

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 22 November, 2025



Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	Supreme Court Forms High-Level Ecosystem Oversight Committee to Address Pollution in Rajasthan's Rivers
2.	Martyr Head Constable Sanwalaram Vishnoi awarded a posthumous gallantry medal
3.	Chief Minister Mangala Animal Insurance Scheme 2025
4.	Rajasthan Government's Annual Financial Assistance Scheme for Farmers Farming with Oxen
5.	Labor Code, 2025
6.	Codex Alimentarius Commission
7.	BIRSA-101
8.	Rules approved under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
9.	Goldilocks Environment
10.	India as a Hub for Natural Farming
11.	Global Methane Status Report 2025
12.	Water Budgeting
13.	World Urbanization Outlook – 2025 Report
14.	National Water Award
15.	Indira Gandhi Prize
16.	Miss Universe 2025

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RAJASTHAN

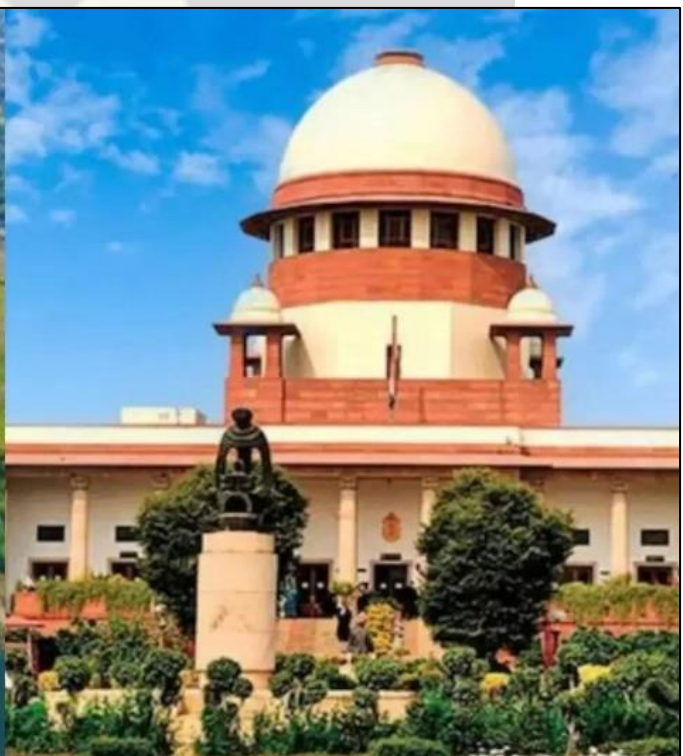


Supreme Court Forms High-Level Ecosystem Oversight Committee to Address Pollution in Rajasthan's Rivers



Why in News?

- The Supreme Court has formed a High-Level Ecosystem Oversight Committee to address the deadly pollution in the Jojri, Bandi, and Luni rivers, considered the lifelines of western Rajasthan.



Key Points:

- The Supreme Court's decision on the pollution of the Jojri, Bandi, and Luni rivers in western Rajasthan is a strong judicial intervention in response to administrative failure. The Court has formed a High-Level Ecosystem Oversight Committee, chaired by Justice (Retd.) Sangeet Lodha, to ensure river restoration and pollution control.

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Full Case and Court Comments

- **Source of Pollution:** This case concerns the deadly pollution caused by industrial waste (especially from steel and textile units) and sewage, which has poisoned the rivers of Jodhpur, Pali, and Balotra.
- **Administrative Failure:** The Court found that the lives of approximately 2 million people, livestock, and the environment are at risk due to two decades of administrative negligence.
- **Violation of Constitutional Rights:** Justice Sandeep Mehta considered this catastrophic pollution a violation of the people's constitutional right to life under Article 21.

