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India-UK Joint Naval Exercise KONKAN 2025

- The UK's Carrier Strike Group led by HMS Prince of Wales began a four-day bilateral exercise Konkan with the Indian Navy in the Western Indian Ocean. It is the first-ever joint exercise involving carrier strike groups of both nations.
- Exercise Konkan started on October 5, 2025, in the Western Indian Ocean and runs for four days.
- This edition is a milestone as it involves the UK's HMS Prince of Wales and India's INS Vikrant, marking a significant leap in naval cooperation.
- The exercise phases include anti-submarine warfare operations, anti-air and anti-surface exercises, cross-deck flying operations, and seamanship evolutions.
- The UK Carrier Strike Group is on an eight-month global deployment under Operation Highmast and has linked up with the Indian Navy's carrier task force for this exercise.
- After the maritime drill, the UK CSG will join a one-day aerial defence exercise with the Indian Air Force on October 14, 2025.
- The exercise reaffirms the India-UK Vision 2035, aiming for a modern defence and security partnership.



Adulterated Cough Syrup Tragedy in Madhya Pradesh – 12 Children Dead



- In Bindrachal, Madhya Pradesh, 12 children died after consuming adulterated cough syrup containing Dextromethorphan.
- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has initiated an investigation into this incident.
- According to experts, these syrups may contain toxic chemicals such as Diethylene Glycol (DEG) and Ethylene Glycol (EG). These substances can damage children's kidneys and lead to fatal complications.
- Similar incidents had occurred in the past in countries like Gambia and Uzbekistan due to the use of syrups manufactured by Indian companies.
- CDSCO is the central body in India responsible for monitoring the quality of pharmaceutical products. It ensures the safety and efficacy of medicines.
- Dextromethorphan is an antitussive medicine used to suppress cough. However, in high doses it can become life-threatening.

- Excessive use in children can lead to brain damage, breathing difficulties, and even death.
- The presence of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) and Ethylene Glycol (EG) in adulterated syrups poses a risk of kidney failure and fatalities.
- In India, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940 enforces strict regulations on the quality and safety of pharmaceutical products. However, incidents involving adulterated medicines continue to cause serious concern.

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Rajasthan's First Namō Biodiversity Park (Namō Van) Inaugurated in Alwar

- Rajasthan's first Namō Biodiversity Park was inaugurated on 5 October 2025 at Pratap Bandh, Alwar.
- The inauguration was done by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, with Rajasthan Cabinet Minister Sanjay Sharma also attending.
- The official name of the park is Namō Van.
- The objectives are to act as a carbon sink, reduce air pollution, preserve native Aravalli flora and fauna, and raise environmental awareness.
- The park features native tree plantations, green corridors, eco-trails, educational zones, and rainwater harvesting systems.
- It will serve as a "green lung" for Alwar, mitigating heat island effects, supporting pollinators, and improving air quality.
- The initiative aligns with India's Paris Agreement commitments, Mission LiFE, and promotes sustainable lifestyles.
- The inauguration began with a symbolic tree plantation ceremony involving community participation.



India's First Cooperative-Run Compressed Bio-Gas & Potash Project Launched in Maharashtra

- India launched its **first cooperative-run project** in **Kopargaon, Ahilyanagar district, Maharashtra**.
- The project is set up at the **Sahakar Maharshi Shankarrao Kolhe Cooperative Sugar Factory**.
- The factory produces both **Compressed Bio-Gas (CNG)** and **potash granules**.
- Plans have been announced to establish similar projects in **15 other cooperative sugar factories** across India.
- Diversification in **ethanol production** was emphasized, with fruit juice suggested as a profitable source.
- The central government, through National Cooperative Development Corporation (**NCDC**), is providing financial support; **15 sugar factories** have already benefited.
- A new **Pulses Self-Reliance Mission** with a budget of **₹11,300 crore over six years** has been launched, along with **MSP hikes** for key crops.



