

Daily Current Affairs

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Andy Burnham Becomes the New Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

- Andy Burnham has officially assumed office as the **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**, succeeding **Keir Starmer**, who resigned from the post following growing political pressure within the Labour Party. Burnham was formally invited by **King Charles III** to form the new government and took the oath of office on **20 July 2026**, in accordance with the constitutional traditions of the United Kingdom.
- Before becoming Prime Minister, Burnham served as the **Mayor of Greater Manchester**, where he earned recognition for initiatives aimed at improving public services, housing, transport, and the overall quality of life of local residents. His administrative experience and leadership within the Labour Party played an important role in his elevation to the country's highest political office.
- The appointment follows the British constitutional convention under which the monarch invites the leader most capable of commanding the confidence of the House of Commons to form the government. Burnham's leadership is expected to focus on economic reforms, strengthening public services, and addressing domestic as well as international challenges facing the United Kingdom.



James Gray to Receive Prestigious Career Pardo Award

- Renowned American filmmaker **James Gray** has been selected to receive the **Pardo alla Carriera (Career Leopard Award)** at the **Locarno Film Festival 2026**. The prestigious honour recognises his outstanding contribution to international cinema and his distinctive style of storytelling.
- The award will be presented on **9 August 2026**, ahead of the screening of his latest film, **Paper Tiger**, at **Piazza Grande**, one of Europe's largest open-air cinema venues. The ceremony celebrates filmmakers whose work has left a lasting impact on world cinema.
- James Gray is widely known for directing critically acclaimed films such as **Little Odessa (1994)**, **The Yards (2000)**, **We Own the Night (2007)**, **Two Lovers (2008)**, and **The Immigrant (2013)**. His films often explore themes of family, crime, immigration, and human relationships, earning him international recognition.
- The **Locarno Film Festival**, held annually in Switzerland, is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious film festivals. Receiving the Career Pardo Award places James Gray among an elite group of filmmakers honoured for their lifelong contribution to cinema.



India Joins WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

- India has officially become a member of the **World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies** after depositing its **Instrument of Acceptance** on **20 July 2026**. With this step, India became the **123rd WTO member** to formally accept the agreement, marking an important milestone in global efforts to promote sustainable fisheries and conserve marine resources.

- The **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies** was adopted during the **12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12)** held in **Geneva, Switzerland**, in **June 2022**. It establishes international rules to regulate government subsidies provided to the marine fishing sector. However, the agreement applies only to **marine wild capture fisheries** and excludes **aquaculture** and **inland fisheries**.
- One of the agreement's primary objectives is to eliminate subsidies that encourage **illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing**. It also seeks to reduce financial support that contributes to **overfishing** and **overcapacity**, thereby protecting marine biodiversity and ensuring the long-term sustainability of global fish stocks.
- Although India has joined the agreement, it continues to advocate for the interests of developing countries during the ongoing **Phase II negotiations**. India has requested a **25-year transition period** to safeguard the livelihoods of millions of traditional fishermen. It has also called for stricter regulations on large industrial fishing fleets operating in distant waters and permanent protection for **small-scale and artisanal fishers**.
- India maintains that its fisheries subsidies are among the **lowest in the world**, averaging around **15 US dollars per fisher family annually**, and argues that it should not be treated on par with highly industrialized fishing nations.
- The WTO Agreement represents a significant global initiative to balance marine conservation with the livelihood needs of fishing communities while ensuring fair international trade practices.



Rithvik Wins Silver, Rohith Krishna Takes Gold at Menuires Chess

- Indian chess players delivered an outstanding performance at the **Menuires International Chess Championship 2026** held in **Les Menuires, France**. **Grandmaster S. Rohith Krishna** from **Tamil Nadu** won the **Gold Medal**, while **Grandmaster Raja Rithvik** from **Telangana** secured the **Silver Medal** in the Open category.
- The championship formed part of the **1st Open International d'Échecs des Menuires**, conducted from **11 to 18 July 2026** in the scenic **French Alps**. The tournament featured **86 players** from several countries and followed a **nine-round Swiss format**.
- Both Rohith Krishna and Raja Rithvik remained **undefeated**, scoring **seven points** from nine rounds. Rohith Krishna clinched the title on the basis of a superior **tie-break score of 43**, while Raja Rithvik finished second with a **tie-break score of 41.5**.
- Raja Rithvik, seeded fourth in the competition, impressed with **five victories and four draws**. His final-round victory over French Grandmaster **Maxime Lagarde** proved crucial in securing the silver medal.
- The bronze medal was won by **French Grandmaster Omelja Artem**, who finished with **6.5 points**.
- India's excellent performance once again highlights the country's growing dominance in international chess and reflects the strength of its emerging generation of grandmasters.



