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Current Affairs - 06 December 2025

CENTRE FOR CHRONIC DISEASE CONTROL (CCDC)



Centre for Chronic
Disease Control
A World Health Organization (WHO)
& Indian Council of Medical Research
(ICMR) Collaborating Centre

A new study by the Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC) for the first time concurrently estimated the daily salt and iodine consumption levels of the adult population in India and examined the effect of the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended salt intake levels on iodine levels.

- Established in 2000, CCDC is an **independent, not-for-profit, biomedical research organization based in New Delhi.**
- It aims to **reduce the burden of chronic diseases in India and low- and middle-income countries** through surveillance, capacity building, and translational research in **cardio-metabolic diseases.**
- It is a **Scientific & Industrial Research Organization** recognized by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, **Ministry of Science and Technology**, Government of India.
- It has been designated as a **WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance, Capacity Building, and Translational Research in Cardio-Metabolic Diseases.**
- Recently, CCDC received the recognition of a **collaborating Centre of Excellence (CoE) by the Indian Council of Medical Research.**
- It also holds registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.
- CCDC **undertakes clinical research with special emphasis on chronic non-communicable diseases (NCD).**
 - Within the spectrum of chronic diseases, CCDC's main focus areas are: **cardiology, diabetes and metabolic disease, vascular diseases, cancers, and mental health.**
- In addition, **basic science research in diet/nutrition and cardiac biochemistry** are also carried out.



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INDIA-RUSSIA SUMMIT - STRENGTHENING TRADE, ENERGY AND MOBILITY TIES

- India and Russia share a long-standing strategic partnership built on defence cooperation, energy security, and technological collaboration.
- The 2025 summit reaffirmed the relevance of this relationship amid shifting global geopolitics.
- Despite Western sanctions on Russia, bilateral trade between the two nations crossed **USD 65 billion in 2024**, driven largely by discounted Russian crude oil imports.

Key Announcements from the India-Russia Summit

- **New Labour Mobility Pathway**
 - One of the most significant outcomes of the summit was the signing of a labour mobility agreement, enabling Indian workers, particularly from construction, healthcare and services sectors, to take up jobs in Russia under regulated frameworks. This initiative is expected to
 - provide safer migration pathways,
 - address Russia's labour shortages, and
 - generate new employment opportunities for Indian youth.
- **Advancement in Nuclear Energy Cooperation**
 - India and Russia are committed to expanding cooperation in the nuclear energy sector, including:
 - joint development of small modular reactors (SMRs),
 - progress on additional units at Kudankulam, and
 - collaboration in fuel supply, nuclear safety, and training.
- **Boost to Defence Production and Technology Sharing**
 - Defence remained a core pillar of the summit. Major takeaways included:
 - proposals for the co-production of military equipment in India,
 - discussions on supply chain stabilisation for spare parts, and



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- a roadmap for long-term defence industrial cooperation.
- With India diversifying its procurement sources, Russia emphasised readiness for deeper technology sharing and joint manufacturing under 'Make in India'.
- **Focus on Expanding Bilateral Trade**
 - Both leaders acknowledged that trade remains heavily skewed in Russia's favour due to oil imports. To correct this imbalance, the summit saw discussions on:
 - expanding Indian exports of pharmaceuticals, textiles, machinery, automotive parts and food products,
 - promoting direct shipping routes via the **Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor**.

India Announces Free 30-Day e-Tourist Visa for Russians

- A major policy announcement was India's decision to grant a free 30-day, double-entry e-tourist visa to all Russian nationals. Expected Benefits:
 - Increased Russian tourist inflow to India's coastal and wellness destinations.
 - Strengthening people-to-people ties amid rising Russian outbound travel.
 - Support to India's hospitality and retail sectors.
- The move comes at a time when visa-friendly tourism policies are becoming a tool of economic diplomacy.
- Russia is also expected to ease travel norms for Indian tourists as part of reciprocal arrangements.

Geopolitical Significance of the Summit

- The India-Russia summit showcased India's strategic autonomy. India continues to maintain strong ties with Russia while deepening relations with the United States, Europe and East Asia.
 - The agreements signalled:
 - India's need for stable energy access,
 - Russia's search for reliable economic partners, and
 - A shared interest in building multipolar global institutions.
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AFAR REGION



Scientists predict that Africa's Afar region could become Earth's next ocean basin.

- It is the **northeastern part of Ethiopia**, where the **Red Sea meets the Gulf of Aden**.
- The Afar depression, also known as the **Danakil depression**, forms the **northern part** of the region and is largely desert scrubland with shallow salty lakes and long chains of volcanoes.
- The **Awash River valley** forms the southern part of the area.
- **Tectonic Significance:** It is situated at a unique triple junction where the **Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and East African Rift converge**.
- **Terrain:** The region's landscape is marked by deep **rift valleys, volcanic plateaus**, and extensive fissures, reflecting the dynamic forces reshaping the Earth's crust.
 - It is one of the **hottest places on earth**.
- It offers scientists a rare opportunity to observe the **processes of continental break-up** and ocean genesis in action.
- The region is well known for its **early hominid fossil** finds including 'Lucy', an **Australopithecus afarensis**, discovered in 1974.

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

Recently, Foreign Minister of Ukraine said at the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe** that Ukraine wants "real peace, not appeasement" with Russia.



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- It is a dynamic organization that is dedicated to promoting **peace, stability, and security** throughout Europe and Central Asia.
- It is the world's largest **regional security organization**.
- **Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE)**, in 1994, was renamed the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- **India is not a member country.**
- **Objective:** It works for **stability, peace and democracy** through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.
- **Decision-making bodies of OSCE:** There are four decision-making bodies with delineated, distinct mandates namely;
 - **Summits:** It is the **highest decision-making body** of the OSCE
 - **Ministerial Councils:** The OSCE's central decision-making and governing body
 - **Permanent Council:** It is responsible for the day-to-day business of the Organization
 - **Forum for Security Co-operation:** It deals with the politico-military dimension of security
- **Leadership:** The OSCE's leadership includes the **Chairperson-in-Office**, the **Secretary General**, and the heads of its institutions and field operations.
- **Headquarter:** Vienna.

