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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

25 OCTOBER 2025

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and State PCS

DAILY

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. DAY-NRLM: A Blueprint for Empowering Rural Women and Transforming Rural Communities.



The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**) has proven to be a blueprint for empowering rural women by organizing them into **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**. The scheme promotes financial inclusion, enhances livelihood opportunities, and builds institutional capacity at the grassroots level.

- The core objective of DAY-NRLM is to promote poverty reduction through building strong institutions for the poor.
- The scheme focuses on mobilizing rural households, particularly women, into Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- It is a flagship program under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

Key Points:-

Scheme promotes financial inclusion and institutional capacity building.

It creates sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural areas.

Mission aims to organize at least one woman member from every poor rural

household.

2. Kerala Signs MoU with Education Ministry to Join PM SHRI Schools Scheme.



Kerala has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Education Ministry to integrate its schools into the **PM SHRI Schools scheme**. The initiative aims to upgrade existing schools by transforming them into model institutions that deliver quality education and incorporate modern technology and infrastructure.

- Kerala is the latest state to join the PM SHRI Schools scheme by signing an MoU.
- The PM SHRI scheme aims to upgrade existing schools into model institutions with modern infrastructure.
- The scheme is a flagship initiative of the Union Ministry of Education.

Key Points:-

Scheme incorporates modern technology and infrastructure.

It delivers quality education under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Collaboration aims at holistic development

and promoting local culture.

begin in 2026.

INTERNATIONAL

1. GOI Partners with Nigeria to Establish First IIT Campus in West Africa.



The Government of India (GOI) partnered with **Nigeria** to establish the **first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus** in West Africa. The new campus will follow the IIT Madras–Zanzibar model, providing faculty, curriculum design, and training support, marking a major step in India's global education outreach.

- **Nigeria is set to host the first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus in West Africa.**
- **The new campus will follow the successful IIT Madras–Zanzibar model.**
- **India will provide faculty, curriculum design, and training support for the new institution.**

Key Points:-

New campus will be located at the Federal Government Academy (FGA) in Suleja.

Project forms part of India's global education strategy (NEP 2020).

The first batch of students is expected to

2. India Re-elected as Vice-Chairperson of COP10 Bureau at UNESCO in Paris, France.



India has been re-elected as the **Vice-Chairperson** of the Bureau of the 10th Conference of Parties (**COP10**) to the **UNESCO** Convention against Doping in Sport, during the conference held in Paris, France. This re-election underscores India's commitment to promoting ethics in sports globally and its leadership role in international platforms.

- **India was re-elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the COP10 Bureau.**
- **The election took place at the UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport conference in Paris, France.**
- **The re-election underscores India's commitment to promoting ethics in sports globally.**

Key Points:-

Re-election underscores India's commitment to promoting ethics in sports.

India's delegation actively participated in discussions on strengthening governance.

Convention is the only legally binding international instrument against doping.

and support core banking operations.

Move aligns with the trend of banks reducing stakes in non-core insurance ventures.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. PNB Sells 10% Stake in Canara HSBC Life for Rs 1,007 Crores Ahead of IPO.



Punjab National Bank (PNB) sold a **10% stake** in its associate company, **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company**, for **₹1,007 crore** through an Offer for Sale (OFS) as part of the insurer's Initial Public Offering (IPO). This strategic move reduces PNB's holding from 23% to 13%, aiming to optimize its investment portfolio and focus on core banking operations.

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) sold a 10% stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance.
- The transaction was executed for a total consideration of ₹1,007 crore through an Offer for Sale (OFS).
- The stake sale reduces PNB's holding from 23% to 13%, optimizing its investment portfolio.

Key Points:-

Sale was executed through an Offer for Sale (OFS) as part of the insurer's IPO.

