

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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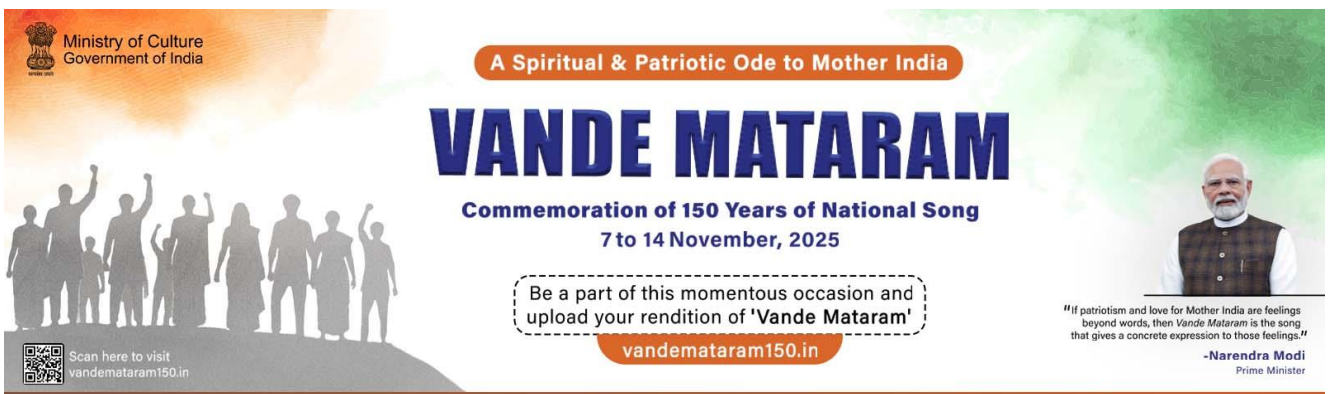
International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment

- Each year on November 6, the world observes the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, a United Nations-designated occasion that emphasizes the devastating impact of warfare on the environment.
- As wars continue to wreak havoc globally, the environment often becomes the silent victim — degraded, polluted, and irreversibly damaged. This day reminds us that peace and sustainability go hand in hand, and that environmental protection must remain a priority even in times of conflict.
- The origins of this day date back to November 5, 2001, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/56/4, officially declaring November 6 as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.
- Later, on May 27, 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted Resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.15, which reinforced this commitment.



Vande Mataram 150 Years Celebration

- 150 Years of Vande Mataram is a national commemorative initiative to celebrate the spirit of Vande Mataram and its unique role in the history of India.
- On 1st October the Cabinet approved country-wide celebrations for the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' to foster an impactful movement to connect citizens, especially our youth and students with the song's original, revolutionary spirit.
- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was born on June 26, 1838, in Kanthalpara village, located in Naihati, West Bengal. He came from a traditional Bengali Brahmin family. His father, Yadav Chandra Chattopadhyay, was a government official who later became the Deputy Collector of Midnapur.
- Some of his most famous novels include:
 - Kapalkundala (1866)
 - Vishabriksha (The Poison Tree) (1873)
 - Anandamath (1882)
 - Devi Chaudhurani (1884)
 - Sitaram (1887)
- One of Bankim Chandra's greatest contributions to India was the creation of "Vande Mataram," written in **Sanskritised Bengali**. The song appears in his novel "**Anandamath**" (1882), which depicts a group of monks fighting for India's freedom.



Ministry of Culture
Government of India

A Spiritual & Patriotic Ode to Mother India

VANDE MATARAM

Commemoration of 150 Years of National Song
7 to 14 November, 2025

Be a part of this momentous occasion and
upload your rendition of 'Vande Mataram'

vandemataram150.in

Scan here to visit
vandemataram150.in


"If patriotism and love for Mother India are feelings
beyond words, then Vande Mataram is the song
that gives a concrete expression to those feelings."
-Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Jan Dhan Account Balances Cross ₹2.75 Lakh Crore in 2025

- In a significant boost to India's financial inclusion journey, total deposits under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) have surged past the ₹2.75 lakh crore mark, as per government data updated till October 22, 2025.
- With 56.85 crore beneficiaries now linked to the no-frills banking initiative, the scheme continues to be a cornerstone of inclusive growth. Crucially, efforts to reactivate dormant accounts through targeted outreach campaigns have begun to show positive results, highlighting renewed engagement with the formal banking ecosystem.
- Public Sector Banks: ₹2.15 lakh crore
- Regional Rural Banks (RRBs): ₹51,489 crore
- Private Sector Banks: ₹8,149 crore
- Total Balance: ₹2,75,057 crore (as on October 22, 2025)
- Number of Accounts: 56.85 crore



World Leader for Peace and Security 2025

- Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the globally revered spiritual leader and founder of the Art of Living Foundation, has been conferred the World Leader for Peace and Security Award 2025 by the Boston Global Forum (BGF) and the AI World Society (AIWS).

- The honour places him among a distinguished league of international leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- The Art of Living Foundation
- Founded in 1981, Gurudev's Art of Living Foundation has become a leading global NGO focused on stress relief, mental health, and humanitarian work.



