

Daily Defence Current Affairs

17 November 2025

National Epilepsy Day 2025

- On 17 November 2025, India will observe National Epilepsy Day, a dedicated day to shed light on epilepsy—a neurological disorder that affects millions yet remains shrouded in misunderstanding.
- This observance encourages early diagnosis, treatment adherence, dispelling of myths and creating a more inclusive, supportive environment for people living with epilepsy.
- Recognition of recurrent seizures as a treatable medical condition
- Early and accurate diagnosis
- Timely and effective treatment
- Promotion of social acceptance and support from communities and workplaces
- The day was initiated by the Epilepsy Foundation of India, under the leadership of Dr Nirmal Surya, with a mission to reduce stigma and improve quality of life for people with epilepsy.



International Students' Day 2025

- International Students' Day, observed on November 17, might seem like a day of cultural programs, seminars, or campus celebrations. But its true origin is far more powerful and poignant.
- This day is rooted in the tragic yet courageous uprising of Czech students in 1939 Prague, who stood against Nazi oppression during World War II — an act that cost many their lives and freedom but sparked a global symbol of resistance and student solidarity.



National Press Day 2025

- National Press Day, observed every year on 16 November, celebrates the foundational role of the press as the fourth pillar of democracy. It highlights the enduring values of freedom of expression, ethical journalism, and public accountability.
- National Press Day commemorates the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) on 16 November 1966. Originally formed under the Indian Press Council Act, 1965, and reconstituted in 1979 under the current Press Council Act, PCI serves as an autonomous statutory body to protect press freedom and uphold journalistic standards.
- India's media landscape continues to flourish. The number of registered publications has increased from 60,143 in 2004–05 to over 1.54 lakh in 2024–25, reflecting the expanding reach of journalism in multiple languages and regions.



56th International Film Festival of India 2025

- The 56th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from November 20 to 28, 2025, in Goa, continuing its tradition as South Asia's only FIAPF-accredited competitive film festival since 1952.
- With 240 films from 81 countries, this year's edition promises to be a grand confluence of cultures, storytelling, innovation, and cinematic excellence.
- Total Films: 240+
- Participating Countries: 81
- World Premieres: 13
- International Premieres: 5
- Asian Premieres: 44
- Opening Film: The Blue Trail by Brazilian director Gabriel Mascaro
- **WAVES Film Bazaar**
- A dynamic Co-Production Market
- Screenwriters' Lab and Work-in-Progress Lab
- A growing Viewing Room for global discovery
- Knowledge Series with country showcases, pitching sessions and state incentives



Sons of the Soil Awards 2025

- In a grand celebration of talent and dedication, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, conferred the 'Sons of the Soil Emerging Achievers Award' to five outstanding individuals from Assam at the 5th Biennial Sons of the Soil Awards 2025, held in Guwahati.
- The event, organised by Care Luit, recognised emerging achievers and lifetime contributors whose work continues to elevate Assam's profile on the national stage.
- **Five Emerging Achievers Felicitated**
 - Sukrita Baruah – Media & Communication
 - Sanghamitra Kalita – Entrepreneurship
 - Isharani Baruah – Sports
 - Himjyoti Talukdar – Art & Culture
 - Dr. Debjani Borah – Conservation
- **Lifetime Achievement Awards**
 - Arun Nath – Art & Culture
 - Ravi Shankar Ravi – News Media
 - Mainuddin Ahmed – Sports
 - Lakhimi Baruah – Entrepreneurship
 - Simanta Das – Public Service
- **About the Sons of the Soil Awards**
 - Founded: 2016
 - Organised By: Care Luit
 - Purpose: To recognise individuals and organisations whose dedication and service reflect the pride, resilience, and heritage of Assam

- Award Categories: Emerging Achievers, Lifetime Achievement, Social Sector Development



Jadeja Becomes 4th Cricketer in History to Achieve This

- In a historic moment for Indian cricket, Ravindra Jadeja has become only the fourth player in Test cricket history to achieve the rare double of **4000 runs and 300 wickets**. The feat places him alongside legends like Kapil Dev, Ian Botham, and Daniel Vettori, reaffirming his legacy as one of the game's greatest all-rounders.
- Total Runs in Tests: 4000*
- Total Wickets in Tests: 338 (as of Nov 15, 2025)
- Matches Played: 88

Player	Country	Matches	Runs	Wickets
Kapil Dev	India	131	5248	434
Ian Botham	England	102	5200	383
Daniel Vettori	New Zealand	113	4531	362
Ravindra Jadeja	India	88	4000	338

- Opponent: South Africa
- Venue: Eden Gardens, Kolkata


SSB Crack
EXAMS

Saranda Forest a Wildlife Sanctuary

- In a landmark decision aimed at conserving one of India's richest ecological zones, the Supreme Court of India has directed the Jharkhand government to declare the Saranda Forest as a wildlife sanctuary.
- This ruling highlights the urgent need to protect the forest's rare biodiversity, ecological value, and tribal heritage, amidst increasing developmental pressures.
- The Saranda Forest, located in the West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, spans an area of approximately 820 to 900 square kilometers. It is known as Asia's largest natural Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest and is popularly referred to as the "land of seven hundred hills" due to its undulating, hilly terrain.

- Situated in the Chhotanagpur bio-geographic zone, Saranda forms a continuous forest belt with adjoining regions in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. It is a crucial wildlife habitat for many rare and critically endangered species



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. National Press Day is observed every year on which date?

- A. 15 November
- B. 16 November
- C. 17 November
- D. 18 November

Answer: B. 16 November

2. What is the main purpose of National Press Day in India?

- A. To celebrate student achievements
- B. To honour the role of the press as the fourth pillar of democracy
- C. To promote scientific research
- D. To commemorate freedom fighters

Answer: B. To honour the role of the press as the fourth pillar of democracy

3. International Students' Day is observed every year on which date?

- A. 15 November
- B. 17 November

- C. 18 November
- D. 20 November

Answer: B. 17 November

4. What is the focus of National Epilepsy Day observed in India on 17 November 2025?

- A. Promoting student exchange programs
- B. Spreading awareness about a neurological disorder
- C. Celebrating cultural diversity
- D. Honouring medical professionals

Answer: B. Spreading awareness about a neurological disorder

5. The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is held annually in which state?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Kerala
- C. Goa
- D. Karnataka

Answer: C. Goa

6. The 56th edition of IFFI will be held in which year?

- A. 2023
- B. 2024
- C. 2025
- D. 2026

Answer: C. 2025

7. What is the new name of India's flagship film market formerly called Film Bazaar?

- A. Film Expo India
- B. Cinema Connect
- C. WAVES Film Bazaar
- D. CineWorld India

Answer: C. WAVES Film Bazaar

8. Ravindra Jadeja recently became the fourth player to achieve which rare double in Test cricket?

- A. 3000 runs & 300 wickets
- B. 4000 runs & 250 wickets
- C. 5000 runs & 200 wickets
- D. 4000 runs & 300 wickets

Answer: D. 4000 runs & 300 wickets

9. The Saranda Forest, directed to be declared a wildlife sanctuary, is located in which Indian state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. West Bengal

Answer: B. Jharkhand

10. Saranda Forest is known as Asia's largest natural forest of which tree species?

- A. Teak
- B. Sal (Shorea robusta)
- C. Bamboo
- D. Pine

Answer: B. Sal (Shorea robusta)