High-Level Ecosystem Oversight Committee (HLEOC)

- The Court constituted the High-Level Ecosystem Oversight Committee (HLEOC) to monitor the situation and ensure restoration.
- **Chairperson:** Justice (Retd.) Sangeet Lodha.
- **Key Members:** Additional Chief Secretary (Environment Department), Member Secretary (CPCB and RSPCB), MD (RIICO), and District Collectors of Jodhpur, Pali, and Balotra.

Committee's Powers and Reporting

- **Functions:** The Committee will prepare a 'blueprint' for river restoration and ensure compliance with NGT orders.
- **Strict Action:** The Committee has full authority to conduct surprise inspections of industrial units, take action against polluters, and hold officials accountable.
- **Reporting:** The Committee will be required to submit a progress report to the Supreme Court every eight weeks.

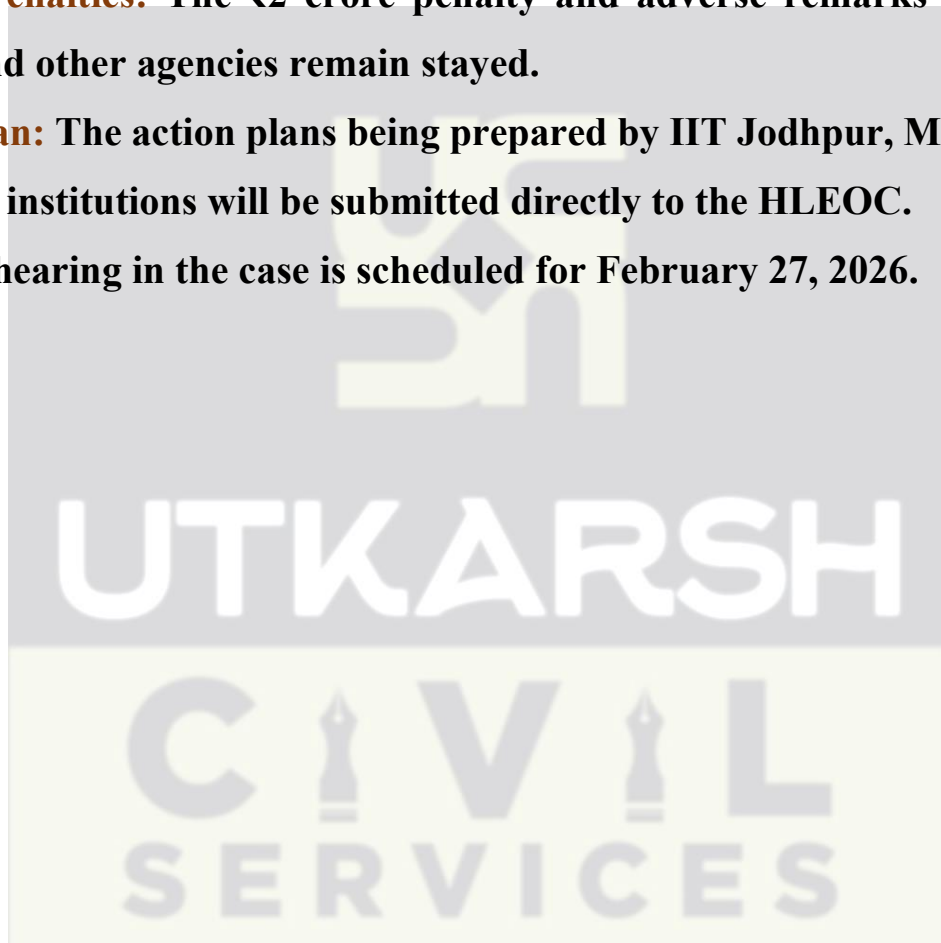
Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 22 November, 2025



NGT Order and Action Plan

- **Stay on NGT Orders Lifted:** The Supreme Court has lifted the interim stay on the NGT's strict orders of February 25, 2022, making the NGT's directives to curb pollution now enforceable.
- **Stay on Penalties:** The ₹2 crore penalty and adverse remarks imposed on RIICO and other agencies remain stayed.
- **Action Plan:** The action plans being prepared by IIT Jodhpur, MNIT Jaipur, and other institutions will be submitted directly to the HLEOC.
- The next hearing in the case is scheduled for February 27, 2026.



