

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 September, 2025



Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	First State in the Country to Auction Pre-Embedded Blocks – Rajasthan
2.	Drone Training for Indian Soldiers in Rajasthan
3.	News in Shorts <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rajasthan Hockey Association Elections2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Nagar Yojana Village Chaukha3. World's First Ayurvedic Excellence Center: Rajasthan4. Pt. Suresh Mishra receives National Atal Award5. Representing India at the Miss/Mr/Mrs Deaf International Contest
4.	Guidance Book on Mapping of Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) Codes
5.	"Five Points - Golden 1000 Days" Initiative: Jharkhand
6.	India and Brazil: 'Maitri 2.0' Cross-Incubation Programme
7.	Vandana Gupta: Controller General of Communication Accounts
8.	National e-Governance Awards, 2025
9.	Sign Language Day: September 23
10.	10th Ayurveda Day, 2025
11.	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty

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RAJASTHAN



First State in the Country to Auction Pre-Embedded Blocks – Rajasthan



Why in News?

- The Rajasthan Mines Department announced the start of the auction process for pre-embedded blocks of major minerals.



Key Points:

- Thus, Rajasthan will be the first state in the country to auction pre-embedded blocks.
- **Pre-embedded Clearance:** The process of auctioning mineral blocks by obtaining necessary permissions in advance is called pre-embedded clearance.
- The Union Ministry of Mines has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, directing all states to prepare at least five blocks for auction with all the necessary permissions.
- The Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET) has been designated as the Project Monitoring Unit for these auctions.

Facts for Prelims (Economic Survey – 2024-25)

Mining Sector in Rajasthan:

- Rajasthan is one of India's richest states in terms of mineral resources, with deposits of 81 types of minerals, of which 58 are mined.
- Rajasthan is the sole producer of lead and zinc ores, selenite, and wollastonite, and also leads the country in the production of silver, calcite, and gypsum.
- Rajasthan tops the national production of ball clay, phosphorite, ochre, steatite, feldspar, and fire clay.

- Rajasthan is a major producer of dimensional stones such as marble, sandstone, and granite, as well as cement-grade and steel-grade limestone.
- A revenue target of ₹9,500 crore has been set for the Department of Mines and Geology for the year 2024-25.

Rajasthan Mineral Policy - 2024

- **Released on** – December 4, 2024.
- The Rajasthan Mineral Policy 2024 aims to promote sustainable, transparent, and responsible mineral development by leveraging the state's abundant mineral resources for economic growth while ensuring environmental protection and community welfare.

Key Features:

- **Economic Growth and Investment:** It aims to promote mineral-based industries, attract investment, and increase the sector's contribution to the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- **Employment Generation:** It aims to provide direct and indirect employment opportunities to over 10 million people by 2047.
- **Sustainability and ESG Compliance:** It aims to implement zero-waste mining, environmentally friendly technologies, and waste management strategies.
- **Technology Integration:** It aims to ensure transparency by adopting advanced exploration techniques, AI-based monitoring, and digital governance.
- **Illegal Mining Mitigation:** It aims to prevent illegal activities using GPS-based tracking, geo-fencing, and real-time monitoring.

Key Initiatives:

- Increasing mineral extraction from 58 to 70 by 2047.
- Auctioning 50 key mineral blocks with pre-determined approvals.

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 September, 2025



- Increasing the mining concession area to 2 percent of the state's total land area by 2047.
- Promoting strategic and critical minerals (such as lithium, rare earth elements) to support clean energy.
- Establishing a state mining company for value addition and research in mineral resources.

Other Key Points:

Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET)

- It was formed in 2020.
- **Objective:** To manage and monitor mining related activities, including scientific exploration and mining of mineral deposits in Rajasthan, utilizing modern technology, research and development, while improving skill development and revenue generation.

Drone Training for Indian Soldiers in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- Indian soldiers are being trained to fly drones at the Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) in Jaipur.



