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English



Top Stories of The Day

- *Digital Transformation Strengthens Panchayati Raj Institutions Through eGramSwaraj and AI-based SabhaSaar for Better Governance*
- *India Records Highest Number of Doping Violations in Athletics, Surpasses Kenya: AIU Report*
- *India's Forex Reserves Decline by \$30.5 Billion in March Due to RBI Intervention and Global Currency Fluctuations*
- *India Emerges as World's Third-Largest Renewable Energy Market with Rapid Solar and Wind Expansion: International Renewable Energy Agency Report*
- *India Delivers Stellar Performance with 16 Medals at World Archery Para Series in Bangkok, Showcasing Rising Talent*
- *Chetak Screen Awards 2026 Highlight Shift Towards Content-Driven Cinema and Technical Excellence in Bollywood*
- *Wipro Signs \$1 Billion Deal with Olam Group and Acquires Mindsprint to Boost Digital Transformation Capabilities*
- *Renowned Russian Missile Designer Alexander Leonov, Key Figure Behind Hypersonic Zircon Missile, Passes Away at 74*
- *India and South Korea Partner to Enhance Shipbuilding Skills and Develop Maritime Workforce Under Vision 2047*
- *Indian Space Research Organisation Conducts Mission MITRA in Leh to Study Team Behaviour for Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission*

Digital Transformation of Panchayati Raj Institutions



- The Government of India has highlighted significant progress in strengthening digital governance at the grassroots level through platforms like eGramSwaraj and the AI-enabled SabhaSaar tool, aimed at improving transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

eGramSwaraj Platform: Enhancing Financial Transparency

- The eGramSwaraj portal serves as an integrated digital solution for Panchayats, enabling online planning, budgeting, accounting, and fund tracking. With coverage extending to nearly all 2.6 lakh Panchayats across India, the platform has facilitated transactions worth over ₹3 lakh crore, ensuring real-time monitoring of public funds. This initiative reduces leakages, strengthens audit mechanisms, and aligns with the broader objectives of the Digital India Programme and e-Governance reforms.

SabhaSaar: AI for Participatory Democracy

- The introduction of SabhaSaar, an AI-powered voice-to-text application, marks a major step towards inclusive governance. It enables automatic generation of Gram Sabha meeting minutes, attendance records, and resolutions. With support expanded to 23 Indian languages, the tool ensures greater accessibility and encourages active participation of rural citizens,

thereby strengthening the concept of direct democracy at the village level.

Significance for Governance and Development

- These initiatives play a crucial role in deepening grassroots democracy by empowering Panchayats with digital tools. They enhance transparency in fund utilization, improve administrative efficiency, and support the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, they foster citizen engagement and promote accountability in rural governance.

Challenges and Concerns

- Despite these advancements, several challenges persist, including the digital divide in rural areas, limited digital literacy among Panchayat officials, and concerns related to cybersecurity and data protection. Additionally, the incomplete devolution of powers to Panchayats, particularly regarding the 3Fs (Funds, Functions, and Functionaries), continues to hinder effective decentralization.

Way Forward

- To maximize the impact of these initiatives, there is a need to expand rural internet connectivity under projects like BharatNet, enhance digital training for local officials, and further improve AI tools to support regional dialects. Strengthening data protection frameworks and ensuring full devolution of powers to PRIs will be essential for achieving holistic rural governance.

Key Constitutional and Static Facts

- The Panchayati Raj system was granted constitutional status through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, incorporated under Part IX (Articles 243–243O) of the Constitution. The Gram Sabha (Article 243A) forms the foundation of direct democracy in rural India. Additionally, initiatives like the e-

Panchayat Mission Mode Project and Public Financial Management System (PFMS) complement digital governance by enabling efficient fund tracking and service delivery.

India Tops Global Doping List in Athletics (AIU Report)



- According to the latest data released by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), India has surpassed Kenya to record the highest number of ineligible athletes due to doping violations, raising serious concerns about integrity in Indian athletics.

Key Highlights

- India currently has 148 track and field athletes declared ineligible, the highest globally, overtaking Kenya and placing Russia third in the list. This data reflects the increasing prevalence of doping violations in Indian athletics and highlights weaknesses in monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
- The list includes athletes serving bans not only for doping but also for related offences such as tampering with samples, evading tests, trafficking banned substances, and whereabouts failures, all of which attract similar penalties under anti-doping rules.

About Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)

- The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) is an independent body established by World Athletics to ensure fair play in global athletics. It is responsible for:
- Detecting doping violations

- Conducting investigations
- Enforcing bans and sanctions
- Monitoring athletes and their support personnel
- Major Concerns for India

- The development indicates a systemic issue in Indian sports, as India has also previously ranked high in doping cases globally. According to reports, India recorded around 260 positive doping cases in a recent year, with a high positivity rate (~3.6%), among the highest worldwide.

This raises concerns about:

- Lack of awareness among athletes
- Poor regulation of supplements
- Inadequate testing infrastructure
- Pressure to perform in competitive sports

Steps Taken & Reforms

- Post major sporting events like the Olympics, reforms have been initiated such as:
- Decentralisation of training camps
- Increased role of private training institutions
- Strengthening monitoring mechanisms
- However, experts suggest that stricter enforcement and education programs are still required to curb doping effectively.

Global Context

- Doping remains a global issue affecting multiple countries. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) oversees international anti-doping efforts and sets the World Anti-Doping Code, which governs penalties and testing standards worldwide.

Key Facts

- AIU → Anti-doping body under World Athletics
- India → Highest number of ineligible athletes (148)
- Kenya → Second position

- Russia → Third position
- Doping violations include → Sample tampering, evasion, trafficking
- WADA HQ → Montreal, Canada

India's Forex Reserves Witness Sharp Decline



- India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves witnessed a sharp decline of about \$30.5 billion in March, marking one of the steepest monthly falls in recent times, as per recent data.

Key Highlights

- India's forex reserves dropped significantly due to multiple factors, including valuation losses, RBI intervention in currency markets, and fluctuations in global financial conditions. The fall reflects pressure on the Indian Rupee amid global uncertainties.
- The decline was mainly attributed to a reduction in:
- Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) – the largest component of reserves
- Changes in gold reserves valuation
- Movements in global currencies like the US dollar

What are Forex Reserves?

- Foreign exchange reserves are assets held by a country's central bank (in India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)) in foreign currencies. These include:
- Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)
- Gold reserves
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)

- Reserve position in the IMF
- Reasons Behind the Decline
- RBI Intervention: RBI sells dollars to stabilize the rupee during volatility
- Dollar Appreciation: Strengthening of US dollar reduces value of other currencies held in reserves
- Global Financial Uncertainty: Capital outflows from emerging markets
- Import Bills: High crude oil prices increase dollar demand
- Significance of Forex Reserves

Forex reserves are crucial for:

- Maintaining currency stability
- Meeting import obligations
- Boosting investor confidence
- Acting as a buffer during external shocks
- India still maintains a comfortable level of reserves, sufficient to cover several months of imports.

Global Context

- Countries worldwide manage forex reserves to tackle economic shocks. India is among the top countries globally in forex reserves, along with:
- China (largest reserves)
- Japan
- Switzerland

Key Facts

- RBI → Custodian of India's forex reserves
- Largest component → Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)
- SDR → Issued by International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Forex reserves used for → Currency stability & import financing

India Emerges as 3rd Largest Renewable Energy Market (IRENA Report)



India Becomes 3rd Largest Renewable Energy Market in 2025 – Adds 45 GW Capacity

- According to the latest report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), India has emerged as the third-largest renewable energy market globally in 2025, after China and the United States.

Key Highlights

- India recorded a major milestone by adding around 45 GW of renewable energy capacity in 2025, driven primarily by rapid expansion in solar and wind energy.
- The country's total installed renewable energy capacity reached approximately 250.5 GW in 2025, rising significantly from about 175.9 GW in 2023, indicating strong growth momentum.
- Solar energy played a dominant role, contributing nearly 37 GW of new capacity, making India one of the top contributors globally after China.
- Wind energy also witnessed growth, with about 6.3 GW addition, while hydropower capacity increased steadily along with pumped storage projects.

Global Context

- Globally, renewable energy capacity witnessed record expansion, with solar energy leading the transition. Countries with higher renewable capacity are better insulated from fossil fuel price shocks and geopolitical uncertainties, highlighting the importance of clean energy.

