

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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WORLD AUDIO VISUAL AND ENTERTAINMENT SUMMIT (WAVES), 2025

In News

- At the inaugural WAVES Summit 2025 held in Mumbai, the Prime Minister underscored the creative economy as a critical lever for India's future GDP growth, innovation, and inclusive development.

More About the News

- The Prime Minister announced the launch of the **Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)**, a **National Centre of Excellence** aimed at upskilling youth and fostering innovation in media, animation, gaming, and content creation.
- The IICT is being established by the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in partnership with industry bodies FICCI and CII**.
- The WAVES aims to unlock a \$50 billion market by 2029, expanding India's footprint in the global entertainment economy.

About Creative Economy (also called Orange Economy)

- The **Creative Economy encompasses industries** that rely on individual creativity, skill, and intellectual property (IP) to generate economic value. These include:
 - Cultural industries:** Music, film, theatre, dance, crafts, literature
 - Creative industries:** Advertising, fashion, design, architecture
 - Digital creative sectors:** Animation, VFX, gaming, XR (Extended Reality), OTT platforms, YouTube/podcasts, influencer content
- John Howkins** is credited for popularising the term "**creative economy**." The term "**Orange Economy**" was coined by former Colombian President Iván Duque and Minister Felipe Buitrago.

Current Status of India's Creative Economy

- Economic Contribution:** As of 2025, India's creative economy contributes approximately \$30 billion to the national GDP, employing about 8% of the workforce.
- Export Potential:** Creative exports have surpassed \$11 billion annually, encompassing sectors like film, music, design, and digital content.

- Global Standing:** India ranks among the top countries in fintech adoption, mobile manufacturing, and startup ecosystems, providing a robust foundation for creative industries to flourish.

India's Potential in the Creative Economy

- Demographic Dividend:** Over 65% of India's population is below the age of 35 which are the main driver for content creation, gaming, design, and short-format storytelling.
- Digital Infrastructure:** India has the second-largest internet user base globally. Initiatives like Digital India, BharatNet, and 5G rollout are enabling digital entrepreneurship in rural and urban areas alike.
- Cultural Heritage:** India's diverse traditions, languages, art forms, and mythology provide rich content for global storytelling. Cultural exports like Bollywood, Indian cuisine, and yoga have created strong brand recall internationally.

Challenges

- Lack of IP awareness:** Weak enforcement of copyrights, design patents, and royalties.
- Fragmented industry:** Dominated by informal, unorganized sectors without formal recognition.
- Skill gaps:** Training programs often lag behind fast-evolving digital tools and formats.
- Funding barriers:** Lack of easy access to credit and grants for artists and creative startups.
- Limited rural participation:** Urban-centric growth excludes rural talent and craftspeople.

India's Initiatives for Promoting Creative Economy

- National Creators Award:** Established in 2024 to recognize excellence in digital content creation across various platforms.
- \$1 Billion Creator Economy Fund:** Announced to support content creators in improving skills and expanding to global markets.
- National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP):** Implemented by the Ministry of Textiles to develop and promote handicrafts.
- Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture:** Provides financial support to cultural organizations and artists for preserving and promoting India's rich cultural heritage.

Source: TH

SUPREME COURT FLAGS CONCERNS OVER FREE RATION DISTRIBUTION

Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India has raised concerns over the free ration distribution system, questioning its long-term sustainability and impact on economic policies.

Development Perspective: Economic Sustainability

- Supreme Court's Concerns:** It observed that while States procure food grains from the Centre and distribute them for free, the **financial burden ultimately falls on taxpayers**.
 - It questioned whether India, in 2025, is still grappling with the **same poverty levels as in 2011**, when the last Census was conducted.
- Need for Employment and Infrastructure Development:** The court stressed that free ration distribution alone cannot be a long-term solution to poverty.
 - It urged policymakers to focus on job creation and infrastructure growth to ensure economic stability.
- Concerns Over Welfare Dependency:** The court cautioned against excessive reliance on freebies, arguing that such policies might discourage people from seeking employment.
 - Justice B.R. Gavai remarked that free benefits **should not create a 'parasitic existence'**, where individuals lose the motivation to work.

