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NEWS COVERED

Business News, financial news, economy
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English



Top Stories of The Day

- *UIDAI Partners with MapmyIndia to Show Authorised Aadhaar Centres on Mappls App*
- *Reserve Bank of India Allows INR Exchange at Forex Counters in International Airport Departure Areas*
- *Parliament Declares Amaravati as Permanent Capital of Andhra Pradesh*
- *Sri Lanka Announces 6-Month Free Tourist Visa Scheme for 39 Countries Including India*
- *United States Introduces MATCH Act to Curb China's Access to Advanced Chipmaking Technology*
- *Central Board of Secondary Education Introduces AI & Computational Thinking Curriculum from Class 3*
- *Centre Approves Major Bureaucratic Reshuffle, Appoints New Secretaries Across Key Ministries*
- *Ashwini Bhide Becomes First Woman Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation*
- *Gianluigi Buffon Resigns After Italy national football team Fails to Qualify for FIFA World Cup 2026*
- *"Greater Israel" Debate Resurfaces Amid Escalating Iran-Israel conflict*

UIDAI Partners with MapmyIndia to Show Authorised Aadhaar Centres on Mapppls App



- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has partnered with MapmyIndia to display authorised Aadhaar centres on the Mapppls app.
- The initiative aims to help citizens easily locate verified Aadhaar enrolment and update centres.
- Users will be able to access accurate location-based information, reducing dependence on unauthorised or fake centres.
- The collaboration focuses on enhancing ease of living and digital service delivery.

Important Features of the Initiative

- Display of only authorised Aadhaar centres to ensure authenticity
- Information about:
 - Type of services (enrolment/update)
 - Centre location and accessibility
- Helps in preventing fraud and misinformation related to Aadhaar services
- Improves last-mile service access using digital maps

Additional Key Facts

UIDAI

- Established: 2009
- Parent Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and IT
- Function: Issues Aadhaar, world's largest biometric ID system

Aadhaar

- 12-digit unique identity number
- Used for authentication in welfare schemes, banking, telecom, etc.
- UIDAI operates 60,000+ Aadhaar centres across India
- Similar initiative: UIDAI has also partnered with Google Maps to display Aadhaar centres, showing:
 - Services offered
 - Timings & accessibility features

RBI Allows Exchange of INR at Forex Counters in International Airports



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted the exchange of Indian Rupees (INR) at foreign exchange counters located in international airport departure areas, especially beyond immigration and security zones.

Key Highlights of the Decision

- Travellers can now exchange INR at forex counters situated in Duty-Free / Security Hold Areas of international airports.
- The facility is available to both residents and non-residents.
- Earlier, such counters mainly dealt with foreign currency exchange and limited INR transactions.
- The move enhances last-minute convenience for outbound passengers.

Objective of the Initiative

- To improve ease of doing transactions for travellers
- To allow better utilisation of unused Indian currency before departure
- To strengthen customer-friendly financial services at airports

Regulatory Framework

- The decision involves amendments to RBI's Master Direction on Money Changing Activities
- Forex counters operate under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
- Authorised dealers are permitted to carry out such transactions under RBI guidelines

Additional Key Facts:

- RBI
- Established: 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Governor: Sanjay Malhotra, IAS
- Deputy Governors: Shirish Chandra Murmu, Swaminathan Janakiraman, T. Rabi Sankar, Poonam Gupta
- Governs monetary policy and currency issuance

FEMA, 1999

- Replaced FERA (1973)
- Focuses on facilitating external trade and payments

Forex services at airports are part of India's push toward:

- Ease of travel
- Digital and financial inclusion

Parliament Passes Bill Declaring Amaravati as Permanent Capital of Andhra Pradesh

- The Indian Parliament has passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, granting statutory status to Amaravati as

the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh.



Key Highlights

- The Bill was passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- It amends the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- Amaravati is now officially recognised as the only capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- The move provides legal clarity and ends long-standing uncertainty over the capital issue.
- The Bill follows a resolution passed by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly (March 2026).

Objective of the Bill

- To provide constitutional/legal backing to Amaravati as capital
- To ensure administrative stability and clarity
- To boost investor confidence and infrastructure development
- To resolve disputes arising after the 2014 bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh

Background

- Under the 2014 Act, Hyderabad served as a temporary joint capital for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for up to 10 years.
- After bifurcation, Andhra Pradesh faced absence of a permanent capital and financial challenges.
- A three-capital model (Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, Kurnool) was proposed earlier but is now effectively discontinued.

