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Current Affairs - 01 November 2025

WHAT IS THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PACKAGING (IIP)?



- It is an **autonomous body** in the field of packaging and working under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.

- It was **established** on 14th May, 1966, with its **headquarters and principal laboratories in Mumbai**.
 - The Institute set up its **first branch office at Chennai in 1971**, followed by branches at **Kolkata, Delhi, and Hyderabad** in 1976, 1986, and 2006, respectively.
 - The **main objective** of the Institute is to **promote the export market by way of innovative package design and development** as well as to **upgrade the overall standards of packaging** in the country.
 - The Institute is involved in various activities like **testing and evaluation of packaging materials and packages, consultancy services, and research & development** related to packaging.
 - Besides this, the Institute is involved in **training and education** in the field of packaging.
 - It **imparts training** in innovative and aesthetic packaging to the **artisans, weavers, exporters, stakeholders, etc.**
 - It is closely working with various commodity boards and export promotion councils such as APEDA, Spices Board, MPEDA, Tea Board, MoFPI, and others.
 - The Institute has linkages with international organisations and is a **founding member of the Asian Packaging Federation (APF)**; a member of the Institute of Packaging Professionals (IOPP), USA; the Institute Packaging (IOP), UK; Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI), USA.
 - The Institute **organizes a biannual event i.e. International Packaging Exhibition, i.e., INDIAPACK**, and a **national contest for excellence in packaging, i.e., INDIASTARA**.
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WHAT IS "THE AABHAR COLLECTION"?



Indian Railways will patronise the newly launched 'Aabhar' online store that will showcase a range of exquisite gift items manufactured by indigenous tribes, handloom weavers.

- It is an **online store on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** portal dedicated to showcasing **exquisite gift items and hampers**.
- The collection, which currently features **over 150 items**, is part of GeM's mandate to promote social inclusion.

Products in the collection are select One District One Product (ODOP) and Geographical Indication (GI) items.

- They are **sourced exclusively from:**
 - **Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIE)**
 - **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**
 - **Various Central and State Handicraft and Handloom Emporiums**

Key Facts about Government e-Marketplace (GeM):

- It is the **Public Procurement Portal** for procurement of goods and services for all **Central Government and State Government Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Units (PSUs), and affiliated.**
- The portal was launched in August **2016** by the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry.**
- GeM endeavours to make the public procurement process transparent, efficient, and inclusive.
- The **purchases through GeM by government users** have been authorized and **made mandatory by the Ministry of Finance** by adding a new Rule No. 149 in the General Financial Rules, 2017.



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KENDRIYA GRIHMANTRI DAKSHATA PADAK



**KENDRIYA
GRIHMANTRI
DAKSHATA
PADAK**

Recently, the 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak' has been awarded for the year 2025.

- It has been **instituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs**, Government of India in 2024.
- The award aims to **encourage professional standards** and boost the morale of officers and officials across the country.
- It is **given to** recognize excellent work, promote high professional standards and boost the morale of the concerned official/officer in **the following four fields**:
 - Special Operation
 - Investigation
 - Intelligence
 - Forensic Science
- It was **created by merging the 4 previously existing MHA awards** –
 - The Special Operation Medal,
 - The Medal for Excellence in Investigation,
 - The Exceptional Intelligence Efficiency Medal, and
 - The Union Home Minister's Award for Meritorious Service.

Eligibility: It is conferred on members of the **Police Forces, Security Organization, Intelligence Wing/Branch/Special Branch** of State/Union Territories/Central Police Organizations (CPOs)/Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Forensic Science (Central / State / Union Territories) throughout the Indian Union.

The medal is announced on **31st of October** every year, on the occasion of Birth Anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.



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KNOW YOUR VEHICLE



Recently, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has simplified the Know Your Vehicle (KYV) process for FASTag users.

- It is a system where all FASTag users submit images of their vehicle and registration certificate to verify that the tag is linked to the correct vehicle.
- **Purpose:** It was implemented in 2024, in an attempt to prevent the leakages in the FASTag system.
- The whole process has to be repeated every three years to ensure no misuse.
- It is an initiative of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), KYV was notified by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- **Know Your Vehicle Ensures**
 - The 'One Vehicle One FASTag' rule: KYV supports the idea that each vehicle should have its own valid FASTag account.
 - **Preventing fraud or misuse:** verifying images and documents helps reduce fake tags, mis-linked vehicles.
 - **Ensuring smooth toll travel:** without a verified KYV your FASTag may be blocked or flagged, causing delays and extra costs.

What is FASTag?

- It is a device that employs **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology** for making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion.
- It is a tag used for making toll payments directly from the customers linked **prepaid or savings/current account**.
- It is **also vehicle specific** and once it is affixed to a vehicle, it cannot be transferred to another vehicle.
- FASTag can be purchased from any of the **National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) Member Banks**.



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NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES CENSUS, 2025



Recently, the Union Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, launched the Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025.

- It is the **fifth edition** of the Marine Fisheries Census.
- It is a coast-wide activity **fully funded by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India**.
- **Nodal Agency:** ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) as the nodal agency and Fishery Survey of India (FSI) as the operational partner.
- **Features of National Marine Fisheries Census 2025:**
 - **Coverage:** 13 coastal States and Union Territories, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep,
 - **Time Period:** The core household data collection is scheduled for an extended **period of 45 days**.
 - **Digital Architecture:** It is powered by a suite of custom-made, multilingual Android applications—VyAS-NAV(for validation of fishing villages and harbours), VyAS-BHARAT (household and infrastructure enumeration) and VyAS-SUTRA (for real-time supervision and monitoring of households and enumerators) developed by the the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).
 - **Expanded Socio-economic Data:** For the first time, census includes crucial indicators like total **family income**, homeownership, **outstanding liabilities**, and sources of credit.
 - **Focus on Vulnerability:** It covers data on **insurance status**, major losses or disabilities, the specific socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on



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fisher families, and the receipt of benefits from schemes like PMMSY/PM-MKSSY.

