

Daily Defence Current Affairs

04 October 2025

UPSC Turns 100

- On October 1, 2025, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) completed 100 years, marking a century of upholding merit-based recruitment and strengthening the backbone of India's governance.
- From its colonial origins to its modern digital evolution, the UPSC has grown into a symbol of trust, transparency, and integrity, administering some of the world's most challenging and prestigious examinations.
- The idea of an independent civil service body dates back to the Government of India Act, 1919, which proposed a neutral commission for recruiting top civil servants.
- Following the **Lee Commission's** recommendations in 1924, the **Public Service Commission** was formally established in October 1926 under **Sir Ross Barker**.
- Originally limited in authority and functioning under colonial scrutiny, it was reconstituted as the **Federal Public Service Commission** in 1935, under the Government of India Act, 1935.
- Post-Independence, the adoption of the **Constitution of India in 1950** gave rise to the UPSC, in its current form, with constitutional status under **Articles 315 to 323**.
- Over the decades, its mandate expanded beyond civil services to include examinations for engineering, forest, medical, and statistical services, ensuring administrative competency across India's governance architecture.



Mann Ki Baat Completes 11 Years

- On 3 October 2025, Mann Ki Baat, the monthly radio address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, completed 11 years since its first broadcast. The inaugural episode aired on 3 October 2014, coinciding with Vijayadashami.
- Launched in October 2014, Mann Ki Baat began with the goal of giving the Prime Minister a direct voice to the Indian people via radio.
- By September 2025, the show has completed 126 episodes.
- Over its 11-year journey, Mann Ki Baat has featured social, cultural, environmental, behavioural, and grassroots stories. It highlights unsung heroes, drives public awareness campaigns, and encourages citizen participation.



India-China to Resume Direct Flights by Late Oct

- India and China have agreed to resume direct air services between designated points in both countries by late October 2025. This development marks a positive turn in bilateral relations that had witnessed prolonged tensions in recent years.
- Direct air links between India and China had been suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic and remained disrupted amid border tensions post-2020.
- The resumption of flights reflects a broader governmental approach focused on the gradual restoration of bilateral ties, especially in areas like trade, tourism, education, and diplomacy.
- The MEA clarified that both countries have been engaged since early 2025 to revise the Air Services Agreement, a framework that governs aviation connectivity.
- The agreement includes,
 - Resumption of direct air services between designated cities in India and China
 - Implementation aligned with the Winter Schedule, which begins in late October
 - Subject to,
 - Commercial decisions by designated carriers from both sides
 - Fulfilment of operational and regulatory criteria



India Re-Elected to ICAO Council's Part II Category

- India has been re-elected to Part II of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- The re-election, announced during the 42nd ICAO Assembly in Montreal, Canada, reaffirms India's status as one of the largest contributors to international civil air navigation infrastructure.
- ICAO is a UN agency that manages the principles and techniques of international air navigation and fosters the planning and development of international air transport.
- **The ICAO Council is divided into three parts,**
- Part I includes states of chief importance in air transport.
- Part II includes states making the largest contributions to international air navigation services.
- Part III represents states with special interests in air navigation or aviation.
- India's re-election to Part II reflects its significant technical and infrastructural contribution to international aviation.
- India's continued presence on the Council positions it to,
 - Influence global aviation standards and practices
 - Strengthen cooperation on aviation safety, security, and sustainability
 - Shape future policy directions in the rapidly evolving aviation sector



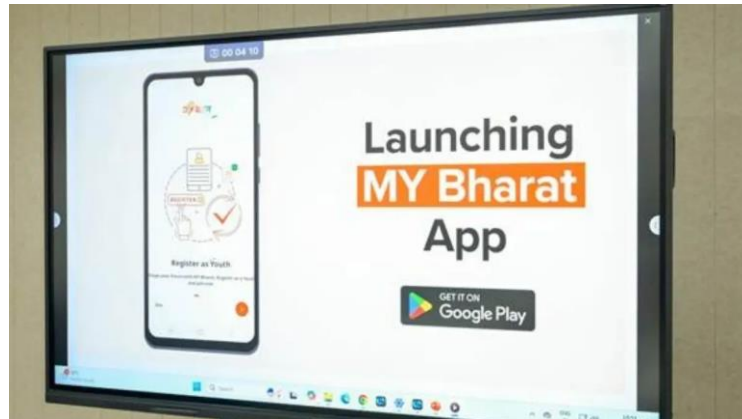
India's First Dugong Conservation Reserve Gets IUCN Recognition

