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DAILY
CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

10th Jan 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM)**
- 2. Kamala Hydroelectric Project**
- 3. North Island (New Zealand)**
- 4. Weimar Triangle**
- 5. Ethical & Responsible AI – India**
- 6. Mayon Volcano**
- 7. Other Important News of the day**
- 8. Sacred Piprahwa Relics Exposition**

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LONG RANGE ANTI-SHIP MISSILE (LRASHM)

✉ Jagran Josh

Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile Makes Landmark Republic Day Debut

India's Indigenous Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASHM) debuts at the 77th Republic Day 2026 parade. Explore the key features, range,...



Why in News

- India's indigenous LRASHM to be displayed at Republic Day Parade 2026, showcasing maritime strike capability.



What is LRASHM

- Hypersonic Glide Missile (HGV) developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- Designed primarily for anti-ship warfare, targeting enemy warships and carrier groups.

Key Technology

- Uses hypersonic glide vehicle, unlike ballistic missiles with fixed trajectories.
- Launched by rocket, then glides unpredictably, evading air defences.
- Extremely difficult to intercept with existing missile defence systems.

Performance Features

- Range: Over 1,500 km
- Speed: Around Mach 10
- Time-to-target: 7–8 minutes
- Delta-wing HGV design enables complex manoeuvres.
- RF seeker allows accurate targeting of moving ships.

Strategic Significance

- Outperforms comparable systems like China's DF-17.
- Launchable from land-based platforms and naval vessels.
- Dual-capable: can carry conventional or nuclear warheads.

KAMALA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Why in News

- Public Investment Board approved ₹26,070-crore Kamala Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh.

Location

- Proposed on Kamala River (tributary of Subansiri River).
- Located in Kamle district, Arunachal Pradesh.

Benefits

- Annual generation: 6,869.92 million units (MU) of green energy.
- Provides flood control in Brahmaputra valley.

Project Features

- Installed capacity: 1,720 MW
- Storage-based project with flood moderation component.
- Construction of 216-metre-high concrete gravity dam.
- Includes underground powerhouse.

Implementation & Financing

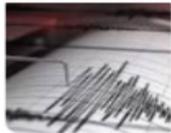
- Implemented on BOOT basis.
- NHPC: 74% equity, Arunachal Pradesh Government: 26%.
- 70:30 debt–equity ratio with central grants for flood moderation.

NORTH ISLAND (NEW ZEALAND)

 india today

Magnitude 5.5 earthquake strikes North Island region of New Zealand

New Zealand earthquake: There was no immediate information available on casualties, damage or whether tsunami warnings had been issued



Why in News

- Magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck North Island of New Zealand.

Location & Geography

- One of two main islands of New Zealand.
- Separated from South Island by Cook Strait.
- Area: ~113,729 sq km (14th largest island globally).



Population & Cities

- About 77% of New Zealand's population lives here.
- Major cities: Auckland (largest), Wellington (capital), Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua.

Physical Features

- Central volcanic mountain range.
- Highest point: Mount Ruapehu (2,797 m) in Tongariro National Park (UNESCO WHS).

Volcanism

- Part of Pacific Ring of Fire.
- Includes Auckland Volcanic Field, Mount Taranaki, Mount Tarawera, Whakaari/White Island.

WEIMAR TRIANGLE

Hindustan Times

Jaishankar hints at big leap in India–Europe ties: 'Most room to grow...'| Weimar Triangle, Paris | Hindustan Times

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said India is strengthening its relationship with Europe and that closer ties between the two can...



Why in News

- India participated for the first time in Weimar Triangle engagement.

What is Weimar Triangle

- Regional political grouping of France, Germany, and Poland.



Formation

- Established on 29 August 1991 in Weimar, Germany.
- Formed through joint declaration by Foreign Ministers.

Objectives

- French involvement in German–Polish reconciliation.
- Strengthen political dialogue and cooperation.
- Support Poland's integration into NATO and EU.

