

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India Launches Online National Drug Licensing System

- In response to a series of fatal child deaths linked to toxic cough syrups, India has rolled out a robust digital oversight system — the Online National Drug Licensing System (ONDLS).
- Spearheaded by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), this system is designed to track high-risk pharmaceutical solvents in real time, ensuring that only verified, safe ingredients are used in medicine manufacturing across the country.
- This urgent reform underscores India's renewed focus on pharmaceutical safety and accountability, particularly in the wake of rising international concerns about drug quality.
- The launch of ONDLS was catalysed by multiple deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh, which were traced back to cough syrups contaminated with diethylene glycol (DEG) — a highly toxic industrial solvent.
- The Online National Drug Licensing System (ONDLS) is a centralised digital platform created to,
 - Monitor and licence pharma-grade solvent production
 - Track each batch from manufacture to end-user
 - Ensure quality documentation, including certificates of analysis
 - Block unverified or non-compliant batches from market entry
- The CDSCO has categorised the following as high-risk solvents, which are mandatory to track under ONDLS,
 - Glycerin
 - Propylene glycol

- Sorbitol
- Maltitol
- Ethyl alcohol, Hydrogenated starch hydrolysate



Tuvalu Becomes 90th Member of IUCN Amid Climate Crisis

- Tuvalu, one of the world's smallest and most climate-vulnerable nations, has officially joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as its 90th State Member.
- The move marks a significant step for the island nation in strengthening its environmental governance and global engagement in conservation efforts.
- Tuvalu, located in the Pacific Ocean, comprises nine atolls and low-lying islands with a land area of just 26 square kilometres. However, it commands an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of nearly 900,000 sq km, teeming with coral reefs, fisheries, and migratory seabirds.



Sunil Amrith Wins British Academy Prize

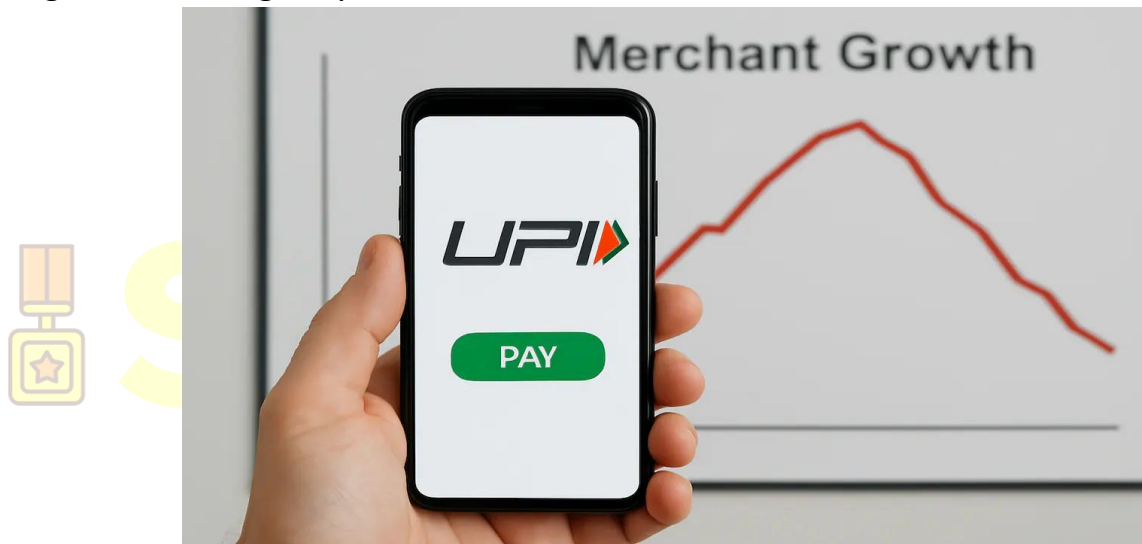
- Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith has won the 2025 British Academy Book Prize for his groundbreaking work, *The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years*. The prestigious £25,000 award celebrates outstanding non-fiction in the humanities and social sciences.
- Established in 2013, the British Academy Book Prize celebrates excellence in non-fiction across the humanities and social sciences.
- The prize seeks to promote research-rich writing that connects scholarship with society.