Significance for India

- India's rise to the third position reflects:

- Progress towards energy security and reduced import dependence
- Commitment to climate change mitigation
- Advancement towards sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Strengthening of India's position in global clean energy leadership
- It also aligns with India's long-term goal of achieving 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

Key Drivers of Growth

- Government initiatives like National Solar Mission
- Increased FDI in renewable sector
- Competitive tariffs making renewables cheaper
- Expansion of solar parks and wind corridors
- Focus on green hydrogen mission

Challenges

- Land acquisition issues
- Grid integration and storage limitations
- Dependence on imports for solar modules
- Financing constraints for large-scale projects

Way Forward

- Strengthen battery storage and grid infrastructure
- Promote domestic manufacturing under Atmanirbhar Bharat
- Enhance policy support for hybrid (solar + wind) projects
- Increase investment in green hydrogen and offshore wind

Key Facts

- IRENA HQ → Abu Dhabi, UAE
- India → 3rd largest renewable energy market (2025)
- Top countries → China (1st), USA (2nd), India (3rd)
- Largest contributor → Solar energy

- India target → 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030

India's Strong Performance at World Archery Para Series, Bangkok



- India delivered an outstanding performance at the World Archery Para Series held in Bangkok, Thailand, winning a total of 16 medals, including 7 gold, showcasing its growing dominance in para-archery.

Key Highlights

- India finished the tournament with 7 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals, marking one of its best performances in international para archery events.
- A major highlight was Payal Nag, a teenage quadruple amputee archer, who defeated world No. 1 Sheetal Devi to win gold in the compound women's final, demonstrating emerging talent in Indian para sports.
- In the men's category, Toman Kumar secured gold in the compound event, while Bhawna clinched the recurve women's title with a dominant performance.
- India also secured podium finishes through experienced athletes like Harvinder Singh, a Paralympic medallist, who won silver, highlighting a strong mix of youth and experience in the team.

About Para Archery

- Para archery is governed globally by World Archery and is a key sport in the Paralympic Games. Athletes are classified based on the type

and extent of disability, ensuring fair competition.

India's Performance in Archery:

- India has shown consistent improvement in archery:
- First world champion in archery → Dola Banerjee (2007)
- World No. 1 Indian archer → Deepika Kumari
- Rising para star → Sheetal Devi, who also won gold at the World Para Archery Championships 2025
- India has also performed strongly in events like the Asian Para Games and Archery World Cups, indicating steady progress.

Government Support & Initiatives

- TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) → Financial and training support for elite athletes
- Sports Authority of India (SAI) → Infrastructure and coaching
- Khelo India Programme → Grassroots talent development

Chetak Screen Awards 2026 Honors Excellence in Indian Cinema



Why in News:

- The Chetak Screen Awards 2026 recognised outstanding achievements in Indian cinema, with Dhurandhar emerging as the biggest winner (14 awards), while Homebound secured the prestigious Best Film award.

Background:

- The awards are organised by the The Indian Express Group.
- Winners are selected by the independent Screen Academy.
- The Academy includes eminent filmmakers like Shoojit Sircar, Deepa Mehta, Rajkumar Hirani, Vidya Balan, etc.
- Evaluation is done through a structured voting process focusing on:
 - Creativity & storytelling
 - Technical excellence
 - Audience impact
 - Innovation

Key Highlights / Winners:

- Top Awards:
- Best Film: Homebound (beat strong contenders like Dhurandhar, Chhaava, Dhadak 2)
- Best Director: Aditya Dhar (Dhurandhar)
- Best Actor (Male): Ranveer Singh (Dhurandhar)
- Best Actor (Female): Yami Gautam (Haq)

Supporting & Performance Categories:

- Best Supporting Actor (Male): Akshaye Khanna (Dhurandhar)
- Best Supporting Actor (Female): Shalini Vatsa (Homebound)
- Best Breakthrough Director: Shazia Iqbal (Dhadak 2)
- Best New Actor (Male): Ahaan Panday (Saiyaara)
- Best New Actor (Female): Aneet Padda (Saiyaara)

Technical Excellence (Major Wins by Dhurandhar):

- Best Cinematography: Vikash Nowlakha
- Best Background Score: Shashwat Sachdev
- Best Editing: Shivkumar V. Panicker
- Best Choreography: Vijay Ganguly
- Best Sound Design: Bishwadeep Chatterjee
- Best VFX: Dhurandhar team

