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History, Art and Culture

Robert A. F. Thurman

Prime Minister has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Mr. Robert A. F. Thurman.

- **Robert A. F. Thurman** – An acclaimed *American Buddhist scholar.*
- **Recognized as** – 1st Westerner ordained as a Tibetan Buddhist monk by *14th Dalai Lama.*
- **Co-founded** – *Tibet House US* to protect and preserve endangered Tibetan civilization.
- **Major honours** –
  - *International Campaign for Tibet's Light of Truth Award (2003)*
  - **Padma Shri** – India's prestigious civilian honour (2020).

Government Policies & Interventions

Bharat Buildcon 2026

Recently, Bharat Buildcon 2026 exhibition is inaugurated.

- **Bharat Buildcon 2026** – India's premier *exhibition for the construction and building materials industry.*
- **Held at** – Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in New Delhi.
- **Inaugurated by** – Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & Information Technology.
- **Participation** – Over 90 Countries and 100 Indian Cities.
  - Showcasing Innovations across 24 Building Material Segments.
- **Significance** –
  - To establish world’s largest platform for building construction materials.
  - To drive India’s rise as a global infrastructure leader in line with the Viksit Bharat 2047 mission.

CAPEXIL

- **CAPEXIL** – Chemical & Allied Products Export Promotion Council
- **Established by** – *Ministry of Commerce* in 1958.
- **Objective –** To promote *export of Chemical and Allied Products* from India.
- **Headquarter** – Kolkata
- **Focus** – To provide export assistance to its member exporters.
- **Functions** –
  - To send trade delegations to global & emerging markets.
  - To showcase Indian exports via fairs worldwide.
  - To connect importer needs with Indian exporters.
- **Certification** – To claim DGFT benefits, export incentives, and duty drawbacks, RCMC issued by CAPEXIL is must.

(Note: **RCMC** – Registration Cum Membership Certificate, and **DGFT** – Directorate General of Foreign Trade.)

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)

- **Nodal ministry –** Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Headquartered** – New Delhi.
- **Responsible for** –
  - Formulating and implementing the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP).
  - To promote and regulate India's exports and imports.
- **Functions** –
  - **Authorization –** It manages the Export Management System to issue licenses for restricted goods.
  - **Certificate management –** It oversees digital issuance of essential export certificates, including Certificate of Origin.
- **Significance** – It acts as restrictor, trade facilitator to boost growth and international business.

National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)

NIXI celebrated 23rd Foundation Day, Showcasing India's Growing Internet Ecosystem recently.

- **Established under –** *Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.*
- **Mandates** – To facilitate the peering of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and content players.
  - To route domestic internet traffic within India rather than sending it abroad.
- **Role** –
  - To promote wider *adoption of '.IN' and '.□□□□' domains*, strengthening internet resilience.
  - To facilitate Internet Exchange services.
  - To delegate IP addresses (IPv4/IPv6) through the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN).
- **Significance** – NIXI's initiatives *reduces latency and lowers international bandwidth costs*.

Economy

Price Support Scheme (PSS)

Centre Approves Large-Scale Procurement of Pulses and Oilseeds Under PSS recently.

- **PSS** – Central government agricultural procurement program.
- **Operates under** – Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme.
- **Nodal ministry** – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Initiated only** – When the market price of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) produces falls below the declared MSP.
- **Beneficiaries & Eligibility**
  - *Farmers must pre-register* with valid land records on state-approved portals.
  - The produce *must meet FAQ parameters*.
  - All payments are made *directly to the farmer's registered bank account.*
  - Procurement operations last until market prices stabilize above the MSP or 90 days (whichever is earlier).
- **Objectives –**
  - To protect farmers from economic losses during market crashes
  - To keep essential commodities affordable for consumers.

PM-AASHA (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan)

- **Nodal ministry** – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Objective** – To ensure remunerative Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers and stabilize food prices for consumers.
- **Sub-components** –
  - **Price Support Scheme (PSS) –** Procures notified pulses, oilseeds, and copra *at MSP directly from pre-registered farmers*.
  - ***Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) –*** Compensates farmers for the difference if they sell notified oilseeds below the MSP in open markets.
  - ***Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) –*** Maintains strategic buffer stocks of commodities (like pulses and onions).
    - It regulates supply, discourage hoarding.
- **Features** –
  - Procurement done directly via portals like NAFED's e-Samriddhi and NCCF's e-Samyukti.
  - Mandatory biometric/facial authentication at centers to eliminate intermediaries.
  - Payments directly to farmers' bank accounts.

Defence

Exercise Khaan Quest

The Indian Army contingent is set to depart recently to participate in KHAAN QUEST.

- It is an *annual multilateral military* exercise.
- **Co-hosted by** – Mongolia and United States Indo-Pacific Command.
- **Aim** – To enhance interoperability for UN peace support operations under *Chapter VII of UN Charter.*
- **Location** – Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, *Mongolia*.
- **Background** – Began in *2003* as a bilateral event between the USA and Mongolia, evolved into a multinational exercise.
- **Focus and Activities**
  - Joint planning and tactical drills
  - Establishing static and mobile checkpoints
  - Cordon and search operations
  - Evacuation of civilians from hostile areas
- **Significance –** It foster professional ties, operational readiness, and camaraderie among military personnel from across the globe.

Science

Vivatech 2026 (10th Anniversary Edition).

Recently Prime minister has participated in Vivatech 2026.

- It is a *Europe's largest startup and technology event.*
- **AI Country Partner** – India
- **Participation from India** – Over 80 deep-tech companies and start-ups.
- **Key Event Themes** –
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Productivity Reimagined
  - Sovereignty & Ethics
  - Energy, Greentech & Mobility
  - Cybersecurity & Defence
- **Highlights** – India's vision for a human-centric AI and frontier technologies.
- **Significance** –It highlights India–France Year of Innovation 2026.
- It unites global tech ecosystem addressing world challenges through technology.

Health

Dengue

- Dengue is a *mosquito-borne viral infection.*
- **Symptoms** –
  - High fever
  - Severe headache and pain behind the eyes
  - Muscle, joint, or bone pain
  - Nausea and vomiting
- **Transmission** –
  - **Vector** – Infected female *Aedes mosquitoes (primarily Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus).*
  - These mosquitoes thrive in urban and semi-urban environments, breeding in standing water.
- **Treatment** – There is *no specific treatment*.
- **Prevention** – Avoiding mosquito bites and controlling mosquito populations.

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