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Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



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## Current Affairs - 10 October 2025

### SURROGACY (REGULATION) ACT, 2021



- In India, surrogacy is regulated by the Surrogacy Regulation Act, 2021.
- This act prohibits commercial surrogacy.
- The object of this Act is to prevent the exploitation of the women who may be lured into the arrangements of the commercial surrogacy.
- Under the provisions of the Act **altruistic surrogacy is permitted** whereby the surrogate mother is required to carry the child to help another individual or couple **without receiving the monetary benefit other than medical and insurance expenses**.
- It provides for the **prohibition and regulation of surrogacy clinics**. It states that “**No Surrogacy Clinic shall conduct** or associate with or assist in the performance of the activities relating to the surrogacy and surrogacy procedures unless such clinic has been registered under this Act”.
- It further **prohibits the abortion during the period of the surrogacy without the written consent of the surrogate mother and the registered medical practitioner**, including the gynaecologist, paediatrician, and embryologist.
- **Surrogacy procedures shall not be performed or initiated unless the certificate of essentiality is obtained by the intended couple**.
- It provides that a **surrogate must be a woman who has been married and has at least one child of her own**.
  - She must be between the age of **25 -35 years** on the date of implantation.
  - The surrogate mother should refrain from providing her own gametes and from acting as a surrogate mother more than once.
- It states that the **intended couple must be married**.
  - The **women** must be between the age of **23-50 years**, and the **man** must be between the age of **26-55 years on the date of the certification**.



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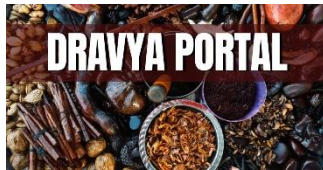


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- Intended partners must have been **married for the period of 5 years and must be nationals of India.**
- Further it states that the **intended couple should not have any surviving children**, whether biologically or through adoption or from any earlier surrogacy procedures.
- “A **child born out of the surrogacy procedure shall be deemed to be the biological child** of the intended couple and shall be **entitled to all the rights and privileges which are available to the natural child.**”

### DRAVYA PORTAL



- **Digitized Retrieval Application for Versatile Yardstick of AYUSH Substances (DRAVYA) portal is the largest collection of data on Ayurvedic Ingredients and Products.**
- It is an ever growing, ever evolving database that covers **classical Ayurveda textbooks** as well as contemporary scientific literature and field studies.
- It is an initiative of the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).**
- **Features of DRAVYA Portal:**
  - It is AI-ready and will eventually interlink with the Ayush Grid and other Ministry initiatives on medicinal substances and drug policy.
  - The platform **features QR code integration**, enabling standardised information display in medicinal plant gardens and drug repositories nationwide.
  - It serves as a comprehensive, open-access database that **dynamically consolidates data from classical Ayurvedic texts** and standard online research platforms.
  - It enables users to search for medicinal substances used across Ayush systems and access detailed profiles spanning **Ayurvedic pharmacotherapeutics**, botany, chemistry, pharmacy, pharmacology, and safety information.



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### INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)

- It is a treaty-based international intergovernmental organization.



- It was launched in 2015 by India and France at the COP21 summit in Paris to promote solar energy as a sustainable solution for energy access and climate change.

- **Headquarters: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.**
- It is the **first international organization established in the country.**
- ISA's objective is to scale up solar energy and reduce the cost of solar power generation through aggregation of demand for solar finance, technologies, innovation, research and development, and capacity building.
- ISA plays a key role in advancing global solar cooperation, enhancing energy security, and supporting the transition to cleaner energy systems.
- The ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000' strategy, which aims:
  - To mobilize USD 1000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030.
  - To deliver energy access to 1000 million people using clean energy
  - To install 1000 GW of solar energy capacity.
  - To mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1000 million tonnes of CO2 every year.
- **Membership:**
  - Membership is open to those solar-resource-rich States which lie fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, and which are members of the United Nations.
  - Partner country status may be granted to the States which fall outside the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, are members of the United Nations.
  - Currently, 100+ countries are signatories, with 90+ countries having ratified to become full members.



