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ISKCON's "UDGAAR" Anti-Drug Campaign

- Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya praised ISKCON for launching a nationwide anti-drug campaign.
- He expressed his appreciation at the Udgaar Youth Festival held in New Delhi.
- The event was organised by ISKCON. Over 15,000 young people have already pledged to stay away from drugs.
- This initiative supports the broader goal of the 'Viksit Bharat' mission.
- It aims to build a healthier and more responsible society.
- The campaign is called UDGAAR – “Nashamukt Yuva, Sanskaryukt Bharat.”
- It has been launched as a national movement by ISKCON.
- The goal is to protect 15 lakh youth from falling into addiction.
- The approach involves reconnecting them with India's spiritual values and cultural heritage.



Oscar-winning actress Diane Keaton passes away at 79

- Diane Keaton, an Oscar-winning actress, passed away at the age of 79.
- She rose to fame in the 1970s for playing Kay Adams-Corleone in 'The Godfather' series.
- Her first film role was in the 1970 romantic comedy 'Lovers and Other Strangers'.
- Her final film appearance was in the 2024 comedy 'Summer Camp'.
- Keaton also appeared in popular films such as 'Father of the Bride' and 'The First Wives Club'.
- In 1978, she won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in 'Annie Hall'.
- She also received a Golden Globe and a BAFTA Award for the same performance.
- She earned three additional Oscar nominations during her career.
- These were for her roles in 'Something's Gotta Give', 'Marvin's Room', and 'Reds'.
- Keaton also directed a number of films. One of them was the 1995 comedy-drama 'Unstrung Heroes'.
- It was selected for the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival.



Climate change poses biggest threat to natural World Heritage sites

- Climate change is now the most serious threat to natural World Heritage sites.
- It is currently affecting nearly half of these globally recognized areas, according to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4.
- The report was released at the IUCN Congress in Abu Dhabi.
- According to the report, 43% of natural sites face major climate-related risks.
- Invasive alien species are also a growing concern. They are impacting 30% of the sites.
- There is also a sharp rise in diseases affecting wildlife and plants.
- The percentage of affected sites increased from 2% in 2020 to 9% in 2025.
- The Outlook is based on global assessments carried out since 2014.
- It offers the most detailed review of natural World Heritage sites so far.
- The overall conservation status of these sites continues to decline.
- Sites with a positive outlook have dropped from 62% in 2020 to 57% in 2025.
- Many of the most vulnerable sites are rich in biodiversity.
- The report shows that the threats are intensifying. It urges stronger international cooperation to protect these sites.
- The report calls for greater recognition of Indigenous leadership in conservation.



Five Maharashtra beaches receive international Blue Flag certification

- Five beaches in Maharashtra have earned the international Blue Flag certification.
- These are Shrivardhan and Nagaon in Raigad district. Parnaka in Palghar district is also on the list.
- Guhagar and Ladghar beaches in Ratnagiri district have also received the honor.
- Aditi Tatkare, Minister for Women and Child Development in Maharashtra, made the announcement.
- Foundation for Environmental Education awards the Blue Flag certification.
- This organization is based in Denmark. The certification requires meeting 33 strict criteria.
- These include criteria for environmental protection, cleanliness, and visual appeal.
- Beaches are evaluated on aspects such as water quality and safety, environmental education and eco-friendly management.
- Facilities and services for the public are part of the evaluation as well.



Opposition leader Patrick Herminie wins Seychelles Presidential Election

- The Presidential Election in Seychelles won by opposition leader Patrick Herminie.
- The presidential election in Seychelles was won by opposition leader Patrick Herminie, as officially declared on 12 October following a runoff vote.
- The election results showed that Mr. Herminie secured 52.7% of the votes, defeating incumbent President Wavel Ramkalawan, who received 47.3%.
- The victory was achieved after a closely contested runoff, as no candidate had obtained a majority in the first round held two weeks earlier.
- Patrick Herminie represents the United Seychelles Party, which had governed the nation for four decades before losing power in 2020.
- The runoff was conducted on 11 October after early voting began on 9 October across the island nation.
- Both Mr. Herminie and Mr. Ramkalawan led active campaigns focused on addressing the country's key challenges, including environmental degradation and drug addiction.



PM Modi lays foundation stone for Nagaland's first Integrated Aqua Park at Tzudikong

- The foundation stone for the Integrated Aqua Park at Tzudikong laid by PM Modi.
- On 11th October 2025, the foundation stone for the establishment of the Integrated Aqua Park at Tzudikong in Mokokchung district, Nagaland, was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The event was organised under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in the presence of Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh.
- This will be the first Aqua Park in Nagaland, envisioned as a hub for fisheries-related developmental activities.
- The park will primarily focus on fish and fish seed production and will play a transformative role in strengthening Nagaland's fisheries sector.
- It will function as a comprehensive resource centre, ensuring the availability of high-quality inputs and promoting forward market integration for fair pricing of fishery products.
- The facility aims to fulfil the requirements of fish farmers, allowing them to access various benefits within the state itself.
- The project is also expected to empower educated unemployed youth by creating opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture industries.