Welfare Argument: Ensuring Food Security

- Public Distribution System (PDS):** NFSA 2013 entitles 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive highly subsidised foodgrains under **two categories of beneficiaries**: – the **Antodaya Anna Yojana households**, and the **priority Households**.
 - The **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** provides free food grains to **81.35 crore beneficiaries** for five years, ensuring basic nutrition and affordability.
- Support to Vulnerable Section:** Free ration schemes protect low-income families from food insecurity, especially during economic downturns and crises.
 - The **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) initiative** allows migrants to access food grains anywhere in India, improving accessibility.

Balancing Welfare and Development

- Targeted Welfare Programs:** Instead of universal free ration, policies should focus on need-based distribution, ensuring that only the most vulnerable receive assistance.
- Diversification of Food Basket:** Inclusion of millets, pulses, and oils can improve nutritional outcomes and support diverse farming.
- Strengthening Employment Initiatives:** Expanding skill development programs and entrepreneurship support can help beneficiaries transition from welfare dependence to self-sufficiency.
 - Encourage eligible and financially able families to voluntarily opt out of government subsidies, as was done under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**.
- Fiscal Responsibility and Policy Reforms:** The government must ensure efficient allocation of resources, balancing food security with economic growth.
 - Periodic review of welfare schemes based on updated poverty data can improve effectiveness.

Conclusion

- Free ration distribution in India is both a welfare imperative and a developmental dilemma. While it is indispensable in times of crisis and for vulnerable populations, its unmoderated continuation risks creating long-term inefficiencies.
- The real challenge is to integrate welfare into a developmental trajectory — where safety nets evolve into springboards for self-reliance.

Source: TH

UN PUSHES FOR REFORMS IN THREE KEY AREAS TO MEET SDGS

Context

- The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for urgent action in three key areas to help finance the achievement of the UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030.

Background

- With the world facing compounding crises such as economic instability, conflicts, and trade disruptions, progress on the SDGs is lagging.

- Developing nations are spending over **\$1.4 trillion** annually on debt servicing, limiting their ability to invest in development.
- Hence the UN has outlined **three core areas** needing urgent action: **debt reforms, international financial institutions, and diversification of finance sources.**

Key Areas of Reform

- **Debt Reforms:**
 - ♦ **G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments** must be accelerated and expanded to include middle-income countries in distress.
 - ♦ **Credit rating agencies** need to revise ratings methodologies that drive up borrowing costs for developing countries.
 - ♦ **The IMF and World Bank** must reform debt sustainability assessments to account for SDG-linked investments and climate vulnerabilities.
- **Strengthening International Financial Institutions:**
 - ♦ **Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)** need **recapitalization** and should stretch their

balance sheets to increase lending capacity.

- ♦ MDBs must focus on **mobilizing private finance** at affordable rates for developing countries.
- **Diversifying Finance Sources:**
 - ♦ Countries should **mobilise domestic resources** to strengthen the health, education and infrastructure sectors.
 - ♦ They should also try to **increase blended finance options** in collaboration with the private sector.
 - ♦ Governments must also find ways to effectively **fight corruption to prevent misappropriation of critical funds.**

Way Ahead

- There is a need to Push for an **inclusive global tax system** to ensure fair application of international tax norms.
- Also developed countries must honour their **Official Development Assistance** commitments.
- Global platforms, like the **COP30 Climate Conference in Brazil**, will explore innovative climate finance solutions with a target to mobilize **\$1.3 trillion** annually by 2035.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- SDGs are a set of **17 global goals** adopted by the **United Nations in 2015** as part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
- They recognize that **ending poverty and other deprivations** must go hand-in-hand with strategies that **improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth** – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.