UPI Introduces 'Pay With Mutual Fund'

- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has launched a new feature — 'Pay with Mutual Fund'.
- This allows users to make real-time transactions directly from their liquid mutual fund holdings, eliminating the need to transfer funds to a bank account first.
- 'Pay with Mutual Fund' is a revolutionary UPI feature that lets investors use their liquid mutual fund units like a digital wallet.
- When a UPI payment is made, the equivalent amount is automatically redeemed from the mutual fund, and the transaction is processed instantly.
- **How Does It Work?**
- The system functions on a seamless backend redemption process,
- The user initiates a UPI payment through a linked app.

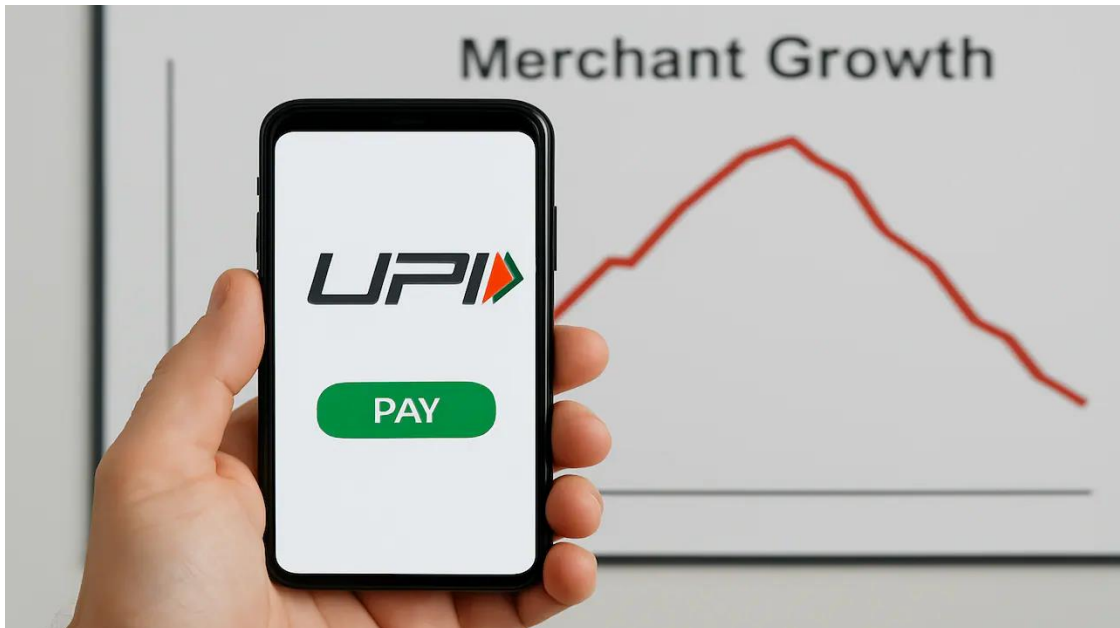
- The transaction amount is instantly redeemed from their liquid fund.
- The money is routed in real-time to the recipient via UPI.
- This eliminates the intermediate step of transferring funds to a bank account, providing a frictionless experience.
- **Why Liquid Mutual Funds?**
- Liquid mutual funds invest in low-risk, short-term instruments like treasury bills and commercial papers. They are favoured for,
- Stability and minimal volatility
- Quick redemption capability
- Better yield than savings accounts
- Regulated oversight by SEBI



NPCI Launches AI-Based 'UPI Help'