IICA Hosts 2nd National CSR Conference in New Delhi on ‘Tribal Development’ Theme

- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) is hosting the second National Conference and Exhibition on CSR (NCCSR).
- The event is being held in New Delhi on 6–7 October.
- The 2025 theme is “Leveraging CSR Excellence for Tribal Development.”
- The conference’s main aim is to promote inclusive and sustainable development.
- It seeks to connect government programs, corporate CSR strategies, and tribal knowledge.
- The event will act as a national platform for CSR discussions.
- A live social innovation lab will showcase creative solutions to social challenges.
- The program also includes a tribal cultural showcase and an exhibition of innovative CSR projects, organized by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.



ICGS Akshar, Second Adamyia-Class Fast Patrol Vessel, Commissioned at Karaikal

- ICGS Akshar, the second vessel in the Adamyia-class Fast Patrol Vessel series, was commissioned at Karaikal, Puducherry.
- The ship was designed and built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), with over 60% indigenous components, supporting Make in India.
- The commissioning ceremony was led by Dipti Mohil Chawla, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence, in the presence of ADG Donny Michael.
- The vessel is 51 metres long, displaces 320 tons, and is powered by two 3,000 KW diesel engines.
- It can achieve a top speed of 27 knots with an operational range of 1,500 nautical miles.
- The ship is fitted with indigenously developed controllable pitch propellers and gearboxes for better manoeuvrability.
- Armaments include a 30 mm CRN 91 gun and two 12.7 mm Stabilized Remote-Controlled Guns (SRCG) integrated with a modern fire-control system.
- Advanced features include the Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), and Automated Power Management System (APMS).
- Based in Karaikal under Coast Guard Region (East), ICGS Akshar will be used for maritime surveillance, coastal security, and law enforcement, with the name “Akshar” meaning eternal/imperishable in Sanskrit.



The Indian Navy commissioned INS Androth on 6 October

- INS Androth, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), was commissioned by the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
- The commissioning ceremony held at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam under Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar's leadership.
- INS Androth has been constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- The ship has been built with more than 80% indigenous content, supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- It has been designed to strengthen India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities in littoral waters.
- The vessel will enhance coastal defense and protect India's maritime interests against underwater threats.
- The commissioning of INS Androth follows earlier inductions like INS Arnala, Nistar, Udaygiri, and Nilgiri.
- These additions collectively highlight the Indian Navy's ongoing modernization and technological advancement.
- GRSE and other Indian shipyards have been acknowledged for their role in boosting indigenous shipbuilding.
- The induction of INS Androth reinforces the Navy's commitment to self-reliance and maritime capability expansion.



Border Roads Organisation Builds World's Highest Motorable Road at Mig La Pass, Ladakh (19,400 ft)

- The world's highest motorable road at Mig La Pass in eastern Ladakh has been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- The new road stands at an altitude of 19,400 feet, surpassing the previous record held at Umling La (19,024 feet).
- The project was completed under Project Himank to enhance India's border infrastructure and mobility.
- The Likaru–Mig La–Fukche road provides a crucial third axis between Hanle and Fukche, improving military access.
- BRO officials stated that the road ensures year-round connectivity in challenging high-altitude terrain.
- The road's completion strengthens India's strategic edge and national defense preparedness in the region.
- Ladakh's location along China and Pakistan borders makes this infrastructure development highly significant.
- The road would reduce winter air transport dependence and improve supply logistics to forward posts.
- The BRO now controls 11 of the 14 highest motorable passes in the world, underlining its dominance in high-altitude construction.
- The project would promote tourism, improve local livelihoods, and support Ladakh's economy.



