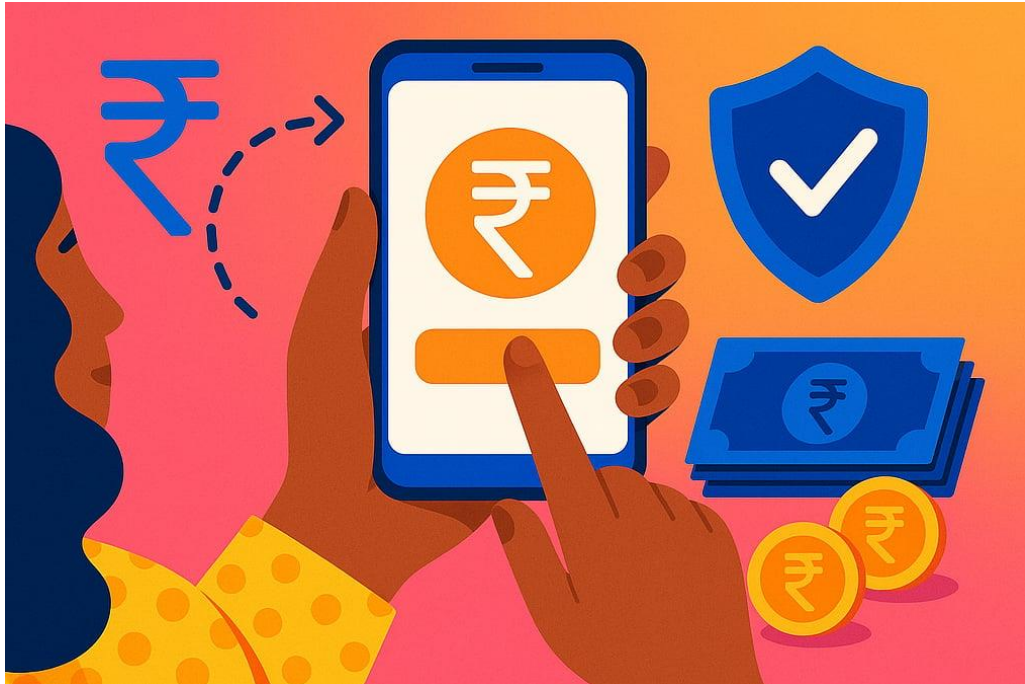- Embedding education and skills into tourism systems

India Govt. Appoints First Mushroom Scientist to Lead BSI

- In a groundbreaking moment for India's scientific community, Dr. Kanad Das took charge as the 13th Director of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) on September 25, 2025, becoming the first mycologist to head the prestigious institute.

- The BSI, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), has played a vital role in cataloguing and conserving India's plant biodiversity since its establishment in 1890.

- Dr. Kanad Das is internationally renowned for his expertise in the taxonomy of fungi, with more than 165 new species of wild mushrooms and two new genera discovered under his name.

- **Botanical Survey of India**

- Established: 1890

- Parent Ministry: MoEFCC

- Headquarters: Kolkata

- 11 Regional Centres, 4 supporting units

- Mission: Explore, document, and conserve India's floral wealth

UPI Launches in Qatar, Boosting Digital Payments Abroad

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has gone live in Qatar, starting with duty-free outlets at Hamad International Airport in Doha.

- This move makes Qatar the eighth country to accept UPI, expanding its usability for Indian travelers abroad. The development is part of a collaboration between NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), Qatar National Bank (QNB), and Japanese payments gateway NETSTARS.

- With Qatar now accepting UPI payments, Indian tourists can use familiar apps like Phone Pay, Google Pay, or BHIM to make real-time QR code-based payments.

- This eliminates the hassle of,

- Carrying large amounts of foreign currency

- Facing unfavorable exchange rates

- Managing credit or debit card charges abroad

- **UPI's Growing International Footprint**

- Bhutan

- Nepal

- Singapore

- France

- United Arab Emirates

- Mauritius, Sri Lanka

- **How Travelers Can Use UPI in Qatar**

- Enable international payments in the UPI app before traveling

- Check transaction limits, which may vary by merchant or app

- Confirm outlet availability, since not all locations accept UPI yet

- Carry backup options like international cards or cash

Türkiye–US Nuclear Deal

- Türkiye and the United States signed a Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement on September 25, 2025, during President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's high-profile visit to the White House.
- The agreement marks a significant step in deepening bilateral ties, particularly in the high-tech domain of nuclear energy, with wide-ranging implications for energy security, technological cooperation, and regional influence.
- While official details remain limited, Turkish officials confirmed the deal focuses on,
- Development of large-scale nuclear power plants
- Deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs)
- Türkiye's nuclear journey began with the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant, currently under construction by Russia's Rosatom in Mersin province.
- Cost: $20 billion
- Reactors: Four VVER units
- Total Capacity: 4,800 MW
- First Unit Operational By: 2026

India's First EV Truck Fleet Flagged Off at JNPA

- India's first fleet of electric heavy-duty trucks with swappable batteries was launched at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) on September 25, 2025.
- The fleet was flagged off by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, at Nhava Sheva Distribution Terminal, marking a key milestone in India's efforts to decarbonise port operations.
- A total of 50 EV trucks were inducted into JNPA's internal fleet, with plans to scale up to 80 by the end of the year and achieve 90% conversion of its 600-truck fleet to electric vehicles by December 2026.
- The fleet includes battery-swapping capability, allowing trucks to replace depleted batteries in minutes, eliminating long charging downtimes.
- Alongside the fleet, a dedicated heavy-duty battery swapping station was also inaugurated.

