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# **President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Geoscience Awards (NGA) 2024 on 26th September 2025**



- Union Minister for Coal & Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, attended the award ceremony.
- The National Geoscience Awards were established in 1966 by the Ministry of Mines.
- They are among the oldest and most respected honours in the field of geosciences in India.
- The awards were previously known as the National Mineral Awards until they were renamed in 2009.
- Their purpose is to acknowledge exceptional contributions in geoscience fields.
- This includes mineral exploration, mining technology, and both applied and fundamental geoscience research.
- The awards are given each year in three categories.
- These are the Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Geoscience Award, and the Young Geoscientist Award.
- In 2024, the Ministry received 208 nominations across these categories.
- A detailed three-stage selection process was carried out. Twelve awards were finalized after evaluation.

- These include nine individual awards and three team awards.
- In total, 20 geoscientists have been recognized this year.
- Prof. Shyam Sundar Rai received the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- He is a Senior Scientist with INSA and a Visiting Professor at IISER Pune.
- Shri Susobhan Neogi received the Young Geoscientist Award. He is a Senior Geologist at the Geological Survey of India.
- His work in geosciences has been recognized as outstanding.

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## **Himachal Pradesh Lahaul–Spiti: Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve – India’s 13th Biosphere Reserve**

- The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve is located in the Lahaul–Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.
- It has been declared a Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.
- The total area of the reserve is about 7,770 square kilometers.
- Its purpose is to conserve biodiversity, maintain ecological balance, and promote sustainable development.
- With this addition, the total number of Biosphere Reserves in India has become 13.
- Globally, there are 621 Biosphere Reserves across 142 countries, of which 12 from India are recognized under the MAB network.
- The cold desert climate supports unique flora and fauna adapted to extreme conditions.
- As per UNESCO norms, the reserve is divided into Core Area, Buffer Zone, and Transition Area.
- It is the 13th Biosphere Reserve of India, joining others such as Nilgiri, Nanda Devi, Sundarbans, and Great Nicobar.



# World Food India 2025 presented India as a global food hub



- World Food India 2025 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on September 25.
- The event was described as the largest edition, hosting 90+ countries and over 2,000 exhibitors.
- New Zealand and Saudi Arabia were featured as Partner Countries, while Japan, UAE, Vietnam, and Russia acted as Focus Countries.
- India was highlighted as the largest producer of milk, onions, pulses, and the second-largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, and vegetables.
- India is the largest producer of milk, contributing 25% of the global milk supply, and is also a leading producer of coarse grains.
- Modi emphasised that \$7.33 billion of FDI inflow had been received in food processing in the last decade.

- He affirmed that India had played a vital role during global crop crises and supply chain disruptions.
- The Prime Minister underlined that India became the third-largest startup ecosystem, with strong participation in food and agri-tech.
- He mentioned that 25 crore Indians had overcome poverty in the past ten years.
- Farmers, small entrepreneurs, and cooperatives were praised for transforming the dairy sector and rural economy.
- The four-day programme showcased organic food, sustainability, and India's food processing journey to global investors.

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## Defence Ministry finalized mega deal for Tejas aircraft

- The Defence Ministry signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for 97 Tejas Mk1A jets worth ₹62,000 crore.
- The procurement included 68 fighter aircraft and 29 twin-seat variants for the Indian Air Force.
- Deliveries were scheduled to commence in 2027–28 and continue over six years.
- More than 64% indigenous content was ensured in the aircraft under this agreement.
- The Mk1A jets were equipped with systems like UTTAM AESA Radar, Swayam Raksha Kavach, and indigenous actuators.
- This deal followed the earlier LCA contract signed in January 2021 with upgraded features.
- The project was reported to be supported by nearly 105 Indian companies as part of the vendor base.
- Over 67 additional indigenous items were incorporated compared to the previous deal.
- Around 11,000 jobs annually is expected to be created directly and indirectly through the production.
- The agreement was hailed as a major step in strengthening the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing.



## **“India’s First Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay Recognised by IUCN”**

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has formally recognised India’s first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has formally adopted a motion recognising India’s first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay.
- It is India’s first Dugong Conservation Reserve.
- It was established on September 21, 2022, by the Tamil Nadu government under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972,
- It covers 448.34 sq. km. in northern Palk Bay.
- The region is home to over 12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows, vital feeding grounds for dugongs (Dugong dugon).