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### WHAT IS INSECURE DIRECT OBJECT REFERENCE (IDOR)?



It is a web application security vulnerability that occurs when an application exposes internal object identifiers, such as database keys or file paths, to users without proper access controls.

- It can enable attackers to manipulate these identifiers and gain unauthorized access to sensitive data or perform unauthorized actions on the system.
- IDOR vulnerabilities arise due to inadequate validation and authorization checks on user-supplied input, which may allow malicious users to bypass intended access restrictions.
- How does it happen?
  - Websites often want to serve different content to different users: for example, a shopping website might let each user view their purchase history.
  - Websites can identify users by authenticating them, using a method such as a password or a passkey.
  - Often, once a website has authenticated a user, they will set a session cookie in that user's browser: then, when the user makes a request, the server will know that the request came from this authenticated user.
  - However, as well as checking that the request came from an authenticated user, the server must implement access control for the resources that the user requests: that is, they must check that this user is allowed to access the specific resource requested.
  - For example, each authenticated user must only be allowed to see their own purchase history.
  - If a server does not implement access control for resources, then an attacker who is signed into the site may be able to access the resources belonging to a different user.
  - This is called an Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR) attack.



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### IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS



IUCN  
World  
Conservation  
Congress  
Abu Dhabi 2025

- It is the **largest gathering of nature conservation experts, leaders and decision-makers** in the world.
- It will help shape **global priorities for nature conservation** and climate change for the coming decade and beyond.
- It is held **once-every-four-years**.
- **Components of IUCN World Conservation Congress**
  - **Forum:** It is the largest knowledge marketplace for conservation and sustainable development science, practice and innovation.
  - **Exhibition:** In the Exhibition, IUCN Members and Commissions, businesses, partners, and academia host pavilions, booths and events.
  - **Member's Assembly:** It is IUCN's **highest decision-making body**. During the Assembly, IUCN's Member organisations vote on pressing conservation and sustainable development issues.
- **Theme of IUCN Congress 2025:** Under the theme “**Powering transformative conservation**”.

#### Key Facts about IUCN

- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** is a membership Union of government and civil society organisations.
- It was **established in 1948**, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources.
- **Governance of IUCN**
  - **President and Council:** The council is IUCN's principal governing body in between sessions of the World Conservation Congress. The IUCN President presides over the IUCN Council.
  - **IUCN Statutes:** It lays out the governance of IUCN.



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## Current Affairs - 10 October 2025

### SAKSHAM SYSTEM



- The Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management (SAKSHAM) is an indigenously developed Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Grid System.
- It is a modular, high-end Command and Control (C2) system operating on the secure Army Data Network (ADN).
- It ensures comprehensive airspace security across the newly defined Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS), which now includes the Air Littoral (airspace up to **3,000 metres, or 10,000 feet**, above ground level).
- It is developed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

#### Features of SAKSHAM System

- **Real time detection and tracking:** It is designed to detect, track, identify, and neutralise hostile drones and unmanned aerial systems in real time.
- **Integrated Recognised UAS Picture:** It creates a real-time, integrated Recognised UAS Picture (RUASP) for commanders, merging sensor data, counter-drone systems, and AI-driven analytics.
- **AI-enabled predictive analysis:** It consists of real-time threat detection and AI-enabled predictive analysis, integration of CUAS sensors and weapons for synchronised response, automated decision support and 3D battlefield visualization.
- It can integrate its own as well as hostile UAS data, C-UAS sensors, and soft-and hard-kill systems on a common GIS-based platform.
- The system will also receive inputs from the Akashteer System, further enhancing situational awareness by mapping all airspace users; friendly, neutral, or hostile; within the combat zone.



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### INDIA NEEDS A UNIFIED MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE

- World Mental Health Day, observed on October 10, draws attention to the global mental health crisis affecting over one billion people.
- In India, where 13.7% of the population experiences mental disorders, the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 stands as a milestone — guaranteeing the right to mental health care, decriminalising suicide, mandating insurance coverage, and protecting patient dignity.