Martyr Head Constable Sanwalaram Vishnoi awarded a posthumous gallantry medal



Why in News?

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah awarded martyred Head Constable Sanwalaram Vishnoi a posthumous gallantry medal on the occasion of the Border Security Force (BSF)'s Diamond Jubilee celebrations.



Key Points:

- Martyr Head Constable Sanwalaram Vishnoi was deployed with the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Congo, Africa, where he sacrificed his life on July 26, 2022, when he was attacked by locals during a violent protest.
- He was also posthumously awarded a UN medal for his bravery and courage.
- Martyr Head Constable Sanwalaram Vishnoi was a Border Security Force (BSF) soldier and a resident of Band village in Barmer district, Rajasthan.
- **Occasion:** The award ceremony was part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Border Security Force to mark its 60th anniversary, where the valour of BSF personnel is honoured.



Chief Minister Mangala Animal Insurance Scheme 2025



Why in News?

- The government has made significant changes to the Mangala Animal Insurance Scheme. Abolishing last year's lottery system, the government has now decided to provide free animal insurance on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations for this scheme begin on November 21st, and insurance will be conducted in special camps from December 1st. This change was made because many animals selected in the previous lottery were not insured, delaying the implementation of the scheme.



Key Points:

About the Scheme –

- Keeping in mind the interests of the state's livestock farmers, the Chief Minister Mangala Animal Insurance Scheme was launched in the financial year 2024-25 to provide financial security and economic strength to livestock farmers by insuring their precious livestock.
- The Rajasthan government has launched the Mangala Animal Insurance Scheme to compensate livestock farmers for losses and provide support to livestock farmers in case of animal deaths due to natural disasters, disease, or other reasons.
- As per the budget announcement for the financial year 2025-26, the number of livestock owners in each category will be doubled to cover 10 lakh cows and buffaloes, 10 lakh sheep and goats, and 2 lakh camels, totaling 4.2 million animals. Of these, 2.1 million animals will be covered in the financial year 2024-25.

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 22 November, 2025



- Under this scheme, Janadhaar card-holding livestock owners in the state will benefit in the financial year 2025-26. Under this scheme, a maximum of two milch cows, two milch buffaloes, one milch cow, and one milch buffalo, 10 goats, 10 sheep, and 10 camel breed animals of each Janadhaar card-holding livestock owner will be insured free of cost.

Determination of Price

S.No.	Type of animal	Standards for determining the value of animals for insurance
1.	Cow (milch)	The minimum price will be determined based on ₹3,000 per liter per day, with a maximum amount of ₹40,000 per animal.
2.	Buffalo (milch)	The minimum price will be determined based on ₹4,000 per liter per day, with a maximum amount of ₹40,000 per animal.
3.	Goat (female)	The maximum amount will be ₹4,000 per animal.
4.	Sheep (female)	The maximum amount will be ₹4,000 per animal.
5.	Camel (male and female)	The maximum amount will be ₹40,000 per animal.

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Rajasthan Government's Annual Financial Assistance Scheme for Farmers Farming with Oxen



Why in News?

- The Rajasthan government has launched a scheme to provide financial assistance of ₹30,000 per year to selected farmers who farm with oxen.



Key Points:

Objective of the Scheme –

- The objective of this scheme is to promote traditional and organic farming and assist in cattle conservation.
- To provide financial assistance to farmers under this scheme, the state government has prepared a database of eligible farmers through the Agriculture Department.
- More than 42,000 applications have been received so far, with the highest number of applications coming from Dungarpur, Banswara, and Udaipur districts.
- Farmers can avail the benefits of this scheme by applying online through the 'Raj Kisan Saathi' portal.
- This scheme will prove helpful in increasing farmers' income and preserving traditional farming in rural areas.
- Additionally, the government is providing subsidies for cow dung gas plants to farmers who farm with oxen, which will increase the availability of organic fertilizers and reduce farmers' costs. The objective of this scheme is to provide clean and affordable energy in rural areas and increase farmers' incomes.