## **The Ministry of Ayush has launched a new Integrated Neuro-Rehabilitation Centre named “Prayas”**

- It is located at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in Goa.
- The inauguration took place in celebration of the 10th Ayurveda Day.
- Union Minister of State for Ayush and Health & Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, inaugurated the centre.
- Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, also attended the event.
- “Prayas” is among India’s first centres to combine traditional and modern medical practices.
- It integrates Ayurveda, Physiotherapy, Yoga, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and modern Paediatrics.
- The centre focuses on providing holistic neuro-rehabilitation.
- Special attention is given to children with neurological and developmental disorders.
- Minister Jadhav described “Prayas” as a model for integrative rehabilitation.
- The centre is intended to improve the quality of life for patients and bring hope to families.
- The Ministry stated that the initiative aligns with India’s National Health Policy.
- It also follows global best practices in integrated healthcare systems.



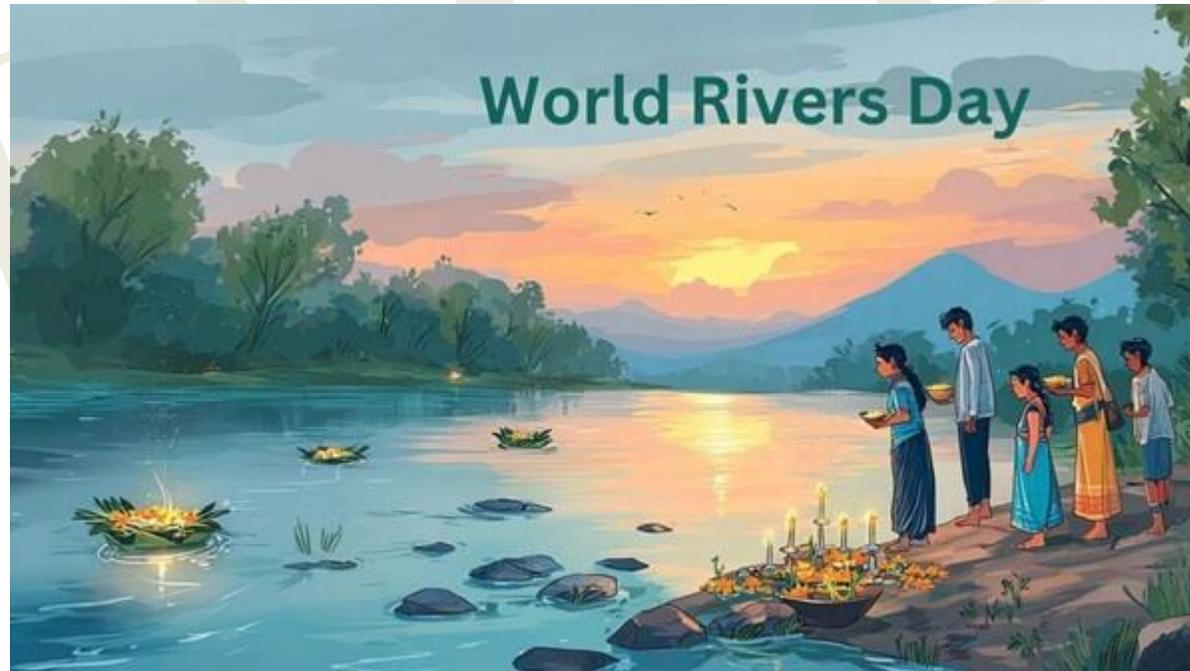
## India Beat Pakistan by 5 Wickets to Win Asia Cup Final 2025

- India defeated Pakistan by 5 wickets in the Asia Cup Final 2025 at Dubai International Cricket Stadium on September 28, 2025.
- Fakhar Zaman (46) and Sahibzada Farhan (57) were the main scorers for Pakistan.
- For India, Kuldeep Yadav took 4 wickets, Jasprit Bumrah 2 wickets, and Varun Chakaravarthi 2 wickets.
- Despite losing 3 early wickets, Tilak Varma's unbeaten 69\* guided India to victory.
- Tilak Varma was awarded Player of the Match for his match-winning innings.



## 28 September 2025 – World Rivers Day

- **World Rivers Day** is observed **annually on the fourth Sunday of September** to raise awareness about the importance of rivers and the need for their conservation.
- India is home to several scenic and culturally significant rivers, which are also popular travel destinations.
- Famous rivers include the Ganga (Varanasi) for spiritual experiences, the Brahmaputra (Assam) for wildlife and Majuli island, and the Teesta (Sikkim & West Bengal) for adventure activities like river rafting.
- Other notable rivers are the Mandovi (Goa) for cruises and vibrant culture, and the Narmada (Madhya Pradesh) for spectacular sights like Dhuandhar Falls and marble cliff boat rides.



