

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Khaled El- Enany Set to Become First Arab UNESCO Chief

- Dr. Khaled El-Enany, Egypt's former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, is on the cusp of making history as the first Arab Director-General of UNESCO.
- El-Enany will succeed **Audrey Azoulay** of France and assume office in early 2026 for a four-year term, leading one of the world's most influential organizations for education, science, culture, and heritage.
- The final step in El- Enany's appointment is the November 2025 vote by the UNESCO General Conference, where all 194 member states will cast their ballots.
- If approved, he will take over UNESCO leadership in early 2026.
- His victory is significant for the Arab world, which has never before held the top post at UNESCO.



e-NAM Adds 9 New Commodities

- National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform by adding 9 new agricultural commodities. This move aims to strengthen India's largest digital agri-trade platform,

enhancing market access, ensuring quality-based pricing, and reducing dependency on middlemen.

- Launched in 2016, e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) is an online trading platform for agricultural commodities. It connects existing mandis (markets) across states, enabling farmers, traders, and buyers to trade agricultural produce digitally and transparently.
- The platform is designed to,
 - Reduce the role of intermediaries
 - Enable quality-based pricing
 - Increase market access for farmers
 - Create a unified national market for agriculture
- **New Commodities Added in October 2025**
 - Green Tea
 - Tea
 - Aswagandha Dry Roots
 - Mustard Oil
 - Lavender Oil
 - Mentha Oil
 - Virgin Olive Oil
 - Lavender Dried Flower
 - Broken Rice



WHO Flags Teen Vaping Surge as Global Addiction Risk

- World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a stark warning about the explosive rise in teen vaping worldwide.
- The organization estimates that at least 15 million adolescents aged 13 to 15 are using e-cigarettes, highlighting what it calls a growing epidemic of nicotine addiction among global youth.
- This is the WHO's first comprehensive global estimate on e-cigarette usage. According to the report, there are now over 100 million vape users worldwide, including 86 million adults.
- **Key Numbers**
 - 15 million teens aged 13–15 use e-cigarettes
 - Teenagers vape 9x more than adults
 - Total global vapers: 100 million+
 - Adult vapers: 86 million, mostly in high-income nations



India Launches 5 Species Projects

- Wildlife Week 2025 was marked by a major conservation push, with the Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launching five new national projects focused on endangered species and human–wildlife conflict management.
- Themed “**Human–Wildlife Coexistence**,” the celebrations took place at IGNFA, Dehradun, and highlighted India’s commitment to sustainable wildlife conservation through innovation, collaboration, and community participation.
- **Launch of Five National Conservation Projects**
- **1. Project Dolphin (Phase II)**
- Expands monitoring and protection of river and marine dolphins. Focuses on improving habitats and reducing underwater noise, fishing threats, and pollution.
- **2. Project Sloth Bear**
- Introduces a national implementation framework to address habitat loss, conflict zones, and illegal poaching affecting the sloth bear population.
- **3. Project Gharial**
- A structured plan for the conservation of the critically endangered gharial, focusing on river ecosystems, nesting site restoration, and breeding programs.
- **4. Centre of Excellence for Human–Wildlife Conflict (CoE-HWC)**
- To be set up at SACON, the centre will lead on policy support, mitigation strategies, and AI-based monitoring tools for conflict-prone regions.
- **5. Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves Initiative**
- Aims to protect tiger populations living outside protected reserves, using community-driven conservation, camera traps, and landscape-level planning.



Indian Peacekeepers Honoured for Dedicated Service by UNISFA

- Indian peacekeepers serving in the **United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)** were recently honoured for their outstanding service in the disputed Abyei region between **Sudan and South Sudan**.
- Since the 1950s, India has deployed over 2.9 lakh peacekeepers to more than 50 UN missions globally.
- India is currently the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping, with over 5,000 personnel serving in nine out of eleven active missions.
- Nearly 180 Indian peacekeepers have made the ultimate sacrifice, laying down their lives in the line of duty.



Shubhanshu Shukla Appointed Brand Ambassador of Buildathon 2025

- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to reach the International Space Station (ISS), has been appointed brand ambassador of Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025 — India's largest-ever school hackathon.
- Organised by the Ministry of Education in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission and NITI Aayog, the Buildathon aims to engage over one crore students from 1.5 lakh schools in ideating, designing, and building prototypes that address real-world challenges.
- The Buildathon was launched on 23 September 2025 by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and AICTE.
- It aims to engage students from Classes VI to XII across India.
- Over 1.5 lakh schools are expected to participate, involving over one crore students.
- **Four National Themes Guiding the Buildathon**
 - Atmanirbhar Bharat – Building self-reliant systems and solutions
 - Swadeshi – Promoting indigenous knowledge and technologies
 - Vocal for Local – Supporting local products, crafts, and entrepreneurship
 - Samridhi – Creating pathways for sustainable growth and prosperity



World Postal Day

- World Postal Day is celebrated on 9 October every year to raise awareness among people about the role of the postal sector for people and businesses every day.
- In 1874, the Universal Postal Union was established in Bern, Switzerland and its anniversary was declared as World Postal Day by the Universal Postal Union Congress in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When was the e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) launched?

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

ANSWER: C

2. What is the primary purpose of the e-NAM platform?

- A. To provide crop insurance to farmers
- B. To facilitate online trading of agricultural commodities
- C. To offer digital loans to rural entrepreneurs
- D. To promote organic farming techniques

ANSWER: B

3. Wildlife Week 2025 focused on which theme?

- A. Wildlife for a Better Planet
- B. Protecting Our Forests
- C. Human–Wildlife Coexistence
- D. Biodiversity and Climate Action

ANSWER: C

4. Where were the Wildlife Week 2025 celebrations held?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Dehradun
- C. Bhopal
- D. Pune

ANSWER: B

5. How many new national projects were launched during Wildlife Week 2025?

- A. Three
- B. Four
- C. Five
- D. Six

ANSWER: C

6. Indian peacekeepers were honoured for their service in which UN mission?

- A. UNIFIL – Lebanon
- B. UNMISS – South Sudan
- C. UNISFA – Abyei
- D. MONUSCO – Congo

ANSWER: C

7. The Abyei region is disputed between which two countries?

- A. Sudan and Ethiopia
- B. Sudan and South Sudan
- C. Egypt and Sudan
- D. Kenya and South Sudan

ANSWER: B

8. Who is the first Indian to reach the International Space Station (ISS)?

- A. Rakesh Sharma
- B. Wing Commander Rajiv Mishra
- C. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla
- D. Commander Anil Kumar

ANSWER: C

9. Dr. Khaled El-Enany is set to become the first Arab Director-General of which organization?

- A. United Nations

- B. UNESCO
- C. WHO
- D. IMF

ANSWER: B

10. On which date is World Postal Day celebrated every year?

- A. 5 October
- B. 7 October
- C. 9 October
- D. 10 October

ANSWER:C

