

Daily Defence Current Affairs

29 October 2025

72 Nations Sign Historic UN Cybercrime Convention

- In a defining moment for global cyber governance, 72 nations signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime in Hanoi.
- This landmark agreement creates the first universal legal framework to combat the escalating threat of cybercrime worldwide. Adopted by the UGA in 2024 after five years of negotiations, the convention offers legally binding tools to tackle everything from ransomware and online fraud to child exploitation and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images.
- **What the Treaty Aims to Achieve**
 - Legislative frameworks to define cyber offences and guide national laws
 - Law enforcement cooperation across borders, including a 24/7 contact network
 - Technical support and capacity building, especially for developing countries
 - Facilitation of electronic evidence sharing in real time to expedite prosecutions



“Koyla Shakti” Dashboard

- In a major leap towards digital governance in the energy sector, the Ministry of Coal is set to unveil “Koyla Shakti – Smart Coal Analytics Dashboard” on 29 October 2025.
- This digital platform promises to transform how coal production, logistics, and supply chain data are monitored and analysed, fostering transparency, efficiency, and smarter decision-making.
- Koyla Shakti is a real-time analytics dashboard designed by the Ministry of Coal to act as a centralized digital interface for monitoring coal-related operations across India.
- It integrates data from multiple sources—ranging from coal producers to ports and ministries—into one unified platform.
- The system provides a bird’s-eye view of the coal supply chain, enabling authorities to track production, dispatch, transportation, and consumption activities live.
- This is aimed at enhancing coordination, minimizing delays, and improving transparency in coal management.



20th East Asia Summit Adopts Kuala Lumpur Declaration

- At its 20th edition in Kuala Lumpur, the 20th East Asia Summit (EAS) adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, signalling renewed resolve among participating nations to uphold peace, stability and multilateral cooperation in the East Asian region.

- A reaffirmation of the principles of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration 2005 and subsequent EAS milestone declarations, thereby maintaining continuity in EAS commitments.
- Recognition that the region faces geopolitical tensions, economic challenges and trans-boundary security threats, making collective collaboration imperative.
- Commitment to maintaining the informal, leaders-led format of the EAS, allowing candid and strategic discussions at the highest level.
- **Strategic Significance**
- In a period of evolving global power dynamics—marked by rising U.S.–China competition, maritime-region tensions and new security challenges—the 20th EAS declaration provides a shared reference point for regional stability.
- It reaffirms commitment to a rules-based order, multilateral dialogue and ASEAN’s central role in regional governance.

National Maritime Heritage Complex Logo

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways unveiled the official logo of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at the India Maritime Week 2025 celebrations in Mumbai.
- The launch marked a crucial step in showcasing and preserving India’s vast maritime history and promoting it through digital, cultural, and tourism-led initiatives.
- The NMHC, to be established at Lothal in Gujarat, is envisioned as a world-class facility to commemorate India’s ancient maritime legacy while inspiring future innovation in the sector.
- India’s maritime history stretches over 5,000 years, from the Harappan port of Lothal to modern maritime trade routes.
- The NMHC aims to document and present this journey by creating a hub for knowledge, tourism, and global outreach.
- Unveiling the logo symbolizes the integration of historical pride with contemporary design and purpose.
- It sets the tone for the NMHC’s future role as a key destination for cultural tourism and maritime education.



Hurricane Melissa Devastates Jamaica, Heads Toward Cuba

- Hurricane Melissa has carved a path of destruction through the Caribbean, becoming the strongest storm ever to hit Jamaica and now barreling toward Cuba.
- Making landfall on 28 October 2025 near New Hope in southwestern Jamaica, Melissa brought wind speeds reaching up to 185 mph (295 km/h), making it a Category 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale—the highest classification for tropical cyclones.
- This catastrophic event has forced massive evacuations, caused widespread power outages, and exposed the region's vulnerability to intensifying climate events.



Cabinet Approves NBS Rates for Rabi 2025–26 Fertilisers

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- The subsidy will be in effect from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026, covering key fertiliser types including Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and NPKS grades (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potash, Sulphur).
- The Cabinet sanctioned a tentative budget of ₹37,952.29 crore for implementing the NBS scheme in the Rabi season.
- This amount is approximately ₹736 crore higher than the subsidy provided for the Kharif 2025 season, indicating a response to shifting international fertiliser input prices.
- season, indicating a response to shifting international fertiliser input prices.
- The subsidy covers 28 grades of P&K fertilisers, ensuring that manufacturers and importers can supply them to farmers at reasonable, subsidised prices.
- The approved rates will be applicable throughout the Rabi cropping cycle to support agricultural operations across the country.