Source: DTE

SUN'S SUBSURFACE WEATHER TIED TO ITS 11-YEAR ACTIVITY CYCLE

Context

- A study led by astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have probed the dynamic "inner weather" of the Sun - plasma currents just beneath its surface that pulse in step with its 11-year sunspot cycle.

About

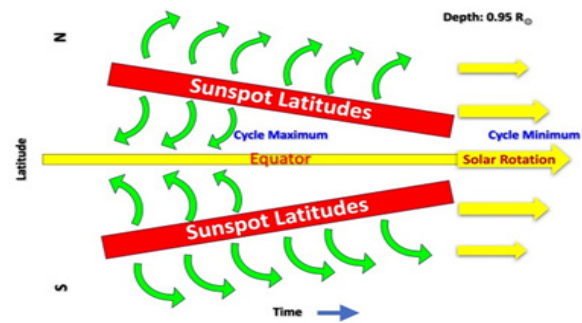
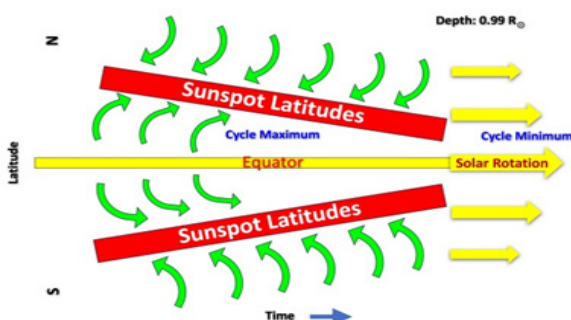
- The researchers have traced giant tides of plasma beneath the Sun's surface at a region called **near-surface shear layer (NSSL)**.
- The plasma currents shift with the Sun's magnetic heartbeat and could have a far-reaching influence on space weather and Earth.
- The methodology employed was **helioseismology**, an advanced technique that tracks sound waves as they travel through the Sun, to observe changes in the movement of solar material.

Near-surface shear layer (NSSL)

- The NSSL extending to about **35,000 km** in depth is a critical region beneath the Sun's surface.
- It is marked by **distinct rotational behaviours** that vary with depth and by changes, over space and time, that relate to active region magnetic fields and the solar cycle.

Patterns beneath the Sun's surface

- It was found that plasma on the Sun's surface moves **toward areas where sunspots** appear (sunspots latitudes).
- However the direction of the plasma flow reverses midway through the NSSL, i.e. instead of moving toward the sunspot zones, the plasma starts moving outward, away from them.
- These changes in flow direction create circular patterns called **circulation cells**, which are strongly influenced by the Sun's rotation and the Coriolis force.



Way Ahead

- The spinning flows change the way the Sun rotates at different depths. This is called **rotational shear** (the gradient of rotation with depth).
- However these local flows, near the surface, don't explain the Sun's larger, deeper flows also known as **torsional oscillations**.
- Hence it suggests that these global flows, which ripple through the Sun's vast interior, must be powered by something deeper and more mysterious.

Concluding remarks

- Solar activity directly affects space weather, which can disrupt satellites, power grids, and communication systems on Earth.
- This study takes a step closer to building accurate models that can predict the Sun's behaviour more reliably.

What is the solar cycle?

- The Sun, like a bar magnet, possesses a magnetic field with north and south poles.
- This magnetic field is generated by the movement of electrically charged particles within the Sun.
- Approximately every **11 years**, the **Sun's magnetic field completely flips**, switching its north and south poles—a phenomenon known as the **solar cycle**.

Solar Maximum and Solar Minimum

- Solar maximum** is the peak **phase of the Sun's 11-year cycle**, characterized by heightened solar activity.
 - During this period, the Sun emits more **energy, radiation, and light** and experiences an increased number of **sunspots**.
- Solar Minimum**: The lowest point of the cycle, when the Sun is relatively calm and there are fewer sunspots, is called solar minimum.

Source: TH

WORLD'S LARGEST FUSION PROJECT REACHES MILESTONE WITH INDIA'S HELP

In News

- Scientists have completed the main magnet system for **ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor)**, with India playing a significant role in building critical infrastructure.