Labor Code, 2025



Why in News?

- The central government has notified four labor codes. These are the Social Security Code, the Industrial Relations Code, the Wages Code, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code.



Key Points:

- A minimum wage guarantee will be provided.
- Overtime will also be paid accordingly.
- Employees over 40 years of age will receive free annual health checkups.
- Gig workers (such as Ola, Uber, Zomato, and e-commerce delivery workers) will now be entitled to provident fund (PF) and gratuity.
- Now, even after completing one year of service, an employee will be entitled to gratuity. (Previously, it was five years).
- Data on all gig, platform, casual, and daily workers across the country will be brought to the e-Shram portal.
- 26 weeks of paid maternity leave and night shift facility for women.

Other important points -

- **Three new definitions have been added** – Fixed Term Employment, National Floor Wage, and National OSH Board.



INTERNATIONAL



Codex Alimentarius Commission



Why in News?

- India has been re-elected to the Codex Executive Committee for the Asia Region at the 48th session (CAC48) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.



Key Points:

Codex Alimentarius Commission

- **Origin:** It is an intergovernmental body jointly established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the WHO in 1963.
- **Objective:** It aims to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the trade of food.
- **Current membership:** 189 members. 188 member states and the European Union.
- **Meetings:** Held annually, with sessions held alternately in Geneva and Rome.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BIRSA-101



Why in News?

- India unveiled the first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for the treatment of sickle cell disease.



Key Points:

- This gene therapy, called BIRSA-101, is named after Lord Birsa Munda.
- **Development of the therapy:** This gene therapy was developed by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB).

Gene Therapy

- Gene therapy is a technology that uses genes to treat, prevent, or cure a disease or medical disorder.
- **Mechanism:** Adding a new copy of a broken gene, or replacing a defective gene in the patient's cells with a healthy one.

Sickle-Cell Disease

- SCD is a type of genetic disorder that affects hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is the oxygen-carrying molecule in red blood cells.
- This disease causes red blood cells to harden, obstructing blood flow.
- This disease is more prevalent among India's tribal populations.



SCHEMES



Rules approved under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana



Why in News?

- The Union Agriculture Ministry has approved rules to include crop damage caused by wild animal attacks and floods under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.



Key Points:

- Farmers will be required to report crop damage within 72 hours through a dedicated crop insurance app and submit geo-tagged photos to ensure a quick and transparent claim process.
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**
- **Launched:** Launched in 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - **Objective:** To provide financial assistance to farmers in case of crop loss/damage. To ensure income stability and agricultural credit flow to farmers.

Premium Structure:

- **Kharif food and oilseed crops:** Maximum 2% premium.
- **Rabi food and oilseed crops:** Maximum 1.5% premium.
- **Annual commercial/horticultural crops:** Maximum 5% premium.
- **Eligible beneficiaries:** Farmers growing notified crops in notified areas, as well as sharecroppers and tenant farmers.

Premium:

- **Center:** State = 50:50
- For Northeast and Himalayan states = 90:10



ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Goldilocks Environment



Why in News?

- Morgan Stanley recently released the 2026 India Economic Outlook. This outlook projects India's real GDP growth to be 6.8% for fiscal year 2026. Thus, it predicts a "Goldilocks Environment" for India.



Key Points:

Goldilocks Environment

- This refers to an ideal situation where stable growth occurs.
- Economic growth is neither so high that inflation sets in nor so low that recession occurs.
- This situation provides a good opportunity for stable policymaking and price stability.

India as a Hub for Natural Farming



Why in News?

