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Geography

Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary

Administration orders spatial mapping of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary.

• **Location** – Leh district, Ladakh, approximately 125 km east of Leh, bordering Tibet.
• **Area** – Approximately 4,000 sq. km.
• **Altitude** – 14,000–19,000 feet; a high-altitude cold desert ecosystem.
• **Important Lakes** – Pangong Tso, Tso Moriri and Tso Kar.
• **Wildlife** – Snow leopard, Kiang (Tibetan wild ass), wild yak, Tibetan wolf, blue sheep (bharal) and black-necked crane.
• **Local Community** – Inhabited by the nomadic Changpa pastoral community.
• **Important Settlement** – Korzok village and monastery.
• **Significance** – Supports unique high-altitude biodiversity, migratory bird habitats and traditional nomadic pastoralism.

Social Issues

Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan

• **Launch** – 2 August 2026 by the Prime Minister through a virtual address.
• **Duration** – 100-week national movement based on four pillars—Prevent, Protect, Recover and Lead.
• **Implementation** – MY Bharat–NSS through colleges, universities, senior secondary schools and adopted villages across India.
• **Themes** – My Health, My Pride; Fit Youth, Addiction-Free Youth; and Life Skills Month.
• Objectives:
- Implement the September–December 2026 activity calendar across selected locations.
- Mobilise NSS volunteers for health, fitness, community service and life-skills interventions under the Prevent pillar.
- Promote addiction-free youth through campus and village-level awareness and service activities.
- Ensure uniform implementation, monitoring and reporting through unit-wise and partner-wise coverage.
• **Significance** – Strengthens youth participation in drug prevention, community engagement and the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

International Relations and Issues

World Food Programme (WFP)

UN Appoints Luke Lindberg to Head World Food Programme

• The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on fighting hunger, delivering emergency food aid, and promoting global food security as part of the United Nations.

• **Foundation –** Established in 1961 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN General Assembly.

• **Headquarters –** Located in Rome, Italy.

• **Core Goal –** Achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) by ending hunger, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

• **Recognition –** Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for its efforts to combat hunger and prevent the use of food as a weapon of war.

• **Core Operations**

- **Emergency Relief –** Provides life-saving food, cash, and vouchers during conflict, natural disasters, and economic crises. Two-thirds of its work occurs in active conflict zones.
- **School Meals –** Feeds millions of school children globally to support education, health, and local community development.
- **Resilience Building –** Helps smallholder farmers, improves nutrition, and works to mitigate climate change shocks.
- **Logistics Leadership –** Manages emergency logistics and transport networks (such as aviation and shipping fleets) to support the broader humanitarian community.

IAEA

IAEA Support to Rooppur Plant - Bangladesh Seeks IAEA Support to Expedite Rooppur Plant Power Supply to National Grid.

• **IAEA** – The International Atomic Energy Agency (**IAEA**) is an independent international organization within the United Nations system that acts as the world's central hub for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field.

• Known as the world's "Atoms for Peace and Development" organization, it works to promote safe, secure, and peaceful uses of nuclear technology while preventing its use for military or weapons purposes.

• **Founded –** July 29, 1957

• **Headquarters –** Vienna, Austria

• **Leadership –** Headed by Director General Rafael Grossi

• **Reporting –** Reports to both the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Counci

Core Pillars & Functions

• **Safeguards and Verification –** Inspects nuclear facilities and monitors materials to ensure countries do not divert them into nuclear weapons.

• **Nuclear Safety and Security –** Establishes global safety standards to protect people and the environment from radiation risks and helps respond to emergencies.

• **Science and Technology –** Helps member nations apply nuclear science to improve health care (such as cancer treatment), agriculture, clean energy, and water management.

Environment

Red Panda

International Red Panda Day was observed on September 19, 2026.

• **Endangered Status** – Fewer than 10,000 wild red pandas remain, with some estimates placing numbers as low as 2,500.

• **Key Habitats** – Native to the Eastern Himalayas and parts of China, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, and India (including Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and northern West Bengal).

• **Main Threats** – Deforestation, habitat fragmentation, poaching, and the illegal pet trade.

Security

Exercise ‘Veer Guardian 2026’

India-Japan air forces conduct Veer Guardian 2026 exercise in Jodhpur.

• **Participants** – Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF).
• **Location & Duration** – Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan, from 9–22 September 2026 (14 days).
• **First Edition** – Held in Japan in 2023.
• **Aircraft** – IAF-LCA Tejas, Su-30MKI and Rafale; JASDF – F-2A fighter aircraft.
• **Focus** – Air combat manoeuvring (ACM), advanced operational missions, mission planning and tactical coordination.
• **Objectives** – Enhance interoperability, combat readiness, joint operational capabilities and exchange of professional expertise.
• **Significance** – Strengthens India–Japan defence cooperation and supports a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

SLINEX-26

The 13th edition of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise, SLINEX-26, took place in Visakhapatnam from September 17 to September 21, 2026.

• **Location –** Visakhapatnam, under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command.

• **Participating Ships:**

- **Indian Navy –** INS Kavaratti (indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette) and INS Jyoti (Fleet Tanker).
- **Sri Lanka Navy –** SLNS Sindurala.

• **Phases:**

• **Harbour Phase –** Included an opening ceremony on INS Kavaratti, professional interactions, cross-deck visits, yoga, sports, and cultural events.

• **Sea Phase –** Focused on coordinated maritime operations, advanced tactical maneuvers, and improving operational synergy and interoperability.

• **Objective –** Aligned with India's MAHASAGAR vision and **'Neighbourhood First'** policy to promote a secure, stable, and inclusive maritime environment in the Indian Ocean Region.

Science

India’s First Approved Dengue Vaccine

India to Launch First Approved Dengue Vaccine Qdenga in 2027.

• **Approval & Age Group –** Approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) for individuals aged 4 to 60 years.

• **Dosage Schedule –** Administered as a two-dose regimen given three months apart.

• **Coverage –** Designed as a live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine to protect against all four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4). No pre-vaccination screening is required.

• **Private Market –** Dr. Reddy's Laboratories signed an exclusive agreement with Takeda to promote and distribute Qdenga in India's private market for both pediatric and adult vaccination.

• **Public Market –** Takeda retains rights for the public market in India while maintaining overall medical and brand oversight.

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Business Climate Survey 2026

India ranked first among 41 global markets in the Business Climate Survey 2026.

• **Released by** – Swedish Chamber of Commerce in India.

• **Shared by** – Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

• **Objective** – Assess Swedish companies’ perspectives on economic performance, business outlook and operating conditions in international markets.

• **Significance** – Highlights India’s business environment, stability, growth prospects and ease of doing business amid global economic uncertainty.

Miscellaneous

International Conference on "The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated at the International Conference on "The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics" that India's per capita carbon emissions are less than half the global average.

- **Organizer –** National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- **Dates –** September 19–20, 2026.
- **Venue –** Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- **Participants –** Judicial experts from 17 countries
- **Key Highlights from the Conference**
- **Per Capita Disparity –** Developed nations emit six times more carbon than India.
- **Fair Share –** Developing countries face unfair blame for emissions.
- **G20 Leadership –** India met Paris Agreement goals ahead of schedule.
- **Renewable Focus –** Clean energy drives India's sustainable growth.
- **Global Alliances –** Initiatives include the International Solar Alliance and Mission LiFE.

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