

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2025

- Every year on 27 October, the world celebrates World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH)—a day dedicated to recognizing the significance of audiovisual materials in shaping our shared history and cultural identity.
- These materials—films, recordings, broadcasts, and digital media—offer unique glimpses into the lives, struggles, and stories of people across generations and continents.
- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage was established in 2005 by UNESCO, commemorating the adoption of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images during the 21st General Conference in 1980.
- This year, UNESCO is spotlighting the project “**Digitizing our shared UNESCO history**”.



Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 Winners Announced

- On October 26, 2025, the Indian government announced the recipients of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025, the nation's highest civilian honour for contributions to science, technology, and innovation.
- Instituted to celebrate excellence across diverse scientific fields, these awards aim to foster a culture of research and innovation in India.
- The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is conferred in four major categories,
- Vigyan Ratna – For lifetime achievements in science
- Vigyan Shri – For exceptional individual contributions
- Vigyan Yuva–Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar – For young scientists (under 45 years)
- Vigyan Team Award – For collaborative research efforts
- **Vigyan Ratna (Posthumous)**
- **Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar** – Awarded posthumously for his outstanding contribution to Physics.
- **Vigyan Shri Awardees**
- Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh – Agricultural Science
- Dr. Yusuf Mohammad Seikh – Atomic Energy
- Dr. K. Thangaraj – Biological Sciences
- Prof. Pradeep Thalappil – Chemistry
- Prof. Aniruddha Bhalchandra Pandit – Engineering Sciences
- Dr. S. Venkata Mohan – Environmental Science
- Prof. Mahan Mj – Mathematics and Computer Science
- Shri Jayan N – Space Science and Technology



FIFA Launches ASEAN Cup to Boost Southeast Asian Football

- In a major announcement for regional sports, FIFA President Gianni Infantino unveiled a new football tournament — the FIFA ASEAN Cup — aimed at uplifting the standard of national football across Southeast Asia.
- The declaration was made at the 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on October 27, 2025, marking a historic collaboration between FIFA and ASEAN.
- The tournament will feature national teams from all 11 ASEAN member states, including East Timor, which was formally admitted to ASEAN just hours before the announcement.
- Infantino, along with ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn, signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), formalizing their commitment to football development across Southeast Asia.
- FIFA will collaborate with,
 - The Asian Football Confederation (AFC)
 - The ASEAN Football Federation (AFF)
 - National football associations of ASEAN member states



Justice Surya Kant to Become 53rd CJI

- Justice Surya Kant has been recommended to become the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI), following the retirement of Chief Justice Bhushan R Gavai on 23 November 2025.
- Once formally appointed, Justice Kant will lead the Indian judiciary until 9 February 2027, marking a tenure of approximately 14 months. This recommendation, made by CJI Gavai to the Union Government, follows the established judicial convention of seniority in appointing the next CJI.
- Justice Kant is known for his strong grasp of constitutional law, sensitive approach to social justice, and prior service as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court. Over the years, he has been involved in several high-profile constitutional and rights-based judgments.
- Born: February 10, 1962
- Elevated to Supreme Court: May 24, 2019
- Expected Retirement: February 9, 2027
- State of Origin: Haryana — he will be the first CJI from Haryana



India to Host First APAC-AIG Meeting in 2025

- India is set to host the Asia Pacific Accident Investigation Group (APAC-AIG) meeting and workshop for the first time from 28 to 31 October 2025.
- This significant aviation safety event will bring together around 90 representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) member states in the Asia Pacific region, as well as experts from global organizations.
- The APAC-AIG meeting is an annual ICAO platform where member states from the Asia-Pacific region collaborate on key issues related to aircraft accident and incident investigations.
- The purpose of this group is to,
 - Enhance regional cooperation.
 - Share technical expertise, knowledge, and best practices.
 - Improve the overall accident/incident investigation capability in Asia and the Pacific.