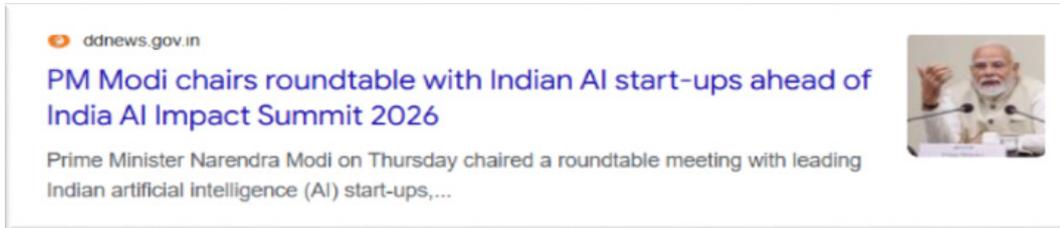
Significance

- Helped Poland join NATO (1999) and EU (2004).
- No permanent institution, but important diplomatic coordination framework.
- Extends to civil society, youth exchanges, academics, business networks.

ETHICAL & RESPONSIBLE AI – INDIA

Why in News

- Prime Minister emphasised need for ethical, unbiased, and transparent Indian AI models during interaction with AI start-ups.



Core Principles of Indian AI

Ethical AI	Unbiased AI	Transparent AI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focuses on fair competition, user data privacy, and creator rights. ➤ Use of copyrighted books, art, content without consent harms small creators. ➤ Violates Kantian ethics: humans must be treated as ends, not means. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prevents reinforcement of social and gender stereotypes. ➤ Algorithms trained on historically biased datasets can discriminate. ➤ Example: Credit-scoring algorithms favouring men over women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensures trust, accountability, and explainability. ➤ Addresses black-box problem in AI decision-making. ➤ Example: Chitrallekha, an open-source video transcription platform by AI4Bhārat.

Role of AI in Societal Transformation

Public Service Delivery

- Improves targeting, monitoring, and efficiency of welfare schemes.
- Reduces leakages and administrative discretion.
- Example: MCA 3.0 portal using AI/ML for regulatory filings.

Access to Justice

- AI helps overcome language and procedural barriers.
- Example: SUVAS – AI-based translation platform used by Supreme Court of India.

Sustainable Transformation

- AI-enabled smart grids balance real-time power supply and demand.
- Helps in fault detection, energy efficiency, and emission reduction.

Other Applications

- Healthcare: AI-based diagnostics.
- Education: personalised learning platforms.
- Disaster management: AI-based early warning systems.

Key Government Initiatives on AI

<p>BharatGen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Government-funded initiative for multi-modal Large Language Models (LLMs). ➤ Tailored to India - specific languages, culture, and governance needs. 	<p>India AI Governance Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Issued by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). ➤ Emphasises data privacy, transparency, accountability, safety. ➤ Provides principle-based AI governance framework. 	<p>ANRF – Mission AI for Science & Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launched under Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). ➤ Focus on AI research with real-world applications. ➤ Promotes ethical and socially relevant AI innovation.
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MAYON VOLCANO

Why in News

- Mild eruptions forced evacuation of ~3,000 villagers.

Location

- Located in Albay province, Luzon Island, Philippines.

Key Features

- Active stratovolcano.
- Part of Pacific Ring of Fire.
- Height: 2,462 metres.
- Known as “world’s most perfect volcanic cone”.

Eruption History

- Major eruptions: 1814, 1993, 2000, 2006, 2018, 2022.
- Eruption styles: Strombolian, lava flows, pyroclastic flows, lahars.

Stratovolcano Facts

- Steep, cone-shaped, explosive eruptions.
- Made of alternating lava and pyroclastic layers.



OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Person in News

Dr. S Prakash

Why in News

- Dr. S Prakash appointed as CEO for Health Insurance Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships.



Appointment Details

- Appointment effective from 7 January 2026.
- Role focuses on health insurance ecosystem coordination and strategic partnerships.

GENERAL INSURANCE COUNCIL (GIC)

About GIC

- Statutory industry body representing India's non-life insurance sector.
- Covers general insurance, standalone health insurance, and reinsurance companies.

Legal Basis

- Established under the Insurance Act, 1938.