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor(ITER)

- The International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Project is currently under construction in a **180-hectare site in Southern France**.
- Over 30 countries**, including India, China, the US, Russia, Japan, South Korea, and the EU are collaborating to build the **world's largest tokamak**, a magnetic fusion device to prove the feasibility of **nuclear fusion** as a **large-scale** and carbon-free source of energy.

Do you know?

- Nuclear fusion generates energy through merging of two light nuclei to form a single heavier nucleus.
 - Fusion reactions power the Sun and other stars.

Objectives

- It aims to demonstrate **fusion energy** as a safe and carbon-free power source.
 - Unlike fission, fusion does not produce radioactive waste.
- It will produce 500 megawatts of energy from 50 megawatts of input, creating a self-sustaining plasma state known as "burning plasma", crucial for unlocking fusion energy.
 - ITER will not produce electricity but will serve as a large research facility to test fusion at scale, generating data for future commercial fusion plants.

Cost Sharing

- Europe is bearing 45 per cent of the construction cost.
 - The other six members -- India, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the US -- are each contributing about 9 per cent. But all members will get full access to the research results and patents.

Contributions by Countries

- US** Built the Central Solenoid, the core component of the magnet system.
- Russia** provided the Poloidal Field magnet.
- Europe** designed four large Poloidal Field magnets.
- China** contributed Poloidal Field magnets and superconducting Correction Coil magnets.
- Japan** produced 43 kilometers of Nb3Sn superconductor strand.
- Korea** created tooling for pre-assembling large components.

India's Role

- India is one of the seven main members of ITER and has contributed to key infrastructure, including the cryostat cooling systems, heating technologies, and the cryolines that cool the magnets.
 - India designed the **cryostat**, a 30-meter tall chamber housing the ITER Tokamak, and built systems to cool the magnets to superconducting temperatures of -269°C.
 - India also delivered shielding, cooling water systems, and heating components.

Progress

- ITER completed its powerful pulsed superconducting electromagnet system, a crucial part of the Tokamak, which will weigh nearly 3,000 tonnes.
 - The system will help create a plasma by ionizing hydrogen fuel (deuterium and tritium), which will then be heated to **150 million degrees Celsius** to facilitate nuclear fusion, similar to the Sun's process.

Future Outlook

- ITER's progress reflects international cooperation and hope for a sustainable, peaceful energy future.
- ITER is expected to begin scientific operations in 2034, with Deuterium-Tritium operations starting in 2039.
 - If successful, fusion could provide nearly limitless, clean energy without radioactive waste or carbon emissions, addressing global energy challenges.

Source :TH

NEWS IN SHORT

VEERASHAIVA-LINGAYATS

Context

- Veerashaiva-Lingayats are set to seek a separate religion code for the community in the national census that will commence in **2026**.

About

- **Lingayats** had been classified as a Hindu subcaste called “**Veerashaiva Lingayats**” and they are considered to be **Shaivites**.
- The Veerashaiva-Lingayats are the dominant land-owning community in **north and central Karnataka**.
 - ♦ They are also spread in **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana**.
- **Origin:** The Lingayats are followers of **12th-century social reformer Basavanna**, who was inspired by the Bhakti Movement.
 - ♦ A treasurer in the court of **King Bijjala II**, **Basavanna** rejected Brahmin rituals and temple worship and envisaged a society that was casteless, and free of discrimination.
- **Spiritual Identity:** The term Lingayat comes from the practice of wearing an **iṣṭaliṅga**, an oval-shaped emblem symbolic of Parashiva (Absolute Reality).

Source: TH

ADI SHANKARACHARYA

In News

- Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti was celebrated recently.

Adi Shankaracharya

- He was a brilliant philosopher, visionary, and spiritual teacher.
 - ♦ The historical data states that Shankara was born in 788 A.D. in Kalady, Kerala to the couple Shivaguru and Aryamba, who were great devotees of Lord Shiva.
- He was recognized for his exceptional intellect from a young age, he composed **Balabodha Sangraha** at six and **Kanakadhara Stotra** after a touching incident involving a poor woman's generosity.