FIFA Announces Peace Prize to Debut at 2026 World Cup Draw

- In a move that blends the spheres of global sport and soft diplomacy, FIFA President Gianni Infantino has announced the launch of the FIFA Peace Prize, set to be awarded for the first time at the 2026 World Cup draw in Washington DC on 5 December 2025.
- The prize aims to honour individuals who use football as a tool to promote peace and unity in a divided world.
- The timing of the FIFA Peace Prize announcement is notable. It comes shortly after Trump's disappointment over not receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, despite multiple nominations pushed by his allies.
- The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to **María Corina Machado**, a decision that Trump's aides dismissed as "politics over peace."



India Unveils AI Governance Framework

- The Government of India formally released its India AI Governance Guidelines on 5 November 2025, establishing a principle-based, “light-touch” regulatory framework to steer the development, deployment and governance of artificial intelligence across the country.
- The framework — introduced by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) under the IndiaAI Mission — emphasises innovation, risk mitigation and alignment with global best practices.
- **Key Features of the Framework**
- **Guiding Principles or “Sutras”**
 - Trust in AI systems
 - People-First approach
 - Innovation over restraint, Fairness & equity
 - Accountability, Understandable by design
 - Safety, resilience and sustainability
- **Three-Tier Action Plan**
 - Expanding compute and data access
 - Supporting indigenous foundation models
 - Embedding AI in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)
- **Institutional Architecture**
 - An AI Governance Group (AIGG) for policy coordination
 - A Technology & Policy Expert Committee (TPEC) for strategic input
 - An AI Safety Institute (AISi) to oversee risk assessment, standards and global cooperation
- Sector-specific regulators enforcing domain compliance



India Climbs to Third in Global Clean Industry Pipeline

- India has emerged as the third-largest country globally in terms of clean industrial project pipeline, trailing only behind China and the United States. This significant status reflects India's growing intent to decarbonise its hard-to-abate industrial sectors such as chemicals, steel, cement, and aviation.
- However, despite having a robust pipeline of 65 commercial-scale low-emission industrial projects, only six have reached the final investment decision (FID) stage so far.
- **High potential states:** Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu.



Indian-Origin Hashmi Elected Virginia's Lt. Governor

- In a landmark moment for both the Indian diaspora and U.S. politics, Ghazala Hashmi, an Indian-origin Democrat, has been elected Lieutenant Governor of

Virginia, becoming the first Muslim and first South Asian American to hold the position in the state.

- The 61-year-old former educator secured 1,465,634 votes (54.2%), decisively defeating Republican rival John Reid, who garnered 1,232,242 votes.
- Born in India and raised in the United States, Ghazala Hashmi moved to Georgia at the age of four, where her father was pursuing a PhD in international relations.
- She excelled academically, graduating as valedictorian and earning a BA from Georgia Southern University, followed by a PhD in American Literature from Emory University.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Each year on which date is the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict observed?

- A) November 5
- B) November 6
- C) November 7
- D) November 10

Answer: B) November 6

2. The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is observed under which organization?

- A) UNESCO
- B) United Nations
- C) World Bank
- D) World Health Organization

Answer: B) United Nations

3. The year 2025 marks how many years of Vande Mataram as part of the national commemorative initiative?

- A) 100 years
- B) 125 years
- C) 150 years
- D) 175 years

Answer: C) 150 years

4. Who wrote the patriotic song "Vande Mataram"?

- A) Rabindranath Tagore
- B) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- C) Subramania Bharati
- D) Swami Vivekananda

Answer: B) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

5. In which novel did the song "Vande Mataram" first appear?

- A) Kapalkundala
- B) Anandamath
- C) Devi Chaudhurani
- D) Rajmohan's Wife

Answer: B) Anandamath

6. As of October 22, 2025, total deposits under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) have crossed which milestone?

- A) ₹1.50 lakh crore
- B) ₹2.00 lakh crore

- C) ₹2.75 lakh crore
- D) ₹3.00 lakh crore

Answer: C) ₹2.75 lakh crore

7. Who has been conferred the World Leader for Peace and Security Award 2025 by the Boston Global Forum and AI World Society?

- A) Dalai Lama
- B) Kailash Satyarthi
- C) Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
- D) Ratan Tata

Answer: C) Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

8. What is the official title of the new annual award launched to promote peace through football?

- A) FIFA Global Harmony Award
- B) FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World
- C) Global Football Harmony Prize
- D) World Cup Peace Award

Answer: B) FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World

9. When did the Government of India release the India AI Governance Guidelines?

- A) November 1, 2025
- B) November 3, 2025
- C) November 5, 2025
- D) November 6, 2025

Answer: C) November 5, 2025

10. Who became the first Muslim and South Asian American to be elected Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in the U.S.?

- A) Priya Krishnamoorthi
- B) Ghazala Hashmi
- C) Kamala Harris
- D) Tulsi Gabbard

Answer: B) Ghazala Hashmi