Key Functions

- Coordination among non-life insurers.
- Acts as an industry interface with regulators and government.
- Supports policy formulation, standardisation, and sectoral development.

Places in News

AMHARA REGION (ETHIOPIA)

Why in News

- Renewed armed conflict in Ethiopia's Amhara region between federal forces and local militias.

Location

- Amhara Region, northern Ethiopia.
- Second most populous region, population around 23 million.

Conflict Background

- Fighting between Ethiopian federal army and Fano militias.
- Conflict ongoing for nearly three years.
- Triggered after attempt to disarm Fano forces in April 2023.



Link with Tigray War

- Present violence stems from Tigray War (2020–2022).
- Tigray war caused over 6,00,000 deaths, as per African Union estimates.
- November 2022 peace deal created resentment among Amhara fighters.

Humanitarian Situation

- Over 6,00,000 people displaced (UN OCHA).
- Around 4.5 million children out of school (UNICEF).
- Allegations of civilian abuses by both sides.

ALEPPO (SYRIA)

Why in News

- Clashes erupted in Aleppo between Syrian government forces and Kurdish-led forces, forcing mass civilian displacement.



Location

- Aleppo, northern Syria.
- Second-largest city of Syria after Damascus.
- Strategically located near key trade and transport routes.

Current Conflict Context

- Fighting between Syrian government forces and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).
- Ceasefire announced by Syria's Defence Ministry, but tensions continue.
- Violence killed at least 21 people.

Humanitarian Impact

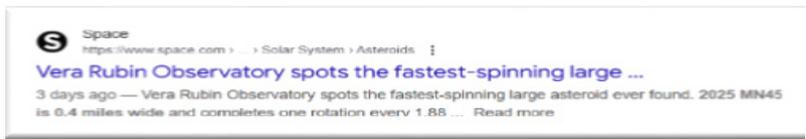
- Around 30,000 families displaced, as per United Nations.
- Large-scale civilian flight from urban conflict zones.

Strategic Significance

- Aleppo is a symbolic and economic centre in Syria.
- Control impacts political stability and reconstruction efforts.
- Reflects post-Assad power transition challenges.

**Science &
Technology**

VERA C. RUBIN OBSERVATORY



Why in News

- Fastest-spinning asteroid (2025 MN45) discovered using Rubin Observatory images.

Location

- Situated on Cerro Pachón, Chilean Andes.
- Elevation: 8,684 feet above sea level.

Asteroid 2025 MN45

- Located in main asteroid belt (Mars–Jupiter).
- Diameter: ~710 metres.
- Rotation period: 1.88 minutes, making it "the fastest-spinning asteroid with a diameter over 500 meters that astronomers have found."

About Observatory

- Named after Vera C. Rubin, pioneer of dark matter research.
- Jointly funded by US NSF and US Department of Energy.

Key Features

- The centrepiece of the observatory is the Simonyi Survey Telescope (8.4 m).
 - World’s largest digital camera: 3,200 megapixels.
- Produces ~20 TB data per night.
- Will scan southern sky for 10 years.

Environments

M-STRIPES (MONITORING SYSTEM FOR TIGERS)

Why in News

- M-STrIPES app used for tiger and wildlife census at Anamalai Tiger Reserve.

About M-STrIPES

- IT-based monitoring system for tiger protection and habitat management.
- Launched in 2010 by National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India.

	<p>Technology Used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GPS, GPRS, remote sensing, GIS, statistical tools. ➤ Android mobile app + central analytical engine. <p>Operational Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Forest guards patrol beats and record tracks via GPS. ➤ Beat = smallest forest administrative unit. <p>Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhances real-time monitoring, anti-poaching, and data-driven management.
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<p>ONE BILLION FOLLOWERS SUMMIT – 2026</p> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fourth edition of the One Billion Followers Summit opened in Dubai.  <p>Theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “Content for Good”. <p>About the Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ World’s largest gathering dedicated to the content creator economy. ➤ Focuses on digital creators, social impact, and responsible content. <p>Organiser & Patronage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organised by UAE Government Media Office. ➤ Held under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dubai, United Arab Emirates.