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced at the South India Natural Farming Summit in Tamil Nadu that India is poised to become a global hub for natural farming and emphasized its alignment with traditional knowledge, scientific innovation, and sustainable development.



Key Points:

Natural Farming

- It is a chemical-free agricultural system that relies on locally available resources such as cow dung, cow urine, biomass mulch, and indigenous seeds, focusing primarily on soil regeneration, biodiversity, and ecological balance.
- **NITI Aayog:** Natural farming is considered an agroecologically diverse farming system that integrates crops, trees, and livestock with functional biodiversity.
- **National Mission on Natural Farming:** The mission's approach integrates livestock, diversified cropping systems, and traditional knowledge to restore soil health and reduce input costs.



INDEXES AND REPORTS



Global Methane Status Report 2025



Why in News?

- The Global Methane Status Report 2025 was prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.



Key Points:

- **Atmospheric concentrations of methane:** It has more than doubled since pre-industrial times. It reached approximately 352 million tonnes per year in 2020. This is expected to increase by another 5% by 2030.
- **India:** India is the world's third-largest methane emitter, after China and the United States. It emits approximately 31 million tonnes of methane annually. Most methane emissions in India are primarily due to stubble burning.

Water Budgeting



Why in News?

- NITI Aayog released a report on water budgeting for aspirational blocks.



Key Points:

Water Budgeting

- It provides a comprehensive view of how much water is available from various sources, how it is used, and where water shortages or surpluses may occur.
- It helps identify the demand-supply gap and brings water security and integrated water resources management into focus.
- It is one of the key activities under the Atal Bhujal Yojana.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES

World Urbanization Outlook – 2025 Report



Why in News?

- This report was released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).



Key Points:

- 45% of the global population lives in cities.
- The number of megacities is expected to quadruple from eight in 1975 to 33 in 2025.
- A megacity is a city with a population of more than ten million (i.e., 10 million).
- Jakarta (Indonesia) is now the world's most populous city, followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh), Tokyo (Japan), and New Delhi.

Indian Context:

- 44 percent of India's population lives in towns.
- India will have more than 500 million urban residents between 2025 and 2050.

🏆 AWARDS 🏆

National Water Award



Why in News?

- Maharashtra has been ranked first in the Best State category under the 6th National Water Award (2024). It is followed by Gujarat and Haryana.



Key Points:

- **Establishment:** Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Objective:** To spread awareness among people about the importance of water and motivate them to adopt best practices for water use.

Indira Gandhi Prize



Why in News?

- Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet was awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2024.



Key Points:

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- This prize is named in honor of the late Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, and was established in 1986. It is established by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development is awarded annually.

Miss Universe 2025



Why in News?

- Fatima Bosch of Mexico has won the title of the 74th Miss Universe 2025.



Key Points:

- Fatima Bosch of Mexico has won the title of Miss Universe 2025.
- The pageant was held in Bangkok, Thailand, where Fatima Bosch defeated contestants from 130 countries to win the prestigious title.
- Fatima is the fourth woman from Mexico to win the Miss Universe crown.
- Veena Pravinar Singh of Thailand finished second in the pageant.
- India's representative, Manika Vishwakarma of Rajasthan, participated in the competition, but she only reached the top 30 round.
- Contestants were evaluated by eight judges, who scored on criteria such as personality, advocacy, intelligence, and confidence. This included India's renowned badminton player Saina Nehwal, who served as a judge for the first time at an international beauty pageant.



About the Miss Universe Pageant –

- Miss Universe is one of the world's largest and most renowned beauty pageants. It ranks among the top global pageants, along with Miss World, Miss International, and Miss Earth. It is organized annually by the Miss Universe Organization, headquartered in the United States and Thailand.
- Since 1952, the Miss Universe Organization's mission has been to inspire women worldwide to redefine leadership, confidence, and individuality.
- Puerto Rico has been officially selected to host the 75th edition of Miss Universe.

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