Amaravati:

- Located on the banks of the Krishna River
- Planned as a greenfield capital city
- Developed under the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) involving thousands of farmers
- Around 30,000+ farmers contributed land for capital development

Sri Lanka to Launch 6-Month Free Tourist Visa Programme for 39 Countries



- Sri Lanka has announced a six-month pilot programme to grant free tourist visas to passport holders from 39 countries, including India, to boost tourism and economic recovery.

Key Highlights

- The scheme will provide free tourist visas (no visa fee) to travellers from 39 countries.
- It will be implemented as a 6-month pilot project.
- The initiative aims to increase international tourist arrivals and revive the tourism sector.
- Countries included cover major global tourism markets such as India, USA, UK, and others.
- Tourists will generally be allowed short-term stays (around 30 days) under this scheme.

Objective of the Initiative

- To revive the tourism industry affected by economic crisis and pandemic
- To attract higher foreign tourist inflow
- To boost foreign exchange earnings and economic recovery

- To position Sri Lanka as a tourist-friendly destination

Background

- Earlier, Sri Lanka had launched a pilot visa-free scheme for 7 countries (including India, China, Japan).
- Due to positive results, the scheme has been expanded to 39–40 countries.
- The country is targeting millions of tourist arrivals annually to strengthen its economy.

Tourism in Sri Lanka

- Major contributor to GDP and foreign exchange earnings
- Key attractions: beaches, tea plantations, heritage sites

Visa System

- Sri Lanka uses Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) for short visits
- Even under free visa schemes, ETA approval may still be required

Economic Context

- Sri Lanka faced a severe economic crisis in 2022, impacting tourism
- Tourism revival is a key part of economic recovery strategy

US Introduces MATCH Act to Restrict China's Access to Advanced Chipmaking Technology



- The United States has introduced the MATCH Act (Multilateral Alignment of Technology Controls on Hardware Act) to restrict China's access to critical semiconductor manufacturing equipment, especially tools required for producing advanced AI chips.

Key Highlights

- The MATCH Act aims to impose strict export controls on chipmaking tools supplied to China.
- It targets advanced semiconductor manufacturing equipment, including lithography machines.
- The bill proposes country-wide restrictions, not just company-specific bans.
- It also restricts maintenance, servicing, and technical support for such equipment.
- Major Chinese firms like Huawei, SMIC, and YMTC are specifically targeted.

Objective of the Act

- To limit China's capability to produce advanced semiconductors
- To maintain the US technological dominance in AI and chip manufacturing
- To prevent use of such technologies for military and strategic purposes
- To ensure coordination with allies like Japan and the Netherlands

Key Provisions

- Ban on export of "chokepoint" semiconductor manufacturing tools
- Expansion of restrictions to services and upgrades of existing machines
- Inclusion of all facilities of targeted Chinese companies under restrictions
- Push for uniform export controls among allied countries

Background & Context

- Semiconductor technology is central to AI, defence systems, and modern electronics

- Only a few countries—USA, Japan, and the Netherlands—dominate advanced chipmaking tools.
- The US has already imposed restrictions on advanced AI chips, and this Act targets the production equipment itself
- China is actively working towards self-reliance in semiconductor manufacturing

Additional Key Facts:

- Semiconductors (Chips)
- Core components in devices like smartphones, computers, and defence systems
- Crucial for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and high-performance computing

Lithography Technology

- Used to print circuits on silicon wafers
- Types: EUV (Extreme Ultraviolet) and DUV (Deep Ultraviolet)

Geopolitical Importance

- Chip supply chains are a major part of US–China strategic competition
- Export controls are used as a tool of economic and technological diplomacy

CBSE Introduces AI & Computational Thinking Curriculum from Class 3



- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced a new curriculum on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computational Thinking (CT) for students from Class 3

onwards, starting from the 2026–27 academic session.

Key Highlights

- The curriculum will be implemented for Classes 3 to 8 in the first phase.
- It focuses on developing logical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy at an early stage.
- AI and CT will be integrated across subjects, not treated as a separate subject in early classes.
- Learning will emphasize activity-based and project-based methods, reducing dependency on devices.
- Advanced AI concepts will be introduced gradually in higher classes (VI–VIII and beyond).

