

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Oman Joins UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Council

- In a major achievement, Oman has been elected as a member of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Council for the term 2025–2029. The election took place during the 43rd UNESCO General Conference held in Samarkand.
- This marks a significant recognition of Oman's efforts in promoting sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and harmony between humans and nature.
- The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, launched by UNESCO in 1971, is an international scientific initiative that works to improve the relationship between humans and their environment.
- **Main Objectives**
 - Promote biodiversity conservation
 - Support sustainable management of ecosystems
 - Foster harmony between people and nature
- Oman is a beautiful monarchy located on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula, blending rich cultural traditions with rapid modernization under Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said.
- Capital: Muscat
- Borders: United Arab Emirates (northwest), Saudi Arabia (west), Yemen (southwest)
- Seas: Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman



Inside Kalachakra

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan made headlines not just for strategic discussions but for his inauguration of the Kalachakra Empowerment Ceremony, a deeply spiritual and symbolic Buddhist ritual. This powerful act of cultural engagement underlines how religion and diplomacy often intersect in South Asian geopolitics.
- The Kalachakra Ceremony, meaning the "Wheel of Time", is one of the most sacred and complex rituals in Tibetan Buddhism. It comes from the Kalachakra Tantra, a text that explores time and existence in three dimensions:
 1. **Outer Kalachakra:** Describes the external universe—planetary movements, seasons, and historical cycles.
 2. **Inner Kalachakra:** Focuses on the human body, energy channels, and the flow of time within us.
 3. **Alternative Kalachakra:** Guides spiritual practitioners through tantric meditative practices, aimed at liberation beyond time.



ICC Player of the Month October 2025

- The ICC Player of the Month awards for October 2025 have been announced, with South Africa taking both honours. All-rounder Senuran Muthusamy and women's team captain Laura Wolvaardt have been recognised for their stellar performances in Test cricket and the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.
- Laura Wolvaardt, captain of the South African women's team, was the standout performer in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, held in India.
- Men's Winner: Senuran Muthusamy (South Africa)
- Women's Winner: Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa)
- Runners-up (Men): Noman Ali (Pakistan), Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- Runners-up (Women): Smriti Mandhana (India), Ashleigh Gardner (Australia)
- Voting System: ICC fans + expert panel



Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025

- The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 was officially announced, celebrating the creative talents of children's literature authors across 24 Indian languages. The awards will be presented on 14 November 2025—Children's Day—in a ceremony at Triveni Auditorium, New Delhi.
- **Assamese** – Mainaahantar Padya (Poetry), Surendra Mohan Das
- **Bengali** – Ekhono Gaye Kanta Daye (Stories), Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay
- **Bodo** – Khanthi Bwswn Arw Akhu Danai (Stories), Binay Kumar Brahma
- **Dogri** – Nanhi Tor (Poetry), P.L. Parihar 'Shauq'
- **English** – Dakshin: South Indian Myths and Fables Retold (Stories), Nitin Kushalappa MP
- **Gujarati** – Tinchak (Poetry), Kirtida Brahmbhatt
- **Hindi** – Ek Batey Barah (Non-fiction & Memoir), Susheel Shukla
- **Kannada** – Notebook (Short Stories), K. Shivalingappa Handihal
- **Kashmiri** – Shure Te Tchure Gyush (Short Stories), Izhar Mubashir
- **Konkani** – Belabaicho Shanker Ani Heir Kanyo (Stories), Nayana Adarkar
- **Maithili** – Chukka (Short Stories), Munni Kamat
- **Malayalam** – Penguinukalude Vankaravil (Novel), Sreejith Moothedath
- **Manipuri** – Angangshing-Gee Shannabungshida (Play), Shanto M.
- **Marathi** – Abhaimaya (Poetry), Suresh Govindrao Sawant
- **Nepali** – Shanti Van (Novel), Sangmu Lepcha
- **Odia** – Kete Phula Phutichi (Poetry), Rajakishore Parhi
- **Punjabi** – Jaddu Patta (Novel), Pali Khadim (Amrit Pal Singh)

- **Rajasthani** – Pankheruv Ni Peeda (Play), Bhogilal Patidar
- **Sanskrit** – Balvisvam (Poetry), Preeti R. Pujara
- **Santali** – Sona Miru-ag Sandesh (Poetry), Haralal Murmu
- **Sindhi** – Asmani Pari (Poetry), Heena Agnani 'Heer'
- **Tamil** – Ottrai Siragu Oviya (Novel), Vishnupuram Sarvanan
- **Telugu** – Kaburla Devatha (Story), Gangisetty Sivakumar
- **Urdu** – Qaumi Sitare (Articles), Ghazanfar Iqbal



Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Winners Announced

Padma Awards 2026

- As India gears up for the Padma Awards 2026, several top sportspersons and contributors to Indian sports have been nominated for the country's highest civilian honours. The list features Olympic champions, sports administrators, and medical experts—each playing a vital role in shaping India's sports journey on the global stage.
- India's second-highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, has been recommended for two legends of Indian sports,
- **Abhinav Bindra**
- India's first individual Olympic gold medallist (Beijing 2008 – 10m Air Rifle)
- Five-time Olympian
- Previously honoured with Padma Bhushan (2009)
- Recommended by the Sports Authority of India (SAI)
- **Neeraj Chopra**
- Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist in javelin throw
- Winner of World Athletics Championships and Diamond League Finals
- Previously awarded Padma Shri (2022)

- Recommended by SAI
- **Padma Shri Nominees**
- Manu Bhaker
- Harmanpreet Singh
- Randhir Singh
- Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala
- Viren Rasquinha
- Sandip Pradhan



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Oman has been elected as a member of which UNESCO council for the term 2025–2029?

- A. World Heritage Committee
- B. International Hydrological Programme Council
- C. Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Council
- D. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

Answer: C. Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Council

2. The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme was launched in which year?

- A. 1965
- B. 1971
- C. 1975
- D. 1980

Answer: B. 1971

3. What is the main objective of UNESCO's MAB Programme?

- A. Promoting world heritage tourism
- B. Improving the relationship between humans and their environment
- C. Preserving endangered languages
- D. Advancing space science research

Answer: B. Improving the relationship between humans and their environment

4. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan, which significant Buddhist ritual did he inaugurate?

- A. Vajrayana Ceremony
- B. Bodhi Enlightenment Ritual
- C. Kalachakra Empowerment Ceremony
- D. Mahaparinirvana Puja

Answer: C. Kalachakra Empowerment Ceremony

5. The ICC Player of the Month awards for October 2025 were won by cricketers from which country?

- A. India
- B. Australia
- C. South Africa
- D. England

Answer: C. South Africa

6. Who was named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for October 2025?

- A. Kagiso Rabada
- B. Senuran Muthusamy

- C. Quinton de Kock
- D. Rassie van der Dussen

Answer: B. Senuran Muthusamy

7. Who won the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for October 2025?

- A. Laura Wolvaardt
- B. Smriti Mandhana
- C. Alyssa Healy
- D. Sophie Ecclestone

Answer: A. Laura Wolvaardt

8. The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 will be presented on which date?

- A. 26 January 2025
- B. 15 August 2025
- C. 2 October 2025
- D. 14 November 2025

Answer: D. 14 November 2025

9. The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 recognizes authors writing in how many Indian languages?

- A. 10
- B. 15
- C. 24
- D. 28

Answer: C. 24

10. Which Indian sportsperson, a five-time Olympian and India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, has received the Padma Vibhushan?

- A. Neeraj Chopra
- B. Abhinav Bindra
- C. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
- D. Saina Nehwal

Answer: B. Abhinav Bindra