

# Manthan HEADLINES



**English** 

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





# 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.

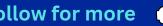
#### Qualification

- 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









# 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.

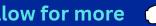
#### **Symptoms**

- 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 **Pradesh Biodiversity Andhra** 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.







# 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.

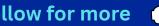
#### **Key Features**

- 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







# 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.





# 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.

Source: AIR



Stay Tuned!