Proceeds will enhance the bank's liquidity

2. DPIIT Signs MoUs with Kotak Mahindra Bank and Primus Partners to Strengthen Startup Ecosystem.



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) signed two key MoUs with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and **Primus Partners**. The agreements aim to strengthen India's startup ecosystem by facilitating mentorship, providing financial support, and driving corporate collaboration for startups registered under the Startup India initiative.

- DPIIT signed two separate MoUs with Kotak Mahindra Bank and Primus Partners.
- The agreements aim to facilitate mentorship, provide financial support, and drive corporate collaboration for startups.
- The collaboration is focused on strengthening the startup ecosystem under the Startup India initiative.

Key Points:-

Kotak Mahindra Bank will focus on financial

products for startups.

Primus Partners will assist in strategic guidance and corporate linkages.

Goal is to accelerate the growth and scaling of registered startups.

Acquisition strengthens Federal Bank's capital base.

Highlights the trend of Indian lenders attracting substantial private capital.

3. Blackstone to Acquire Minority Stake in Federal Bank for Rs 6,196.51 crore.



The Board of **Federal Bank** approved the sale of a **9.99% minority stake** to an affiliate of the U.S. private equity firm **Blackstone** for **₹6,196.51 crore**. The transaction, executed via a preferential issue of warrants, marks a significant private equity investment in the Indian banking sector.

- The deal involves the sale of a 9.99% minority stake in Federal Bank to a Blackstone affiliate.
- The transaction is valued at approximately ₹6,196.51 crore and is executed via a preferential issue of warrants.
- The acquisition is one of the largest private equity investments in the Indian banking sector.

Key Points:-

Deal requires approvals from RBI, CCI, and bank's shareholders.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Justice Sudhir Singh Appointed Acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court.



Justice **Sudhir Singh**, a senior judge of the Patna High Court, was appointed as its **Acting Chief Justice (CJ)** following the retirement of Chief Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajantri. Justice Singh, who was elevated to the bench in 2015, will assume charge as the senior-most judge of the High Court.

- Justice Sudhir Singh was appointed as the Acting Chief Justice (CJ) of Patna High Court.
- His appointment follows the retirement of the previous Chief Justice, Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajantri.
- He will assume charge as the senior-most judge of the High Court.

Key Points:-

His appointment was made via a notification

from the Law Ministry.

Justice Singh has practiced extensively in Criminal and Writ matters.

Appointment ensures continuity in the high court's judicial administration.

The day encourages public awareness of global issues.

It highlights the importance of timely and accurate information sharing.

The UN uses the day to review progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Development Information Day 2025 Observed Globally on October 24



****World Development Information Day**** is observed annually on ****October 24**** to draw the attention of the world's public opinion to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them. It promotes the role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in accelerating development.

- **World Development Information Day** is observed annually on **October 24**.
- The day draws attention to global development problems and the need for international cooperation.
- It promotes the role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in accelerating development.

Key Points:-

2. International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2025 Concludes.



The ****International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW)****, organized by the WHO, concluded on ****October 25****. The campaign, held from October 19 to 25, focused on the theme *****"No safe level: act now to end lead exposure"*****, emphasizing the unacceptable risks of lead exposure, especially to children, and the urgent need for action to eliminate lead paint.

- The **International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW)** was held from **October 19 to 25**.
- The campaign was organized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- The theme for the week was **"No safe level: act now to end lead exposure"**, focusing on eliminating lead paint.

Key Points:-

Lead exposure poses unacceptable risks to children's health.

The campaign builds on the success of banning lead use in petrol.

It promotes establishing laws that limit lead use in paint.

3. United Nations Day 2025 Observed Globally on October 24.



****United Nations Day**** is observed annually on ****October 24**** to commemorate the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. The day promotes the aims and achievements of the United Nations, which works for peace, human rights, and development globally.

- **United Nations Day** is observed annually on **October 24**.
- The day commemorates the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945.
- The day promotes the aims and achievements of the United Nations for peace and human rights.

Key Points:-

The UN was founded after World War II to prevent future conflicts.

The day is part of the United Nations Week (October 20-26).

