

22nd–28th September 2025 Weekly Current Affairs: National News, Defence, Sports, Awards, Agriculture & International Relations for UPSC, SSC, Banking & State PCS, Free PDF

National News & Governance: Weekly Current Affairs

Vande Bharat Train to Link Ferozpur to Delhi

The announcement of a Vande Bharat Express connecting **Ferozpur to Delhi** marks a major boost in regional connectivity. **Ferozpur**, a border town with historical significance, will now be directly linked to the national capital via a semi-high-speed train. This development is expected to enhance trade, tourism, and mobility for residents of Punjab.

For aspirants, this news is relevant under infrastructure development, Indian Railways modernization, and regional planning. The Vande Bharat initiative is often cited in questions related to Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and transport policy. Understanding its impact on border towns like Ferozpur adds depth to answers in mains and interviews.

Rajpura–Mohali Rail Link: A Strategic Boost to Punjab's Connectivity

The announcement of a new rail link between **Rajpura and Mohali** marks a significant step in strengthening Punjab's transport infrastructure. Rajpura, a key junction in Patiala district, and Mohali, a rapidly growing urban hub adjacent to Chandigarh, will now be directly connected—reducing travel time, easing passenger movement, and facilitating cargo transport. This rail corridor is expected to benefit daily commuters, students, and businesses operating between central Punjab and the Tricity region (Chandigarh–Mohali–Panchkula).

For aspirants preparing for state PCS and national-level exams, this development is important under topics like **infrastructure development, regional planning, and economic growth**. It reflects the government's focus on enhancing last-mile connectivity and integrating Tier-2 cities with major urban centers. The rail link also supports the broader goals of **Smart Cities Mission, PM Gati Shakti, and Make in India**, especially in logistics and industrial expansion.

Moreover, this project holds cultural and strategic relevance. Rajpura has historical significance linked to Sikh heritage and trade routes, while Mohali is home to Punjab's IT sector and international cricket stadium. Linking these two centers not only improves mobility but also strengthens Punjab's socio-economic fabric. Aspirants can use this example in essays on **regional development, urban-rural integration, or transport policy reforms**.

CDS Gets 8-Month Extension

India's **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Anil Chauhan**, received an eight-month extension till May 2026. The CDS plays a crucial role in integrating the three armed forces and streamlining defence planning. The extension ensures continuity in reforms like theatre commands and joint operations.

For aspirants, this is a key topic in defence reforms and administrative structure. Understanding the origin of the CDS post, its mandate, and its impact on national security is vital for GS Paper II and defence exams. It also connects to civil-military relations and strategic planning.

AFSPA Extended in Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was extended for **six months** in **Manipur**, parts of **Nagaland**, and **Arunachal Pradesh**. This law allows armed forces to operate with special powers in "disturbed areas." While it's seen as necessary for counter-insurgency, AFSPA has also faced criticism for alleged human rights violations.

This topic is vital for aspirants preparing for civil services, law enforcement, and defence exams. Understanding the constitutional basis of AFSPA, its implications on federalism, and the balance between security and civil liberties is key. It often appears in GS Paper II and essay papers.

MHA Extends Ban on NSCN(K) and Its Factions

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the ban on the **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang)** and all its factions under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**. This insurgent group has been involved in armed rebellion and cross-border terrorism, especially in the northeastern states of **Nagaland** and **Arunachal Pradesh**. The extension of the ban reflects the government's continued focus on internal security and counter-insurgency operations.

For aspirants, this is a crucial topic under Indian Polity and Governance. Understanding the legal framework of UAPA, the role of AFSPA in the Northeast, and the historical context of insurgency in Nagaland is essential. Questions may also arise in essay writing or interviews about balancing national security with human rights.

Agni-Prime Missile Successfully Test-Fired

India successfully test-fired the **Agni-Prime missile** from a **rail-based mobile launcher system**. With a range of **2000 km**, this next-generation ballistic missile enhances India's strategic

deterrence. The rail-based launch adds mobility and survivability, making it harder for adversaries to track and neutralize.

This development is highly relevant for science and technology, defence strategy, and international relations. Aspirants should understand the difference between **Agni-I** to **Agni-V** series, and the role of DRDO in missile development. Linking this to India's nuclear doctrine and strategic command structure adds depth to answers.

MiG-21 Bison Fighter Aircraft Retired

On **26th September 2025**, the Indian Air Force officially retired the **MiG-21 Bison**, marking the end of an era. Introduced in the **1960s**, the MiG-21 served as India's first supersonic jet and played a pivotal role in the 1971 war and **Kargil conflict**. Despite its legacy, the aircraft had become outdated and was involved in several accidents in recent years, prompting calls for its phase-out.

