

# IACE

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## Need for a New United Nations Amid Global Conflicts: Rajnath Singh



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the world needs a new United Nations and international order to deal with global conflicts.
- The need for a new United Nations and a renewed international order to handle present global conflicts was emphasised by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- On 21 November, Mr Singh was said while addressing the ‘International Conference of Chief Justices of the World’ in Lucknow.
- It was stated that stronger intervention by the UN could have been shown in conflicts such as Israel– Hamas, Ukraine– Russia, and in the humanitarian crisis in Sudan.
- It was highlighted that the limitations in UN action arise not from lack of intent but from complex global politics, influence of major powers and slow institutional functioning.
- Questions regarding the UN’s authority were said to have emerged due to these constraints in decision-making.

- Mr. Singh underlined that balanced representation within the UN is essential to preserve its relevance as per its founding principles.
- He stressed that the return of the United Nations to its core goals peace, justice and equal representation is the only way to strengthen the institution.
- India's civilizational approach was cited as an example for the world in the current international environment.
- He reminded that India consistently honours international law and upholds multilateralism as a guiding value.
- It was noted that India has always extended timely assistance to any region affected by crisis, both in spirit and action.

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## **RBI Announces UPI-TIPS Link to Boost India-EU Cross-Border Payments**

- UPI-TIPS interlinkage announced by RBI to strengthen India-EU cross-border payments.
- The interlinking of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system with fast payment systems of other jurisdictions has been announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to promote cross-border payments.
- The initiative was aligned with the G20 roadmap aimed at ensuring cheaper, more transparent, efficient and accessible cross-border transactions.
- The European Central Bank has been engaged by the Reserve Bank of India and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) on the initiative to connect UPI with the TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS).
- TIPS is operated as an instant payment system by the Eurosystem.
- The proposed linkage aims to simplify and accelerate cross-border remittances between India and the European Union.
- Both the RBI and NIPL will work closely with the European Central Bank to complete technical integration, settlement structures and risk-management systems.



## **PMBJP Saves Citizens ₹40,000 Crore: A Major Boost to Affordable Healthcare**



- PMBJP's contribution to affordable healthcare by saving citizens ₹40,000 crore was highlighted.
- Savings worth nearly ₹40,000 crore for citizens over eleven years were reported under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.
- Launched by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, this scheme has emerged as one of the most effective social initiatives.
- In last eleven years, the Jan Aushadhi network was expanded tremendously, with the total number of Kendras rising 210 fold and overall sales increasing more than 270 times.
- At these Kendras, generic medicines are sold at prices 50–80% lower than branded alternatives, ensuring affordable access to essential drugs.
- Nearly 17,000 Kendras are currently operational, with targets of 20,000 by March next year and 25,000 by March 2027.

- The PMBJP basket now includes over 2,000 medicines and 315 surgical items covering 29 therapeutic categories such as antibiotics, cardiovascular drugs, anti-diabetics, analgesics, and nutritional supplements.
- All medicines are procured exclusively from World Health Organization-Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified suppliers and tested at National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited labs.
- Five warehouses located in Gurugram, Chennai, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Surat handle nationwide distribution after strict quality checks.
- The scheme has also created major self-employment opportunities through a franchise-based Kendra model with assured margins.
- Patients visiting Kendras, including those at AIIMS Delhi, have appreciated the affordability and quality of the medicines.
- The initiative reflects the government's vision of "Sabko Sasti Dawa, Swasth Bharat Ki Asha" by combining accessibility, entrepreneurship and public health.

## Switzerland and Ireland Named Partner Nations for Hornbill Festival 2025

- Nagaland has chosen Switzerland and Ireland as official partner nations for the 2025 Hornbill Festival.
- This marks a major milestone in the festival's growth into a global cultural event.
- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Swiss Ambassador Maya Tissafi met in New Delhi and confirmed Switzerland's partnership.
- Ireland was confirmed as another partner country after Chief Minister Rio's meeting with Irish Ambassador Kevin Kelly.
- Ireland's participation underscores strengthening cultural and diplomatic relations with India.
- With Switzerland and Ireland joining the United Kingdom, the 2025 Hornbill Festival strengthens its status as an internationally recognized cultural platform.
- **Hornbill Festival 2025** will take place from 1-10 December at the Kisama Heritage Village, near Kohima, Nagaland.
- The theme for Hornbill Festival 2025 is "Cultural Connect".
- Hornbill Festival is organised by the Government of Nagaland every year in the first week of December to promote inter-tribal interaction and cultural heritage of Nagaland.
- Hornbill Festival is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'. It is named after the hornbill, a bird.



