



The
ACHIEVERS
IAS ACADEMY
PATNA

Daily
NEWS CHRONICLE

IDEAL FOR

For UPSC/BPSC & For other Exams

English

NEWS CREDIT

PIB/ PTI/ News On Air/ The Hindu/ IANS/ Business Standard/ Times Of India/ Deccan Herald/ Hindustan Times/ BBC News/ Aljazeera/ Mirror.Uk/ Times Now/ Economic Times/ Financial Express/ Indian Express...

NEWS COVERED

Business News, financial news, economy news, company news, politics news, India news, breaking news, Indian economy, International News, Sports News, and many more topics...



Wednesday, July 22, 2026



+91 8434931877



www.achieversiaspatna.co.in



achieversiaspatna@gmail.com

Top Stories of The Day

- *Andy Burnham Becomes **New UK Prime Minister** After Keir Starmer's Resignation*
- *Supreme Court Directs Centre to **Frame Uniform Policy** for Post-Retirement Benefits of High Court Judges*
- *NSA Ajit Doval Selected for **Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026** for National Security Contribution*
- *NHAI Upgrades **RajmargYatra App** with Digital Local Pass and AI-Based MargMitra Help Centre*
- *Government Releases **Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill 2026** for Public Consultation and Legal Reforms*
- *Supreme Court **Judges Strength Bill 2026** Introduced in Lok Sabha to Increase Judicial Capacity*
- *Senegal President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** Elected New Chairman of ECOWAS*
- ***Filmmaker James Gray** to Receive Career Pardo Award at 79th Locarno Film Festival*
- *England Football Legend **Kevin Keegan Passes Away** at 75 After Cancer Battle*
- *Spain Returns to **FIFA World No.1 Ranking** After 2026 World Cup Victory*

Andy Burnham Becomes the United Kingdom's New Prime Minister



- Andy Burnham, leader of the Labour Party, has officially assumed office as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, succeeding Keir Starmer after his resignation.

About the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom:

- Head of Government of the United Kingdom.
- Official Residence: 10 Downing Street, London.
- Appointed By: The Monarch (currently King Charles III).
- Usually the leader of the political party that commands a majority in the House of Commons.
- Chairs the Cabinet and leads His Majesty's Government.

Political System of the United Kingdom:

- | |
|--|
| • Form of Government: Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy. |
| • Head of State: King Charles III. |
| • Head of Government: Prime Minister. |
| • Parliament: Bicameral |
| • House of Commons (Lower House) |
| • House of Lords (Upper House) |
| • Capital: London. |
| • Currency: Pound Sterling (GBP). |

About Andy Burnham:

- Former Mayor of Greater Manchester.

- Former Cabinet Minister under Prime Minister Gordon Brown.
- Long-time member of the Labour Party.

Known for advocating:

- Greater devolution to local governments.
- Strengthening the National Health Service (NHS).
- Regional economic development.
- Nicknamed the "King of the North" for championing the interests of northern England.

About the Labour Party:

- | |
|--|
| • Founded: 1900. |
| • Political Ideology: Centre-left, Social Democracy. |
| • One of the two major political parties in the UK, along with the Conservative Party. |
| • Election symbol: Red Rose (commonly associated with the party). |

India-United Kingdom Relations (UPSC Perspective):

- Strategic Partnership: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2021).

Major Areas of Cooperation:

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| • Trade and Investment |
| • Defence and Security |
| • Technology and Innovation |
| • Education and Research |
| • Climate Change |
- India and the UK are negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to enhance bilateral trade.

Additional Facts:

- The UK follows the Westminster Model of parliamentary democracy, which has influenced

the parliamentary systems of several Commonwealth countries, including India.

- The Prime Minister is not directly elected by the public; they are appointed by the Monarch after demonstrating majority support in the House of Commons.
- 10 Downing Street has served as the official residence of British Prime Ministers since 1735.

The UK consists of four constituent countries:

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

- The UK is a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and a founding member of NATO, the Commonwealth, and the G7.

Exam Focus Points:

- New UK Prime Minister: Andy Burnham.
- Political Party: Labour Party.
- Succeeded: Keir Starmer.
- Appointed by: King Charles III.
- Official Residence: 10 Downing Street.
- Head of State: King Charles III.
- Capital: London.
- Currency: Pound Sterling (GBP).
- Government Type: Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy.
- Parliament: House of Commons and House of Lords.

