

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Operation Sagar Bandhu

- When Cyclone Ditwah battered Sri Lanka in late November 2025 — causing floods, landslides, heavy destruction and loss of life — India responded swiftly. Under the banner of **Operation Sagar Bandhu**, New Delhi sent emergency humanitarian aid to **Sri Lanka**.
- The mission was announced by the country's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, marking India's intent to extend support under its "Neighbourhood First" philosophy and regional solidarity.
- Operation Sagar Bandhu is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission launched by the Government of India to provide emergency support to Sri Lanka in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah.
- The term **Sagar Bandhu**—which means "**Ocean Friend**"—captures India's intent to be a reliable partner in times of crisis, especially for its maritime neighbours. The operation is part of India's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional ties through timely disaster response and humanitarian aid.



Jay Shah Honoured with “Indian of the Year 2025”

- Jay Shah, Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), has been awarded the prestigious “**Indian of the Year 2025**” in the Outstanding Achievement category. This award highlights his dynamic leadership in redefining cricket administration and championing landmark reforms, including pay parity and the Women’s Premier League.
- Jay Shah’s journey from BCCI Secretary (2019–2024) to ICC Chairman (2024–present) has been marked by key policy decisions, expansion strategies, and progressive changes to the sport’s ecosystem.
- **Features of His Achievements**
 - **Women’s Cricket Reforms:** Spearheaded the introduction of the Women’s Premier League (WPL) and ensured pay parity between men’s and women’s national teams—a historic milestone.
 - **Modernisation of Cricket:** Oversaw significant media rights deals, commercial reforms, and infrastructure projects like the National Cricket Academy’s Centre of Excellence.
 - **Olympic Push:** Played a pivotal role in efforts to include cricket in the Olympics, expanding the sport’s reach globally.
 - **Fan Engagement and Expansion:** Improved global fan engagement strategies and opened new markets for cricket consumption and participation.
 - **Recognition of Women’s Team:** The award ceremony also honoured India’s women’s cricket team following their ICC Women’s World Cup 2025 win, reflecting the success of initiatives championed during Shah’s tenure.



World AIDS Day 2025

- World AIDS Day, observed every year on December 1, is a global reminder to reflect on the progress made in tackling HIV/AIDS and to renew commitment toward eliminating the epidemic.
- In 2025, the theme “**Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response**” calls attention to the ongoing need for resilient, inclusive, and community-led health systems that can withstand pandemics, conflicts, and inequalities.
- India joins the global community in marking this day through national awareness drives, policy outreach, and a renewed focus on ending AIDS by 2030, as outlined in its National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) — a globally recognized model of success.
- India’s response to HIV began in the mid-1980s with detection and awareness, and evolved into a comprehensive national strategy under the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).



Nagaland Statehood Day 2025

- Nagaland, located in India’s culturally diverse Northeast, attained statehood on 1 December 1963 following the passage of the State of Nagaland Act, 1962. Since then, the state has played a significant role in promoting indigenous culture, biodiversity conservation, and peace-building within the region.
- After India’s independence in 1947, the Naga-inhabited region remained part of Assam.

- Rising nationalist sentiment among Naga tribes led to demands for autonomy and, at times, secession.
- In 1957, the Naga Hills district of Assam and Tuensang Frontier Division were administratively merged under direct Central control.
- In 1960, it was agreed that Nagaland would become a full-fledged state within the Indian Union.
- 1963: Nagaland formally became India's 16th state, and the first elected government assumed office in 1964.
- **Location:** Northeastern India
- **Boundaries**
 - Arunachal Pradesh (Northeast)
 - Assam (West)
 - Manipur (South)
 - Myanmar (East), **Capital:** Kohima



International Jaguar Day 2025

- International Jaguar Day, observed annually on November 29, is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about the conservation of one of the world's most iconic big cats — the jaguar (*Panthera onca*).
- Celebrated across nations, the day highlights the importance of jaguars not just as majestic predators, but as umbrella species, vital for maintaining biodiversity and ecological balance in the Americas.