Objective of the Initiative

- To make students future-ready in an AI-driven world
- To build analytical and computational skills from an early age
- To promote responsible and ethical use of technology
- To align education with modern technological developments

Policy & Framework Alignment

- The initiative is aligned with:
- National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)
- National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023
- Developed with coordination between CBSE and NCERT

Additional Key Facts:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Refers to machines simulating human intelligence
- Used in areas like healthcare, finance, and defence

Computational Thinking (CT)

- Includes skills like:
- Pattern recognition
- Logical sequencing
- Problem decomposition
- India becomes one of the early countries to introduce AI education at the primary level
- Teacher training will be conducted under:
- NISHTHA Programme (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement)

Cabinet Approves Major Bureaucratic Reshuffle; New Secretaries Appointed in Key Ministries



- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a major bureaucratic reshuffle, appointing several senior IAS officers as Secretaries and Additional Secretaries across key ministries and departments.

Key Highlights

- Chanchal Kumar (1992 batch IAS, Bihar cadre) appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B).
- He replaces Sanjay Jaju, who has been shifted to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
- Rohit Kansal appointed as Secretary, Department of Rural Development.
- Bhuvnesh Kumar (UIDAI CEO) appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Tourism.
- Srivatsa Krishna shifted to Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- Sanjay Lohiya appointed as Special Secretary, Department of Financial Services (Finance Ministry) and will later take over as Secretary.

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- Tejveer Singh appointed Secretary, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.
- Nivedita Shukla Verma moved to Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) with additional charge of pensions.

Objective of the Reshuffle

- To ensure efficient governance and administrative continuity
- To place experienced officers in key policy-making roles
- To strengthen implementation of government programmes
- To improve coordination across ministries

About the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)

- Headed by the Prime Minister of India
- Responsible for appointments of senior bureaucrats (Joint Secretary and above)
- Ensures centralised and merit-based postings

Senior IAS Officer Ashwini Bhide Appointed as First Woman BMC Commissioner



- Senior IAS officer Ashwini Bhide has been appointed as the Municipal Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), becoming the first woman to hold this post in its history.

Key Highlights

- Ashwini Bhide is a 1995-batch IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre.
- She succeeds Bhushan Gagrani, who retired from the post.
- This is the first time in over 160 years that a woman has been appointed as BMC Commissioner.
- The appointment was made by the Maharashtra Government as part of an administrative reshuffle.
- She has previously served as Managing Director of Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation and held key administrative roles.

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC):

- India's richest municipal corporation
- Responsible for urban governance of Mumbai
- Established under the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, 1888
- Mayor: Ritu Tawde
- Deputy Mayor: Sanjay Ghadi

Italy Football Crisis: Gianluigi Buffon Resigns After World Cup Qualification Failure



- Legendary goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has resigned from his role as head of delegation of the Italy national football team following Italy's failure to qualify for the FIFA World Cup 2026.

Key Highlights

- Italy failed to qualify for the third consecutive FIFA World Cup after losing a playoff match.

- Following this failure, both:
- Gianluigi Buffon (delegation head) and
- Gabriele Gravina (President of Italian Football Federation)
- resigned from their posts.
- Buffon stated that he had initially offered resignation immediately after the defeat.
- Italy's football system is currently facing a major crisis and calls for structural reforms.
- A new federation president will be elected in an extraordinary assembly.

Background

- Italy last qualified for the FIFA World Cup in 2014.
- It is a four-time World Cup champion (1934, 1938, 1982, 2006).
- The team won UEFA Euro 2020, but has struggled in World Cup qualifications afterward.

FIFA:

- Founded: 21 May 1904
- Founder: Robert Guérin
- Founded at: Paris, France
- Headquarters: Global office: Zurich, Switzerland
- President: Gianni Infantino
- Secretary general: Mattias Grafström

'Greater Israel' Debate Resurfaces Amid Escalating Iran-Israel Conflict



- The concept of "Greater Israel" has come back into focus amid the ongoing 2026 Iran war, as regional tensions rise and Israel expands military operations in neighbouring areas.

Key Highlights

- The term "Greater Israel" refers to an ideological and historical concept envisioning Israel's borders extending beyond its current territory.
- In its broadest interpretation, it includes regions from the Nile (Egypt) to the Euphrates (Iraq).
- The idea has gained attention again due to:
- Israel's ongoing military actions
- Expansion of operations into neighbouring regions like Lebanon
- Analysts and critics link current geopolitical developments with long-standing territorial debates in the Middle East.