The UN Charter is the foundational treaty of the organization.

4. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Celebrates Raising Day on October 24.



The ****Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**** celebrated its Raising Day on ****October 24****, 2025. The ITBP, a primary border patrol organization, is deployed along India's border with Tibet (China). The force, known for its bravery and endurance in high-altitude terrain, is instrumental in securing the nation's frontiers.

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** celebrated its Raising Day on **October 24**.
- ITBP is a primary border patrol organization deployed along India's border with Tibet (China).
- The force is known as the 'Himveers' for its bravery and endurance in high-altitude terrain.

Key Points:-

ITBP personnel are nicknamed 'Himveers'

(Snow Warriors).

They secure the nation's frontiers across merciless terrains and unforgiving climates.

Force is instrumental in maintaining security in high-altitude Himalayan regions.

DEFENCE

1. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Released Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025 in New Delhi.



Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** released the latest edition of the **Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025** in New Delhi. The new manual incorporates significant amendments aimed at streamlining the procurement process for defense platforms and equipment, focusing on simplification, speed, and encouraging greater participation from indigenous defense industries.

- The DPM 2025 manual was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi.
- The manual incorporates amendments aimed at streamlining the procurement process for defense platforms and equipment.

- Key objectives include simplification, speed, and encouraging greater participation from indigenous defense industries.

Key Points:-

New manual incorporates significant amendments for faster decision-making.

Aim is to reduce delays in the acquisition cycle of equipment.

Focus placed on achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in defense production.

2. IAF Participated in Multinational Air Combat Exercise 'Ocean Sky 2025' in Spain.



The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise **'Ocean Sky 2025'**, a multinational air combat exercise hosted by the Spanish Air Force at **Gando Air Base, Spain**. The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability, sharpen air combat skills, and strengthen defense cooperation with friendly nations, using advanced tactical drills.

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the multinational Exercise Ocean Sky 2025.
- The exercise was hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base, Spain.

- The objective was to enhance interoperability, sharpen air combat skills, and strengthen defense cooperation.

Key Points:-

Exercise aimed to foster mutual learning and enhance interoperability.

IAF participation involved advanced fighter jet and aerial refueling contingents.

Drills are vital for sharing best practices in air warfare tactics.

3. CSL Delivers First of Eight ASW SWC 'Mahe' to Indian Navy, Boosting Self-Reliance in Naval Shipbuilding.



****Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** delivered *****Mahe*****, the first of eight ****Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC)****, to the Indian Navy. The vessel, indigenously designed and built by CSL, significantly augments the Indian Navy's ASW capability in coastal waters and reaffirms the Government's vision of *****Aatmanirbhar Bharat***** in defense.**

- **'Mahe' is the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC) delivered by CSL.**

- The vessel has been indigenously designed and constructed by CSL, with over 80% indigenous content.

- Its induction significantly augments the Indian Navy's ASW capability in coastal waters.

Key Points:-

Vessel is named after the historic port town in Puducherry.

It is equipped for low-intensity maritime operations and mine laying.

Delivery marks another milestone in the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision in defense.

4. Airbus, Leonardo, Thales Seal Deal to Merge Satellite Operations to Compete with SpaceX.



European aerospace giants ****Airbus, Leonardo, and Thales**** signed an MoU to merge their space businesses, creating a new regional unit. This strategic move aims to achieve ****significant synergies**** and create a more efficient organization capable of competing effectively with market disruptors like ****Elon Musk's SpaceX Starlink**** satellite constellation.

- The merger involves three European aerospace giants: Airbus, Leonardo, and Thales.

- The deal aims to create a new regional unit to achieve significant synergies and cost savings.
- The primary goal is to compete effectively with market disruptors like Elon Musk's SpaceX Starlink.

Key Points:-

Merger creates a pivotal milestone for Europe's space industry.

It is driven by market shifts caused by SpaceX's rapid expansion.

New company will encompass satellite manufacturing, systems, components, and services.

