

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 30 September, 2025



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### 'Smart City Rooftop Farming Project' in Jaipur



#### Why in News?

- Recently, the 'Smart City Rooftop Farming Project' was launched to promote vegetable cultivation on the rooftops of private residential buildings in the Jaipur Municipal Corporation area.



#### Key Points:

- This project was initiated by the International Horticulture Innovation and Training Centre (IHITC) located in Durgapura, Jaipur.
- Only private residences located in the Jaipur Municipal Corporation area will be covered under this scheme, and only owners of private residential buildings in the Jaipur Municipal Corporation area can apply.
- The scheme will only cover buildings up to three stories, where the roof area of the house must be 200 square feet and have an active tap connection.
- Total estimated cost of construction of rooftop unit: ₹53,619

- Under this scheme, 70 percent of the amount will be borne by the state government as a grant, while the remaining 30 percent will have to be borne by the beneficiary himself.

## **Facts for Prelims:**

### **Major Horticulture Centers of Excellence in Rajasthan:**

S. No.	Centre of Excellence Name	District	Sanctioned Year
1.	Centre of Excellence for Citrus	Nanta, Kota	2012-13
2.	Centre of Excellence for Pomegranate, Olive, Dragon Fruit	Bassi, Jaipur	2012-13
3.	Centre of Excellence for Date Palm	Sagra Bhojka, Jaisalmer	2012-13
4.	Centre of Excellence for Guava	Devdawas, Tonk	2014-15
5.	Centre of Excellence for Orange	Jhalawar	2014-15
6.	Centre of Excellence for Mango	Khemri, Dholpur	2014-15
7.	Centre of Excellence for Vegetable Crops	Bundi	2016-17
8.	Centre of Excellence for Flowers	Sawai Madhopur	2016-17
9.	Centre of Excellence for Custard Apple	Chittorgarh	2016-17

## 64th National Lalit Kala Akademi Awards



### Why in News?

- Recently, President Draupadi Murmu honoured two personalities from Rajasthan with the 64th National Lalit Kala Akademi Awards.



### Key Points:

#### Award Winners from Rajasthan:

Name	Field	District
Dr. Giriraj Sharma	Sculpture Art	Jaipur
Dr. Kanupriya	Mixed Media Art	Pali

- Venue:** New Delhi.
- The Lalit Kala Akademi organizes art exhibitions and award ceremonies every year to promote art and honour talent.
- The Lalit Kala Akademi was inaugurated on August 5, 1954, by the then Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

- Headquarters:** New Delhi.

### Facts for Prelims:

#### Persons to be honored with the Padma Shri in 2025:

- Begum Batool (Art)** – Nagaur.
- Baijnath Maharaj (Spirituality)** – Sikar.
- Sheen Kaf Nizam (Shiv Kishan Bissa) (Literature)** – Jodhpur.

#### National Teachers Award – 2025

- Neelam Yadav** – Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Tapukda (Khairthal-Tijara).

#### National Florence Nightingale Award – 2024

- Radhey Lal Sharma (Clinical Nurse Category)** – Senior Nursing Officer, Trauma Center, Sawai Man Singh Hospital, Jaipur.



## 29 districts of Rajasthan are included in the country's 'over-exploited' districts



### Why in News?

- Under the Ministry of Jal Shakti's "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain-2025" (JSA:CTR-2025), 29 districts of Rajasthan are included in the country's 'over-exploited' districts.



### Key Points:

- **The theme of JSA:CTR 2025:** "Water Conservation Public Participation: Towards Public Awareness."
- The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has classified 148 districts of the country as 'over-exploited', 'critical', and 'semi-critical' for the year 2025. These districts are receiving special attention, with emphasis on intensive grassroots engagement, inter-sectoral convergence, and innovative financing mechanisms.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 256 water-stressed districts of the country in 2019. In continuation, the Prime Minister launched the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" (JSA: CTR) in 2021 with the tagline "Catch the Rain - Where it Falls When it Falls".