- He met **Govindapadacharya** on the banks of the Narmada and became his disciple after reciting the **Dashashloki**.
 - ♦ In three years, he mastered scriptures and was tasked with writing commentaries.
- **By twelve, Shankara** was already a leading exponent of **Advaita Vedanta** and began writing on the Prasthan Traya—Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and Brahmasutras.

Contributions

- He established four mathas (monastic centers) across India and mentored four key disciples—Padmapada, Sureshvara, Totaka, and Hastamalaka.
- His major works include **Vivekachudamani, Upadesha Sahasri, Bhaja Govindam, Soundaryalahari**, and over 100 compositions combining profound philosophy with devotional depth.
- He is renowned for his profound commentaries on ancient texts, including the **Brahma Sutra**.
- He also wrote commentaries on the Bhagavad Gita and the ten principal Upanishads.

Legacy

- He passed away at 32, having unified and revitalized Hindu thought and propagated **Advaita Vedanta** as a path to spiritual liberation.
 - ♦ **According to Advaita Philosophy Essence**
 - Brahman (the ultimate reality) is real, the world is unreal, and the individual self is not different from Brahman.
- He entrusted his disciples to continue his mission and is believed to have attained liberation in the Himalayas.

Source :TOI

VIKRAMADITYA I DATED INSCRIPTION FOUND IN DAVANGERE

Context

- A rare inscription dating back to the 7th century AD, during the reign of Vikramaditya I of the Badami Chalukya dynasty, has been discovered at Madapura Lake in Karnataka.

Vikramaditya I (644–681 CE)

- He revived Chalukya power after a period of decline following **Pulakesin II's death**.

- He avenged his father's defeat by the Pallavas by capturing Kanchipuram and defeating **Pallava king Mahendravarman II in 668 CE**.
- His military campaigns also subdued other southern dynasties, including the **Cholas, Pandyas, and Keralas**. However, his advances were eventually checked when he was defeated by **Pallava king Parameshvaravarman I at the Battle of Peruvalanallur in 674 CE**.

Latest Developments

- The recently discovered inscription is written in Old Kannada script and measures five feet in length and contains 17 lines.
- It describes an act by Vikramaditya I's officer, Singhavenna, who waived taxes for local villagers and donated six acres of land to the kings who built the lake.
- The inscription also reveals that Ballavi, a significant administrative unit of 70 villages, had organized governance.
- Additionally, the stone slab features a 17th-century relief sculpture, indicating the site's continued cultural importance.

Chalukyas of Badami

- They succeeded the Vakatakas in the western Deccan and ruled from their capital at Vatapi (modern Badami, Karnataka) between 543 and 753 CE, uniting much of South India.
 - ♦ **Pulakesin I (543–566 CE)**, son of Ranaraga and grandson of Jayasimha, was the **true founder of the Chalukyan kingdom**.
 - He established his capital at Vatapi (modern Badami) by building a strong fortress and declared independence through a horse sacrifice.
 - He assumed the titles **Satyasraya (asylum of truth) and Ranavikrama (valorous in war)**.
 - ♦ **Pulakesin II (609–642 CE)** was the **greatest ruler of the Chalukyas of Badami** and transformed them from a regional power into a dominant force across the Deccan. His reign marked a turning point in southern Indian history.
 - His **Aihole inscription by Ravikirti** details victories over Kadambas, Alupas, Gangas, Mauryas of Konkan, Latas, Malwas, Gurjaras, Kosala, Vishnukundins, Kalinga, Pistapura, and Banas.

- He defeated Harshavardhana on the banks of the Narmada in 630 CE, which became the boundary between the two empires.
- His empire included present-day Maharashtra, Gujarat, coastal Andhra, and Karnataka.
 - Pulakesin II defeated Mahendravarman I of the Pallavas, but later Narasimhavarman I avenged the defeat, killed Pulakesin II, and captured Badami.