Amit Shah Launches Goa's 'Mhaje Ghar Yojana' and ₹2,452 Cr Development Projects

- Goa's 'Mhaje Ghar Yojana' and development projects worth ₹2,452 crore launched by Amit Shah.
- On 4 October, the Goa government's 'Mhaje Ghar Yojana' and several development projects worth ₹2,452 crore were inaugurated and had their foundation stones laid by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- The 'Mhaje Ghar Yojana' has been described as a reflection of PM Modi's citizen-centric and reform-orientated governance model.
- The scheme provides home ownership rights to thousands of Goans whose lands were earlier caught in legal disputes.
- CM Sawant's government was praised by Shah for simplifying 11 laws into one, benefiting nearly half the population.
- Shah highlighted that over 10 lakh citizens have been granted ownership rights under this initiative.
- Goa's per capita income was stated to have risen from ₹112,073 in 2014 to ₹357,000 in 2023–24.
- He said the Modi government has ensured political inclusion for tribal communities by passing a law on August 5, 2025, which will give them representation in the Assembly for the first time.
- He concluded that Goa's progress would make it a model state in India's journey towards becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047



VLGC Vessel 'Shivalik' Flagged Off at Visakhapatnam Port

- The Large Gas Carrier (VLGC) vessel, Shivalik, flagged off by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal during its maiden call to India at Visakhapatnam Port.
- It will deliver its first shipment of LPG cargo.
- This marks a major boost to India's gas transportation capabilities.
- It also strengthens maritime security and enhances India's global position in shipping.
- The initiative supports the vision of a self-reliant India in the energy and maritime sectors.
- 'Shivalik' was officially brought under the Indian flag on 10th September 2025.
- The vessel was acquired by the Shipping Corporation of India.
- Its induction is a significant step in the growth of India's maritime sector.
- During his visit, Minister Sonowal also inaugurated several infrastructure projects by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority.
- These projects aim to modernize port facilities. They will improve operational efficiency.
- They also focus on eco-friendly and sustainable practices. All efforts are aligned with the goals of Maritime India Vision 2030.



12th World Para Athletics Championships 2025 – New Delhi

- The **12th edition of the World Para Athletics Championships 2025** concluded in New Delhi, India.
- India achieved its **best-ever performance**, finishing **10th** in the medals tally.
- The Indian contingent won **22 medals – 6 Gold, 9 Silver, and 7 Bronze**.
- The event was conducted from **September 27 to October 5, 2025**, featuring athletes from **104 countries**.
- India was represented by a **73-member team** (54 men and 19 women).
- **Shailesh Kumar** won India's first gold medal in **Men's High Jump T63 class**, setting a new **Asian record**.
- **Sumit Antil**, two-time Paralympic champion, secured his **third World Championships gold** in Javelin Throw – the most by any Indian para-athlete.
- India set **3 Championship Records, 7 Asian Records**, and achieved **30+ personal bests** in this edition.
- Overall, **2,000+ athletes** from 104 countries competed in **186 medal events** (101 men's, 84 women's, 1 mixed).
- With this performance, India's **cumulative tally** at the World Para Athletics Championships reached **67 medals** (19 Gold, 24 Silver, 24 Bronze).

Top 3 countries in medal tally (2025):

- Brazil – 44 (15Gold, 20Silver, 9Bronze)
- China – 52 (13Gold, 22Silver, 17Bronze)
- Iran – 16 (9Gold, 2Silver, 5Bronze)



WTTC Predicts 91 Million New Tourism Jobs in the Next Decade

- In the next 10 years, the international travel and tourism sector will create 9.1 crore (91 million) new jobs as per WTTC prediction.
- India is expected to contribute significantly, creating 9.1 crore new jobs in the tourism sector by 2035.
- By 2024, the tourism sector is projected to grow by 8.5% and contribute 10.9 trillion dollars to the global economy compared to 2019 levels.
- At present, 2.07 crore women are working in the tourism sector and by 2035 women's participation will increase to 3.57 crore globally.
- Young professionals will form a large portion of the tourism workforce, by 2035 around 4.3 crore youth will join, out of which 1.1 crore will be from India.
- The WTTC report titled "Future of the Travel and Tourism Workforce" highlights job creation and future opportunities.
- The World Travel and Tourism Council represents the private travel and tourism sector, aiming to boost employment, GDP contribution and sustainable growth.
- Tourism is a major economic contributor in India as it creates jobs, attracts foreign exchange and promotes cultural and natural heritage.
- India has launched several initiatives like Incredible India to promote globally, Swadesh Darshan to develop theme-based tourism circuits, and PRASAD scheme to develop pilgrimage and heritage sites.