Supreme Court Directs Centre to Frame Uniform Policy on Post-Retirement Facilities for High Court Judges



Key Highlights

- The Supreme Court of India has directed the Union Government to constitute a committee within two weeks to formulate a uniform national policy governing post-retirement facilities for retired Chief Justices and judges of the High Courts.
- The Court observed that there are wide disparities among States in the facilities provided to retired judges, including accommodation, security, drivers, and secretarial assistance.
- The committee has been asked to submit its recommendations within three months and also suggest a mechanism for sharing the financial burden between the Centre and the States.

- Institution: Supreme Court of India
- Bench Led By: Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant
- Direction Issued To: Union Government

Timeline:

- Committee to be constituted within 2 weeks
- Recommendations to be submitted within 3 months
- Purpose: Formulate a uniform national policy on post-retirement facilities for retired High Court Chief Justices and judges.

Committee's Mandate:

- Recommend uniform post-retirement facilities.
- Suggest a mechanism for sharing financial responsibility between the Centre and the States.
- Reason: Significant variation in benefits provided by different States.

Why is this Issue Important?

- Different States currently provide unequal post-retirement facilities to retired High Court judges.
- Lack of uniformity affects consistency in the treatment of constitutional office holders.

A common policy would:

- Ensure equality and transparency.
- Reduce administrative disparities.
- Clearly define the financial responsibilities of the Union and State Governments.

Post-Retirement Facilities May Include:

• Government accommodation during official visits.
• Security arrangements.
• Official vehicle/driver.
• Secretarial assistance.
• Other administrative support as prescribed under the policy.

About the Supreme Court of India:

• Established: 28 January 1950.
• Constitutional Provision: Articles 124–147 of the Constitution.
• Headquarters: New Delhi.
• Highest Judicial Authority: Apex Court of India.
• Current Chief Justice of India: Justice Surya Kant (2026).
• Retirement Age of Supreme Court Judges: 65 years.
• Appointment: By the President of India under Article 124.

About High Courts:

- Constitutional Provisions: Articles 214–231.
- Every State has a High Court or shares one with another State/UT.
- High Courts are the highest judicial authority at the State level.
- Retirement Age of High Court Judges: 62 years.

- High Court judges are appointed by the President after consultation under the constitutional process.
- Constitutional Provisions Related to Judges

Provision Subject

• Article 124	Establishment and appointment of Supreme Court judges
• Article 217	Appointment and conditions of High Court judges
• Article 222	Transfer of High Court judges
• Article 214	High Courts for States
• Articles 124–147	Supreme Court
• Articles 214–231	High Courts

Difference Between Supreme Court and High Court:

• Supreme Court	High Court
• Apex court of India	Highest court in a State
• Established under Article 124	Established under Article 214
• Retirement age: 65 years	Retirement age: 62 years
• Headquarters: New Delhi	Located in respective States/UTs
• Decisions binding on all courts	Decisions binding within territorial jurisdiction

Additional Facts:

- The independence of the judiciary is a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- The President of India appoints judges of both the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- The Collegium System governs judicial appointments and transfers, based on the Second Judges Case (1993) and Third Judges Case (1998).
- The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014 was declared

unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 2015, restoring the Collegium System.

- The Supreme Court has original, appellate, advisory (Article 143), and writ jurisdiction under Article 32.

Exam Focus Points:

- Issue: Uniform post-retirement facilities for retired High Court judges.
- Directed By: Supreme Court of India.
- Committee Formation Deadline: 2 weeks.

- Report Submission: Within 3 months.
- Committee to Recommend: Uniform facilities and Centre–State cost-sharing mechanism.
- Retirement Age: Supreme Court – 65 years; High Court – 62 years.
- High Court Articles: 214–231.
- Supreme Court Articles: 124–147.
- Judicial Independence: Part of the Basic Structure doctrine.

NSA Ajit Doval Selected for Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026



Played a significant role in:

- Doklam diplomatic negotiations (2017)
- Counter-terrorism operations
- India–China boundary talks
- National security strategy and intelligence coordination.

About the National Security Advisor (NSA):

- National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has been selected for the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to India's national security, strategic affairs, and public service.
- The award will be presented by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on 1 August 2026 in Pune, Maharashtra, on the 106th death anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

- Established: 1998 (National Security Council system).
- Appointed By: Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- Reports To: Prime Minister of India.

Functions:

- Principal advisor to the Prime Minister on national security.
- Coordinates intelligence agencies.
- Advises on strategic, defence, and foreign policy issues.
- Oversees the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).
- Represents India in high-level strategic dialogues with other countries.