Pakistan To Host 2027 South Asian Games

- Pakistan will host the **14th South Asian Games** from **23 March to 31 March 2027**, marking the country's third opportunity to organize the region's premier multi-sport event. Competitions will be held across **Lahore, Islamabad, and Faisalabad**, with more than **3,500 athletes** from **eight South Asian countries** expected to participate in **27 sporting disciplines**.
- The South Asian Games are organised under the **South Asian Olympic Council (SAOC)** and promote sporting excellence and regional cooperation among South Asian nations. Pakistan was originally awarded the hosting rights in **2019**, but the Games were postponed several times before being rescheduled for 2027.
- To ensure successful preparations, the Government of Pakistan has approved substantial financial support for infrastructure development and event organisation. The 2027 edition will also be historic as it will be the **first South Asian Games hosted outside Islamabad**, with Lahore and Faisalabad sharing hosting responsibilities.
- The event is expected to strengthen sporting ties, encourage cultural exchange, and provide athletes with an important platform to compete at the regional level.



IIT Tirupati Hosts 5th BRICS Geospatial Meeting

- IIT Tirupati hosted the **5th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Geospatial Technologies and its Applications** from **20 to 22 July 2026** at its **Yerpedu campus** in Andhra Pradesh. The three-day event was organized under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India**, bringing

together experts, scientists, policymakers, and delegates from **BRICS member countries and partner nations** through both physical and virtual participation.

- The meeting focused on strengthening international cooperation in the field of **geospatial technologies**, which involved the collection, analysis, management, and application of location-based information using technologies such as **Remote Sensing (RS)**, **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**, **Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)**, and digital mapping.
- Key discussions centered on developing **geospatial infrastructure** for sustainable development, improving **climate resilience**, advancing **positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) technologies**, promoting **Artificial Intelligence-based geospatial analytics**, and ensuring **data interoperability** among member nations.
- The deliberations also highlighted the growing importance of geospatial technologies in disaster management, agriculture, urban planning, transport systems, environmental monitoring, and national geospatial policy implementation.
- The inaugural session was attended by several eminent dignitaries, including **IIT Tirupati Director Prof. K. N. Satyanarayana**, **DST Under Secretary Gautam Govind**, **Manoranjan Mohanty**, Head of the National Geospatial Programme Division, along with scientists **Shubha Pandey** and **Arindam Bhattacharya**. **IIT Tirupati's Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation (IITNiF)** also played an important role in organizing the event.
- The meeting reflects BRICS' growing emphasis on scientific collaboration and the use of advanced geospatial technologies for sustainable development and innovation.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India became the _____ member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to accept the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

- A) 118th
- B) 120th
- C) 123rd
- D) 125th

Answer: C) 123rd

2. The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies was adopted during which WTO Ministerial Conference?

- A) 10th Ministerial Conference
- B) 11th Ministerial Conference
- C) 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12)
- D) 13th Ministerial Conference

Answer: C) 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12)

3. Which of the following is NOT covered under the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies?

- A) Marine Wild Capture Fisheries
- B) Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
- C) Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries
- D) Harmful Fishing Subsidies

Answer: C) Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries

4. India has demanded a transition period of how many years for developing countries during Phase II negotiations of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement?

- A) 10 Years
- B) 15 Years
- C) 20 Years
- D) 25 Years

Answer: D) 25 Years

5. Who won the Gold Medal at the Menuires International Chess Championship 2026?

- A) Raja Rithvik
- B) S. Rohith Krishna
- C) Maxime Lagarde
- D) Omelja Artem

Answer: B) S. Rohith Krishna

6. Raja Rithvik, who won the Silver Medal at the Menuires International Chess Championship, belongs to which Indian state?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Telangana
- D) Kerala

Answer: C) Telangana

7. The Menuires International Chess Championship 2026 was held in which country?

- A) Germany
- B) France
- C) Switzerland
- D) Italy

Answer: B) France

8. Which institution hosted the 5th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Geospatial Technologies and its Applications?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IIT Tirupati
- D) IISc Bengaluru

Answer: C) IIT Tirupati

9. The 5th BRICS Geospatial Meeting was organized under which Government of India department?

- A) Ministry of Electronics & IT
- B) Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- C) ISRO
- D) Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer: B) Department of Science and Technology (DST)

10. Which of the following technologies was one of the major focus areas of the 5th BRICS Geospatial Meeting?

- A) Quantum Computing**
- B) Artificial Intelligence-based Geospatial Analytics**
- C) Blockchain Technology**
- D) Nuclear Fusion Technology**

Answer: B) Artificial Intelligence-based Geospatial Analytics