

Manthan HEADLINES



English

Weekly Compilation
[29th September-
4th October, 2025]



HOME

Senior advocate R. Venkataramani is the new Attorney General of India

Context

- Senior advocate **R. Venkataramani** re-appointment as **Attorney General of India (AGI)** for two years.

Overview

- AGI is the **highest law officer** and **chief legal advisory** to the government of India.
- Appointment by the **President of India** under **Article 76** of the Constitution.
- Holds the **office during the pleasure of the president**, the tenure is not fixed.

Qualification

- Must be qualified to be appointed a **Supreme Court judge**, i.e.,
 - Must be a high court judge, or
 - Advocate for at least 10 years, or
 - Eminent jurist as per President's opinion.

Functions:

- Represents the Union Government in the **Supreme Court** and **High Courts** in cases involving the government.
- Can participate in **parliamentary debates** but **cannot vote**.

Source: TH



SCIENCE | INDIA

H3N2 influenza spreads rapidly in Delhi, northern India

Context

- The **H3N2 flu virus** has caused a major **outbreak** in the **Delhi-NCR region**.

About H3N2

- **Type:** Subtype of Influenza A virus
- **Vulnerable Groups:** Mainly affects children under 15 and adults over 50.
- **Transmission:** Spreads through respiratory droplets and containment surfaces.
- **High Risk Areas:** Crowded spaces like schools, nursing homes etc.
- **Mutation:** Frequent mutations reduce vaccine effectiveness.

Symptoms

- Sudden high fever, chills, sore throat
- Headaches, muscle pain, fatigue, body aches
- Abdominal Pain, nausea and diarrhea in some cases

Treatment

- **Home care:** Rest, hydration, steam inhalation and warm saline gargles.
- **Medication:** Antiviral oseltamivir may be prescribed within 48 hours of symptoms
- **Purpose:** Reduce illness duration and risk of complication, especially in high-risk group.

Source: DW



National Biodiversity Authority sanctions ₹82 Lakh for Red Sanders Conservation in Andhra Pradesh under Access and Benefit Sharing Mechanism

Context

- **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** approved ₹82 lakh to **Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board** for Red Sanders conservation.

About Red Sanders

- Native to **Southern Eastern Ghats**, mainly in **Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**.
- High demand in **Asia (China, Japan)** for cosmetics, medicinal products, furniture, woodcraft, and musical instruments.
- Slow-growing species take 25-40 years to mature, making recovery from **over-harvesting difficult**.

Conservation Status

- Classified as '**Endangered**' by **IUCN Red List**.
- Listed in **Appendix-II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)**.
- Protected under **Schedule IV** of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.



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Swachh Shehar Jodi Initiative: Bridging Clean City Gaps

Context

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, part of India's **urban sanitation efforts**.

What is SSJ?

- It is a structured **mentorship** and **collaborative program**.
- Pairs 72 mentor cities with approx. 200 mentee cities based on **Swachh Survekshan** rankings.
- SSJ initiative focuses on **knowledge sharing, peer learning, and best practice replication**.

Key Features

- **Mentorship Model:** Top-performing (mentor) cities guide low-performing (mentee) cities through experience sharing and action planning.
- **Time-bound:** 100-day program with action plans and milestones.
- **Nationwide Engagement:** Nearly 300 MoUs signed with city officials and leaders.
- Platform evaluated during Swachh Survekshan 2026.

Significance

- One of India's largest urban **waste management mentorship** frameworks.
- Enables replication of successful **sanitation practices**.
- Supports sustainable **urban transformation** across cities.

Source: DS



HOME

A decade among the stars: India's first space observatory AstroSat completes 10 years

Context

- **AstroSat**, India's **first dedicated space observation**, has completed **10 years** of operation.

About AstroSat

- AstroSat was launched in **2015 to explore the universe using space-based instruments**.
- It was carried by **PSLV-C30 launch vehicle from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**, in 2015.
- The mission was originally **planned for five years** but continues after a full decade.

Key Features

- AstroSat enables multi-wavelength observations of the universe in a single coordinated mission.
- It observes electromagnetic radiation in visible, ultraviolet, and low-to-high energy X-ray bands.
- The observatory operates with five major scientific payloads designed for space exploration.

Source: TH



Telangana's Bathukamma Festival Creates Two Guinness World Records

Context

- The **Bathukamma Festival** has entered the **Guinness World Records** for largest **floral arrangement** and most **synchronized female dance participants**

About the Record-Breaking Event

- Its structure was **constructed by around 300 workers** using **metal, bamboo, and flowers**, and it took 72 hours to complete.

About Bathukamma Festival

- "**Bathukamma**" means "**Mother Goddess, Come Alive**".
- It is celebrated predominantly in **Telangana**.
- **Participants:** Women create flower stacks, offer prayers, and dance in concentric circles.
- Celebrates Goddess Gauri and the harvest season.

Folklore and Legends

- The festival is linked to the **legend of Goddess Gauri**
- It is also associated with **King Dhramangada** and **Queen Satyavati** of the **Chola dynasty**, according to local folklore.





Stay Tuned!