## **Fatima Bosch of Mexico Crowned Miss Universe 2025 in Thailand**

- Miss Mexico Fatima Bosch became the winner of Miss Universe 2025 crown in Thailand.
- Contestants from Ivory Coast, the Philippines, Thailand and Venezuela reached to final round of Miss Universe 2025.
- Victoria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark crowned Fatima Bosch of Mexico as her successor.
- Miss Venezuela secured the second runner-up spot.
- Miss Philippines finished in third place. Miss Côte d'Ivoire finished in fourth place.
- India's Manika Vishwakarma exited the competition after she failed to come in a Top 12 list.
- As a result of this, India's wait for the title continues since Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu's win in 2021.
- Bosch overcame dyslexia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).
- She said these experiences shaped her commitment to volunteering with migrants and marginalized groups.
- **Miss Universe 2025** was the 74th Miss Universe pageant. Its theme was The Power of Love.



## Centre Announces Major Secretary-Level Reshuffle Across Key Ministries

- The Centre has carried out a major secretary-level reshuffle across several important ministries.
- Neeraj Mittal has been moved from the telecom department to petroleum and natural gas secretary.
- Amit Agrawal, former Unique Identification Authority of India chief, will serve as telecom secretary.
- Manoj Joshi, who recently moved to land resources department, has been reassigned to head the pharmaceuticals department.
- Atish Chandra, serving as special secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, will join the agriculture ministry as officer on special duty.
- He will take the role of agriculture secretary on 1 February after superannuation of Devesh Chaturvedi.
- Tourism secretary V. Vidyavathi has been transferred to the disabilities empowerment department.
- Srivatsa Krishna is set to replace V. Vidyavathi as tourism secretary.
- Sunil Paliwal, Chennai Port Trust chairperson, has been appointed as chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India.
- Anju Rathi Rana of legal affairs department will be member secretary of the 23rd Law Commission.
- Government has extended Rajiv Mani's term as legislative department secretary to July 2028.
- He will also oversee the legal affairs department in an additional capacity.



## **The Sixth International Agronomy Congress will begin in New Delhi on 24 November 2025**

- IAC-2025 will be inaugurated by the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- It will be a three-day long event. It will feature plenary talks, themed symposia, research presentations, and exhibitions.
- It will also feature a dedicated Young Scientists and Students' Conference.
- These will include university heads, ICAR officials, industry leaders and agri-business innovators.
- Re-envisioning Agronomy for Smart Agro-Food Systems and Environmental Protection is the theme for Sixth International Agronomy Congress.



## **International Conference on Rural Buddhist Heritage to Begin in New Delhi on 28 November**

- A separate international conference on conserving rural Buddhist heritage will be held in New Delhi from 28 November.
- The three-day international conference on Preservation of Rural Buddhist Heritage will be organized by the Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development.
- The aim of the conference is to advance global dialogue on safeguarding the country's rural Buddhist sites.
- The conference also aims for integrating heritage conservation with sustainable rural development.
- The trust's chairman highlighted plans to establish Academy for Rural Heritage Conservation and Development Training at Nagarjunakonda in Andhra Pradesh.



## **National One Health Mission Assembly 2025 Calls for Stronger Community-Led Preparedness**

- The National One Health Mission Assembly 2025 concluded with a call for stronger community-led preparedness.
- On 21 November, the two-day National One Health Mission Assembly 2025 was concluded in New Delhi.
- The theme of the two-day event was “Translating Knowledge to Practice – One Earth, One Health, One Future”.
- The second day saw a special technical discussion that strengthened the national effort to build an integrated and robust One Health ecosystem.
- The deliberations were focused on coordinated national action to build resilience against health threats that emerge at the human-animal-environment interface.
- Addressing the gathering, NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr. V. K. Paul highlighted that India’s One Health progress requires a whole-of-government approach that advances a healthier and more resilient future.
- Dr. Paul noted that community mobilisation proved to be one of India’s greatest strengths during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- By bringing together experts from different sectors, the National One Health Mission platform is helping to build a more agile, prepared, and responsive ecosystem for managing current and future public health threats.



