

Daily Current Affairs

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World Coconut Day 2026

- World Coconut Day in 2026 will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 2. It will emphasize the role of coconuts in agriculture, food production, trade, economy, and daily life.
- Called the tree of life, the coconut palm has several important parts such as water, milk, oil, pulp, husk, and shell that are utilized for different purposes.
- World Coconut Day was celebrated for the first time in 2009. This celebration is associated with International Coconut Community which is also known as Asian and Pacific Coconut Community.
- Coconut is one of the most versatile fruits. The three marks on its shell that are typical for it were considered by Europeans in connection with the etymology of the word “coconut.” The reason for this is the similarity between the marks and the features of a human face.



5th Edition of Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026 Launched

- The fifth edition of Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (SSSS v.5.0) was launched on 1 September 2026 for marine litter removal and coastal conservation in India. The

week-long campaign is scheduled from 12 September to 19 September 2026 and will conclude on International Coastal Cleanup Day.

- Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar is a nationwide coastal cleanliness initiative linked with ocean conservation and shoreline protection. The campaign covers India's 11,098-kilometre coastline and includes cleanup drives at more than 100 beach locations.
- The campaign is implemented under the Ministry of Earth Sciences' PRITHVI scheme. PRITHVI is a scientific framework associated with shoreline erosion monitoring and seawater quality monitoring along coastal areas.
- The 2026 edition introduced the first national Ocean Olympiad for youth. The campaign also launched a dedicated website and an ocean conservation pledge portal for public participation. The annual initiative began in 2022 and continued with a 2025 edition held from 15 September to 20 September 2025. The 2026 edition is the fifth edition of the campaign.



International Workshop on Tiger Landscapes Inaugurated

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav inaugurated a two-day international workshop in New Delhi on 2 September 2026.
- The workshop was held on the theme **“Tiger Landscapes: Conservation, Bioeconomy and Ecotourism as Pillars for Livelihood and Income Generation”** and continued till 3 September 2026.
- Tiger landscapes are forest and habitat mosaics associated with tiger populations and wider biodiversity. In India, tiger conservation is linked with the

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Project Tiger, and the National Tiger Conservation Authority, which is the statutory body for tiger conservation.

- The workshop was jointly organised by the International Big Cat Alliance, the Asian Development Bank, and the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- The International Big Cat Alliance is an inter-governmental initiative focused on the conservation of seven big cat species, including the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the International Big Cat Alliance and the Asian Development Bank during the event. The MoU covers landscape conservation, capacity building, and nature-positive financing, which is a financing approach linked with biodiversity and ecosystem outcomes.



India Plans 100 New Airports Under Modified UDAN

- India plans to build 100 new airports over the next 10 years under the regional connectivity framework known as UDAN. The expansion is linked to the Modified UDAN scheme, which has a central budgetary outlay of ₹28,840 crore for FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36.
- UDAN stands for Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik and is India's regional connectivity scheme for civil aviation. The scheme was launched to improve air access in underserved and unserved regions through subsidised routes, airport development, and route viability support.
- The Modified UDAN scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister in March 2026. The scheme covers airport development, route expansion, and supporting infrastructure for regional air connectivity.

- India's active airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 166 in 2026. This growth includes new airports, upgraded terminals, and expanded operational capacity across the civil aviation network.
- The planned airport expansion is estimated to cost about ₹30,000 crore over the next decade. The project is intended to support air travel demand from tier-2 and tier-3 cities, Himalayan regions, remote areas, and island territories.
- The Modified UDAN programme also includes plans to develop 200 new helipads. Helipads are used for helicopter operations in difficult terrain, remote settlements, and island regions.
- Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are among the regions identified for improved air connectivity under the expansion plan.



Gollala Gudi Temple Added to India's National Monuments List

- Gollalagudi Temple, also called Gollala Gudi, in Palampet village of Mulugu district, Telangana, was declared a monument of national importance through a gazette notification issued by the Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism on 1 September 2026.
- The declaration increased the number of Archaeological Survey of India protected monuments in Telangana to 10.
- A monument of national importance in India is protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The Archaeological

Survey of India takes charge of such sites for conservation, maintenance, and regulated public access.

- Gollalagudi is identified as a Trikotalaya temple, a form with three sanctums. It has an east-facing mandapa connected to three garbhagrihas, which is a feature associated with regional Kakatiya-era temple architecture in Telangana.
- The temple is broadly attributed to the Kakatiya period of the 12th to 13th centuries CE. Its exact construction date and original dedication remain subjects for archaeological and epigraphic study.
- The Archaeological Survey of India, Hyderabad Circle, stated that it will take charge of the site for conservation work and minor repairs. The planned work includes addressing waterlogging and constructing a proper pathway for visitors.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

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

- A. 1 September
- B. 2 September
- C. 5 September
- D. 8 September

Answer: B. 2 September

2. World Coconut Day was celebrated for the first time in which year?

- A. 2005
- B. 2007
- C. 2009
- D. 2012

Answer: C. 2009

3. Coconut palm is popularly known as the:

- A. Tree of Prosperity
- B. Tree of Life
- C. Tree of Knowledge
- D. Tree of Health

Answer: B. Tree of Life

4. The fifth edition of Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar was launched on:

- A. 15 August 2026
- B. 25 August 2026
- C. 1 September 2026
- D. 2 September 2026

Answer: C. 1 September 2026

5. Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026 will cover India's coastline of approximately:

- A. 7,516 km
- B. 9,876 km
- C. 10,500 km
- D. 11,098 km

Answer: D. 11,098 km

6. Which new initiative was introduced in the 2026 edition of Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar?

- A. National Blue Economy Mission
- B. National Ocean Olympiad
- C. Coastal India Mission
- D. Ocean Youth Parliament

Answer: B. National Ocean Olympiad

7. The International Workshop on Tiger Landscapes 2026 was inaugurated by:

- A. Amit Shah
- B. Ashwini Vaishnaw
- C. Bhupender Yadav
- D. Rajnath Singh

Answer: C. Bhupender Yadav

8. The International Big Cat Alliance focuses on the conservation of how many big-cat species?

- A. Five
- B. Six
- C. Seven
- D. Eight

Answer: C. Seven

9. How many new airports does India plan to develop under the Modified UDAN scheme over the next 10 years?

- A. 50
- B. 75
- C. 100
- D. 150

Answer: C. 100

10. Gollala Gudi Temple, recently declared a Monument of National Importance, is located in which state?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Telangana
- C. Karnataka
- D. Maharashtra

Answer: B. Telangana