Writing & Special Categories:

- Best Screenplay/Story: Homebound
- Best Dialogue: Dhurandhar
- Best Lyrics: Gulzar (Gustaakh Ishq)
- Best Film (Gender Sensitivity): Haq

Music Awards:

- Best Song: Saiyaara (Title Track)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Faheem Abdullah
- Best Female Playback Singer: Shreya Ghoshal
- OTT Category (Digital Cinema Rise):
 - Best OTT Film: Stolen
 - Best Director (OTT): Karan Tejpal
 - Best Actor (OTT): Abhishek Banerjee
 - Best Actress (OTT): Sanya Malhotra

Context:

- The awards reflect a shift in Indian cinema towards content-driven storytelling.
- Strong competition between theatrical films and OTT content highlights changing viewing patterns.
- Recognition of films like Homebound and Haq shows increasing focus on social themes and realism.
- Technical dominance of Dhurandhar indicates rising production quality standards in Bollywood.

Final Takeaway:

- Chetak Screen Awards 2026 underline a new phase of Indian cinema—where content, realism, and technical excellence coexist, with OTT platforms emerging as equally powerful storytelling mediums alongside mainstream films.

Wipro Secures \$1 Billion Deal with Olam Group, Acquires Mindsprint

Why in News:

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- Wipro has signed an 8-year strategic transformation deal worth over \$1 billion with Olam Group and will acquire its IT arm Mindsprint for \$375 million.

**Background:**

- Olam Group is a global food & agri-business firm headquartered in Singapore.
- It employs ~40,000 people and operates in 60+ countries.
- Majority stake is held by Temasek Holdings.
- Mindsprint (founded 2007) is Olam's IT services arm with 3,200+ employees globally.

Context:

- The deal is part of Olam's 2025 Reorganisation Plan, aimed at:
 - Divesting non-core assets
 - Monetising businesses
 - Returning value to shareholders

Key Features / Details:

- Deal Value:
- Total contract: \$1+ billion (~₹9,300 crore)
- Committed spend: \$800 million

Acquisition Details:

- Wipro will acquire 100% stake in Mindsprint
- Deal size: \$375 million (~₹3,494 crore)
- Expected completion: June 2026 (subject to approvals)

Strategic Objectives:

- End-to-end digital transformation for Olam
- Use of AI-powered platform – Wipro Intelligence
- Strengthen farm-to-fork capabilities

Operational Impact:

- Mindsprint becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wipro
- Existing leadership (CEO Suresh Sundararajan) will continue

Significance:

- Strengthens Wipro's position in global agri-tech and digital transformation space.
- Expands AI-driven consulting and enterprise solutions.
- Highlights growing trend of IT firms acquiring captive tech units of global corporations.

Final Takeaway:

- This deal marks a major step for Wipro in expanding AI-led digital transformation services globally, while helping Olam streamline operations and unlock shareholder value.

Russian Missile Designer Alexander Leonov Passes Away at 74**Why in News:**

- Alexander Leonov, a key architect of Russia's hypersonic missile Zircon missile and Indo-

Russian BrahMos NG, has passed away at the age of 74.

Background:

- Leonov served as CEO & Chief Designer of NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOMASH).
- NPOMASH is a key Russian partner in BrahMos Aerospace.
- He played a major role in Russia's missile and space system development.

Key Features / Contributions:

- Zircon (Tsirkon) Missile:
- Hypersonic cruise missile (part of 3K22 system)
- Speed: Up to Mach 9
- Range: 400–1500 km
- Launch Platforms: Naval ships & submarines
- Capability: Can carry conventional and nuclear warheads
- Inducted into service: January 2023

Other Major Contributions:

- Development of:
- Granit missile system
- Vulcan missile system
- Bastion coastal defence system (with Onyx/BrahMos missile)
- Contribution to Indo-Russian BrahMos programme and next-gen BrahMos NG
- Worked on advanced hypersonic vehicle technologies

Awards & Recognition:

- Awarded Golden Star of Hero of Labour (Russia) for contributions to defence technology.

Context:

- Hypersonic missiles like Zircon are crucial in modern warfare due to:
- Ultra-high speed (hard to intercept)
- Precision strike capability

- Strategic deterrence value

Final Takeaway:

- Alexander Leonov's demise marks a significant loss to global defence technology, especially in the field of hypersonic missile systems and India–Russia defence cooperation.