- **Institutional Mapping:** New schedules focusing on **Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs)** and **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** are introduced to facilitate collectivization and strengthen the value chain.

INDIA SIGNS 10-YEAR DEFENCE FRAMEWORK WITH THE U.S.

- Defence cooperation between India and the U.S. has been one of the strongest pillars of their bilateral relationship, evolving steadily over the past two decades.
- The partnership began taking concrete shape with the **2005 Defence Framework Agreement**, renewed in **2015**, which emphasised joint military exercises, maritime security, and defence trade.
- Since then, both countries have established foundational agreements to enhance interoperability and information sharing:
 - **LEMOA (2016):** Enabled reciprocal access to military facilities for logistics support.
 - **COMCASA (2018):** Facilitated secure communications between the two militaries.
 - **BECA (2020):** Enabled the exchange of geospatial intelligence and mapping data.
 - **SOSA (2024):** Ensured the security of supply chains in critical defence materials.
- The signing of the **2025 Framework** extends this cooperation into the next decade, institutionalising long-term collaboration in defence manufacturing, joint technology development, and strategic coordination in the Indo-Pacific.

Highlights of the 10-Year Defence Framework

- The newly signed framework outlines an ambitious roadmap for **comprehensive defence collaboration** between India and the United States. Key highlights include:
 - **Unified Policy Direction:** The framework provides a structured policy roadmap to enhance collaboration across military, industrial, and technological domains.



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- **Technology and Industrial Cooperation:** Both sides have agreed to expand cooperation in **co-production and co-development of advanced defence systems**, with an emphasis on indigenous manufacturing in India under the “**Make in India, Make for the World**” initiative.
- **Information and Intelligence Sharing:** Strengthening intelligence exchange and coordination mechanisms to counter emerging security threats, including cyber and maritime challenges.
- **Joint Military Exercises:** Continuation and expansion of regular bilateral and multilateral exercises such as **Yudh Abhyas, Malabar, and Tiger Triumph**.
- **Regional Security Commitment:** Reinforcing a joint vision for a **free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific**, with deterrence against coercive activities in the region.

Significance of the Defence Partnership

- The new defence framework comes at a crucial juncture in global geopolitics.
 - The Indo-Pacific has become the epicentre of strategic competition, with China’s assertive posturing and growing influence prompting deeper security cooperation among like-minded nations. The framework thus serves multiple strategic purposes:
 - **Enhancing Regional Stability:** Reinforces India’s position as a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific.
 - **Boosting Defence Technology Transfer:** Encourages U.S. firms to invest and collaborate in India’s defence production ecosystem, particularly under the **Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)**.
 - **Mitigating Supply Chain Risks:** Reduces dependence on singular sources of defence imports by diversifying technology and production partnerships.
 - **Countering Trade Tensions:** Despite Washington’s imposition of **50% tariffs on Indian goods**, both countries have demonstrated that strategic and defence cooperation remain insulated from trade-related friction.
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KUNMING BIODIVERSITY FUND



Recently, seven countries have secured \$5.8 million from the Kunming Biodiversity Fund to enhance nature-friendly agriculture.

- It is a **Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MTPF)** launched in 2021 during Part 1 of the COP 15 of Convention of Biological Diversity.
- It aims to facilitate the successful implementation of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)** at regional, national, subnational and local level.
- **Initial contribution:** 5 billion yuan (about \$200 million) from China
- It was established under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Ecology (MEE) of China and the **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)**, with the Secretariat of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)** and **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.

Focus area: It supports developing countries to accelerate and upscale their actions for the **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**.

What is Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?

- It was adopted during the **15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties** to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022.
- It aims to support the **achievement of sustainable development goals** and build on previous strategic plans.
- It sets a bold path towards global harmony with nature by 2050.
- **Goals and targets:** The GBF consists of **23 targets** (set for 2030) and **four global goals** (set for 2050) to preserve biodiversity for current and future generations.



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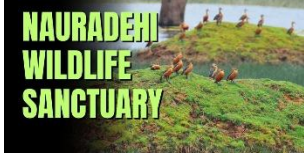
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NAURADEHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



Recently, the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister said that Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary will become the third home for cheetahs in the state.

- **Location:** It is located in the state of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1975.
- It is the **largest wildlife sanctuary** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The entire sanctuary is situated on a plateau, forming part of the **upper Vindhyan range**.
- It acts as a **corridor** for **Panna Tiger Reserve** and **Satpura Tiger Reserve** while indirectly connecting **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** via **Rani Durgawati Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- It is classified under the **Deccan peninsula biogeographic region** and forms part of the Ganga and Narmada basins.
- **Vegetation:** The forest type of this sanctuary is classified as the **Tropical Dry Deciduous forest** which consists of the Central Indian monsoon forests.
- **Drainage:** Three fourth of Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary falls in **the Yamuna [Ganges]** basin and one fourth of the sanctuary falls in the **Narmada basin**.
 - The north flowing **Kopra River, Bamner River, Bearma River**, which are tributaries of the Ken River, are the major rivers of this sanctuary.
- **Flora:** Teak, Saja, Dhaora, Bhirra, Ber, Bel, Mahua, Tendu, Gunja and Amla etc.
- **Fauna:** Tiger, Panther, Sloth-beer wild dog, blue bull, chinkara, spotted deer, sambhar etc.