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025: 13 October

- Every year on 13 October, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is celebrated.
- The day is celebrated for raising awareness about how people around the world can reduce their exposure to disasters.
- This year, the theme of the Day is "Fund Resilience, Not Disasters".
- The theme calls for increased funding for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in public and international budgets and ensuring all development and private investments are risk-informed and resilient.
- It was started in 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly to promote a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction.
- Poverty, inequality, and discrimination are causes and consequences of increased disaster risk.
- According to current climate projections, the world will face approximately 560 disasters per year by 2030.
- An additional estimated 37.6 million people will live in extreme poverty by 2030 due to the impacts of climate change and disasters.
- A “worst-case” scenario of climate change and disasters would push an additional 100.7 million people into poverty by 2030.
- Direct disaster costs reach approximately \$202 billion annually, the broader economic impact is estimated at \$2.3 trillion.



Sonali Sen Gupta has taken the role of Executive Director (ED) at RBI from October 9, 2025

- Earlier, she was the Regional Director for Karnataka at the RBI's Bangalore office.
- Her promotion has been done after the appointment of Shirish Chandra Murmu as Deputy Governor.
- As Executive Director, she will oversee the Consumer Education and Protection Department.
- She will also head the Financial Inclusion and Development Department, as well as the Inspection Department.
- Sanjay Kumar Hansda returned to the RBI on October 6, 2025.
- He completed his deputation as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director (India) at the IMF.
- Hansda was appointed Executive Director at the RBI on March 3, 2025.
- Currently, he heads the Department of Economic and Policy Research as Executive Director.

Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector:

- **Executive Director of RBI** – Sanjay Kumar
- **MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank** – Raghavendra Srinivas Bhat; (reappointment for 1 month)
- **MD & CEO of Union Bank of India** – Asheesh Pandey; for 3 years
- **MD & CEO of Central Bank of India** – Kalyan Kumar; for 3 years
- **Deputy Governor of RBI** – Shirish Chandra Murmu (replace M. Rajeshwar Rao); for 3 Years

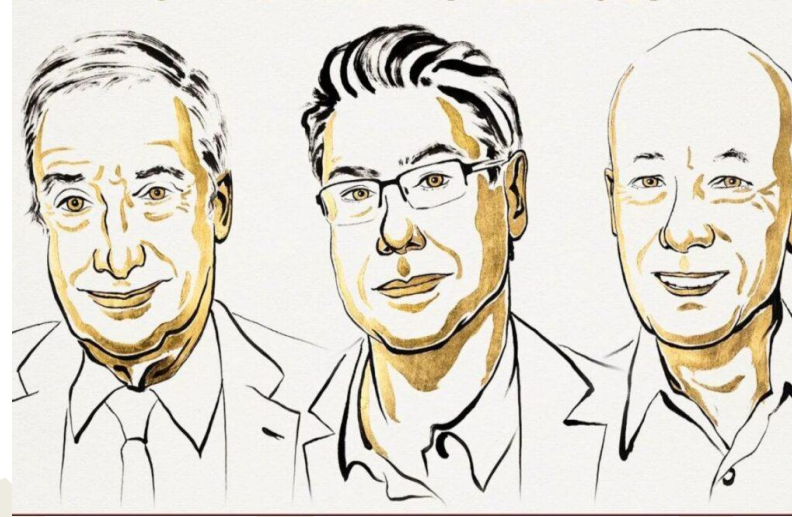
EDUCATION
EBRO

RBI Appoints

Sonali Sen Gupta As New
Executive Director



2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences



- Awarded for contributions related to the concept of creative destruction
- Winners:
- Joel Mokyr – United States
- Philippe Aghion – France
- Peter Howitt – Canada
- Winners and their contributions
- Joel Mokyr is an economic historian who explained how sustained growth became possible after the Industrial Revolution through technological progress.
- Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt used mathematical models to explain the idea of creative destruction.
- They showed that innovation, competition, and technological advancement together drive sustained economic growth.
- The concept of creative destruction is not just theoretical but also measurable in its impact on economic growth.

