

Daily Defence Current Affairs

16 October 2025

India Elected to UNHRC for 2026–28

- India has been elected unopposed to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for a three-year term from 2026 to 2028. This marks India's seventh term on the Council, highlighting the country's consistent presence and influence in global human rights forums.
- The election was held at the UN General Assembly, where India's candidacy received overwhelming support from member nations. As there were no competing candidates from the Asia-Pacific group, India was elected unopposed.
- The UNHRC is the premier intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.
- Key features of the Council include,
 - 47 member states, elected by the UN General Assembly
 - Each term lasts three years, and countries cannot serve more than two consecutive terms
 - Established in 2006, replacing the former UN Commission on Human Rights
 - Functions include reviewing the human rights records of UN member states through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, addressing violations, and making recommendations
- India was first elected to the Council in 2006, the year of its creation.



WHO Warns of Toxic Indian Cough Syrups

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a global health alert regarding three Indian-manufactured cough syrups—**Coldrif, ReLife, and Respifresh TR**—that are contaminated with a toxic industrial chemical.
- This warning comes in the wake of tragic child fatalities in Madhya Pradesh tied to one of these syrups. The alert underscores serious failures in drug safety regulation and has implications for both domestic and international public health vigilance.
- WHO confirmed that specific batches of,
- Coldrif (Sresan Pharmaceuticals)
- ReLife (Shape Pharma)
- Respifresh TR (Rednex Pharmaceuticals)
- Diethylene glycol (DEG) is not approved for use in medicines. It is toxic to humans and especially dangerous for children
- WHO: Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General of WHO: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus



India–Mongolia Mark 70 Years of Diplomacy

- PM Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa held high-level talks in New Delhi, marking a milestone in India–Mongolia relations.
- The visit, commemorating 70 years of diplomatic ties, witnessed the signing of multiple MoUs, cultural exchanges, and announcements aimed at enhancing connectivity, development, and people-to-people bonds.
- India was among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with Mongolia in 1955, and over the decades, the relationship has grown steadily.
- In 2015, during PM Modi's visit to Mongolia, the partnership was elevated to a Strategic Partnership, leading to major developmental support, including a \$1 billion credit line.
- The 2025 visit marks both 70 years of bilateral relations and 10 years of strategic partnership, reflecting a matured, multifaceted connection.
- India and Mongolia signed 10 MoUs in areas including,
 - Humanitarian aid
 - Restoration of heritage sites
 - Immigration cooperation
 - Geology and mineral resources exploration
 - Promotion of cooperatives

- Digital cooperation and solution sharing
- India reaffirmed its support for a **\$1.7 billion** oil refinery project in Mongolia.
- This facility, Mongolia's first major refinery, is expected to process 1.5 million metric tons of crude annually and become operational by **2028**.
- A landmark digital cooperation MoU was signed to enhance e-governance and digital public infrastructure.
- Highlighting their shared Buddhist heritage, both leaders emphasised linking Nalanda University with Mongolia's Gandan Monastery.
- India announced it would send the holy relics of Arahants Sariputra and Maudgalyayana to Mongolia in 2026.



Maldives First to End Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Hep B, Syphilis

- Maldives has become the first country in the world to achieve triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV, hepatitis B, and syphilis. The announcement, confirmed by the World Health Organization in October 2025.
- HIV – the virus that causes AIDS
- Hepatitis B (HBV) – a viral liver infection
- Syphilis – a bacterial sexually transmitted infection that can cause severe fetal complications if untreated



Anant Goenka Named FICCI President-Elect for 2025–26

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has appointed Anant Goenka, Vice Chairperson of the RPG Group, as its President-Elect for 2025–26.
- Anant Goenka currently serves as Senior Vice President at FICCI and holds the position of Vice Chairperson at RPG Group, a diversified Indian industrial conglomerate with interests in sectors like infrastructure, tyres (CEAT), IT, and healthcare.
- Founded in 1927, FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) is one of India's most prominent business associations.
- It plays a vital role in,
 - Representing Indian industries in policy discussions
 - Engaging with the government on economic reforms
 - Promoting international trade partnerships
 - Organizing high-profile forums like FICCI Frames, FICCI Flo, and India Innovation Summit



Messi Becomes Top Assist Maker in International Football

- Lionel Messi etched another chapter in football history by becoming the all-time leader in international assists.
- In Argentina's 6-0 rout of Puerto Rico, the 38-year-old icon provided two assists, taking his total to 60—surpassing both Neymar and Landon Donovan on the all-time list.
- Interestingly, Messi's first-ever assist for Argentina came in 2006, also in a 6-0 win, against Serbia and Montenegro at the FIFA World Cup.
- Nineteen years later, in an identical scoreline, he broke the record—illustrating the poetic symmetry in his career.



Ahmedabad Recommended to Host CWG

- Commonwealth Games back to India after two decades, the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board has officially recommended Ahmedabad as the proposed host for the 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG).
- The final decision will be made on November 26, 2025, during the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow.
- India last hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2010, in New Delhi. With this latest development, India is positioned to welcome back the prestigious international sporting event during its Centenary edition in 2030.
- **What's Next?**
- November 26, 2025: The final vote by the full Commonwealth Sport membership will be conducted in Glasgow
- If approved, Ahmedabad will become the second Indian city to host the CWG
- Preparations will then begin to ready the city for the 2030 Centenary Games, likely bringing major infrastructure, economic, and cultural benefits



11th Asian Aquatics Championships

- India made sporting history by hosting the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships for the first time from September 28 to October 11, 2025, at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The event marked a significant milestone, being only the second time South Asia has hosted this prestigious aquatics meet. With over 1,100 athletes from 29

countries, the championships brought global attention to India's aquatic potential and organizational capabilities.