For aspirants, this event is crucial under defence modernization, aviation history, and strategic planning. Understanding the evolution of India's air power—from MiG-21 to Tejas and Rafale—helps in GS Paper III and defence exams. It also connects to Make in India and indigenous defence production policies.

Explore **Punjab (History & Culture)** to understand how folk music influences social movements and language preservation.

International Relations & Diplomacy

India-Morocco Sign Defence Pact

India and Morocco signed a bilateral agreement to deepen defence cooperation. The pact includes joint training programs, defence manufacturing, and intelligence sharing. **Morocco**, located in North Africa, is emerging as a strategic partner for India in the African continent, especially in counter-terrorism and defence technology.

For aspirants, this news is a gateway to understanding India's expanding global partnerships. It's relevant to international relations, defence diplomacy, and Africa's role in India's foreign policy.

Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Tata's Vehicle Facility in Morocco

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **Tata's** new vehicle manufacturing facility in **Morocco**, marking a significant step in India's defence exports. The facility will produce military-grade vehicles for African and Middle Eastern markets, aligning with India's Make in India and Export Promotion policies.

This development is important for aspirants studying economic diplomacy and defence manufacturing. It showcases India's push for self-reliance and global competitiveness in defence production. Linking this to schemes like DPEPP (Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy) can strengthen answers in GS Paper III and interview discussions.

Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi's Visit to Sri Lanka

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff, undertook a four-day visit to Sri Lanka to strengthen maritime cooperation. The visit included strategic discussions on joint naval exercises, anti-piracy operations, and regional security under India's **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** vision. This move is seen as a counterbalance to China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean Region.

This development is highly relevant for aspirants preparing for defence services and international relations. It highlights India's maritime diplomacy and the importance of naval power in securing trade routes and regional stability. Linking this to India's Neighbourhood First policy and Indo-Pacific strategy can enrich answers in GS Paper II and interview discussions.

Bhutan and Bangladesh Show Interest in FTA

Bhutan and Bangladesh expressed interest in signing a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** to boost regional trade. This move is part of a larger trend of South Asian countries seeking economic integration beyond **SAARC**. The FTA would facilitate smoother trade, reduce tariffs, and enhance connectivity between the two nations.

For aspirants, this news is relevant under international trade, regional cooperation, and economic diplomacy.

Sports & Achievements

India Wins 7th SAFF U-17 Championship

India defeated Bangladesh to win the **7th SAFF U-17 Championship**, reaffirming its dominance in South Asian football. The tournament showcased emerging talent and grassroots development in Indian football. The win is a morale booster ahead of upcoming international fixtures.

This news is relevant for sports GK, youth development, and regional cooperation. Aspirants should understand the structure of SAFF, India's performance history, and AIFF's role in football promotion. Linking this to Khelo India and Fit India Movement adds depth to answers.

India Shines at China Para Badminton International

India's para-athletes delivered a stellar performance at the China Para Badminton International. **Pramod Bhagat** won gold, while **Sukant Kadam and Krishna Nagar** secured silver medals. These athletes have consistently brought laurels to the country, showcasing resilience and excellence in sports.

This news is important for aspirants under sports development, disability empowerment, and international achievements. Para-sports are increasingly featured in essay topics and personality tests. Understanding the classification system, training infrastructure, and government schemes like Khelo India and TOPS adds value to your preparation.

Rashmika-Kapil Pair Wins Air Pistol Mixed Team Gold

Indian shooters **Rashmika and Kapil** won gold in the air pistol mixed team event, continuing India's strong performance in shooting sports. Their win reflects the success of training programs and international exposure provided by the Sports Authority of India.

For aspirants, this is useful under sports GK, Olympic preparation, and gender parity in sports. Understanding shooting disciplines, scoring systems, and India's medal prospects can be helpful in quizzes and interviews. Linking this to schemes like TOPS and Mission Olympic Cell adds value.

Sheetal Devi Wins Gold in Compound Archery

18-year-old **Sheetal Devi** made history by winning gold in the compound individual section at the **World Archery Championships**. She is the **first armless woman archer** to achieve this feat, using her feet to shoot with precision. Her story is a powerful testament to human resilience and innovation.

For aspirants, Sheetal's achievement is a perfect example for essays on disability empowerment, sports inclusion, and overcoming adversity. It also connects to government schemes for para-athletes and inclusive infrastructure. Her story can be cited in ethics papers and personality tests.

