

Daily Current Affairs

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India Plans ₹40,000 Crore Subsea Gas Pipeline

- India is planning to construct a massive ₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline from Oman to Gujarat. This decision comes at that time when Strait of Hormuz crisis disrupted global energy flows in 2026.
- The central government directed major PSUs to prepare a feasibility report for this ambitious project. If this project implemented it will take 5 to 7 years for construction.
- The major reason behind this decision is the 2026 Hormuz crisis which have exposed the India's heavy dependence on a single maritime route.
- Nearly 88% of the India's crude oil imports and significant share of LNG supplies pass through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Estimated Cost: ₹40,000 crore
- Length: 2,000 km
- Route: Oman → Arabian Sea → Gujarat
- Timeline: 5-7 years after approval
- Expected Completion: Around 2033–2035
- Depth: Over 3,000 metres (deepwater route)
- The Indian government has assigned key roles to major public sector companies of India
- GAIL – Lead operator and feasibility planner
- Engineers India Limited – Technical feasibility
- Indian Oil Corporation – End-user and participant



Henley Passport Index 2026

- India's passport ranked slipped to 78th position in the latest Henley & Partners Passport Index 2026. India's rank dropped three places from its earlier rank of 75. As per current ranking Indians can travel to 56 visa free destination or simplified processes.
- It ranks 199 passports worldwide.
- The data is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- It measures the visa-free or visa on arrival access.
- **India's Current Passport Ranking**
- Latest Status
- Rank: 78th (2026)
- Previous Rank: 75th (February 2026)
- Access: 56 destinations
- Despite the drop in rankings, India's passport has improved compared to the,
- 85th rank in 2025
- 90th rank in 2021 (lowest)



Afghanistan Signs \$46 Million Deal with Indian

- The Taliban administration signed a \$46 million agreement with an Indian company to develop the customs laboratory infrastructure across the Afghanistan. This deal focuses on improving trade quality checks and technical capacity in the country.
- Main Features of the Deal
- Establishment of the laboratory centers in Kabul and nine customs facilities.
- Duration of the project: 5 years
- Installation of the advanced laboratory equipment
- Repair and upgrading of existing systems
- Deployment of foreign technical experts
- **Key Focus Areas**
- Enhancing the product testing and certification systems.
- Also strengthening the Afghanistan Standards and Quality Authority.
- Improving trade credibility in the international markets.



‘Lion’ Species Spotlight Programme

- The ‘Lion’ Species Spotlight Programme at Sasan Gir was launched just ahead of the IBCA Summit 2026. This initiative will reflect the India’s commitment to conservation of biodiversity through ecological sustainability.
- The ‘Lion’ Species Spotlight Program was organized as a pre-event to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit of 2026.
- The event focused on lion conservation efforts in India, also highlighted global challenges faced by lion populations and promoted the international cooperation among lion range countries.
- **About IBCA**
- It is the global alliance for Big Cat conservation.
- Covers 7 species: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, Puma
- The summit will see the participation from 95 countries and over 400 delegates.



India Assumes Chair of Common Criteria Development Board

- India assumes the Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for the 2026-28 term after being nominated as a chair. This decision was confirmed during the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) in the first quarter meeting which was held in Tokyo, Japan in April 2026.
- It functions as the technical engine behind the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) which is the global agreement that allows countries to mutually recognize the IT security certifications.
- In the simple terms, if a technology product is certified under this system in one member nation, other participating countries can accept that certification without requiring any fresh security testing.
- CCDB specifically manages the,
- Technical standards for IT product security evaluation
- Also keep updates the cybersecurity evaluation frameworks
- Provides the security certification methodologies
- The CCRA is the international framework which promotes trust in certified digital products across borders.
- It serves as a foundational global agreement for the IT security certification.
- India has steadily expanded its presence in the international cybersecurity ecosystem.
- The country joined the CCRA on September 16, 2013 as a Certificate Authorizing Nation.



EU Clears India for Continued Marine Product Exports

- The European Union (EU) has included the India in its updated list of countries who are eligible to export marine products. This decision will ensure the Indian seafood exports will continue beyond the September 2026.
- Key Impact
- It prevents the disruption of seafood exports after September 2026.
- Also maintains access to a high value international market.
- And also strengthens the India's position in global trade.
- In the year 2024, the EU released a draft list of countries who are allowed to export animal origin products. India was not included in that list.
- **Reason for Exclusion**
- The stricter EU norms on the antimicrobial residue in food products.
- Also the requirement for strong monitoring and regulatory compliance.
- India Qualified Because of the,
- Strong food safety standards
- Effective residue monitoring systems
- Compliance with the EU rules on antimicrobial usage
- Assurance of the mechanisms provided to EU regulators



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India's proposed subsea gas pipeline will connect Oman with which Indian state?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Kerala
- C) Gujarat
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: C) Gujarat

2. What is the estimated cost of the proposed Oman–India subsea gas pipeline project?

- A) ₹20,000 crore
- B) ₹30,000 crore
- C) ₹40,000 crore
- D) ₹50,000 crore

Answer: C) ₹40,000 crore

3. Which organization has been assigned as the lead operator for the subsea gas pipeline project?

- A) ONGC
- B) GAIL
- C) BPCL
- D) NTPC

Answer: B) GAIL

4. India's passport was ranked at which position in the Henley Passport Index 2026?

- A) 65th
- B) 70th
- C) 75th
- D) 78th

Answer: D) 78th

5. According to the Henley Passport Index 2026, Indian citizens can travel to how many destinations visa-free or with visa-on-arrival access?

- A) 45
- B) 56
- C) 72
- D) 90

Answer: B) 56

6. The \$46 million agreement signed by Afghanistan with an Indian company focuses on improving:

- A) Railway infrastructure
- B) Defence production
- C) Customs laboratory infrastructure
- D) Airport modernization

Answer: C) Customs laboratory infrastructure

7. The 'Lion' Species Spotlight Programme was launched at:

- A) Kaziranga
- B) Jim Corbett
- C) Ranthambore
- D) Sasan Gir

Answer: D) Sasan Gir

8. Which of the following species is covered under the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)?

- A) Panda
- B) Jaguar
- C) Rhinoceros
- D) Gorilla

Answer: B) Jaguar

9. India became the Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for which term?

- A) 2024–26
- B) 2025–27
- C) 2026–28
- D) 2027–29

Answer: C) 2026–28

10. The European Union cleared India for continued exports of:

- A) Textile products
- B) Electronic goods
- C) Marine products
- D) Pharmaceutical products

Answer: C) Marine products