- It featured 65 medal events across four disciplines,
- Swimming (42 events)
- Artistic Swimming (11 events)
- Diving (10 events)
- Water Polo (2 events)
- **Static Facts**
- Host Country: India (1st time)
- Venue: Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad
- Duration: September 28 – October 11, 2025
- Organisers: SFI & Govt. of Gujarat



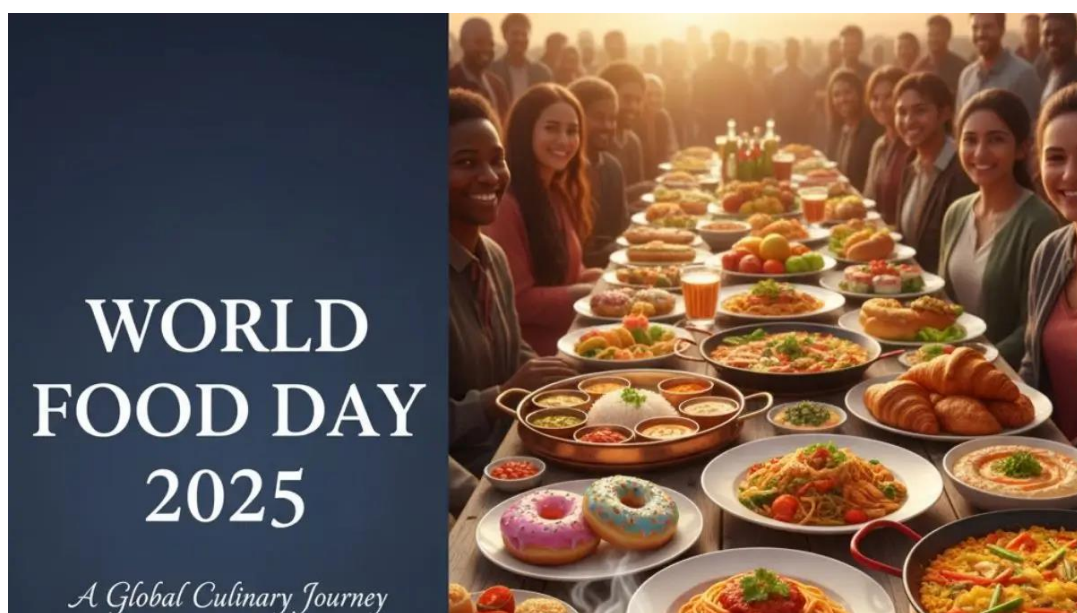
World Anaesthesia Day 2025

- World Anaesthesia Day, observed annually on **October 16**, commemorates a pivotal moment in medical history—the first successful public use of ether anaesthesia in 1846. It transformed surgery from a painful ordeal into a precise, pain-free science.
- In 2025, the global theme focuses on “**Anaesthesiology in Health Emergencies**,” highlighting the critical role of anaesthesia teams in crisis situations.



World Food Day 2025

- World Food Day 2025, observed annually on 16th October, reminds the global community of a powerful truth—food is not just sustenance; it is life.
- The day promotes awareness around food insecurity, celebrates those who produce and deliver food, and inspires global cooperation toward achieving Zero Hunger.
- The 2025 theme, “**Sustainable Food Systems for a Healthy Planet,**” highlights the urgency of transitioning to eco-friendly and inclusive food systems that nourish people and protect the environment.
- The FAO accepted the proposal and designated 16th October—the day it was founded in 1945—as World Food Day.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India has been elected unopposed to the UNHRC for which term?

- A. 2024–2026
- B. 2025–2027
- C. 2026–2028
- D. 2027–2029

ANSWER: C

2. Which country became the first in the world to achieve triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, and syphilis?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Maldives
- C. Singapore
- D. Thailand

ANSWER: B

3. Who has been appointed as the President-Elect of the FICCI for 2025–26?

- A. Harsh Goenka
- B. Anant Goenka
- C. Uday Kotak
- D. Sanjiv Bajaj

ANSWER: B

4. When was FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) founded?

- A. 1917
- B. 1927
- C. 1937
- D. 1947

ANSWER: B

5. Lionel Messi became the all-time leader in international assists with how many assists?

- A. 55
- B. 58
- C. 60
- D. 62

ANSWER: C

6. In which match did Lionel Messi achieve his record for most international assists?

- A. Argentina vs. Brazil
- B. Argentina vs. Puerto Rico
- C. Argentina vs. Uruguay
- D. Argentina vs. Chile

ANSWER: B

7. Which Indian city has been recommended as the proposed host for the 2030 Commonwealth Games?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: C

8. The 11th Asian Aquatics Championships were hosted for the first time by India in 2025 at which venue?

- A. Sardar Patel Stadium, Ahmedabad
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi
- C. Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad
- D. Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad

ANSWER: C

9. World Anaesthesia Day is observed annually on which date?

- A. October 10
- B. October 12
- C. October 15
- D. October 16

ANSWER: D

10. What is the theme for World Food Day 2025?

- A. "Healthy Diets for All"
- B. "Sustainable Food Systems for a Healthy Planet"
- C. "Zero Hunger by 2030"
- D. "Food Security and Climate Change"

ANSWER: B