Nobel Committee's Observation:

- Their research made the concept of “creative destruction” measurable and applicable to modern economics, proving that innovation, competition, and policy reforms collectively drive sustainable economic growth.
- First introduced by **Joseph Schumpeter** in his 1942 book “Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy,” the concept of **creative destruction** explains that old systems are replaced by new innovations a natural cycle of economic renewal that keeps markets dynamic and progressive.
- Economic growth depends on technological progress, institutional adaptation, and continuous innovation.
- Developed by Aghion and Howitt, this theory emphasizes that competition and innovation are key drivers of long-term economic growth.
- It shows that growth originates internally through firms’ incentives to innovate rather than from external factors.

Historical perspective

- Mokyr’s research explains the historical evolution of growth by linking technological progress with social and institutional openness to new ideas.
- He highlighted that societies accepting innovation achieved continuous economic advancement.

Relevance to India

- Startup India and Digital India reflect innovation-led development. UPI is an example of creative destruction in India’s digital economy.
- Economic reforms of 1991 through liberalization and privatization introduced creative transformations in India’s growth model.

- India's shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy reflects Schumpeter's theory of innovation-led transition.
- Governments should promote skill development, research and development, and innovation-friendly regulations.
- Effective competition policies and institutional frameworks are essential for continuous growth.

History of the Nobel in Economics

- Officially known as The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- It was established in 1968 by Sweden's Central Bank.
- It is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, similar to other Nobel Prizes.

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Israel's Highest Civilian Honour to U.S. President Donald Trump



- Israeli President **Isaac Herzog** announced that Israel will present its **highest civilian award** the **Israeli Presidential Medal of Honour** to **U.S. President Donald Trump**.
- The award recognises Trump's efforts in **facilitating the release of hostages from Gaza** and **advancing a peace framework** to end the prolonged Israel– Hamas conflict.
- **Trump's Visit to Israel:** Trump will be **formally informed** of the decision during his visit to Israel on **October 13, 2025**.
- During this visit, Trump is expected to **address the Knesset, meet families of hostages, and discuss the 20-point Gaza Peace Plan**.
- The **Israeli Presidential Medal of Honour** is Israel's **highest civilian decoration**, awarded to individuals making **outstanding contributions** to the State of Israel or to humanity.
- Established in **2012**, the medal honours **leadership, innovation, and humanitarian work** that strengthen Israel's global position.

- Previous honourees include **Barack Obama (2013)** and **Joe Biden**, recognised for strengthening Israel's diplomatic and security ties.
- **Trump's 20-Point Peace Plan:** The plan aims to **halt hostilities, enable hostage-prisoner exchange, facilitate Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza, and lay the foundation for a self-governing system** in the region.
- The first phase, beginning **October 13, 2025**, includes the **exchange of hostages and prisoners**, with Israel expected to release around **2,000 Palestinian detainees**.
- President Herzog praised Trump's **tireless efforts** in bringing peace, stating it would be **an honour** to present him the medal for **laying foundations for a new era of security, cooperation, and peace** in the Middle East.

IAACB

Amit Shah inaugurates exhibition in Jaipur marking one year of new criminal laws



- The exhibition inaugurated by the Union Home Minister in Jaipur to mark the completion of one year of the new criminal laws.
- On October 13, Union Home Minister Amit Shah was on a day-long visit to Rajasthan.
- During his visit, a state-level exhibition was organised to mark the completion of one year of implementation of the new criminal laws.
- The event was organised to mark the completion of one year since the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.
- The six-day exhibition, to be held from October 13 to 18, 2025, has been organised to showcase the key provisions and progress achieved under these laws in Rajasthan.
- After inaugurating the exhibition, Mr. Shah addressed a public gathering.

- On this occasion, he also participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for MoUs worth ₹4 lakh crore secured under the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024.
- He also laid foundation stones for various development projects worth over ₹9,300 crore.
- The programme included the transfer of ₹260 crore for school uniforms to students and ₹364 crore as a milk subsidy to dairy producers.
- Registrations were also launched under the 150-unit free electricity scheme, benefiting thousands of households in the state.
- The Home Minister flagged off new Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) vehicles and distributed scooters and motorcycles for women's safety patrolling.

IAACFE

India to launch 'Red List' survey to assess extinction risks to plants and animals

- **India** has launched the **National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna**, a first-of-its-kind initiative to **evaluate the extinction risk of nearly 11,000 species of plants and animals by 2030**, following the IUCN Red List methodology.
- The project aims to create a science-based, nationally coordinated red-listing system and publish National Red Data Books on flora and fauna, supported by a user-friendly online database and a team of 300 certified assessors for future assessments.
- The initiative, led by the Ministry of Environment, involves key organisations like the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), IUCN India, and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), aligning with India's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).
- The ₹95 crore project, primarily funded by BSI and ZSI, seeks to strengthen conservation planning and policy-making amid alarming global biodiversity loss, as highlighted in the Living Planet Report 2024, which recorded a 73% decline in vertebrate species since 1970.