East Timor Becomes 11th Member of ASEAN

- On October 26, 2025, East Timor — also known as **Timor-Leste** — officially became the 11th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- This historic inclusion took place during the ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, where the country's flag was raised alongside those of the other member states.
- The moment represents both a symbolic and strategic milestone for the young democracy, long striving for regional integration since its independence in 2002.
- Despite its small size — population of 1.4 million and an economy of just \$2 billion, a fraction of ASEAN's **\$3.8 trillion GDP** — East Timor's inclusion is politically significant.
- **East Timor's Role in ASEAN**
 - Post-conflict nation-building
 - Conflict resolution and dialogue, particularly in the context of border disputes and the South China Sea
 - Democratic development and grassroots governance in small states
 - President Ramos-Horta recently stated that East Timor will work to not burden ASEAN but instead contribute meaningfully to its stability mechanisms.



China's CR450: World's Fastest Bullet Train Unveiled

- China announced a breakthrough in rail transport, with its newly developed CR450 high-speed train setting a world record speed of 453 km/h during testing.
- Designed for the Shanghai–Chengdu corridor, the CR450 not only cements China's leadership in high-speed rail technology but also redefines global standards in ultra-fast, energy-efficient rail mobility.
- The CR450 is expected to enter commercial service in 2026, with a regular operating speed of 400 km/h, making it the fastest passenger train globally.



Govt. Extends LC75 and BLC Investment Options

- In a key development for civil-service retirement planning, the Government of India has approved the extension of the Life Cycle 75 (LC75) and Balanced Life Cycle (BLC) investment options to central government employees under the National Pension System (NPS) and the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).

- This move enhances the range of investment choices available, aligning the government-employee pension ecosystem more closely with options already available to non-government subscribers.
- **What the Extension Means**
- The Default Option, which follows the investment pattern defined by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Scheme G, where 100 per cent of investment goes into government securities—considered a low-risk, fixed-return option.
- LC-25, capping equity allocation at 25 per cent with gradual tapering from age 35 to 55.
- LC-50, with up to 50 per cent equity allocation, similarly tapering from age 35 to 55.
- BLC (Balanced Life Cycle), a modified version of LC-50, where equity exposure starts tapering from age 45, allowing longer participation in equities.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) is observed every year on which date?**
A) 25 October
B) 26 October
C) 27 October
D) 28 October

Answer: C) 27 October

2. What is the theme or focus of UNESCO's World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2025?

- A) Preserving our cinematic legacy
- B) Digitizing our shared UNESCO history
- C) Heritage through visual media
- D) Audiovisual archives for peace

Answer: B) Digitizing our shared UNESCO history

3. Who was posthumously awarded the Vigyan Ratna in the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025?

- A) Dr. C.N.R. Rao
- B) Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar
- C) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- D) Prof. G. Madhavan Nair

Answer: B) Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar

4. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is India's highest civilian award in which field?

- A) Literature and Arts
- B) Sports and Games
- C) Science, Technology, and Innovation
- D) Social Work and Education

Answer: C) Science, Technology, and Innovation

5. Which organization announced the creation of the FIFA ASEAN Cup?

- A) ASEAN Secretariat
- B) FIFA
- C) AFC (Asian Football Confederation)
- D) IOC (International Olympic Committee)

Answer: B) FIFA

6. The FIFA ASEAN Cup was announced during which major event?

- A) ASEAN Economic Forum
- B) 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur
- C) FIFA World Congress
- D) Southeast Asian Sports Summit

Answer: B) 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur

7. Who has been recommended to become the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI)?

- A) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
- B) Justice Bhushan R. Gavai
- C) Justice Surya Kant
- D) Justice Sanjiv Khanna

Answer: C) Justice Surya Kant

8. Which country recently became the 11th member of ASEAN?

- A) Papua New Guinea
- B) Bhutan
- C) East Timor (Timor-Leste)
- D) Nepal

Answer: C) East Timor (Timor-Leste)

9. China's new CR450 high-speed train set a world record speed of:

- A) 420 km/h
- B) 430 km/h
- C) 453 km/h
- D) 460 km/h

Answer: C) 453 km/h

10. The Government of India has extended Life Cycle 75 (LC75) and Balanced Life Cycle (BLC) investment options to which group?

- A) Public Sector Banks
- B) Private Employees
- C) Central Government Employees under NPS and UPS
- D) Defence Pensioners only

Answer: C) Central Government Employees under NPS and UPS