



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 09 January 2026

ISRO'S NEXT PHASE - BUILDING INDUSTRIAL-SCALE CAPABILITY

- Over the past decade, India's space programme has achieved a remarkable breadth of accomplishments despite operating with modest budgets compared to global peers.
- Reliable launch services using the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** have become routine, while heavier and more complex missions have been executed using the **GSLV** and **LVM-3**
- Successful lunar landing capabilities, a dedicated solar observatory, and advanced Earth observation collaborations have positioned India among a select group of spacefaring nations.
- These achievements reflect a shift from experimental missions to operational reliability.

Need for Industrial-Scale Execution

- The next phase of India's space journey requires a transition from mission-centric execution to system-level industrial performance.
- This involves separating design, integration, and operational roles more clearly and expanding the industrial supply chain for structures, avionics, and propulsion systems.
- An industrial-scale approach would allow routine missions to proceed independently of experimental or research-oriented projects.
- It would also reduce dependence on a single institutional bottleneck and enable higher mission throughput.
- Such a shift is essential for achieving long-term goals such as reusable launch systems and high-payload capabilities.

Governance Challenges in a Liberalised Space Sector

- India's space sector has undergone liberalisation in recent years, with the creation of new institutions to promote private participation and commercialisation.
- While roles have been outlined on paper, practical governance challenges remain.
- The absence of a comprehensive national space law has led to ambiguity in authorisation, liability, insurance, and dispute resolution.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 09 January 2026

- As a result, the national space agency often continues to function as a default regulator, technical certifier, and problem-solver, even in areas that should ideally be handled by specialised bodies.
- Clear statutory backing for regulatory and commercial institutions would reduce institutional overload and allow the core space agency to focus on frontier technologies and strategic missions.

Competitiveness in a Rapidly Evolving Global Space Economy

- Globally, the space sector is shifting towards higher launch frequencies, partial reusability, and rapid satellite manufacturing.
- Competitiveness now depends not only on engineering excellence but also on cost efficiency, production depth, and access to capital.
- India's future launch systems are being designed with reusability and heavy-lift capability in mind, reflecting this changing environment.
- However, building and operating such systems requires advanced manufacturing ecosystems, robust qualification infrastructure, and sustained investment.
- Recent declines in private investment highlight the difficulty of financing long-gestation space hardware projects, underscoring the need for targeted funding mechanisms and long-term policy stability.

Way Forward for India's Space Programme

- The success of India's space ambitions will depend on whether its institutions can evolve from executing individual landmark missions to functioning as a resilient industrial system.
 - Engineering capability, regulatory clarity, manufacturing depth, and financial support must mature together.
 - If this transition is achieved, India will be able to deliver complex missions routinely, strengthen its global competitiveness, and unlock new opportunities in science, security, and commercial space activities.
-

Current Affairs - 09 January 2026

OPENING MONUMENT CONSERVATION TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR - INDIA'S SHIFT TOWARDS A PPP MODEL

- The Ministry of Culture is empanelling private conservation architects and agencies through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, closing on January 12.
- Over 20 private heritage conservation agencies from across the country have applied.
- The conservation work will be undertaken within ASI-prescribed frameworks and under its overall supervision.

How the New Model Will Work?

- **Eligibility criteria for conservation architects:**
 - **Experience** in conservation or restoration of centrally protected monuments under ASI, State Archaeology Departments, CPWD or State PWD.
 - Experience in heritage projects of PSUs, municipal corporations, and private palaces or buildings (minimum 100 years old).
- **Role of donors and agencies:**
 - Donors provide funds to the NCF under CSR provisions.
 - Donors have independence to select empanelled conservation architects.
 - Projects must adhere to approved Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), timeframes fixed by donors, and established conservation norms.
 - Execution will be carried out by private agencies, under guidance of conservation architects, supervision of ASI or concerned government agencies.

Reasons for the Shift - Limitations of the Existing ASI Model:

- **Monopoly and capacity constraints:**
 - ASI is responsible for conserving around 3,700 protected monuments.
 - It has been the sole agency for preparing DPRs, executing conservation works.
 - This led to **slow project implementation**, delays in utilisation of CSR funds.