Key Points:

- This training is being provided at the MNIT Innovation and Incubation Center (MIIC), where the training is being provided by the Hogwarts School of Drones startup.
- This initiative aims to make drone operations a standard military capability across all branches of the Army.
- The Army Chief announced the creation of a drone platoon in each infantry battalion during the 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas (July 26, 2025).
- The Indian Army is rapidly inducting drones and anti-drone systems, with one such unit recently established in Likabali, Arunachal Pradesh.

--:5:--

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 September, 2025



Facts for Prelims:

Imported Drones:

- **Heron Series:** These Israeli-made drones form the backbone of the Indian Army's surveillance fleet, capable of long-range flights at high altitudes.
- **MQ-9B SeaGuardian:** A high-altitude, long-endurance drone, primarily used for naval surveillance and maritime patrol, acquired from the US.

Indigenous Drones:

- **Tapas-BH (Rustom-2):** A medium-altitude, long-endurance UAV developed by DRDO for reconnaissance and target acquisition.
- **Nagastra-1:** A man-portable loitering munition (suicide drone) for high-precision, GPS-enabled strikes on enemy targets.
- **Rudrastra:** A hybrid vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) tactical drone capable of carrying smart warheads for airburst explosions.
- **Netra:** A lightweight, autonomous drone developed by DRDO and IdeaForge for surveillance and reconnaissance, which can be deployed in various military and civilian applications.

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NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Rajasthan Hockey Association Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Elections for the Rajasthan Hockey Association were held in Jaisalmer on September 22, 2025.■ Chief Patron of the Rajasthan Hockey Association: Ranjeet Ram Vishnoi.■ President: Dr. Rajkumar Jaipal.■ Secretary: Pavitra Singh Bishnoi.
2.	<p>Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Nagar Yojana Village Chaukha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma inaugurated the Jodhpur Development Authority (JDA)'s "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Nagar Yojana Village Chaukha" and Transport and Automobile Nagar schemes.■ Note: The Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice is located in Jodhpur.
3.	<p>World's First Ayurvedic Excellence Center: Rajasthan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The world's first "Ayurvedic Excellence Center" will be established at the National Institute of Ayurveda in Jaipur.■ This Center of Excellence will create a large data bank of medicinal plants through DNA barcoding, genome sequencing, and quality testing.■ The Ministry of AYUSH has entrusted the responsibility of this project to the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur. The Institute's Dravyaguna Department has been designated as a Center of Excellence for this purpose.

4.

Pt. Suresh Mishra receives National Atal Award

- Pt. Suresh Mishra of Rajasthan was honored with the National Atal Award at a ceremony organized by the National Atal Foundation at the Prime Minister's Museum in New Delhi.
- This award is given in the memory of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, with the aim of furthering his leadership, vision, and inspiration for nation-building.
- In the year 2025, 38 distinguished personalities from across the country have been honored with the National Atal Award, Atal Bhushan, Atal Alankar, and Atal Icon Award.

5.

Representing India at the Miss/Mr/Mrs Deaf International Contest

- Monika from Jodhpur will represent India at the Miss/Mr/Mrs Deaf International Contest to be held in Italy in November 2025.
- Monika is a member of the Rajputana Deaf Art and Cultural Society (RDACS) and recently placed second in the Miss/Mr/Mrs Deaf India Contest held in Jalandhar.

