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Appointments & Persons in News

National Appointments (India)



- MHA approved the assignment of additional charge of ITBP DG to **Sanjay Singhal**, a **1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- **Air Marshal Vikram Gaur** was appointed Additional Secretary in the DMA, becoming the **first IAF officer** to hold the position.

Persons in News & Notable Demises

- **Yasuo Fukuda,** Japan's former Prime Minister (PM) and country's first second-generation PM, **passed away** in Tokyo, Japan, at the age of **90**.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives

Central Government Schemes & National Policies

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways **(MoRTH)**, introduced a **Concessional Local Pass** for eligible non-commercial vehicle owners residing within 20 kilometre**(km)** of a National Highway (NH) fee plaza. The provision was notified through the **National Highways Fee** (Determination of Rates and Collection) (Fifth Amendment) **Rules, 2026**, under the National Highways Act, 1956.
- The **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff** (**HQ IDS**), under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), signed a **five**-year Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Indian Artificial Intelligence (AI) company **Sarvam AI** to develop and deploy indigenous AI applications across the Indian Armed Forces.
- **The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules **(CMVR), 1989,** allowing the use of ethanol-based fuels that contain up to **100% ethanol** (E100) in vehicles designed for flexible fuel. As per the official notification, **E100 and E85** (fuel containing up to 85% ethanol) can only be used in vehicles designed by Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) as Flex-fuel Vehicles (FFVs).

State Government Welfare Initiatives

- The Uttarakhand Chief Minister (**CM**) **Pushkar Singh Dhami** presented the State and Supplementary Budget for the Financial Year 2026-27 (**FY27**) at the Vidhan Sabha Bhawan in Gairsain, Uttarakhand increasing the total state budget to **Rs 1.19 lakh crore (Cr).**

Sports & Games

Formula 1, Shooting & Multi-Sport Events

- **World Boxing U19 (Under-19) Championships 2026** were held in Budva, Montenegro, from **16**–**27** October, where India won **four medals** (1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze) to finish joint seventh with Ukraine in the overall medal standings, with Russia finishes Top.
- Italian driver **Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes** won the United States **(US) Grand Prix (GP) (47th edition)**

Science, Space & Technology

Defense Technology, Biotechnology & Health Innovations & Exercise



- The **11th** edition of the **India–Indonesia** Joint Special Forces Exercise '**Garuda Shakti 2026**' commenced at Banyuwangi, **Indonesia**, to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and operational interoperability between the Special Forces of both countries.
- Goa Shipyard Limited **(GSL),** a premier Defence Public Sector Undertaking which works under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), launched the Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel **(NGOPV)** named **'Srishti**(Yard 1283)', developed for the Indian Navy (IN), at its shipbuilding facility in Vaddem, Vasco-da-Gama, Goa.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs

International Affairs & Bilateral Agreements

- The **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India (GoI), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (**BnF**), or National Library of France, under the **Gyan Bharatam Mission** to strengthen cooperation in the preservation, digitisation, research and dissemination of manuscript and documentary heritage.

सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Books, Authors & Important Days

Important Days & Themes

- International Day of Care and Support 2026 – **October 29**

ENVIRONMENT

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature **(IUCN)** released the **first global coral reef assessment under its Red List of Ecosystems(RLE)** at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties **(COP17)** to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Yerevan, Armenia. As per the report, nearly all shallow-water coral reef ecosystems **(96%** of the total coral reefs assessed by IUCN) have been classified as "Critically Endangered **(CR)"** and are expected to **collapse by 2075.**
- Researchers **Namita Nath** of Gauhati University, Assam, and **Barnali Das** of Pragjyotish College, Assam, documented **Osbeckia assamensis,** a new **flowering plant species,** in Manas National Park, Assam, through floristic surveys conducted from 2021 to 2025.

REPORTS AND INDEXES

- The **World Justice Project** released the latest edition of the **"WJP Rule of Law Index 2026",** the world's leading source of original, independent rule of law data. **India** with an overall score of **0.48,** ranked at 88th spot out of **143 countries**

Practice Questions

1. Who was given the additional charge of Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)?

(A) Air Marshal Vikram Gaur
(B) Sanjay Singhal
(C) Rajiv Kumar
(D) Anil Chauhan

Answer: (B) Sanjay Singhal

2. Who became the first Indian Air Force (IAF) officer to be appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)?

(A) Air Marshal Vikram Gaur
(B) Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh
(C) Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
(D) Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar

Answer: (A) Air Marshal Vikram Gaur

3. Which country's former Prime Minister, Yasuo Fukuda, passed away at the age of 90, according to the supplied current-affairs notes?

(A) China
(B) South Korea
(C) Japan
(D) Thailand

Answer: (C) Japan

4. Under the new concessional local pass provision, eligible non-commercial vehicle owners residing within what distance of a National Highway fee plaza can benefit?

(A) 5 km
(B) 10 km
(C) 15 km
(D) 20 km

Answer: (D) 20 km

5. Which Indian artificial intelligence company signed a five-year MoU with Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff to develop indigenous AI applications for the Indian Armed Forces?

(A) Infosys
(B) Sarvam AI
(C) Wipro
(D) Zoho Corporation

Answer: (B) Sarvam AI

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