Current Affairs - 09 January 2026

- **Performance of the NCF:**

- Established in **1996** with an initial corpus of ₹20 crore, the fund has received ₹140 crore in donations so far.
- It has funded about 100 conservation projects - 70 completed, almost 20 ongoing.
- The corporate donors faced difficulties due to weak compliance timelines.

What is New Compared to Earlier Initiatives?

- The earlier ‘**Adopt a Heritage**’ scheme allowed corporates to become **Monument Mitras** but was limited to tourist amenities (toilets, ticketing, cafes, signage).
- For the first time, private donors are being allowed into **core** conservation work of monuments.
- The Ministry has identified 250 monuments requiring conservation. Donors may choose from the list, or propose monuments based on regional or thematic preference (subject to approval).

Global Parallels (Best Practices):

- **United Kingdom:** Churches Conservation Trust with strong private participation.
- **United States:** Active involvement of private organisations and funding in heritage protection.
- **Germany and Netherlands:** Heritage foundations supported by private funding.
- These models reflect Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) under strong state regulation.

Challenges and Way Ahead:

- **Risk of commercialisation of heritage:** Transparent audits and periodic reviews of projects. Promote community and academic involvement alongside corporates.
 - **Ensuring uniform conservation:** Develop clear conservation guidelines and SOPs.
 - **Potential conflicts:** Between donor preferences and archaeological integrity.
 - **Need for robust monitoring mechanisms:** To prevent dilution of ASI’s authority. Strengthen ASI’s role as a regulator and knowledge authority.
 - **Capacity constraints:** Capacity-building and certification of conservation professionals.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 09 January 2026

TRUMP PULLS US OUT OF 66 GLOBAL BODIES

President Donald Trump has ordered the United States to withdraw from **66 international organisations**, including several UN agencies and the International Solar Alliance led by India and France. Calling these bodies “**redundant**” and contrary to US interests, Trump directed immediate action through a formal memorandum to all federal agencies.

India’s assessment is that the immediate fallout will be **reduced funding** and **weakened leadership** across these institutions, from the World Health Organization to UNESCO.

The resulting vacuum is expected to create space for China, which has the resources and institutional capacity to expand its influence within global governance structures.

Why the US Is Pulling Out of International Organisations?

- **Trump’s Core Argument: Cost Without Control** - Since beginning his second term, Donald Trump has argued that the United States contributes disproportionately to global organisations while having limited influence over their agenda.
 - He describes this as “globalist” and misaligned with US interests.
- **Allegations of Pro-China Bias** - Trump has repeatedly accused international bodies of favouring China, despite Washington being the largest or among the largest financial contributors. He claims US funding indirectly supports institutions that shield or empower Beijing.
- **The WHO Exit as a Precedent** - This reasoning underpinned the US withdrawal from the World Health Organization in January 2025. The US cited WHO’s failure to reform and its alleged inability to remain independent of political influence from member states.
- **Funding Disparities Highlighted** - The US pointed to payment imbalances, noting that China—despite having over three times the US population—contributes nearly 90% less to the WHO, reinforcing Trump’s view that the burden-sharing system is unfair.
- **Broader Policy Direction** - The WHO exit set the template for a wider retreat from international organisations, reflecting Trump’s preference for unilateral action and transactional global engagement over multilateral governance.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 09 January 2026

US Exit from the Global Climate Framework

- President Donald Trump's memo lists the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) among bodies the US will exit.
 - The UNFCCC underpins global climate cooperation and led to later accords such as the Paris Agreement.
- The US would be the first country to leave the UNFCCC, forfeiting influence over negotiations that shape major economic policy and opportunities.
- The move follows a broader retreat: last year, the **United States** skipped the UN's annual climate summit for the first time in nearly 30 years, signalling reduced engagement in multilateral climate action.
- **Withdrawal from UN Women and UNFPA?**
 - The US will also exit **UN Women** and the **UN Population Fund (UNFPA)**, which supports family planning and maternal and child health in over 150 countries. US funding for UNFPA was cut last year.
- **Funding Cuts and UN Impact**
 - Exiting these bodies entails further funding reductions.
 - President Trump has already curtailed most voluntary US contributions, diminishing both American involvement and financial support across the United Nations system.

WHAT IS THE WEIMAR TRIANGLE?