SERVICES

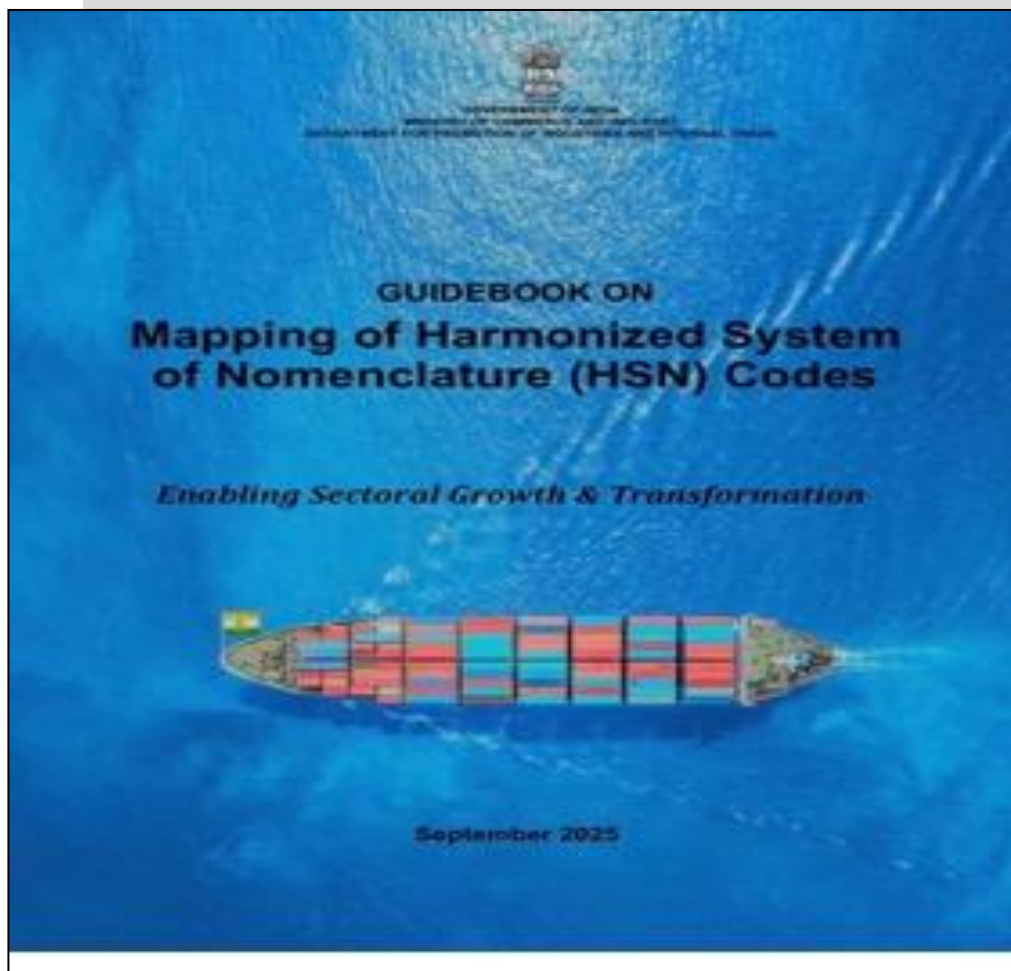


Guidance Book on Mapping of Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) Codes



Why in News?

- On September 20, 2025, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry released the Guidance Book on Mapping of Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) Codes, prepared by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), during the "Celebrating 10 Years of Make in India and Discussing Next Generation Reforms 2.0" event in New Delhi.





Key Points:

- This guidance book allocates 12,167 HSN codes to 31 ministries and departments of the Government of India.
- **Objective:** To promote the adoption of a data-driven approach for manufacturing development, investment promotion, and ease of doing business.
- It will also promote more effective trade negotiations, in line with national economic priorities and domain strengths.
- **Content of the Book:** The development of this guidance book has its roots in the observation of the persistent challenges arising during trade negotiations, import substitution efforts and addressing the concerns of the industry due to lack of definitive mapping of HSN codes.

"Five Points - Golden 1000 Days" Initiative: Jharkhand



Key Points:

- The state-level launch of the eighth Nutrition Month 2025 was held on September 18, 2025.
- On this significant occasion, dignitaries unveiled key campaign materials, including posters promoting the reduction of oil and sugar consumption in daily diets and the "Five Points - Golden 1000 Days" initiative.
- These communication materials are the centerpiece of the state's strategy for social mobilization and community awareness under the Nutrition Campaign.