## 28 September – World Rabies Day

- **World Rabies Day** is observed **annually on 28 September** to raise awareness about rabies prevention and control.
- The day highlights that rabies is a fatal but preventable disease, mainly transmitted through the bite of infected animals, especially dogs.
- Theme 2025 – **Act now: You, Me, Community**
- Observances aim to educate communities, strengthen public health initiatives, and achieve the global goal of zero human rabies deaths by 2030.



## **RBI Imposes Rs 2.7 Lakh Penalty on Muthoot FinCorp for Non-Compliance with Internal Ombudsman Norms**

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty of Rs 2.7 lakh on Muthoot FinCorp Limited** for non-compliance with norms related to the Internal Ombudsman.
- The penalty follows a statutory inspection of the company based on its financial position as of March 31, 2024.
- RBI issued a show cause notice to Muthoot FinCorp for failing to comply with its directions, and considered the company's written and oral submissions before imposing the penalty.
- The non-compliance involved failure to establish an auto-escalation system for complaints partly or wholly rejected by the company's internal grievance redress mechanism to the Internal Ombudsman.

### **Recent Penalties imposed on Financial Institution:**

- **Bandhan Bank (₹44.70 Lakh) by RBI** – for deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance.
- **VLCC Ltd. (₹3 lakh) by Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** – for misleading ads on slimming treatments
- **Rapido (₹10 lakh) by Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** – for misleading advertisements like “Auto in 5 minutes or Get ₹50” and unfair trade practices.
- **ICICI Bank Limited (₹75 lakh) by RBI** – for breaching guidelines on property valuation and current account discipline.



## **Deepthi Jeevanji Wins Consecutive Silver Medal in Para Athletics World Championship**

- Deepthi Jeevanji, an Indian para-athlete, won the silver medal at the Championship, her second consecutive world medal.
- She secured second place in the T20 category 400 meters race with a timing of 55.16 seconds.
- In 2022, she also won a silver medal at the Para Athletics (T20, 400m) event held in Monaco.
- She hails from Kalvakurthi village, Warangal district, Telangana.
- She has been living with an intellectual disability since childhood.
- She trained under coach Nagaraju Reddy and received support from the Akshara Foundation.
- In 2023, at the Para Athletics in France, she won silver medals in both the 400 meters and 200 meters races.
- Her achievements have inspired athletes with intellectual disabilities and highlighted the need for encouragement through CSR initiatives.



## Sheetal Devi – Triple Medal Victory at Para Archery World Championships

- Sheetal Devi won three medals at the Para Archery World Championships in Gangju, South Korea – one silver and two bronze.
- She won a **silver medal** in the compound women's open individual event, losing to Oyun-Erdene of Mongolia 146-143 in the final.
- She secured a **bronze medal** in the women's doubles compound event with Jyoti Baliyan.
- Another **bronze medal** came in the mixed team compound event, partnering with Rakesh Kumar.
- Despite having no arms, Sheetal Devi achieved remarkable success in archery by using her legs.
- She became the world's first female armless archer to win multiple medals in a major championship.
- She had earlier created history in the 2023 Para Asian Games and 2024 Para Olympics with medal wins, establishing herself as India's top para-archer..



## Three West African countries to quit International Criminal Court



- Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have announced their immediate withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC), calling it an “instrument of neo-colonialist repression”.
- The three military-led countries stated they would not recognise the authority of the UN-backed court based in The Hague.
- Leaders said the ICC has failed to handle and prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and aggression.
- The three countries aim to set up “indigenous mechanisms for peace and justice” instead of the ICC.
- They accused the ICC of targeting less privileged countries, echoing Rwanda’s President Paul Kagame’s criticism of antiAfrican bias.
- The ICC was established in 2002 to prosecute genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.
- Of 33 cases launched by the ICC, all but one involved an African country.
- Withdrawal from the ICC becomes official one year after UN notification

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a permanent international court that investigates and tries individuals for the most serious crimes of international concern. These include genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.
- Crimes under ICC jurisdiction The court handles four main categories of international crimes:
- Genocide: Actions intended to eliminate a specific group.
- Crimes against humanity: Widespread or systematic attacks on civilians.
- War crimes: Serious violations of the laws of war.
- Crime of aggression: The unlawful use of force by one state against another, with jurisdiction activated in 2018.

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