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) officially recognized India's first **Dugong Conservation Reserve, located in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu**, during the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress.
- This recognition marks a crucial step in safeguarding one of India's most endangered marine mammals — the dugong.
- Established in September 2022 by the Tamil Nadu government under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the Dugong Conservation Reserve spans an area of 448.34 sq. km. in the northern Palk Bay.
- **Habitat Range in India**
 - Dugongs are typically found in warm, shallow, and calm coastal waters with rich seagrass beds. In India, they inhabit,
 - Palk Bay
 - Gulf of Mannar
 - Gulf of Kutch
 - Andaman and Nicobar Islands



MY Bharat Mobile App

- Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the MY Bharat Mobile Application in New Delhi on 1 October 2025.
- This move enhances accessibility of the **MY Bharat platform**—an online youth leadership and social engagement portal—by bringing key services and opportunities to the fingertips of India’s young citizens.
- **Key Features**
- **Mobile-first access:** Enables youth to access the portal anytime, anywhere, without relying on desktops or browsers.
- **Multilingual support:** Initially in Hindi and English, with plans to add more Indian languages for inclusivity.
- **Opportunities hub:** Youth can explore verified volunteering roles, internships, mentorship programs, and experiential learning.
- **Recognition & credentials:** Digital badges, certificates, and personal profiles highlight youth achievements.
- **Career tools:** AI-assisted resume building, guided career pathways, and skill-building resources.



World Para Athletics

- India produced a stunning one-two finish in the Men's Javelin Throw F44 at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships, with Sandip Sanjay Sargar winning gold and Sandeep Chaudhary taking silver.
- Sandip Sanjay Sargar claimed gold with a personal best throw of 62.82 m on his fifth attempt, becoming the world champion in the F44 javelin event. Meanwhile, Sandeep Chaudhary secured silver with a season-best throw of 62.67 m.



World Animal Welfare Day

- World Animal Welfare Day is celebrated on 4 October to raise awareness among people about taking actions worldwide for the rights of animals as well as their welfare. It is necessary to improve welfare standards worldwide.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When did the first episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' air?

- A. 15 August 2014
- B. 2 October 2014
- C. 3 October 2014
- D. 26 January 2015

ANSWER: C

2. How many years did 'Mann Ki Baat' complete on 3 October 2025?

- A. 10 years
- B. 11 years
- C. 12 years
- D. 9 years

ANSWER: B

3. Which two countries agreed to resume direct air services by late October 2025?

- A. India and Japan
- B. India and Russia
- C. India and China
- D. India and Nepal

ANSWER: C

4. India was re-elected to which part of the ICAO Council?

- A. Part I
- B. Part II
- C. Part III
- D. Part IV

ANSWER: B

5. Where was the 42nd ICAO Assembly held?

- A. Geneva, Switzerland
- B. New York, USA
- C. Montreal, Canada
- D. Paris, France

ANSWER: C

6. What is the full form of ICAO?

- A. International Civil Aviation Organization
- B. International Cargo and Air Operations
- C. Intercontinental Aviation Control Office
- D. International Committee for Aviation Operations

ANSWER: A

7. Where is India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve located?

- A. Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu
- B. Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu
- C. Lakshadweep Islands
- D. Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat

ANSWER: B

8. In which year was the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) established?

- A. 1924
- B. 1935
- C. 1926
- D. 1950

ANSWER: C

9. Who launched the MY Bharat Mobile Application in October 2025?

- A. Rajnath Singh
- B. Dharmendra Pradhan
- C. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- D. Anurag Thakur

ANSWER: C

10. Which Indian athletes won gold and silver in the Men's Javelin Throw F44 event at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships?

- A. Neeraj Chopra and Rohit Kumar
- B. Sumit Antil and Devendra Jhajharia
- C. Sandip Sanjay Sargar and Sandeep Chaudhary
- D. Amit Kumar and Praveen Kumar

ANSWER: C