

Daily Current Affairs

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Ravi Agrawal Reappointed as CBDT Chairman

- The central government of has reappointed Ravi Agrawal as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). His tenure was extended for another six months and will be effective from 1st of July 2026.
- This decision was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) and it extends the tenure till December 31, 2026, or until any further orders.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the apex policy making body for direct taxes in India. It functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance and it administers the powers from the Income-tax Act, 1961.
- CBDT is responsible for formulating direct tax policies, improving tax administration, ensuring effective tax collection, combating tax evasion and also implementing the reforms that enhances the transparency and taxpayer services.



90 Years of India's Musical Heritage

- As Akashvani marks 90 years of public service broadcasting, it prepares for the centenary of radio broadcasting in India in 2027 and it has launched Swar Prerna Veethika. It is a permanent photo gallery that is dedicated to India's legendary musicians.
- It was inaugurated by Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia at the Akashvani Rang Bhavan Auditorium in New Delhi and this initiative celebrates the Akashvani's long-standing contribution to preserving and promoting the Indian music.
- Swar Prerna Veethika is a specially curated photo gallery established by Akashvani to honour the country's most celebrated musicians who have played a significant role in enriching the country's musical heritage through public broadcasting.
- Akashvani is also embracing digital platforms to reach younger audiences.
- The broadcaster now offers dedicated digital music channels, including the,
 - Raagam: It is a 24x7 channel devoted to the Hindustani classical music.
 - Aaradhana: It is a round-the-clock devotional music channel and features spiritual and devotional compositions.



Van Mahotsav Tree Plantation Campaign

- Van Mahotsav is India's annual week-long tree plantation festival observed from 1 July to 7 July. The campaign began in 1950 under K.M. Munshi, then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food, to promote tree planting and tree protection.
- Van Mahotsav is also called the "festival of forests" in India. It is observed across states and Union Territories through plantation drives, awareness activities, and sapling distribution programmes.
- The 2026 observance runs from 1 July to 7 July. On 1 July 2026, the 77th Van Mahotsav began in several districts of Manipur, where the Forest Department set a target of about 15 lakh saplings under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 3.0 initiative.
- Assam launched the Van Mahotsav campaign on 1 July 2026, and the Delhi government planned a phased plantation drive for 70 lakh saplings with live telecasts from 50 locations from 7 July 2026.
- India's forest and tree cover stood at 25.17% of the geographical area in the India State of Forest Report 2023. The total forest and tree cover was 827,357 square kilometres, with an increase of 1,445 square kilometres since 2021.



Cabinet Approves ₹14,115 Crore for Delhi Tunnel

- On 1 July 2026, the Union Cabinet approved two highway infrastructure projects with a combined cost of ₹14,114.81 crore. The projects include an 8.1-km six-

lane road tunnel in Delhi and a 117.7-km access-controlled highway in Uttar Pradesh.

- The Delhi project covers an 8.1-km six-lane road tunnel on NH-148AE. It will connect Dwarka Expressway with Nelson Mandela Marg in Vasant Kunj and has an estimated cost of ₹6,969.67 crore.
- The project will be implemented under the Hybrid Annuity Mode, or HAM, and has a completion period of about five years. The tunnel includes a 3.14-km twin-tube section beneath the Southern Ridge Forest, and Tunnel Boring Machine technology will be used in that section.
- The second project is the 117.7-km Kanpur-Kabrai Greenfield Highway in Uttar Pradesh. It will be a four-lane or six-lane access-controlled highway with a capital cost of ₹7,145.14 crore. This highway forms part of the Bhopal-Kanpur Economic Corridor.



Odisha Approves Deep Sea Fishing Mission

- Odisha Cabinet approved the Deep Sea Fishing Mission on 1 July 2026. The mission is a flagship initiative of the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department under the administrative control of the Odisha government.
- The mission will run for 10 years, from 2026 to 2036. The estimated investment is ₹2,295.45 crore to ₹2,295.46 crore, and some references describe it as over ₹2,000 crore.
- The mission will be implemented in phases through central and state funding, beneficiary participation, institutional finance, and Public-Private Partnerships.