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- From 2022, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the State Governments will jointly assess the country's dynamic groundwater resources every year.
- According to the "National Compendium of India's Dynamic Groundwater Resources, 2024" report released by the CGWB, 102 districts in the country have been categorized as 'over-exploited', 22 districts as 'critical' and 69 districts as 'semi-critical'.

## **Other important points:**

### **Water conservation activities in MNREGA works:**

- Recently, under an action plan jointly prepared by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, 30 to 65 percent of MNREGA funds will be spent on water conservation activities in rural blocks with "severe, semi-severe & less severe water stress".
- Implementation of this action plan will benefit water-stressed states like Rajasthan.
- Under this action plan, 40 percent of MNREGA funds will be spent in semi-severe rural blocks, while in blocks with less severe water stress, 30 percent of MNREGA expenditure will be spent on water-related works.

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## School Education Department Receives Gold Skoch Award 2025



### Why in News?

- Recently, the School Education Department of Rajasthan was honoured with the prestigious Gold Skoch Award 2025 for its digital school health checkups in the education sector.



### Key Points:

- State Project Director Anupama Jorwal received the Gold Skoch Award at the Skoch Summit in Delhi. The award was presented by Sameer Kochhar, Chairman of the Skoch Group and President of the Skoch Development Foundation.
- It is noteworthy that Rajasthan is the first state in the country to integrate school-level health checkups with a digital platform.

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- The objective of this initiative is to regularly monitor the health of school children and provide them with timely medical consultations. Additionally, digital health records of government school students are being created under this initiative.

## Other Important Points:

### School Health Checkup Campaign:

- The "School Health Checkup Campaign" in Rajasthan is a campaign launched by the School Education Department to assess and improve the health of students in government schools.
- This health checkup is conducted through a mobile app and the ShalaDarpan portal, where a paperless survey is conducted based on 70 questions. This campaign collects information about students' physical and mental health, detects serious illnesses, and provides free treatment.

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## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Chanakya Excellence in Media Education Award: Dr. Sarika Takhar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Dr. Sarika Takhar, Dean of the Department of Media Studies at NIMS University, Jaipur, was recently honored with the "Chanakya Excellence in Media Education Award" from the Public Relations Council of India.</li><li>■ She was presented with this award at the 19th Global Communication Conclave held in Goa for her consistent outstanding contribution and innovation in the field of media studies.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Desula Gram Panchayat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Desula Gram Panchayat in Alwar district is the first Gram Panchayat in the country where all residents have been provided insurance cover.</li></ul>
3.	<p><b>Om Prakash Sharma - Appointed All India Radio Statistician</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Om Prakash Sharma of Rajasthan has been appointed All India Radio Statistician for the India-Sri Lanka Women's World Cup match to be held in Guwahati.</li></ul>
4.	<p><b>NARCHICON - 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The 16th World Congress and 24th National Conference of the National Association for Reproductive and Child Health of India (NARCHI) were held in Jaipur from September 19 to 21, 2025. The conference was named 'NARCHICON - 2025'.</li><li>■ <b>Venue:</b> Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur.</li><li>■ <b>Conference theme:</b> "Innovations in Maternal and Child Healthcare: From Research to Practice."</li></ul>

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## **Jain International Trade Organization (JITO)**

- Recently, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma released the 'JITO Connect 2025' poster of the Jain International Trade Organization (JITO) in Hyderabad.

6.

## **Rajasthan Senior Men's Boxing Championship - 2025**

- The 'Rajasthan Senior Men's Boxing Championship' will be held in Jodhpur from October 9 to 11, 2025.
- 200 boxers, 50 coach managers and 25 technical officials from 24 districts of Rajasthan will participate in this competition.





### Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958



#### Why in News?

- The Ministry of Home Affairs extended the duration of AFSPA in parts of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland.