INTERNATIONAL



India and Brazil: 'Maitri 2.0' Cross-Incubation Programme



Why in News?

- On September 22, 2025, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the second edition of the Brazil-India Agritech Cross-Incubation Programme (Maitri 2.0) in New Delhi.



Key Points:

- The Maitri 2.0 programme reflects the comprehensive Brazil-India strategic partnership, in line with the shared vision of the leaders of both countries for cooperation in agriculture, emerging technologies, and food and nutrition security.
- 'Maitri 2.0' aims to strengthen incubator relationships, exchange best practices, promote co-incubation, and open new opportunities for bilateral cooperation in sustainable agriculture, digital technologies, and value-chain development.
- It highlights the 77-year-old partnership between India and Brazil.
- ICAR has increased its patents from 74 in 1996 to over 1,800 annually, supported by incubation centers and over 5,000 licensing agreements.

Other Highlights:

- India and Brazil signed six important agreements during the state visit of the Prime Minister of India to Brazil.
- The Indian Prime Minister was also awarded Brazil's highest civilian honor i.e. the "Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross."

Agreements:

1. Agreement on the Exchange and Protection of Confidential Information
 2. Agreement on Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime
 3. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Brazil's EMBRAPA and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for Cooperation in Renewable Energy and Agricultural Research
 4. Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Large-Scale Exchange of Digital Technologies to Promote Digital Transformation
 5. A Memorandum of Understanding on Intellectual Property was signed, and the establishment of a ministerial-level mechanism to monitor trade, commerce, and investment was also announced.
- **Priority Areas for the next Decade:** Defence and security, food and nutrition security, energy transition, and climate change.

India-Brazil Relations:

- **Beginning:** Relations between the two countries were established in 1948, and the two countries have been strategic partners since 2006.
- **Global Cooperation:** The two countries work together in groups such as BRICS, BASIC, G-20, G-4, IBSA, and on major international platforms such as the UN, WTO, UNESCO, and WIPO.
- **Trade:** Bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$12.20 billion in 2024-25, with India in a trade surplus.
- Brazil is currently India's largest trading partner in South America.
- **Defense Cooperation:** A defence cooperation agreement was signed in 2006, under which a Joint Defence Committee (JDC) was established as an institutional mechanism to ensure regular cooperation.
- **Renewable Energy:** Brazil is a co-founding member of the Global Biofuels Alliance.
- Brazil ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA) agreement in 2022.



PERSONALITY



Vandana Gupta: Controller General of Communication Accounts



Key Points:

- Vandana Gupta assumed charge as Controller General of Communication Accounts in New Delhi after promotion to the top grade.
- A 1990 batch officer of the Indian Postal and Telecommunications Accounts and Finance Service (IP & TAFS), she has held key positions in the Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat Circles, as well as at the Department of Telecommunications Headquarters and the Department of Posts.
- On central deputation, she has also held important assignments as Principal Director, GASAB, Office of the CAG, Delhi, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Joint Secretary in the National Commission for Women, and Finance Controller at GGSIPU.

AWARDS

National e-Governance Awards, 2025



Why in News?

- On September 22, 2025, the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions presented the National e-Governance Awards, 2025 to various Panchayats during the 28th National Conference on e-Governance (NCEG) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



Key Points:

- After a complex multi-level evaluation of over 1.45 lakh entries from across the country, the following Gram Panchayats were awarded under the newly introduced category, “Grassroots Initiatives in Gram Panchayats to Deepen Service Delivery”:

-:15:-

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 23 September, 2025



Award	Recipient	Achievements
Gold Award	Rohini Gram Panchayat, Dhule District, Maharashtra – Sarpanch - Dr. Anandrao Pavra	Became the first gram panchayat in the state to adopt a completely paperless e-office system (100% household digital literacy).
Silver Award	Paschim Majlishpur Gram Panchayat, West Tripura District, Tripura – Sarpanch - Anita Deb Das	This panchayat has transformed into a model of citizen charter-based panchayat governance, offering services like birth, death, marriage certificates, business licenses, property records, and MGNREGA job cards online.
Jury Award	Palsana Gram Panchayat, Surat District, Gujarat – Sarpanch - Pravinbhai Parshottambhai Ahir	Integrated portals like Digital Gujarat and Gram Suvidha to enable QR/UPI-based property tax payment, online grievance redressal, and transparent welfare delivery.
Jury Award	Suakati Gram Panchayat, Keonjhar District, Odisha – Sarpanch - Kautuk Naik	Digitized essential services through platforms like Odisha One and Mo Seva of Odisha.

- **Awards:** Each award includes a trophy, certificate, and financial incentives of ₹10 lakh (Gold Award) and ₹5 lakh (Silver Award).
- **Provider:** Established by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

-:16:-



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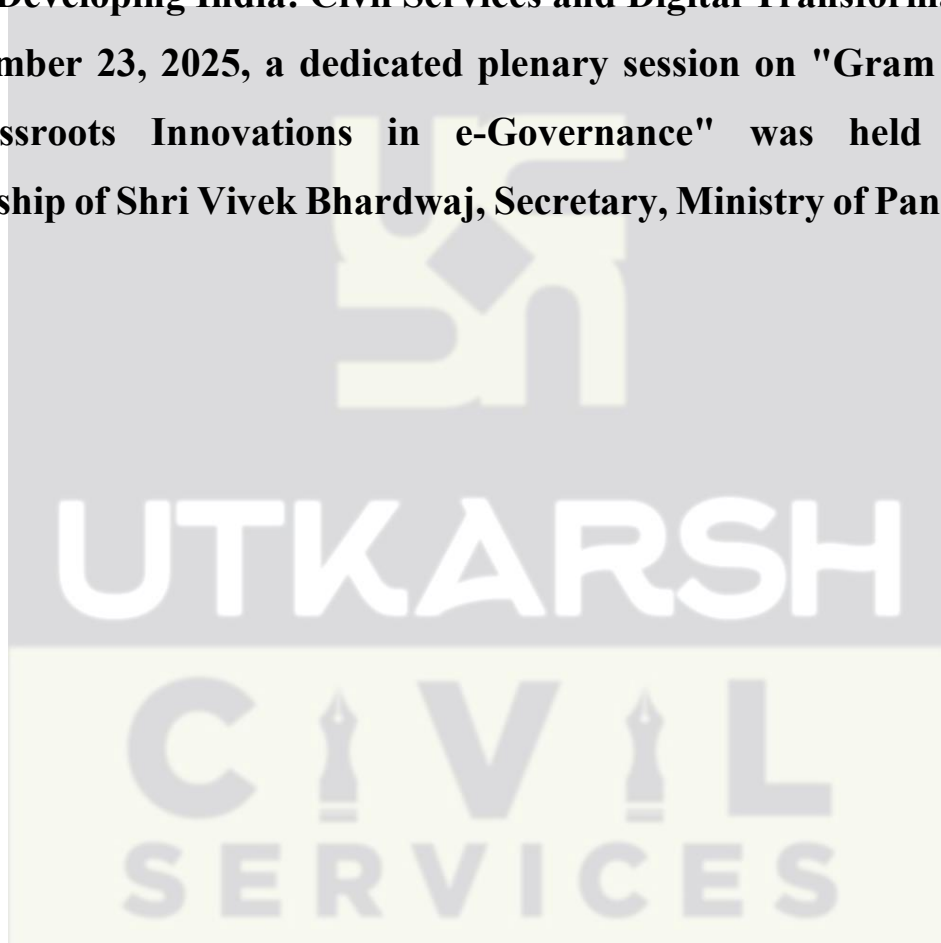
 Date : 23 September, 2025



Other Highlights:

28th National Conference on e-Governance (NCEG):

- **Organized by:** Jointly organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Theme:** "Developing India: Civil Services and Digital Transformation".
- On September 23, 2025, a dedicated plenary session on "Gram Panchayats and Grassroots Innovations in e-Governance" was held under the chairmanship of Shri Vivek Bhardwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.