EXERCISE HARIMAU SHAKTI



Recently, the Fifth edition of “Exercise Harimau Shakti -2025” commenced in Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.

- It is a **joint military exercise** conducted between **India and Malaysia**.
- The Indian contingent is being represented mainly by **troops from the DOGRA Regiment**.



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- The aim of the exercise is to jointly rehearse conduct of **Sub Conventional Operations** under **Chapter VII of United Nations Mandate**.
 - Both sides will practice tactical actions such as cordon, search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, etc.
 - **Key Facts about Exercise Harimau Shakti – 2025:**
 - In this exercise both sides will **rehearse drills to secure helipads** and undertake casualty evacuation **during counter-terrorist operations**.
 - Both sides will exchange views and **practices of joint drills** on a wide spectrum of **combat skills** that will facilitate the participants to mutually learn from each other.
 - Sharing of best practices will further enhance the level of defence cooperation between Indian Army and Royal Malaysian Army.
 - **Significance:** The exercise will also **foster strong bilateral relations** between the two nations.
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ASTROSAT



Recently, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) celebrated a decade of successful operation of the UltraViolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) on AstroSat.

- It is the first **dedicated Indian astronomy mission** aimed at studying **celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously**.
- The payloads cover the energy bands of **Ultraviolet (Near and Far), limited optical and X-ray regime**.
- It enables the simultaneous **multi-wavelength observations** of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.



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- **Payloads of Astrosat: Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT)**, Large Area X-ray Proportional Counter (LAXPC), Cadmium–Zinc–Telluride Imager (CZTI), Soft X-ray Telescope (SXT) and Scanning Sky Monitor (SSM).
 - **UVIT consists of two telescopes:** one dedicated to near-ultraviolet and visible wavelengths, and the other to far-ultraviolet observations.
- **Objectives of AstroSat:**
 - To understand **high energy processes in binary star systems** containing neutron stars and black holes.
 - Estimate **magnetic fields of neutron stars**.
 - **Study star birth regions** and high energy processes in star systems lying beyond our galaxy.
 - Detect new briefly bright X-ray sources in the sky.
 - Perform a **limited deep field survey of the Universe** in the Ultraviolet region.
- The spacecraft control centre at Mission Operations Complex (MOX) of **ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC)**, Bengaluru manages the satellite during its entire mission life.

INTERPOL RED NOTICE



**Red
Notice**

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh State Tiger Strike Force in a coordinated operation with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has successfully apprehended an international wildlife offender wanted under an INTERPOL Red Notice (RN).

- A Red Notice is a **request to law enforcement worldwide** to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.
- It is **based on an arrest warrant** or court order issued by the judicial authorities in the requesting country.



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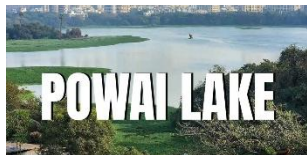


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- Red Notices are **issued for fugitives** wanted either for **prosecution or to serve a sentence** in relation to serious ordinary law crimes such as murder, rape and fraud.
 - Member countries apply their own laws in deciding whether to arrest a person.
 - **Purpose: International alert** for a wanted person, but it is **not an arrest warrant**.
 - It contains two main types of information:
 - Information to **identify the wanted person**, such as their name, date of birth, nationality, hair and eye colour, photographs and fingerprints if available.
 - Information related to the **crime they are wanted for**, which can typically be murder, rape, child abuse or armed robbery.
 - **Issuance:** Red Notices are published by **INTERPOL at the request of a member country**, and must comply with INTERPOL's Constitution and Rules.
 - **Interpol cannot compel** the law enforcements authorities in any of the countries to arrest someone who has a RN issued.
 - The **Central Bureau of Investigation** is India's **National Central Bureau (NCB)** for INTERPOL, handling Red Notices for all crimes, including wildlife offenses.
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KEY FACTS ABOUT POWAI LAKE



- It is an **artificial lake** situated in the **northern suburb of Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- The lake was **built by the British in 1890**.
- The **Padmavati Devi Temple**, situated on the **bank of the lake**, dates back to the **10th century AD**.
- The lake is **surrounded by the Powai Bird Sanctuary**.
- It is an important resting, feeding, and breeding site of several bird species, resident and migratory.



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- Among some of the lake's rare and distinguished residents and visitors are the **Watercock, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Slaty-legged Crake, Ruddy-breasted Crake, Woolly-necked Stork, Caspian Tern, and Peregrine Falcon.**
 - In recent times, **40% of the lake has disappeared.** The lake has deteriorated **due to accelerated growth of residential, commercial, and industrial areas** around the lake.
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SHANI SHINGNAPUR TEMPLE



- It is a **Hindu temple** located in **Maharashtra.**
- It is dedicated to **Lord Shanidev**, the popular **Hindu god** associated with the planet **Saturn.**
- The deity here is a **five-and-a-half-feet-high black rock standing on a platform** and is **believed to be swayambhu (self-emerged).**
- Apart from the temple, **Shingnapur** is a small village which is also famous for the fact that in the **whole village no house has doors**, and despite this, **no theft has been reported** in the village.

Architecture:

- It has **no roofs, doors, or walls around.**
 - The temple is unique, as it is the **only one where Lord Shani is worshipped in an open-sky setting.**
 - The premises also contain a **tomb of Saint Udasi Baba** and a temple dedicated to **Dattatreya.**
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