### India's Mental Health Crisis: Persistent Gaps and Global Contrasts

- **Severe Treatment Gaps and Shortage of Professionals**
  - Despite progressive laws and programmes, India continues to face major mental health challenges.
  - The National Mental Health Survey (2015–16) reported treatment **gaps ranging from 70% to 92%**, with an 85% gap even in common disorders like depression and anxiety.
  - The **shortage of trained professionals is acute**—India has only 0.75 psychiatrists and 0.12 psychologists per 1,00,000 people, far below the WHO's recommended three psychiatrists per 1,00,000.
- **Weak Implementation and Limited Resources**
  - Although the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) covers 767 districts, its functioning remains weak in many states.
  - Frequent stockouts of essential psychotropic medicines at primary health centres, poor rehabilitation services meeting less than 15% of needs, and **deep-rooted stigma**—where over half of Indians view mental illness as personal weakness—further undermine care.
  - These factors lead to **poor treatment continuity and high economic losses**, projected to exceed \$1 trillion annually by 2030.



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### Building a Robust Mental Health Framework for India

- **Expanding Budget and Workforce Capacity**
    - To bridge the vast treatment and infrastructure gap, India must raise its mental health budget to at least 5% of total health spending.
    - This will support infrastructure development, ensure uninterrupted medicine supply, and strengthen human resources.
  - **Integrating Care and Updating Frameworks**
    - Mental health should be fully integrated into primary health care and covered under universal health insurance schemes to ensure accessible and affordable services nationwide.
    - National policies and diagnostic manuals must be updated to incorporate WHO's ICD-11 categories such as complex PTSD and gaming disorder, enabling targeted and contemporary interventions for emerging conditions.
  - **Strengthening Accountability and Awareness**
    - India needs a strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism at district and State levels, linked to dedicated budgets.
    - Such a system would track treatment dropouts, improve accountability, and guide efficient resource allocation.
    - Simultaneously, nationwide anti-stigma and mental health literacy campaigns — especially in schools and workplaces — should aim to reach over 60% of educational institutions by 2027, promoting early help-seeking and social acceptance.
  - **Enhancing Institutional Coordination**
    - Finally, stronger collaboration between the Ministries of Health, Education, Social Justice, and Labour is essential.
    - A unified, inter-ministerial approach would harmonise policies, maximise resources, and deliver a cohesive national mental health response.
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### SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE



SATHYAMAN  
GALAM TIGER  
RESERVE

- It is located at the junction of the Eastern and the Western Ghats in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, in the Erode District of Tamil Nadu.
- It is contiguous with the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka), and BR Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka).
- Together, these reserves-forming the Nilgiris biosphere landscape, have the **biggest tiger population in the world**, at over 280 tigers.
- The region was once part of the traditional hunting grounds of local rulers and also played a **strategic role as a passage between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka**, owing to its **position along the historic Mysore–Tamil Nadu trade routes**.
- The terrain is hilly and undulating with altitude ranging between 750 m and 1649 m.
- **Climate:**
  - It is **subtropical and dry**.
  - The summers are hot and dry; the monsoons are wet and cooler, with river flooding.
- **Tribal Communities:** It is home to several indigenous tribal communities, including the **Irula and Kurumba**
- **Vegetation:** It consists of **southern tropical dry thorn forests, mixed deciduous forests**, semi-evergreen forests, and riparian forests.
- **Flora:** Prominent tree species include **teak, sandalwood, bamboo**, Terminalia, and Albizia, **alongside medicinal plants** and shrubs that support both wildlife and local communities.
- **Fauna:** The major species are **Elephant, Tiger, Panther, Sloth bear, Gaur, Black Buck, Spotted deer**, Wild boar, Black napped hare, Common langur Nilgiri langur, Striped neck mongoose, and Bonnet macaque.