About the Lokmanya Tilak National Award:

- Instituted: 1983.

About Ajit Doval:

- Current Designation: 5th National Security Advisor of India.
- Appointed as NSA: 30 May 2014.
- Cadre: Kerala IPS (1968 batch).
- Former Position: Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- Current Status: Longest-serving National Security Advisor of India.
- Recipient of the Kirti Chakra, becoming the first police officer to receive this gallantry award.

- Instituted By: Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust, Pune.
- Purpose: To honour individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the nation and society.
- Presentation Date: Every year on 1 August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- Venue: Pune, Maharashtra.

About Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak:

- Birth: 23 July 1856, Ratnagiri (Maharashtra).
- Death: 1 August 1920.
- Popularly known as "Lokmanya".

Famous slogan:

- "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."

Founder of newspapers:

- Kesari (Marathi)
- The Mahratta (English)
- Started the Ganesh Utsav and Shivaji Festival as instruments of mass political mobilisation.

Part of the Lal-Bal-Pal trio:

- Lala Lajpat Rai
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Bipin Chandra Pal
- Home Rule League launched in 1916.

Previous Notable Recipients:

- Narendra Modi – 2023
- Nitin Gadkari – 2025
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- Dr. Manmohan Singh
- Pranab Mukherjee
- E. Sreedharan

- Several distinguished national leaders and public figures have received this honour over the years.

Additional Facts:

- National Security Council (NSC) was established in 1998 under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) functions under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

India has three major intelligence agencies:

- Intelligence Bureau (IB) – Internal intelligence
- Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) – External intelligence
- Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) – Military intelligence
- The Intelligence Bureau (IB) is India's oldest intelligence organisation, established in 1887 during British rule.
- The National Security Advisor is a key member of the Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and coordinates national security policy across ministries and agencies.

Exam Focus Points:

- Award: Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026.
- Awardee: Ajit Doval.
- Institution: Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust.
- Instituted: 1983.
- Presentation Date: 1 August (Tilak's death anniversary).
- Current NSA: Ajit Doval.
- NSA Appointed By: Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- Current NSA Since: 2014.
- Former Position of Ajit Doval: Director, Intelligence Bureau.
- Lokmanya Tilak's famous slogan: "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."

NHAI Enhances RajmargYatra App with New Digital Services



- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has enhanced the RajmargYatra Mobile App by launching two new citizen-centric digital services—Digital Local Pass and the MargMitra Help Centre.
- The initiative aims to make National Highway travel more convenient, transparent, and paperless while promoting the Government of India's Digital India and Ease of Living initiatives.

What is the Digital Local Pass?

- The Digital Local Pass enables eligible local commuters to:
- Apply for and renew local toll passes online.
- Complete the entire process digitally through the RajmargYatra App.
- Eliminate paperwork and physical visits to toll plazas.
- Use FASTag and DigiLocker-based verification for seamless authentication.
- Benefit from quicker approval and greater transparency.

What is MargMitra Help Centre?

- MargMitra is an AI-enabled digital assistance platform integrated into the RajmargYatra App.

Key Features

- Provides 24×7 assistance.
- Supports users in 22 Indian languages.

Assists with:

- Local Pass applications

- FASTag-related queries
- KYC updates
- Refund status
- Toll-related information
- National Highway travel guidance
- Reduces the need for physical customer support.

About RajmargYatra App:

- Launched: 2023
- Developed By: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- Purpose: One-stop digital platform for National Highway users.

Major Services Available

- Route planning
- Toll plaza information
- Toll calculator
- FASTag services
- Emergency assistance
- Nearby fuel stations, hospitals, hotels and other amenities
- Highway weather updates
- Grievance redressal
- Digital Local Pass
- MargMitra Help Centre

About NHAI:

- Full Form: National Highways Authority of India.
- Established: 1988.
- Operational Since: 1995.
- Ministry: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

About FASTag:

- Technology: RFID (Radio Frequency Identification).
- Purpose: Electronic toll collection.
- Launched By: NHAI under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) Programme.
- Enables cashless toll payments.
- Reduces congestion and waiting time at toll plazas.

Additional Facts:

- India has one of the largest road networks in the world, extending over 6.6 million km.
- National Highways constitute about 2% of India's road network but carry nearly 40% of total road traffic.
- The National Highways Act, 1956 provides the legal framework for the declaration and management of National Highways.
- The Bharatmala Pariyojana is the Government's flagship highway development programme aimed at improving freight and passenger movement.

- Emergency assistance for National Highway users is available through the 1033 Highway Helpline.