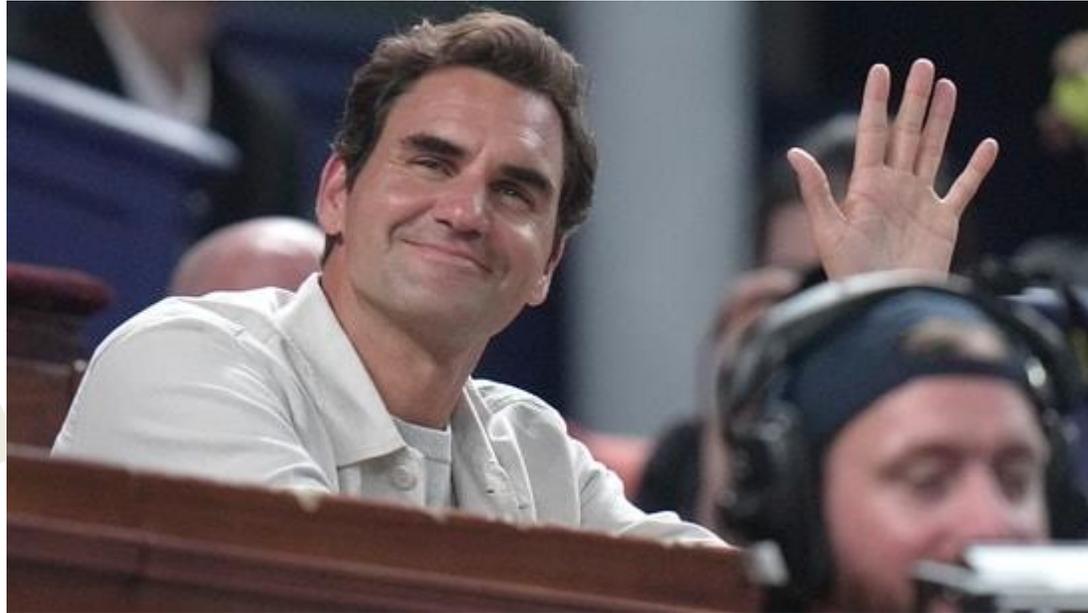
## **Humara Shauchalaya, Hamara Bhavishya” Campaign Launched to Strengthen Rural Sanitation Nationwide**

- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** launched the nationwide campaign “**Humara Shauchalaya, Hamara Bhavishya**” on **World Toilet Day 2025**, running from 19 November to 10 December, to promote the importance of toilets and safe sanitation for a cleaner future.
- The campaign focuses on functionality assessment, repair, and aesthetic improvement of rural toilets—both Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) and Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs)—in line with the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
- It aims to raise awareness, especially in schools, on hygiene practices, proper faecal waste handling, and strengthening community participation (Jan Bhagidari) for sustaining ODF and ODF Plus achievements.
- States and UTs are tasked with engaging local personalities, community groups, youth organizations, and schoolchildren, while also recognizing sanitation workers and distributing IHHL sanction letters during the campaign.



## **Roger Federer Elected to International Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2026**

- **Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer, the first man to win 20 Grand Slam singles titles, has been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) Class of 2026 in his first year of eligibility.**
- Federer, who retired in 2022 after winning 103 career titles, was the only player to receive the required 75% votes in the player category for the 2026 induction.
- The official induction ceremony will take place in August 2026 at Newport, Rhode Island, marking a major honour in his legendary tennis career.



## **21st November – National Philosophy Day**

- **National Philosophy Day** is observed on **21st November** to promote critical thinking, intellectual dialogue, and reflection on ethical, social, and cultural issues.
- Theme 2025 – **Philosophy and Global Dialogue in the Digital Era**
- The day highlights the importance of philosophy in shaping human values, encouraging clarity of thought, reason-based decision-making, and moral responsibility.