- The mission covers sustainable deep-sea fishing, marine fisheries infrastructure, seafood exports, and coastal livelihoods. It targets an additional two lakh metric tonnes of marine fish production annually by 2036.
- It also targets more than 50,000 jobs by 2036 and marine exports of around ₹5,000 crore annually by 2036.
- A dedicated Blue Economy Hub, or B-Hub, will function as the knowledge, innovation, and coordination centre for the mission. The term blue economy refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic activity, fisheries, transport, and marine-based livelihoods.



India, Japan Sign Defence Co-development Pact

- India and Japan signed their first defence co-development agreement on 2 July 2026 during the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi. The pact covers the co-development of the Naval Radio Antenna 'Unicorn', also called the UNICORN mast, for naval platforms.
- Defence co-development is a form of defence industrial cooperation in which two countries jointly develop a military system or platform. India and Japan have used this framework for technology collaboration in areas linked to maritime security, supply-chain resilience, and strategic autonomy.
- The UNICORN mast stands for Unified Complex Radio Antenna. It is designed to improve the stealth characteristics of naval platforms by integrating multiple antennas into a single structure. The system is used on warships for communication, radar, and electronic systems.
- The agreement was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. The summit also covered artificial intelligence,

economic security, critical minerals, healthcare, and energy as part of wider bilateral cooperation.

- The co-development of the UNICORN mast is linked to Japan's defence export policy, which has historically imposed self-restrictions on military exports. India and Japan have maintained regular high-level defence exchanges through ministerial visits and institutional dialogue.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

EXAMS

1. The Central Government has extended the tenure of Ravi Agrawal as the Chairman of which organization?

- A) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- B) Finance Commission
- C) **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**
- D) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Answer: C) Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

2. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) functions under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) **Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)**

Answer: D) Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)

3. Akashvani launched 'Swar Prerna Veethika' to commemorate:

- A) 75 years of Independence
- B) 100 years of AIR
- C) **90 years of public service broadcasting**
- D) 50 years of Doordarshan

Answer: C) 90 years of public service broadcasting

4. Which of the following is Akashvani's 24×7 digital channel dedicated to Hindustani classical music?

- A) Sangeet
- B) Aaradhana
- C) Surdhara
- D) **Raagam**

Answer: D) Raagam

5. Van Mahotsav is celebrated every year during which period?

- A) 5–11 June
- B) 15–21 August
- C) **1–7 July**
- D) 1–7 September

Answer: C) 1–7 July

6. According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, India's forest and tree cover is approximately:

- A) 21.75%
- B) 23.84%
- C) **25.17%**
- D) 27.90%

Answer: C) 25.17%

7. The Union Cabinet approved the construction of an 8.1-km road tunnel connecting the Dwarka Expressway with:

- A) India Gate
- B) AIIMS Delhi
- C) Connaught Place
- D) **Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj**

Answer: D) Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj

8. Odisha's Deep Sea Fishing Mission aims to create more than how many jobs by 2036?

- A) 20,000
- B) 35,000
- C) **50,000**
- D) 1,00,000

Answer: C) 50,000

9. India and Japan signed their first defence co-development agreement for the joint development of which naval system?

- A) BrahMos Missile
- B) Akash Air Defence System
- C) Varunastra Torpedo
- D) **UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) Mast**

Answer: D) UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) Mast

10. The UNICORN Mast developed jointly by India and Japan is primarily designed to:

- A) Launch ballistic missiles
- B) Detect submarines underwater
- C) **Improve the stealth capability of naval warships by integrating multiple antennas**
- D) Manufacture aircraft engines

Answer: C) Improve the stealth capability of naval warships by integrating multiple antennas