Exam Focus Points:

• App: RajmargYatra.
• Organisation: NHAI.
• Ministry: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
• New Services: Digital Local Pass and MargMitra Help Centre.
• MargMitra: AI-enabled multilingual help centre.
• Languages Supported: 22.
• Verification: FASTag and DigiLocker.
• FASTag Technology: RFID.
• Emergency Highway Helpline: 1033.
• Digital India Launch: 1 July 2015.

Government Releases Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2026 for Public Consultation



- The Ministry of Law and Justice has released the Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2026 for public and stakeholder consultation.
- The draft has been prepared in consultation with the Bar Council of India (BCI) and has been uploaded on the BCI website.
- Stakeholders and members of the public have been invited to submit their comments to the Bar Council of India and the Department of Legal Affairs by 31 July 2026.

- The initiative reflects the Government's commitment to transparent, participative, and inclusive law-making.

Why is the Bill in News?

- The Government has initiated pre-legislative public consultation before introducing amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961.
- It aims to ensure that reforms reflect the evolving needs of the legal profession while encouraging wider public participation in the legislative process.

Objectives of the Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2026

- Modernise the legal profession.
- Strengthen the regulatory framework governing advocates.
- Improve professional standards and accountability.

- Enhance transparency in the legal system.
- Align legal regulation with contemporary judicial and technological developments.
- Promote participatory law-making through stakeholder consultation.

About the Advocates Act, 1961:

- Enacted: 1961.
- Purpose: Regulates the legal profession in India.
- Came into Force: 1961.

Key Objectives:

- Establishes the Bar Council of India and State Bar Councils.
- Regulates enrolment and practice of advocates.
- Prescribes standards of professional conduct and etiquette.
- Promotes legal education.
- Provides disciplinary mechanisms against professional misconduct.

About the Bar Council of India (BCI):

- Established: 1961 under the Advocates Act, 1961.
- Nature: Statutory body.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman: Manan Kumar Mishra

Functions:

- Regulates legal education.
- Prescribes standards of professional conduct.
- Recognises law universities and colleges.
- Conducts the All India Bar Examination (AIBE).
- Protects the rights and interests of advocates.
- Exercises disciplinary jurisdiction over advocates.

About the Department of Legal Affairs:

- Ministry: Ministry of Law and Justice.

Functions:

- Advises the Government on legal matters.
- Drafts legislation.
- Conducts litigation on behalf of the Union Government.
- Coordinates legal reforms.

Legislative Process in India :

- Preparation of the draft Bill.
- Stakeholder/Public consultation (where applicable).
- Approval by the Union Cabinet.
- Introduction in Parliament.
- Passage by both Houses.
- Assent of the President.
- Notification in the Official Gazette.
- Enforcement from the notified date.

Additional Facts:

- The Advocates Act, 1961 replaced the earlier system of multiple classes of legal practitioners (such as vakils, pleaders and attorneys) with a single class of advocates.
- Article 19(1)(g) guarantees citizens the right to practise any profession, subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(6).
- Article 39A (Directive Principles of State Policy) directs the State to ensure equal justice and free legal aid.
- The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 established the framework for providing free legal aid through bodies such as NALSA, State Legal Services Authorities, and District Legal Services Authorities.
- The All India Bar Examination (AIBE) is conducted by the Bar Council of India to assess the eligibility of law graduates to practise as advocates.
- Constitutional Provisions Related to the Legal Profession
- Article Subject
- Article 19(1)(g) Freedom to practise any profession

• Article 19(6)	Reasonable restrictions on professional freedom
• Article 39A	Equal justice and free legal aid
• Article 145	Supreme Court rules regarding practice and procedure

Exam Focus Points:

• Draft Bill: Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
• Parent Law: Advocates Act, 1961.

• Consultation Conducted By: Ministry of Law and Justice.
• Statutory Regulator: Bar Council of India.
• BCI Established: 1961.
• BCI Headquarters: New Delhi.
• Last Date for Public Comments: 31 July 2026.
• Article 39A: Equal justice and free legal aid.
• AIBE Conducted By: Bar Council of India.

Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 Introduced in Lok Sabha



- Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).
- The Bill replaces the Ordinance promulgated by the President in May 2026 for the same purpose.

Why is the Bill Needed?

- Rising backlog of cases before the Supreme Court.
- Increasing workload due to expanding constitutional, civil, criminal, and public interest litigation.
- Need for faster disposal of appeals and constitutional matters.

- Strengthening access to justice by improving judicial capacity.