Botswana Wins Men's 4x400m Relay in Tokyo

Botswana made history by becoming the **first African** nation to win the men's 4x400m relay at the **World Championships in Tokyo**. **USA** and **South Africa** followed in second and third place. This victory highlights the growing athletic prowess of African nations on the global stage.

For aspirants, this event is relevant to international sports, global south representation, and cultural diplomacy.

Max Verstappen Wins Azerbaijan GP

Red Bull's Max Verstappen clinched the **Azerbaijan Grand Prix** held in **Baku**. Known for its challenging street circuit, the race tested drivers' precision and strategy. Verstappen's win strengthens his lead in the Formula 1 championship standings.

Italy Defends Billie Jean King Cup

Italy successfully defended its **Billie Jean King Cup** title with a 2-0 win over **18-time champions USA**. This victory underscores Italy's growing dominance in women's tennis and its investment in grassroots sports development.

Super Cup to Kick Off in Goa (Excluding Odisha FC)

The **All India Super League clubs** (except Odisha FC) will participate in the upcoming **Super Cup**, scheduled to kick off in Goa in October 2025. The tournament will feature top-tier teams and serve as a platform for scouting new talent and promoting football culture.

This news is relevant for sports GK, tournament structures, and youth development. Aspirants should understand the role of ISL, AIFF, and state associations in football promotion. Linking this to sports economy and regional tourism adds depth to GS Paper III answers.

12th World Para Athletics Championships Begin

The **12th edition** of the World Para Athletics Championships kicked off at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi**. Athletes from across the globe are participating in track and field events, showcasing resilience and competitive spirit. India's hosting of this event reflects its commitment to inclusivity and global sports diplomacy.

For aspirants, this is a rich topic under sports development, disability rights, and international cooperation. Understanding the classification system in para-sports, government schemes like

Khelo India and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and India's performance in previous editions can be useful in essays and interviews.

Learn sports idioms in [English Vocabulary](#).

Arts, Culture & Awards

71st National Film Awards: Celebrating Cinema

The 71st National Film Awards brought a wave of recognition to socially impactful and artistically rich cinema. For the first time, Bollywood icons **Shah Rukh Khan** and Rani **Mukerji** were honored with National Awards—SRK for his performance in *Jawan*, and Rani for *Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway*, a film based on a real-life custody battle. **Vikrant Massey** also shared the spotlight for his role in *12th Fail*, a story that resonated deeply with aspirants and educators alike. **Meghna Gulzar's Sam Bahadur**, a biopic on **Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw**, won the award for Best Film Promoting National and Social Values, reinforcing the importance of storytelling in preserving military legacy.

71st National Film Awards – Key Winners

Category	Winner(s)	Film
Best Actor (Male)	Shah Rukh Khan & Vikrant Massey (shared)	<i>Jawan & 12th Fail</i>
Best Actor (Female)	Rani Mukerji	<i>Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway</i>
Best Film Promoting National & Social Values	Meghna Gulzar	<i>Sam Bahadur</i>
Best Director	Sudipto Sen	The Kerala Story

Category	Winner(s)	Film
Best Feature Film	12th Fail	12th Fail
Best Supporting Actor	Vijayaraghavan Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar	Pookkalam Parking
Best Supporting Actress	Urvashi Janaki Bodiwala	Ullozhukku Vash
Best Film in Punjabi	Godday Godday Chaa	Godday Godday Chaa
Best Music Direction	G.V. Prakash Kumar (Songs)Harshavardhan Rameshwar (BGM)	VaathiAnimal
Best Cinematography	Prasanthanu Mohapatra	The Kerala Story

Explore [Previous Year Question Papers](#).

Ballon d'Or Winners: Ousmane Dembélé and Aitana Bonmatí

Ousmane Dembélé won the **Ballon d'Or** for men's football, while **Aitana Bonmatí** claimed the women's award. Their victories reflect the rise of diverse talent in global football and the increasing recognition of women's sports. Bonmatí's win is especially significant in promoting gender equality in athletics.

This news is useful for aspirants under sports GK, gender studies, and international awards. It can be linked to discussions on equal pay in sports, representation, and the role of FIFA and UEFA in promoting inclusivity. These themes often appear in essay papers and personality tests.

Agriculture & Research

PAU Wheat Varieties Among Top Performers

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) continues to lead agricultural innovation. At the **All India Wheat Research Workers Meeting in Gwalior**, three PAU-developed wheat varieties—**PBW 826, PBW 833, and PBW 872**—were recognized for their high yield performance. These varieties are tailored for North Indian agro-climatic conditions and offer resistance to rust and other diseases.