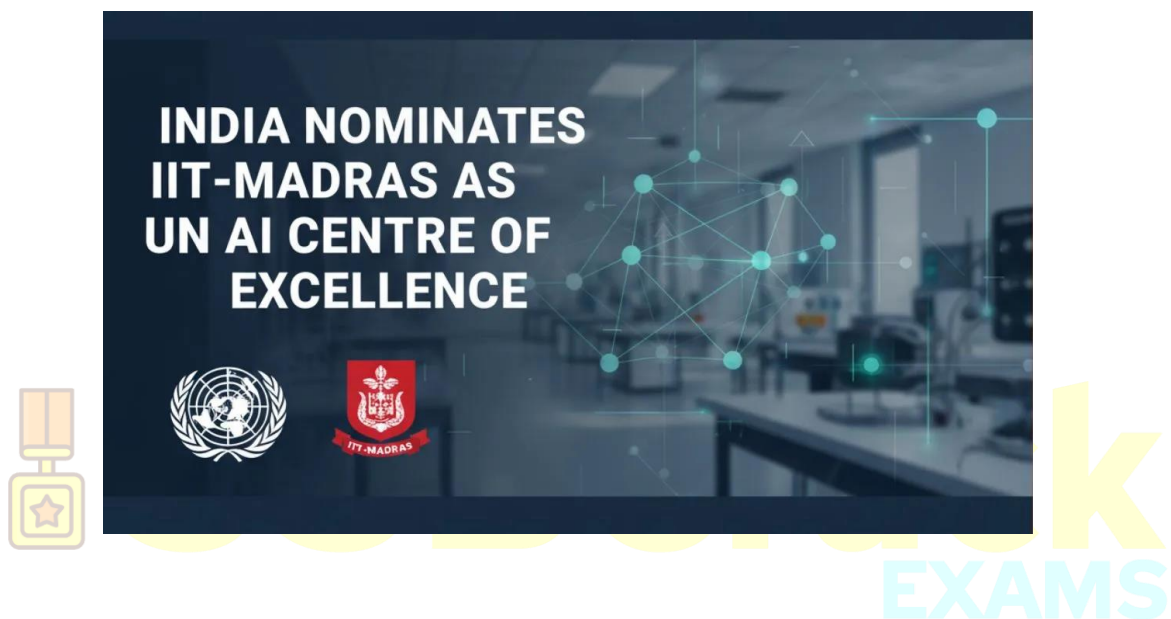# Dubai to Launch 15-km Corridor for Driverless Transport by 2026

- Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has announced the launch of the Dubai Autonomous Zone (DAZ)—a 15-kilometre dedicated corridor for driverless vehicles and marine transport.
- The initiative, revealed at the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport, aligns with Dubai's ambition to make 25% of daily trips autonomous by 2030.
- The zone is expected to be operational in early 2026 and will span across key mobility hubs like Al Jaddaf Metro Station, Dubai Creek Harbour, and Dubai Festival City.
- The DAZ will offer a seamlessly connected ecosystem of autonomous transport options
- Driverless Metro
- RoboTaxis and RoboBuses
- Autonomous shuttles and logistics vehicles
- Delivery robots and road-sweeping bots
- Self-driving marine abras (water taxis)

India Nominates IIT-Madras as UN AI Centre of Excellence

- India has taken a significant step toward global leadership in Artificial Intelligence (AI) by nominating the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-Madras) as a UN Centre of Excellence for AI.

- The nomination, made by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), was announced at a high-level UN event in New York, signaling India's growing commitment to AI capacity building, skilling, and inclusive digital development, especially in the Global South.

- Recognized as an Institute of Eminence, IIT-Madras has been at the forefront of AI research, skilling, and innovation in India. Its nomination as a UN Centre of Excellence is part of an initiative by the United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) to create a network of global AI hubs.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Tourism Day 2025 will be celebrated on which date?
A. 25th September
B. 26th September
C. 27th September
D. 28th September
ANSWER: C

2. What is the theme of World Tourism Day 2025?
A. Tourism and Green Economy
B. Tourism for Cultural Exchange
C. Tourism and Sustainable Transformation
D. Tourism for Inclusive Growth
ANSWER: C

3. **Who has been appointed as the 13th Director of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) in September 2025?**
A. Dr. Rajesh Kumar
B. Dr. Kanad Das
C. Dr. Meera Nair
D. Dr. Subhash Chandra
   ANSWER: B

4. **Dr. Kanad Das is the first _____ to head the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).**
A. Botanist
B. Ecologist
C. Mycologist
D. Zoologist
   ANSWER: C

5. **The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recently went live in which country in September 2025?**
A. Saudi Arabia
B. Qatar
C. United Arab Emirates
D. Oman
   ANSWER: B

6. **Türkiye signed a Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with which country in September 2025?**
A. Russia
B. United States
C. France
D. China
   ANSWER: B

7. **Where was India's first fleet of electric heavy-duty trucks with swappable batteries launched in September 2025?**
A. Kandla Port
B. Visakhapatnam Port
C. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)
D. Paradip Port
   ANSWER: C

8. Who flagged off India's first fleet of electric heavy-duty trucks at JNPA?

A. Nitin Gadkari

B. Piyush Goyal

C. Sarbananda Sonowal

D. Hardeep Singh Puri

  ANSWER: C

9. The Dubai Autonomous Zone (DAZ) is a 15-kilometre dedicated corridor for:

A. Bullet trains

B. Bicycles

C. Driverless vehicles and marine transport

D. Electric buses

  ANSWER: C

10. Which Indian institute has been nominated as a UN Centre of Excellence for AI ?

A. IIT-Delhi

B. IIT-Madras

C. IISc Bangalore

D. IIT-Bombay

  ANSWER: B