“Rape & POCSO Cases in Andhra Pradesh: 99% of Accused Are Known Persons – NCRB 2023 Report



- Over 98% of rape and POCSO accused in Andhra Pradesh were known to the victims, showing a deep breach of trust within social and family circles.
- In rape cases against women, there were 438 registered cases. Out of these, 433 cases (98.9%) involved accused known to the victim, while only 5 cases (1.1%) involved unknown offenders.
- In POCSO cases against minors under 18, there were 858 registered cases. Out of these, 853 cases (99.4%) involved accused known to the victim, while only 5 cases (0.6%) involved unknown offenders.

- In rape cases, the classification of known offenders showed that 46.42% were acquaintances via social media or live-in partners, 43.87% were family friends, neighbours, or colleagues, and 9.7% were family members.
- In POCSO cases, 49.5% of the accused were acquaintances via social media, 39% were family friends or neighbours, and 10.8% were family members.
- Social media played a major role in both rape and POCSO cases, as nearly half of the accused first connected with victims on platforms like Facebook and Instagram, often through fraudulent love claims.
- Many cases go unreported due to fear of social stigma or damage to family honour, showing the harsh reality of underreporting.
- Legal safeguards include IPC Section 375 and 376, which define rape and prescribe punishments up to life imprisonment and death penalty in rare cases. The POCSO Act, 2012 protects children under 18, where consent is irrelevant, and provides for special courts and victim privacy. Other key laws are the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013.
- Safety and awareness measures stress the need for stricter privacy settings on social media, caution against meeting online acquaintances alone, reporting blackmail attempts, teaching children about good touch and bad touch, and using helplines such as 112, 181, 1098, and 1930 for emergency support.

IIT Kanpur Develops Palm Secure Device to Prevent Biometric Fraud

- Researchers at IIT Kanpur have developed a **Palm Secure Device** to prevent fraud in fingerprint-based authentication.
- This technology works on the **palm lines (araches)** of individuals and is a **non-contact biometric technology**.
- It can be used for **attendance and authentication purposes** in institutions and offices.
- The device is priced at around **₹1500**, making it affordable for schools, offices, and security organizations.
- Compared to other biometric methods like fingerprints, iris scans, or facial recognition, **palm recognition is more secure**, since palm lines and vein patterns are harder to fake.
- Palm recognition uses **vein patterns (veins inside the palm)** which ensure higher accuracy and reliability.
- **IIT Kanpur**, established in **1959**, is one of India's premier institutes known for excellence in engineering, science, and technological research.
- This Palm Secure Device is considered a **significant innovation in biometric security**.



“2025 Nobel Prize in Medicine: Groundbreaking Discoveries on Immune System Regulation



Nobel Prize Winners in Physiology or Medicine 2025 Announced

- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded to **Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi** for discoveries that transformed the understanding of **autoimmune regulation**.
- Shimon Sakaguchi discovered **regulatory T-cells (Tregs)** that calm immune reactions and prevent the body from attacking itself (self-tolerance).
- Mary Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell traced the mouse’s fatal autoimmunity to a faulty **FOXP3 gene**, linking it to human IPEX syndrome and proving its crucial role in immune tolerance.
- Together, their research revealed that **FOXP3 controls regulatory T-cell development** and prevents harmful immune “mutiny” against the body.
- Their findings have led to **new therapies for autoimmune diseases, cancer, and transplantation**, including treatments to expand or stabilise Tregs.

- Early clinical trials show that targeting these immune cells can mitigate harmful immune activation without causing broad immunosuppression.
- Beyond therapy, their work shifted the concept of the immune system from a simple on/off switch to a **dynamic regulatory ecosystem**, paving the way for precision medicine in immunology.

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