-:17:-



IMPORTANT DAYS



Sign Language Day: September 23



Key Points:

- **Event:** September 23, 2025, at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), New Delhi.
- **Organized by:** Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE), Central Government.
- **Objective:** To raise awareness about the importance of sign language in realizing the human rights of deaf people.
- **Main Goal:** To preserve sign languages and deaf culture as prerequisites for the realization of human rights of deaf people.
- **Theme:** "No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights"
- **Reason:** September 23rd was chosen to commemorate the founding of the World Federation of the Deaf in 1951.

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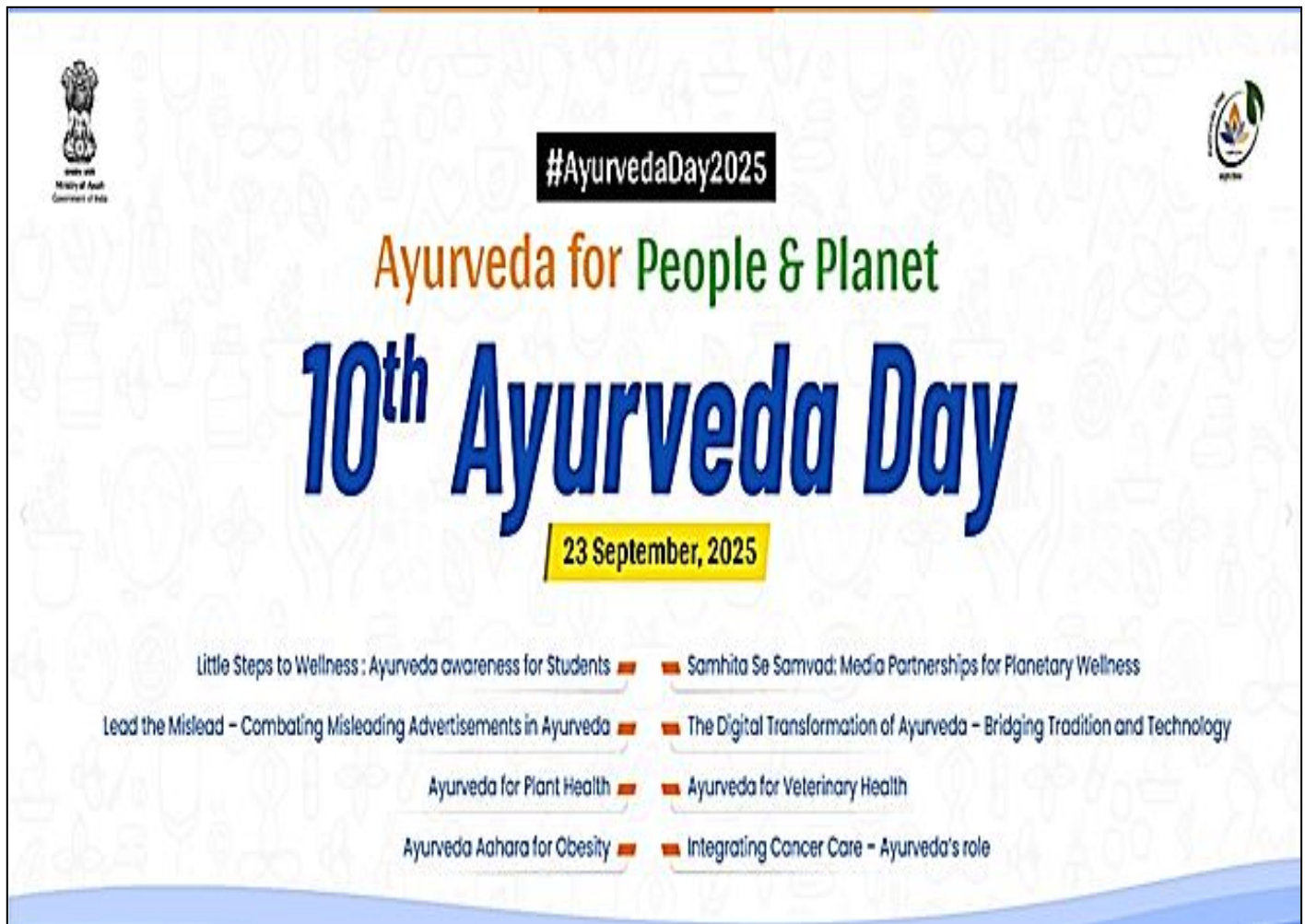
Key initiatives launched at the Sign Language Festival:

1. ISLRTC bi-annual newsletter – a platform for sharing research, training, and community achievements.
2. A six-month online ISL training program – accessible nationwide, bridging the urban-rural divide.
3. 100 STEM vocabulary in ISL – for better understanding of advanced science and technology topics.
4. English language teaching program (with TEHC) – to improve English proficiency and employability.
5. 3,189 ISL e-content videos – the largest digital repository of ISL resources for learners and teachers.
6. ISL integration with the "Project Inclusion App" – to promote inclusive education in mainstream classrooms.
7. In this event, the winners of the 8th National Indian Sign Language Competition, 2025 (held in 13 categories with participation from schools across the country) were honored.

Other Important Points:

- The United Nations General Assembly declared September 23 as International Sign Language Day.
- The concept of International Sign Language Day was introduced by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), an organization representing the human rights of approximately 70 million deaf persons through its 135 national member associations.

10th Ayurveda Day, 2025



Key Points:

- **Inception of the Day:** 2016
- **National Event:** Held on September 23, 2025, at the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Goa.
- **Theme for the year 2025:** "Ayurveda for the People, Ayurveda for the Earth."
- **Edition:** 10th.
- **Organizer:** Ministry of AYUSH.
- **Special Focus:** Focused on "Coordination in Cancer Treatment," "Digital Transformation of Ayurveda," and "Samhita to Dialogue."

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- The Ministry of AYUSH launched several people-centric initiatives on Ayurveda Day 2025: these included awareness campaigns such as "Small Steps to Wellness" for students, "Gumarah Ko Raah Dikhaye" to counter false advertising, and "Ayurveda Diet for Obesity" to combat false advertising on obesity as well as programs on Ayurveda for plant and veterinary health.
- The 10th Ayurveda Day focused on awareness programs, digital campaigns, inter-ministerial collaboration, the National Dhanvantari Ayurveda Awards 2025, and sub-themes such as obesity prevention, cancer awareness, student outreach, animal and plant health, and digital integration.
- Public participation was also encouraged through initiatives such as "I Support Ayurveda" on the MyGov and MyBharat platforms.

Other Key Highlights:

Key achievements of the 9th Ayurveda Day:

1. Inauguration of the second phase of AIIA.
2. Establishment of four Centers of Excellence in Ayurveda.
3. Launch of "Nature Testing Campaign of the Country".

SPORTS

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty



Why in News?

- The Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty finished runners-up in the men's doubles event at the 2020 China Masters badminton tournament.



Key Points:

- The Indian pair was awarded the silver medal after losing to South Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae in the final.
- **Name of Competition:** Li-Ning China Masters 2025
- **Event:** Held from September 16 to 21, 2025, at the Shenzhen Arena, China.
- **Prize money:** US\$1,250,000