India–South Korea Partnership to Boost Shipbuilding Skills



Why in News:

- The Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has signed a Plan of Implementation with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to strengthen skill development in India's shipbuilding and marine sector.

Background:

- The initiative is aligned with Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.
- Aims to develop a skilled workforce and promote shipbuilding as a key growth sector.
- South Korea brings advanced expertise in global shipbuilding.

Context:

- India's shipbuilding sector faces skill gaps and capacity constraints.
- Need for trained manpower to enhance productivity and global competitiveness.
- Focus on strengthening the maritime economy.

Key Features / Objectives:

- Skill Development Measures:
- Workforce mapping
- Skill gap assessment
- Human resource development roadmap

Research & Collaboration:

- Involvement of Korean vocational and training institutions
- Sector-specific research and strategy building

Workshops & Capacity Building:

- Bilateral workshops in India and South Korea
- Participation of industry, academia, and policymakers

Proposed Training Centre:

- Establishment of Shipbuilding Workforce Development & Technology Cooperation Center in India
- Focus on vocational training, technical skills, and productivity enhancement

Significance:

- Strengthens India-South Korea maritime cooperation
- Boosts Make in India and skill development initiatives
- Enhances India's global competitiveness in shipbuilding
- Promotes employment generation and economic growth

Final Takeaway:

- This collaboration is a major step towards building a future-ready maritime workforce, helping India emerge as a global shipbuilding hub under Vision 2047.

ISRO Conducts Mission MITRA in Leh for Gaganyaan Preparation

Why in News:

- ISRO has launched Mission MITRA in Leh (Ladakh) from April 2–9, a first-of-its-kind team behavioural study to support human spaceflight missions like Gaganyaan.



Background:

- Mission MITRA is designed jointly by ISRO and the IAF Institute of Aerospace Medicine.
- It focuses on crew safety and performance, which are critical for human space missions.
- Leh (~3,500 m altitude) provides space-like extreme conditions.

Context:

- Human space missions require:
- Strong team coordination
- Psychological resilience
- Effective decision-making under stress
- Such analogue missions simulate real space conditions on Earth.\

Key Features / Objectives:

- Behavioural Study Focus:
- Crew (Gaganyatris) & ground team coordination
- Decision-making under stress
- Communication effectiveness

Environmental Conditions:

- High altitude (~3,500 m)
- Hypoxia (low oxygen)
- Extreme cold & isolation

Performance Analysis:

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- Physiological response
- Psychological resilience
- Operational efficiency

Purpose:

- Improve team interoperability
- Enhance mission safety & success rate

Significance:

- First such team behavioural study by India in space context

- Crucial step towards Gaganyaan mission readiness
- Helps simulate real space challenges on Earth
- Strengthens India's human spaceflight capability

Final Takeaway:

- Mission MITRA is a critical preparatory step for Gaganyaan, focusing on human behaviour, teamwork, and stress management, essential for safe and successful space missions.

Lets Revise

- ❖ Which Constitutional Amendment granted constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions? **The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.**
- ❖ Which country topped the AIU list of ineligible athletes due to doping? **India**
- ❖ Who manages India's foreign exchange reserves? **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
- ❖ What is the largest component of forex reserves? **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)**
- ❖ Which organization releases the Renewable Capacity Statistics report? **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**
- ❖ What is India's rank in global renewable energy market in 2025? **Third**
- ❖ Which two countries rank above India in renewable energy capacity? **China and the United States**
- ❖ Where was the World Archery Para Series (2026) held? **Bangkok, Thailand**
- ❖ How many medals did India win at the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok? **16 medals**
- ❖ Chetak Screen Awards 2026 mein Best Film ka award kis film ko mila? **Homebound**
- ❖ Chetak Screen Awards 2026 mein sabse zyada awards kis film ne jeete? **Dhurandhar (14 awards)**
- ❖ Wipro ne kis company ke saath \$1 billion ka transformation deal sign kiya? **Olam Group**
- ❖ Who was Alexander Leonov? **Alexander Leonov**
- ❖ Which ministry signed the agreement with KOICA? **Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways**
- ❖ What is Mission MITRA? **A team behavioural study for human spaceflight missions**

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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