- Dr. Ashokkumar Veeramuthu was named among the World's Top 2% Scientists by Stanford University and Elsevier Publishers.

- The recognition is for the third consecutive year, a rare global achievement for an Indian scientist.

- His research focuses on sustainable waste management, carbon emissions, and clean energy generation.

Key Points:-

Recognition places him among Nobel laureates and global research leaders.

His work focuses on science that solves real-world problems like waste management.

He leads projects on microalgae-based clean fuels and plastic-to-biofuel technologies.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Nilgiris Scientist Dr. Ashokkumar Named Among Top 2% Scientists Worldwide for 3rd Consecutive Year.



Nilgiris-based researcher **Dr. Ashokkumar Veeramuthu** has been recognized among the **World's Top 2% Scientists** by Stanford University and Elsevier Publishers for the **third consecutive year**. This rare global achievement highlights his persistent research efforts in environmental and health research, particularly in sustainable waste management and clean energy generation.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Maharashtra Governor Acharya Devvrat Released Book 'Modi's Mission' by Berjis Desai.



Maharashtra Governor **Acharya Devvrat** released the book **'Modi's Mission'**, authored by Mumbai-based lawyer and writer **Berjis Desai**, in New Delhi. The book

traces the personal journey of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focusing on him as an **instrument of change** and the transformation he has brought to the collective consciousness of Indians, avoiding political analysis.

- The book, titled **'Modi's Mission'**, was authored by Mumbai-based lawyer and writer Berjis Desai.
- The book was released by Maharashtra Governor Acharya Devvrat in New Delhi.
- The book focuses on PM Modi as an **"instrument of change"** and the transformation he brought to national consciousness.

Key Points:-

Book avoids dealing with PM Modi's politics or elections.

It highlights the transformation in the collective consciousness of Indians.

Release event was also attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Legendary Indian advertiser and Padma Shri awardee **Piyush Pandey** passed away at the age of 70. Regarded as the architect of modern Indian advertising, Pandey was the face of Ogilvy India for over 40 years, known for crafting iconic, culturally resonant campaigns like **'Fevicol'** and **'Cadbury'**.

- Piyush Pandey was a legendary Indian advertiser and the former face of Ogilvy India for over 40 years.
- He was a Padma Shri awardee and was widely regarded as the architect of modern Indian advertising.
- Pandey was known for crafting iconic, culturally resonant campaigns like **'Fevicol'** and **'Cadbury'**.

Key Points:-

His campaigns transformed English-centric ads into relatable Indian stories.

He was honored with the Lion of St. Mark at Cannes Lions in 2018.

Pandey's legacy lies in inspiring generations of authentic storytellers.

OBITUARY

1. Padma Awardee & Legendary Indian Advertiser Piyush Pandey Passes Away.



ENVIRONMENT

1. Botanists from Davangere University Discovered Four New Plant Species in Western Ghats.



Botanists from **Davangere University**, led by Assistant Professor Siddappa B. Kakkalamele, discovered **four new plant species** in the **Western Ghats** region of Karnataka. These new findings highlight the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats and emphasize the need for sustained conservation efforts in this ecologically sensitive area.

- The discovery of four new plant species was made by botanists from Davangere University.
- The discovery location is the Western Ghats region of Karnataka, known for its rich biodiversity.
- The findings highlight the urgent need for sustained conservation efforts in this ecologically sensitive area.

Key Points:-

New species were identified based on unique morphological features.

Findings emphasize the untapped biological wealth of the region.

Discoveries underscore the need for effective habitat protection policies.