#### Key Points:

- The Central Government has declared the entire state of Manipur, except the areas under 13 police stations, as a 'disturbed area' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958. The duration has been extended by six months.
- **Disturbed Area:** An area is declared a 'disturbed area' under Section 3 of the AFSPA Act, 1958.
- When a situation arises in some area or the entire state/Union Territory that necessitates the use of armed forces in aid of the civil administration, then some area or the entire state/Union Territory is declared a 'disturbed area'.
- An area is declared as 'disturbed area' by the Governor of the State/Administrator of a Union Territory or the Central Government.

#### Powers granted to the armed forces under AFSPA in disturbed areas:

- Power to prohibit gatherings of five or more people in an area.
- Power to arrest any person without a warrant if there is reasonable suspicion.
- Power to enter and search any house or premises without a warrant.
- Power to destroy arms depots, fortified positions from where armed attacks could be launched, or training camps of armed volunteers.
- **Law in force:** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

## Definition of 'Urban Areas' in India



### Why in News?

- The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has proposed that the definition of urban area in the 2027 Census should be the same as that used in the 2011 Census.



### Key Points:

- This is intended to facilitate comparative studies with previous censuses and provide a basis for analyzing urbanization trends in the country.

### Official Definition of "Urban Areas" in India

- The Census of India classifies areas as "urban" in two ways:
  - i. **Statutory towns:** In those towns, all administrative units defined as urban by law, such as municipal corporations, municipalities, cantonment boards, notified town area committees, town panchayats, municipalities, etc.
  - ii. Statutory towns with a population of 100,000 or more are classified as "cities."
- **Census Towns:** Towns that are not statutory towns but simultaneously meet three specific demographic and economic criteria:
  - A minimum population of 5,000.
  - A population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometer.
  - At least 75% of the working population engaged in non-agricultural activities.





## INTERNATIONAL



### 100% Tariff on Pharmaceutical Drugs: US



#### Why in News?

- Starting October 1, a 100% tariff will be imposed on imports of branded or patented drugs into the US. However, this tariff will not be imposed if the company has established or is establishing a manufacturing facility in the United States.



#### Key Points:

- India, often referred to as the "pharmacy of the world," is one of the world's largest pharmaceutical exporters. It accounts for approximately 5.71% of the global pharmaceutical market.

#### Impact of Tariffs on India's Pharmaceutical Exports

- India exports the largest number of pharmaceuticals to the United States. Exports worth approximately \$10 billion were made in FY2025, accounting for approximately 35% of total pharmaceutical exports.
- India's exports primarily consist of low-cost generic drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), which are outside the scope of tariffs.

#### India's Pharmaceutical Sector

- **Status:** India ranks third in the world by volume and 11th by value in pharmaceutical production.
- **Growth Potential:** The industry is projected to reach US\$130 billion by 2030 and US\$450 billion by 2047.
- **Exports:** India primarily exports drug formulations and biologicals, which account for approximately 75% of India's total pharmaceutical exports.
- India contributes 60 percent to global vaccine production.

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## G4, L.69, and C-10



### Why in News?

- Ministers from G4 member countries reiterated their commitment to reforms in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- India's External Affairs Minister also convened a joint meeting of the L.69 Group and C-10.



### Key Points:

#### G4 (Group of Four)

- **Members:** Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan.
- **Objective:** To support each other in their efforts to achieve permanent membership of the UNSC.

#### L.69 Group

- **Members:** More than 40 developing countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, including India.
- **Objective:** To advance comprehensive reform of the UNSC with greater representation for developing countries.

#### C-10 (Committee of Ten)

- **Members:** 10 countries of the African Union – Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Congo, Kenya, Libya, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zambia.
- **Purpose:** To represent Africa's common position on UNSC reform.

## Russia-Iran Nuclear Plant Agreement



### Why in News?

- An agreement has been reached between Iran's Hormoz Company and Rosatom to build four nuclear power plants in Sirik (Hormozgan Province) at a cost of \$25 billion.



### Key Points:

- Each plant will have a capacity of 1,255 MW.
- Iran currently has only one operational nuclear plant, located in Bushehr.