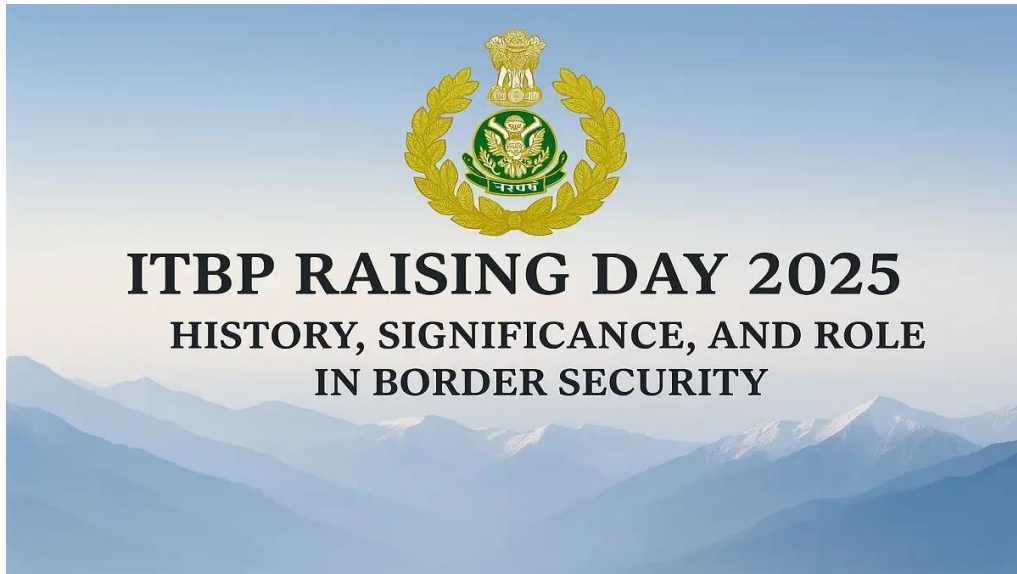
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched 'UPI Help', an AI-powered digital assistant aimed at simplifying grievance redressal and transaction tracking on the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
- The new tool promises real-time support for millions of users facing common payment issues, such as failed or delayed transactions, unclear payment statuses, and autopay mandate queries.
- 'UPI Help' is a smart virtual assistant designed to streamline digital payment assistance. It functions as an automated support system capable of,
- Providing step-by-step resolution for failed or pending transactions
- Allowing users to check payment statuses instantly
- Enabling users to raise complaints and track their progress in real time