Static GK

World Development Information Day	Date: October 24, Established by: UN General Assembly (1972), Goal: Strengthen international cooperation for development.	Focus: Role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in development, Link: Coincides with UN Day.
Dr. Ashokkumar	Current Role: Professor at Saveetha University, Chennai, Research Focus: Environmental Engineering and Biotechnology.	Recognition Basis: Research citation and influence, Significance: Ranks among global research leaders.
DPM	Full Form: Defence Procurement Manual, Released by: Ministry of Defence, Objective: Streamline defense acquisition.	Key Features: Simplification, Speed, Promote 'Make in India', Target: Boosting indigenous defense industries.
Punjab National Bank (PNB)	Established: 1894, HQ: New Delhi, Tagline: The Name You Can Bank	Canara HSBC Life: Joint venture with Canara Bank and HSBC, PNB

	Upon.	reduced its holding to 13%.
DAY-NRLM	Launched: 2011 (renamed in 2015), Ministry: Rural Development, Focus: Poverty reduction and women empowerment .	Core Component: Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Goal: Universal financial inclusion for rural poor.
PM SHRI Scheme	Full Form: PM Schools for Rising India, Launched: 2022, Focus: Quality education and modern infrastructure.	Role: Transform existing schools into model institutions, Ministry: Education Ministry.
IITs Overseas	Model: IIT Madras-Zanzibar, Objective: International education outreach and collaboration.	First IIT Campus in Gulf: IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi, Future Focus: Engineering, Technology, and Research.
DPIIT	Full Form: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry: Commerce and	Startup India Initiative: Launched 2016, Objective: Promote innovation and

	Industry.	job creation.
IAF	Established: 1932, Motto: Nabhah Sprisham Diptam (Touch the Sky with Glory), C-in-C: President of India.	Type of Exercise: Multinational Air Combat, Location: Gando Air Base, Spain.
UNESCO COP10	Event: 10th Conference of Parties, Location: Paris, France, Focus: Anti-Doping in Sport.	India's Role: Vice-Chairperson (Asia-Pacific Group IV), Term: 2025–2027.
Lead Poisoning	Source: Lead paint, contaminated dust, water pipes, Effect: Neurological damage, particularly in children.	WHO Goal: Global elimination of lead paint, Key Focus: Child health and safety.
Federal Bank	Established: 1931, HQ: Aluva, Kerala, Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner.	Blackstone: US Private Equity Firm, Stake Acquired: 9.99%, Investor gains director nomination rights.
Cochin	Established:	ASW SWC:

Shipyard Limited (CSL)	1972, HQ: Kochi, Largest Shipbuilding Facility of India.	Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, Project Focus: Coastal security and underwater surveillance.
Western Ghats	Classification: UNESCO World Heritage Site, Importance: One of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity.	Discovery Team: Led by Asst. Prof. Siddappa B. Kakkalameli, Focus: Floral diversity and conservation.
the Merger	Combined Entity Revenue: Around 6.5 billion euros annually, Ownership: Airbus (35%), Leonardo & Thales (32.5% each).	Goal: Compete with LEO satellite constellations like Starlink, Status: Awaiting regulatory clearance.
Piyush Pandey	Role: Indian advertising legend, Award: Padma Shri, Organization: Ogilvy India (Executive Chairman)	Key Contribution: Introduced Hindi and colloquial Indian phrases into advertising,

	Emeritus).	Lion of St. Mark: First Asian recipient (with Prasoon Pandey).
Patna High Court	Established: 1916, Jurisdiction: State of Bihar, Current CJ: Justice K. Vinod Chandran.	Justice Sudhir Singh: Appointed Permanent Judge in 2016, Appointment Type: Acting Chief Justice.
Berjis Desai	Profession: Lawyer and Writer, Previous Work: Authored books on Parsi culture (e.g., Oh! Those Parsis).	Book Theme: PM Modi's personal journey and its impact on national consciousness, Publisher: Rupa Publications.
United Nations (UN)	Established: 1945, HQ: New York City, Current Secretary-General: António Guterres.	Membership: 193 Member States, Core Goal: Maintaining international peace and security.
Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	Established: 1962, HQ: New Delhi, Parent Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs	Motto: Shauryam, Dridhta, Karma Nishtha (Valour, Determination,

	(MHA).	Devotion to Duty), Role: Border guarding.
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