Why is it in News Now?

- The ongoing Iran-Israel conflict has:
- Increased regional instability
- Raised concerns about territorial ambitions and security strategies
- Military actions against Iran and proxy groups (like Hezbollah) have revived discussions on Israel's long-term regional goals

Background of the Concept

- The idea of "Greater Israel" is rooted in:
- Biblical references and historical narratives
- Political interpretations by some groups advocating expanded borders
- It is not an official policy of the Israeli government, but rather an ideological concept debated in political and academic circles
- The concept remains highly controversial internationally

Geopolitical Context

- The Iran-Israel conflict has existed since 1979
- The 2026 Iran war began after:

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- Rising tensions over Iran's nuclear program
- Failed diplomatic negotiations
- Military strikes by the US and Israel
- The conflict has:
 - Disrupted global oil supply routes
 - Increased instability across the Middle East
 - Involved multiple actors like Hezbollah and Gulf nations

Additional Key Facts:

- Greater Israel Concept
- Based on interpretations of ancient territorial boundaries
- Includes areas in modern-day:
 - Palestine
 - Lebanon
 - Jordan
 - Syria

- Iraq

Strategic Importance of Region

- Middle East is crucial for:
 - Global energy supply (oil & gas)
 - Geopolitical influence

Strait of Hormuz

- Key global oil transit route affected during the conflict

The debate highlights:

- Territorial sovereignty issues
- Security concerns vs expansion narratives

Lets Revise

- ❖ UIDAI has partnered with which company to display authorised Aadhaar centres on Mappls app? **MapmyIndia**
- ❖ RBI recently allowed exchange of INR at which places? **Forex counters at international airports**
- ❖ Which Bill declared Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh? **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026**
- ❖ Which country announced a 6-month free tourist visa programme for 39 countries? **Sri Lanka**
- ❖ How many countries are included in Sri Lanka's free visa programme? **39 countries**
- ❖ Which country introduced the MATCH Act to restrict China's chip access? **United States**

- ❖ Which board introduced AI and Computational Thinking curriculum from Class 3?
Central Board of Secondary Education
- ❖ Who has been appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting?
Chanchal Kumar
- ❖ Who has been appointed as the first woman Commissioner of BMC? **Ashwini Bhide**
- ❖ Who resigned as President of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC)? **Gabriele Gravina**
- ❖ The idea of Greater Israel broadly extends between which two rivers? **Nile River and Euphrates River**

Current affairs form the dynamic backbone of preparation for competitive examinations such as UPSC, SSC, and banking services. They bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world developments, transforming static knowledge into practical understanding. In an age marked by rapid geopolitical changes, economic reforms, and policy innovations, a significant portion of these exams—often 30–35%—draws directly or indirectly from recent events.

Mastery of current affairs not only enhances scores but also cultivates analytical thinking, clarity of perspective, and decision-making skills—qualities indispensable for future administrators and professionals.


Key Dimensions of Importance

- **Syllabus Integration:** Current events seamlessly connect with core subjects like polity, economy, history, and geography. For instance, understanding constitutional provisions becomes more meaningful when linked to recent judicial reforms or landmark judgments.
- **Scoring Edge:** Many questions in prelims and mains are derived from contemporary developments. A well-prepared aspirant can secure quick and confident marks through accurate knowledge of high-yield topics from reliable news sources.
- **Interview Excellence:** In personality tests and interviews, panels evaluate awareness of pressing national and global issues—ranging from climate diplomacy to economic policy—requiring thoughtful, balanced responses.

As many toppers emphasize, current affairs are not a separate subject but the soul of exam preparation. Consistent engagement with credible sources like The Hindu, PIB releases, and Yojana magazine strengthens critical thinking and nurtures a well-rounded outlook, moving beyond rote memorization.

In a competitive landscape where millions aspire for limited opportunities, current affairs serve as a decisive differentiator. Adopting structured habits—daily news analysis, monthly revisions, and regular mock tests—empowers candidates to adapt confidently to evolving exam patterns. Ignoring this essential component is like navigating uncertain waters without direction—while mastering it ensures clarity, confidence, and a competitive advantage.

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