Virat Kohli Surpasses Sachin Tendulkar

- In yet another monumental achievement, Virat Kohli etched his name deeper into cricket history by smashing his 52nd ODI century, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing record for the most hundreds in One-Day Internationals.
- The historic knock came during the first ODI against South Africa in Ranchi on November 30, 2025, reaffirming Kohli's stature as one of the greatest batters of all time.
- Match: India vs South Africa, 1st ODI, Ranchi
- Kohli's Score: 100+ (exact runs not specified, but confirmed century)
- ODI Centuries: 52 (most in ODI history)
- ODI Centuries vs South Africa: 6
- Total International Centuries: 83 (second only to Tendulkar's 100)



India Re-Elected to IMO Council with Highest Votes

- India achieved a major diplomatic and maritime milestone on November 28, 2025, as it was re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council in Category B, securing 154 out of 169 valid votes — the highest vote tally in its category.
- This marks India's second consecutive term as the top-voted nation in Category B, solidifying its growing role as a global maritime power. The election took place during the 34th IMO Assembly held in London, and India's performance reinforces its emergence as a policy influencer in international shipping, backed by the Amrit Kaal Maritime Vision 2047.
- The Council is divided into three categories,
- Category A: Countries with the largest interest in providing international shipping services
- Category B: Countries with the largest interest in international seaborne trade
- Category C: Countries with special interests in maritime transport or navigation



India Re-Elected to UNESCO Executive Board for 2025–29 Term

- India has once again secured a seat on the UNESCO Executive Board for the 2025–2029 term, marking a reaffirmation of its growing global leadership in promoting education, culture, science, and communication through multilateral cooperation.
- The announcement was made by the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO, highlighting that India's re-election reflects the global community's confidence in its sustained and meaningful contribution to UNESCO's mandate and its commitment to inclusive and human-centric development.
- India has championed themes such as,
 - Universal access to education and digital learning
 - Safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage
 - Promotion of multilingualism and inclusive communication
 - Scientific collaboration and indigenous knowledge systems



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. International Jaguar Day is observed every year on which date?

- A. November 27
- B. November 29
- C. December 1
- D. November 30

Answer: B. November 29

Explanation: International Jaguar Day is celebrated on November 29 to raise awareness about jaguar conservation.

2. International Jaguar Day is dedicated to the conservation of which big cat species?

- A. *Panthera tigris*
- B. *Panthera leo*
- C. *Panthera onca*
- D. *Acinonyx jubatus*

Answer: C. *Panthera onca*

Explanation: The scientific name of the jaguar is *Panthera onca*.

3. World AIDS Day is observed every year on:

- A. December 5
- B. November 28
- C. December 1
- D. November 30

Answer: C. December 1

Explanation: World AIDS Day is globally marked on December 1 each year.

4. What is the theme of World AIDS Day 2025?

- A. End Inequalities, End AIDS
- B. Communities Make the Difference
- C. Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response
- D. My Health, My Right

Answer: C. Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response

Explanation: The 2025 theme focuses on strengthening global AIDS response amid disruptions.

5. Nagaland attained statehood in which year?

- A. 1947
- B. 1963

- C. 1972
- D. 1956

Answer: B. 1963

Explanation: Nagaland became India's 16th state on December 1, 1963.

6. Virat Kohli surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's ODI century record by scoring his 52nd century against which team?

- A. Australia
- B. New Zealand
- C. South Africa
- D. England

Answer: C. South Africa

Explanation: Kohli scored his record-breaking 52nd ODI century against South Africa in Ranchi.

7. India was re-elected to the IMO Council in Category B with how many votes in 2025?

- A. 154 votes
- B. 140 votes
- C. 169 votes
- D. 120 votes

Answer: A. 154 votes

Explanation: India secured 154 out of 169 valid votes — the highest in its category.

8. The humanitarian assistance sent by India to Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah was under which operation?

- A. Operation Samudra Setu
- B. Operation Sagar Bandhu
- C. Operation Madad
- D. Operation Surya Hope

Answer: B. Operation Sagar Bandhu

Explanation: India launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to aid Sri Lanka during Cyclone Ditwah.

9. Jay Shah received the “Indian of the Year 2025” award in which category?

- A. Sports Icon
- B. Lifetime Achievement
- C. Outstanding Achievement
- D. Global Leadership

Answer: C. Outstanding Achievement

Explanation: Jay Shah, ICC Chairman, received the Indian of the Year 2025 in the Outstanding Achievement category.

10. Kohli scored his 52nd ODI century at which venue?

- A. Wankhede Stadium
- B. Eden Gardens
- C. Ranchi
- D. Mohali

Answer: C. Ranchi

Explanation: The historic century was scored during the first ODI against South Africa in Ranchi.