### Iran's major nuclear sites:

- i. Nantz Enrichment Complex
- ii. Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant
- iii. Isfahan Uranium Conversion and Fuel Fabrication Complex.

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

### Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) Standards

#### Why in News?

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has revised the draft Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency-3 and Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency-4 standards.

#### Key Points:

- The new norms provide special relief to small cars for the first time, and incentives for flex-fuel and strong hybrid vehicles.

#### CAFE norms?

- These were first notified by the government in 2017 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- **Objective:** To reduce fuel consumption by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to reduce oil dependence and air pollution.
- It applies to passenger cars with a seating capacity of up to 9 persons including the driver and a gross weight of up to 3,500 kg.
- These norms will be applicable from April 1, 2027, to March 31, 2032.





## ECONOMIC SCENARIO



### Natural Gas Discovery in the Andaman Basin



#### Why in News?

- Natural gas has been discovered in the Sri Vijayapuram-2 well on the eastern coast of the Andaman Islands, 17 km from the shoreline.



#### Key Points:

- According to India's Hydrocarbon Resource Assessment Study, the Andaman-Nicobar Basin contains 371 million metric tons of oil equivalent hydrocarbon resources.
- Geologically, the Andaman-Nicobar Basin is located at the confluence of the Andaman and Nicobar Basins, which forms a part of the Bengal-Arakan sedimentary system.
- Tectonic activity at the boundary of the Indian and Burma Plates has created stratigraphic traps suitable for hydrocarbons.
- Gas has been discovered in North Sumatra (Indonesia) and the Irrawaddy-Margui (Myanmar).
- This discovery is crucial for India's ambition to become a gas-based economy by 2030, increasing the share of natural gas to 15%.
- Currently, India produces only 50% of its natural gas needs and meets the remaining demand through imports.

#### India's Major Initiatives:

- **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) 2016:** It introduced a uniform licensing framework for all hydrocarbon exploration and production. It introduced the Open Acreage Licensing (OALP) system.
- **National Deepwater Exploration Mission:** Exploration wells are planned in offshore basins to make new discoveries and to fully exploit hydrocarbon reserves.
  - National Data Repository
  - National Seismic Program
- 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the natural gas sector, etc.

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## Dated Securities and Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)



### Why in News?

- The Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has finalized its borrowing program for the second half of the current financial year. This includes the issuance of dated securities and Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs).



### Key Points:

#### Dated Securities (Government Bonds)

- **Definition:** These are the securities that pay a fixed or variable coupon (interest rate). These are paid semi-annually at face value.
- **Maturity Period:** Their maturity period ranges from 5 years to 40 years.
- **Other short-term government securities:** Cash Management Bills (CMBs), Treasury Bills.

#### Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)

- These are debt securities issued to finance projects that make a positive environmental impact or have a positive climate benefit.
- **Introduction:** It was introduced in the Union Budget 2022-2023.

## SPORTS

### Men's Cricket Asia-Cup 2025



#### Why in News?

- On September 28, 2025, the Indian cricket team won its ninth title by defeating the Pakistan cricket team by 5 wickets in the final of the Asia Cup 2025 in Dubai.



#### Key Points:

- It is the continental men's cricket championship held biennially to determine the top team in Asia.
- Matches are granted official ODI or T20I status by the ICC.
- **Organizer:** Asian Cricket Council (ACC); Established: 1983
- **Mascot:** 'Sheru', symbolizing the strength, courage, and unity of Asian cricket.
- **Edition:** 17th.
- **Format:** Twenty20 International (T20I).

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- **Result:** India defeated Pakistan by 5 wickets.
- **Man of the Match (Final):** Tilak Varma (69 not out off 53 balls)
- **Man of the Series:** Abhishek Sharma

## Other Key Points:

### Asia Cup:

- **Background:** The Asia Cup, established in 1984, was the only continental cricket tournament.
- **Record:** This is India's second consecutive title, after having won the Asia Cup 2023 (ODI format).

Country	Titles Won (Most)
India	9 Titles (Most)
Sri Lanka	6 Titles
Pakistan	2 Titles

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