Paytm Enables UPI for NRIs with Foreign Numbers

- In a breakthrough for cross-border digital payments, Paytm has introduced UPI payment support for NRIs using international mobile numbers. Announced on 27 October 2025, this new service empowers Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from 12 countries to make seamless UPI payments in India through the Paytm app, without needing an Indian SIM card.
- The new feature enables NRIs to,
 - Make instant UPI transfers to Indian UPI IDs and mobile numbers
 - Pay merchants by scanning UPI QR codes across India
 - Shop online on Indian platforms using their existing NRE or NRO bank accounts
 - Skip forex conversion and traditional remittance charges
- **Supported Countries**
 - United States
 - United Kingdom
 - United Arab Emirates (UAE)
 - Australia
 - Canada
 - Oman, Qatar
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Singapore
 - Hong Kong
 - Kuwait
 - Bahrain
- **How It Works**
 - To access the service, NRIs must,
 - Download or update the Paytm app
 - Register using their international mobile number
 - Link their NRE or NRO bank account that supports UPI
 - Start sending money, scanning QR codes, and making digital payments across India



James Anderson Receives Knighthood

- James Anderson, England's legendary fast bowler, was formally knighted during an investiture ceremony held at Windsor Castle on 28 October 2025. He received the honour from Princess Anne in recognition of his monumental contribution to cricket.
- The knighthood, awarded as part of Rishi Sunak's resignation honours list in April 2025, celebrates a career defined by excellence, longevity, and record-breaking achievements.
- Anderson retired from international cricket in July 2024 at Lord's, closing a 21-year career during which he played 188 Test matches—a record for any pace bowler. He finished with a remarkable 704 Test wickets.
- A knighthood is one of the highest civilian honours conferred by the British monarch, awarded to individuals for exceptional achievement or service in any field, including arts, science, public life, or sport.
- Recipients are given the title "Sir" or "Dame" and recognised as members of the Order of the British Empire or as Knights Bachelor.



Global Firework Index 2025

- The Global Firepower Index 2025 ranks countries based on their military strength, defense capabilities, and global influence. It considers more than 60 factors, including manpower, equipment, technology, and defense budgets, to assess each nation's overall power. This annual ranking gives a clear picture of how nations compare in terms of military readiness and strategic strength.

Rank	Country	PwrIndx
1.	United States	0.0744
2.	Russia	0.0788
3.	China	0.0788
4.	India	0.1184
5.	South Korea	0.1656
6.	United Kingdom	0.1785
7.	France	0.1878

8.	Japan	0.1839
9.	Turkey	0.1902
10.	Italy	0.2164

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which city hosted the signing of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime?

- A. Geneva
- B. New York
- C. Hanoi
- D. Paris

Answer: C. Hanoi

2. How many nations signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime?

- A. 50
- B. 60
- C. 72
- D. 80

Answer: C. 72

3. What is the purpose of the “Koyla Shakti – Smart Coal Analytics Dashboard”?

- A. To regulate coal prices
- B. To monitor and analyse coal production and logistics
- C. To promote renewable energy
- D. To train coal industry workers

Answer: B. To monitor and analyse coal production and logistics

4. When will the Ministry of Coal unveil the “Koyla Shakti” dashboard?

- A. 27 October 2025
- B. 28 October 2025

C. 29 October 2025

D. 31 October 2025

Answer: C. 29 October 2025

5. Where was the 20th East Asia Summit (EAS) held?

A. Bangkok

B. Kuala Lumpur

C. Manila

D. Hanoi

Answer: B. Kuala Lumpur

6. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways unveiled the official logo of which major project?

A. Maritime India Vision 2030

B. National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

C. Sagarmala Project

D. Blue Economy Initiative

Answer: B. National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

7. Hurricane Melissa made landfall in which Caribbean country on 28 October 2025?

A. Haiti

B. Cuba

C. Jamaica

D. Dominican Republic

Answer: C. Jamaica

8. What category did Hurricane Melissa reach on the Saffir-Simpson scale?

A. Category 3

B. Category 4

C. Category 5

D. Category 2

Answer: C. Category 5

9. What has the Union Cabinet approved to ensure affordable fertilisers for Rabi 2025–26?

- A. Direct Benefit Transfer for farmers
- B. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates on P&K fertilisers
- C. Minimum Support Price increase
- D. Green Fertiliser Policy

Answer: B. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates on P&K fertilisers

10. Which cricketer was formally knighted during an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle?

- A. Ben Stokes
- B. Joe Root
- C. James Anderson
- D. Stuart Broad

Answer: C. James Anderson