India's External Affairs Minister recently participated in India's first-ever engagement in the Weimar Triangle, with French and Polish counterparts along with German representatives.



Poland.

About Weimar Triangle:

- It is a regional political grouping of France, Germany and



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 09 January 2026

- It was **formed** by a joint declaration issued in **Weimar, Germany**, by the Foreign Ministers of the three countries.
 - It had **three objectives**:
 - To **involve France in German-Polish reconciliation** by building on the Franco-German experience;
 - To strengthen **dialogue and political cooperation** between the three countries.
 - To **support Poland** in its process of **integration into NATO and the European Union (EU)**.
 - **Regular meetings** at levels including heads of government, foreign ministers, and European affairs ministers have enabled coordination on EU policies, with **notable outcomes** including **Poland's accession to NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004**.
 - Although the Weimar Triangle still has **no institutional structure**, it remains a framework of reference at the political level.
 - **Beyond diplomacy**, it encompasses **civil society efforts** like youth exchanges, academic collaborations, and business networks to **promote intercultural dialogue and mobility**.
-

WHAT IS M-STRIPES?



- The MSTRIPES (**Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status**) is a software-based monitoring system created to assist patrol and protect tiger habitats.
- It was launched by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** along with the **Wildlife Institute of India** in 2010.
- It is designed to assist wildlife protection, monitoring, and management of Protected Areas.
- The programme consists of **two parts**: an **analytical engine with a central desktop software and an online analysis tool**, and an **Android-based mobile application that records field observations and tracks using real-time GPS**.

Current Affairs - 09 January 2026

- It uses Global Positioning System (GPS), General Packet Radio Services (GPRS), and remote sensing,
 - to collect information from the field
 - create a database using modern Information Technology (IT)-based tools
 - analyze the information using GIS and statistical tools
 - to provide inferences that allow tiger reserve managers to better manage their wildlife resources.
- Under MStrIPES protocols, forest guards are expected to patrol their beats and record their tracks using a GPS, in addition to recording observations in site-specific data sheets.
 - Beat is the smallest unit of forest administration in India since British time and usually one forest guard is assigned for one beat.

Key Facts about Anamalai Tiger Reserve:

- It is located in the Anamalai Hills.
- It lies south of the Palakkad gap in the Southern Western Ghats.
- It is surrounded by the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve on the east, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, and Eravikulam National Park on the southwestern side.
- It is inhabited by six indigenous communities,, Kadar, Muduvar, Malasar, Malai malasar, Eravalar, and Pulayar.
- Vegetation:
 - It supports diverse habitat types, viz. Wet evergreen forests, semi-evergreen forests, moist deciduous, dry deciduous, dry thorn, and shola forests.
 - Other unique habitats like montane grasslands, savannah, and marshy grasslands are also present.

Flora: The reserve is rich in wild relatives of cultivated species like mango, jackfruit, wild plantain, ginger (*Zingiber officinale*), tumeric, pepper (*Piper longum*), cardamom, etc.

Fauna: The important wild animals of the reserve include: Tiger, Asiatic elephant, Sambar, Spotted deer, Barking deer, Jackal, Leopard, Jungle cat, etc.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

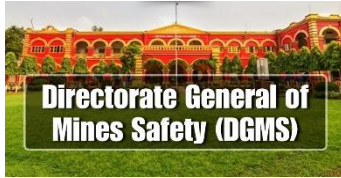
School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 09 January 2026

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MINES SAFETY (DGMS)



- It is the **Regulatory Agency** under the **Ministry of Labour & Employment**, Government of India, in matters pertaining to **occupational safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.**

- It has its **headquarters at Dhanbad (Jharkhand)** and is headed by the Director-General of Mines Safety.

The **mission** of the DGMS is to **continually improve safety and health standards, practices, and performance in the mining industry and upstream petroleum industry by implementing:**

- **proactive safety and health strategies;**
- **continuous improvement of processes;**
- **effective use of resources;**
- **commitment and professional behaviour in its personnel.**

Under the Constitution of India, the safety, welfare, and health of workers employed in mines are the concern of the Central Government (Entry 55-Union List-Article 246).

- The objective is regulated by the **Mines Act, 1952**, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder.
 - These are **administered by the DGMS.**
-