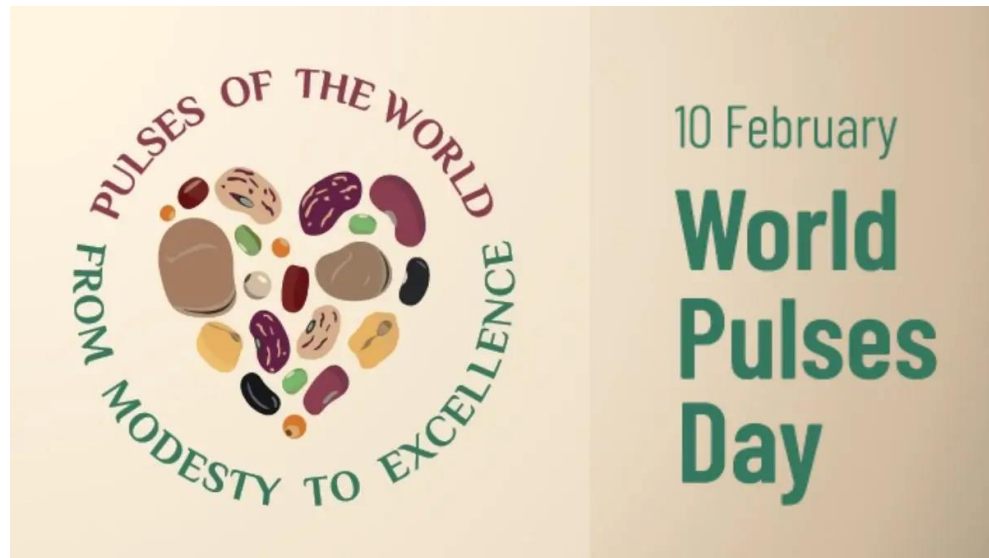


Daily Defence Current Affairs

10 February 2025

World Pulses Day 2026

- World Pulses Day 2026 will be observed on 10 February 2026, drawing global attention to the importance of pulses in nutrition, sustainable farming, and environmental protection.
- Recognized by the United Nations, the day highlights how simple foods like lentils, beans, and chickpeas play a powerful role in fighting hunger, improving soil health, and supporting climate-resilient agriculture.
- World Pulses Day is celebrated every year on **10 February**.
- The day has been officially observed since 2019, after being designated by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018.
- It builds on the success of the International Year of Pulses 2016, which showcased pulses as essential crops for food security and sustainable development.
- The theme for World Pulses Day 2026 is **“Pulses of the World: From Modesty to Excellence.”**
- It highlights how humble crops like lentils, peas, beans, and chickpeas have evolved into globally recognized nutrient-rich foods.
- India is one of the largest producers and consumers of pulses globally.
- World Pulses Day encourages Indian farmers to adopt crop rotation and intercropping with pulses to improve soil health, productivity, and income.
- Along with this also supporting national nutrition goals.



Manu Bhaker Clinches Silver in 25m Pistol

- India's ace shooter Manu Bhaker staged a strong comeback by winning the silver medal in the 25m pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2026 in New Delhi.
- While Manu Bhaker has won multiple medals in the 10m air pistol, the 25m pistol has historically been more challenging for her.
- This silver medal is her first individual silver in the event.
- Earlier, she had secured bronze medals at the ISSF World Cups in 2021 and 2023.



India, Seychelles Announce SESEL Joint Vision

- India and Seychelles have taken their bilateral partnership to a new strategic level. On 9 February 2026, during the State Visit of the President of Seychelles to India, both countries announced a Joint Vision for **Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages (SESEL)**.
- The India-Seychelles Joint Vision (SESEL) was announced during the meeting between Narendra Modi and Patrick Herminie on 9 February 2026.
- The vision outlines a comprehensive roadmap covering sustainability, economic growth, and security cooperation.
- A major highlight of the Joint Vision was India's announcement of a Special Economic Package worth USD 175 million.
- This includes a USD 125 million Rupee-denominated Line of Credit and USD 50 million in grant assistance.
- The package will support development projects, capacity building, maritime security, defence cooperation, and high-impact community development initiatives.
- Health cooperation emerged as a strong pillar of the Joint Vision.
- India donated 10 advanced ambulances to Seychelles to strengthen emergency healthcare.
- Both countries agreed on recognizing the Indian Pharmacopoeia, which will help Seychelles procure affordable and quality medicines under India's Jan Aushadhi initiative.
- Maritime security remains a cornerstone of the partnership.
- India reiterated support for Seychelles defense and maritime needs under Vision MAHASAGAR (**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**).
- Seychelles will establish a Seychelles Hydrographic Unit with Indian assistance.



MeitY Launches SATYA

- India's push towards transparent and citizen-friendly digital governance gained momentum on February 9, 2026, when Union Minister Jitin Prasada inaugurated the STQC Lab Automation Portal – SATYA.
- Launched under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the portal brings testing, certification, and quality assurance services onto a single digital platform.
- The SATYA Portal is a Lab Automation Portal developed for the Standardization Testing and Quality Certification Directorate.
- It integrates STQC's certification, testing, and quality assurance services into a single, end-to-end digital system.
- The STQC Directorate plays a crucial role in ensuring the quality, security, and reliability of electronic and IT products in India.
- Its certifications are essential for trusted digital services, secure devices, and compliant technology products.
- For industry players, SATYA ensures quicker turnaround times and greater confidence in certification outcomes.
- For startups and MSMEs, the portal significantly reduces procedural burden, helping them bring secure and compliant products to market faster.
- The portal has been developed with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing as the technical partner.
- The initiative reflects strong collaboration between policymakers, technologists, and certification authorities.

- The government has encouraged stakeholders to actively use the portal and provide feedback for continuous improvement.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Pulses Day is observed every year on which date?

- A. 5 February
- B. 8 February
- C. 10 February
- D. 12 February

☒ **Answer: C**

2. World Pulses Day has been officially observed since which year?

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2019

☒ **Answer: D**

3. Which United Nations initiative laid the foundation for World Pulses Day?

- A. Zero Hunger Mission
- B. International Year of Pulses 2016

- C. Food Security Decade
- D. Global Nutrition Programme

☒ **Answer: B**

4. What is the theme of World Pulses Day 2026?

- A. Pulses for Nutrition
- B. Pulses and Climate Action
- C. Pulses for a Healthy Planet
- D. Pulses of the World: From Modesty to Excellence

☒ **Answer: D**

5. India is among the world's largest producers and consumers of which agricultural product?

- A. Rice
- B. Wheat
- C. Pulses
- D. Oilseeds

☒ **Answer: C**

6. Manu Bhaker won a silver medal at the Asian Shooting Championships 2026 in which event?

- A. 10m Air Rifle
- B. 50m Rifle
- C. 25m Pistol
- D. Trap Shooting

☒ **Answer: C**

7. Where were the Asian Shooting Championships 2026 held?

- A. Beijing
- B. Tokyo
- C. New Delhi
- D. Seoul

☒ **Answer: C**

8. SESEL Joint Vision was announced between India and which country?

- A. Maldives
- B. Mauritius
- C. Seychelles
- D. Sri Lanka

 **Answer: C**

9. What is the total value of the Special Economic Package announced by India for Seychelles?

- A. USD 100 million
- B. USD 150 million
- C. USD 175 million
- D. USD 200 million

 **Answer: C**

10. SATYA Portal was launched under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

 **Answer: B**