Source :HT

LAKKUNDI TEMPLES

In News

- Lakkundi temples are set to be finalised for UNESCO tentative listing as World Heritage Sites.

About Lakkundi Temples

- Lakkundi (ancient Lakkigundi) is a village in Gadag district of Karnataka, renowned for its **cluster of medieval temples**. Lakkundi is a significant Jain religious center as well.
- The Lakkundi were patronized by Chalukya rulers, notably Tailapa II and Satyashraya. It subsequently came under the control of the **Kalachuris, Yadavas, and the Hoysalas, with Ballala II** declaring it the capital in 1192 CE. Its importance declined following the invasions of the **Delhi Sultanate in the 14th century**.
- Lakkundi is a key center of the Kalyana Chalukya or Western Chalukya school of architecture which is often described as a **transitional Vesara style** – blending Northern and Southern Indian temple forms.
 - ♦ Temples have Jagati (platforms), Mandapas, Garbhagrihas, and Shikharas.

Source: TH

VIZHINJAM INTERNATIONAL SEAPORT

Context

- PM Modi commissioned the Vizhinjam International Seaport in **Kerala**, which was completed at an estimated cost of **₹8,867 crore**.

About

- The Seaport was developed under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**, between the Kerala government and Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd (APSEZ).

- Vizhinjam is India's first dedicated **transshipment port** and also the country's **first semi-automated port**.
 - ♦ It features fully automated yard cranes and remotely operated ship-to-shore cranes for efficient cargo handling.
- The port is equipped with India's first home-built, AI-powered **Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS)**.
- It is also being developed as a **multi-modal hub**, with direct road access to **National Highway 66** and **Kerala's first cloverleaf interchange** to handle future cargo growth.
- **Strategic Location:** Situated just **10 nautical miles** from a key international shipping route, the port offers minimal deviation for transshipment, making it a strategic hub for global maritime trade.

Source: TH

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD (NSAB)

Context

- The government has reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and appointed former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief **Alok Joshi** as its new chairman.

National Security Advisory Board

- The NSAB was constituted in **1998**, as an **advisory body** of eminent persons outside the government to render advice on national security issues.
- **Structure:** It is headed by a **Chairperson** and composed of **eminent persons from diverse fields**.
 - ♦ It draws people of diverse domains including industry, media and civil society, among others.
- **Key Functions:**
 - ♦ It advises the **National Security Council (NSC)** on policy matters related to national security.
 - ♦ Suggests measures and policy options on internal and external security, strategic and technological challenges.

Source: TH

DHRUV HELICOPTER

In News

- The Army and Air Force versions of the **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv** have been cleared for operations following recommendations from a **Defect Investigation Committee**.

Background

- The armed forces had temporarily grounded all their **330 ALHs** following the January 2025 crash of an **ALH Mark-III of the Indian Coast Guard** in Porbandar, Gujarat during a training sortie that killed all three crew members aboard the helicopter.
- Also, Dhruv was missing in action at the Aero India, 2025.

Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv

- It is a multi-role helicopter developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** for transport, utility, reconnaissance, and casualty evacuation roles.
- It features a four-blade hingeless main rotor with composite blades that are ballistic-tolerant up to 12.7mm, and a four-axis automatic flight control system.
- Its airframe uses advanced composites for reduced weight and enhanced crash survivability, including crumple zones and energy-absorbing seats.

Source :TH

JALAJ INITIATIVE

Context

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti recently chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the **Jalaj initiative**.

About the Jalaj initiative

- **Launched by:** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- **Jalaj centers:** The initiative aims at establishing **75 Jalaj centers** across the Ganga basin, with various models such as Dolphin Safaris, Homestays, Livelihood Centers, and Awareness & Sale Points etc.
- **Complementary Programs:** It will complement and support the existing programme of the Centre under the NMCG's '**Arth Ganga**' concept of sustainable economic development of the river Ganga Basin with people participation.

Source: PIB