- Offering a unified view of all active mandates under the UPI Autopay feature



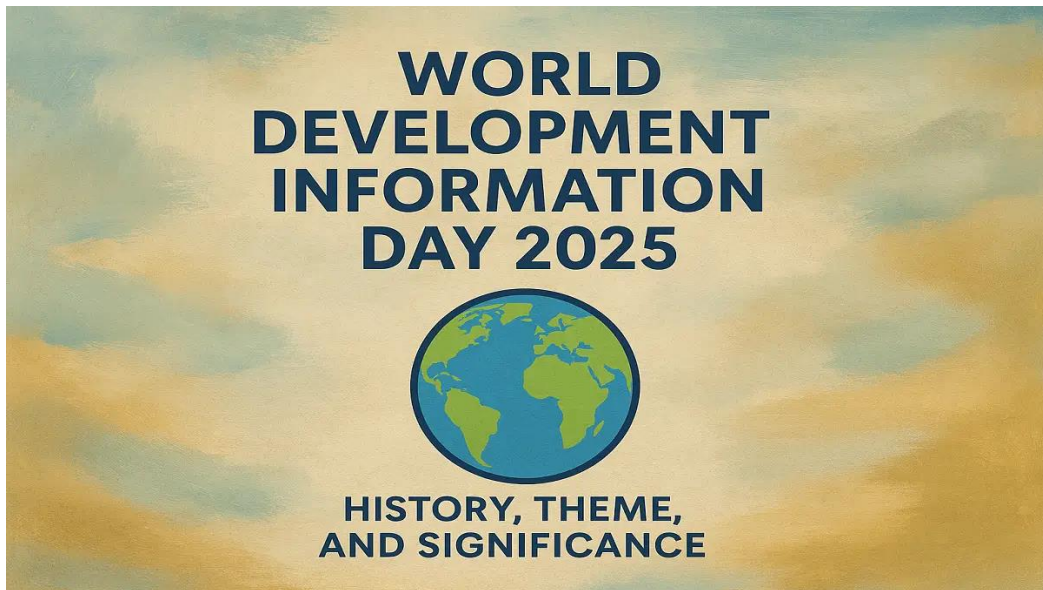
ITBP Raising Day 2025

- ITBP Raising Day is observed every year on 24th October to commemorate the formation of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) — a specialized force that guards the Indo-China border across some of the most challenging terrains on earth.
- The ITBP Raising Day 2025 marks 63 years of dedicated service, celebrating the courage, discipline, and resilience of personnel who protect India's borders at altitudes often exceeding 14,000 feet.
- ITBP stands for Indo-Tibetan Border Police, one of India's five Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). It plays a crucial role in border security, disaster relief, and counter-insurgency operations in the Himalayan region.
- The ITBP guards the **3,488-km**-long Indo-China border extending from Ladakh (Kashmir) to Arunachal Pradesh, facing extreme weather conditions and temperatures that can drop below **-25°C**.
- Initially, the ITBP started with just four battalions, but over time, it has grown into a force of nearly 85,000 personnel, organized into **60+ battalions**. In 1992, ITBP was restructured under the **ITBP Force Act**, defining its modern role as India's first line of defence along the Himalayan frontier.



World Development Information Day 2025

- World Development Information Day is observed every year on 24th October, the same day as United Nations Day, to emphasize the vital role of information and communication technology (ICT) in driving global development and solving challenges faced by nations.
- In 2025, the observance continues to focus on using digital innovation, media, and information technology to promote economic progress, cooperation, and sustainable development worldwide.
- The origins of this important day go back to 1972, when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held a conference on Trade and Development on 17th May 1972.
- The first observance took place on 24th October 1973, coinciding with United Nations Day, to highlight the link between global peace, development, and access to information.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Development Information Day is observed every year on which date?

- A) 23rd October
- B) 24th October
- C) 25th October
- D) 26th October

Answer: B) 24th October

2. What is the main objective of World Development Information Day?

- A) To promote trade between developing countries
- B) To highlight the role of ICT in global development
- C) To celebrate international peace and security
- D) To promote cultural exchange among nations

Answer: B) To highlight the role of ICT in global development

3. BP Raising Day commemorates the formation of which Indian force?

- A) Border Security Force (BSF)
- B) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- C) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

D) Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

Answer: B) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

4. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) guards which international border?

A) India-Pakistan Border

B) India-Nepal Border

C) India-China Border

D) India-Bhutan Border

Answer: C) India-China Border

5. What is the total length of the Indo-China border guarded by ITBP?

A) 2,488 km

B) 3,488 km

C) 4,488 km

D) 5,488 km

Answer: B) 3,488 km

6. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched which AI-powered digital assistant for grievance redressal?

A) UPI Smart

B) UPI Chat

C) UPI Help

D) UPI Guide

Answer: C) UPI Help

7. What is the purpose of the new UPI feature 'Pay with Mutual Fund'?

A) To invest in new mutual funds

B) To make real-time payments directly from mutual fund holdings

C) To withdraw money from mutual funds

D) To transfer funds between two mutual fund accounts

Answer: B) To make real-time payments directly from mutual fund holdings

8. Who won the 2025 British Academy Book Prize for his work *"The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years"*?

- A) Arundhati Roy
- B) Ramachandra Guha
- C) Sunil Amrith
- D) Amitav Ghosh

Answer: C) Sunil Amrith

9. Tuvalu recently joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as which numbered State Member?

- A) 80th
- B) 85th
- C) 88th
- D) 90th

Answer: D) 90th

10. The Online National Drug Licensing System (ONDLs) has been launched by which Indian organisation?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)
- C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

Answer: B) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)