Additionally, **PBW 915 and PBW 906** were selected for national release during the **64th Wheat and Barley Research Workers Meet**. This recognition reinforces PAU's role in India's food security strategy. Aspirants preparing for agriculture-based exams should understand the importance of crop variety development, ICAR's role, and the significance of research institutions like PAU.

Obituaries & Tributes

Charanjit Ahuja Passes Away at 77

Charanjit Ahuja, a legendary Punjabi music composer, passed away at his home after battling liver cancer. Known for his deep understanding of Punjabi folk traditions, Ahuja composed music that resonated with rural and urban audiences alike. His work with iconic singers like **Kuldeep Manak** and **Surinder Shinda** helped preserve the essence of Punjab's cultural identity.

For aspirants, Ahuja's legacy is a reminder of how regional art contributes to national heritage. Questions on Punjabi music, folk traditions, and cultural icons often appear in state-level exams. His passing also offers a moment to reflect on the role of music in social movements and language preservation—topics relevant to essay writing and interviews.

Ex-Minister Harmel Singh Tohra Passes Away

Harmel Singh Tohra, a former minister and senior leader in Punjab politics, passed away at the age of 77. Known for his grassroots connect and contributions to rural development, Tohra played a key role in shaping policies for farmers and local governance. His death marks the end of an era in regional leadership.

For aspirants, this news is relevant to Punjab's political history and the evolution of regional parties. Understanding the role of leaders like Tohra helps in contextualizing issues like agrarian distress, panchayati raj, and cooperative movements—frequent topics in state PCS and UPSC GS papers.

Harold ‘Dickie’ Bird Dies at 92

Harold “Dickie” Bird, one of cricket’s most respected umpires, passed away at the age of 92. He famously officiated the 1983 World Cup final alongside Barrie Meyer, a match that marked India’s historic win. Bird was known for his integrity, calm demeanor, and deep understanding of the game, earning respect from players and fans alike.

This news is relevant for sports GK and essay topics on ethics in sports. Aspirants can use Bird’s legacy to discuss the role of umpires, fair play, and sportsmanship. It also connects to India’s cricket history, which is often tested in state-level exams and interviews.

118th Birth Anniversary of Bhagat Singh

India commemorated the 118th birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, one of the most iconic freedom fighters. His revolutionary ideas, writings, and sacrifice continue to inspire generations. Events across Punjab and India paid tribute to his legacy, including cultural programs and educational seminars.

For aspirants, Bhagat Singh’s life is a recurring topic in history, ethics, and essay papers. Understanding his ideology, writings like “Why I am an Atheist,” and his role in the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** is essential. Linking this to youth activism and nationalism enriches interview discussions.

Defence & Women Empowerment

Army Clears ₹30,000 Crore QR-SAMs Missile System

The Indian Army approved the Anant Shastra Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM) system worth ₹30,000 crore. Designed for rapid deployment and interception of aerial threats, this system will significantly boost India’s air defence capabilities. It’s part of India’s push for indigenous defence solutions under Make in India.

This news is crucial for defence aspirants and GS Paper III. Understanding the role of QR-SAMs in layered air defence, DRDO’s contribution, and the strategic importance of quick reaction systems is key. Linking this to India’s defence export goals and Atmanirbhar Bharat adds depth.

ITBP Women Scale Mt Nun in Ladakh

An all-women team from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) successfully scaled Mt Nun (7135m) in Ladakh's Zaskar Valley. This expedition showcases the growing participation of women in high-altitude missions and adventure sports. It also highlights the operational readiness of ITBP in extreme terrains.

For aspirants, this is a great example for essays on women empowerment, adventure sports, and border security. Understanding the role of ITBP, its jurisdiction, and training modules can be useful in CAPF and defence exams. Linking this to gender inclusion in armed forces adds value.

Important Static General Knowledge (GK) for Competitive Exams

Topic	Details
Punjab Agricultural University (PAU)	Vice-Chancellor: Satbir Singh Gosal Established: 1962
Botswana	Capital: Gaborone Currency: Pula President: Duma Boko
Italy	Capital: Rome Currency: Euro President: Sergio Mattarella Prime Minister: Giorgia Meloni
Azerbaijan	Capital: Baku Currency: Manat President: Ilham Heydar oghlu Aliyev
National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN)	Insurgent group active in Northeast India, banned under UAPA.
Morocco	Capital: Rabat

Topic	Details
	Currency: Dirham
Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)	Established: 1920
National Film Awards	India's premier film awards, recognizing excellence in cinema across languages and categories, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.