What Does the Bill Do?

- The Bill amends Section 2 of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 by replacing the figure "33" with "37", thereby increasing the number of judges other than the Chief Justice of India.

It does not change:

- Powers of the Supreme Court.
- Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- Appointment process of judges.
- Constitutional provisions relating to the judiciary.

Constitutional Provisions Related to the Supreme Court:

• Article	Provision
• Article 124	Establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court
• Article 124(2)	Appointment of Supreme Court Judges
• Article 124(4)	Removal (Impeachment) of Judges
• Article 131	Original Jurisdiction
• Article 132–136	Appellate Jurisdiction
• Article 137	Review Power

• Article 141	Law declared by Supreme Court binding on all courts
• Article 142	Complete Justice
• Article 143	Advisory Jurisdiction
• Article 145	Rules of the Supreme Court

- An Ordinance has the same force as an Act of Parliament but must be approved by Parliament within the prescribed constitutional period after reassembly.

Additional Facts:

About the Supreme Court of India:

- Established: 28 January 1950.
- Constitutional Basis: Articles 124–147.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Highest Judicial Authority: Apex Court of India.
- Retirement Age of Judges: 65 years.
- Appointment: By the President of India.
- Chief Justice of India: Surya Kant

- The Supreme Court comprises the Chief Justice of India and such number of judges as Parliament may by law prescribe under Article 124.
- The Chief Justice of India is appointed by the President, and other judges are appointed following the Collegium System.
- The Collegium System evolved through the Second Judges Case (1993) and Third Judges Case (1998).
- Judicial Independence forms part of the Basic Structure Doctrine established in the Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973).
- The Supreme Court exercises Original, Appellate, Advisory, Review, and Writ Jurisdiction.
- Article 32 empowers citizens to directly approach the Supreme Court for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

Evolution of Supreme Court Judge Strength:

Year	Judges (excluding CJI)
• 1950	7
• 1956	10
• 1960	13
• 1977	17
• 1986	25
• 2009	30
• 2019	33
• 2026 (Proposed)	37

Exam Focus Points:

Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956:

- Enacted: 1956.
- Purpose: Prescribes the number of judges of the Supreme Court under Article 124.
- Parliament can increase or decrease the sanctioned strength through an ordinary law.
- No Constitutional Amendment is required to change the number of Supreme Court judges.
- Ordinance Making Power (UPSC Perspective)
- Article 123 empowers the President to promulgate an Ordinance when Parliament is not in session and immediate action is necessary.

- Bill: Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026.
- Introduced By: Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- Parent Act: Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- Current Strength (excluding CJI): 33.
- Proposed Strength (excluding CJI): 37.
- Total Strength (including CJI): 38.
- Constitutional Provision: Article 124.
- Retirement Age of Supreme Court Judges: 65 years.
- Ordinance Power: Article 123.
- Binding Nature of Supreme Court Judgments: Article 141.

Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye Elected Chairman of ECOWAS



- Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye has been elected as the new Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) during the 69th Ordinary Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held in Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- He succeeds Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio and assumes the rotating chairmanship of the regional bloc at a time when it faces major security, political, and regional integration challenges.

Why is ECOWAS in News?

- ECOWAS is currently facing one of its biggest challenges after Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger announced their withdrawal from the bloc and formed the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

The region continues to face:

- Military coups.
- Terrorism and insurgency.
- Political instability.
- Economic integration challenges.

About ECOWAS:

• Full Form: Economic Community of West African States.
• Established: 28 May 1975.
• Founding Treaty: Treaty of Lagos.
• Headquarters: Abuja, Nigeria.

- Current Members: 12 active members after the withdrawal process initiated by Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

Official Languages:

• English
• French
• Portuguese

Objectives:

- Promote regional economic integration.
- Facilitate free movement of people and goods.
- Maintain peace and security.
- Encourage democratic governance.
- Promote sustainable development.

Major Organs of ECOWAS:

• Authority of Heads of State and Government (highest decision-making body).
• Council of Ministers.
• ECOWAS Commission.
• ECOWAS Parliament.
• Community Court of Justice.
• ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID).

About Bassirou Diomaye Faye:

- Country: Senegal.
- Assumed Office as President: 2 April 2024.
- Became the youngest elected President in Senegal's history.
- Elected in the 2024 Presidential Election.

Focus areas include:

• Anti-corruption reforms.
• Economic governance.
• Regional cooperation.

- Re-engagement with neighbouring Sahel countries.

About Senegal:

- Capital: Dakar.
- Currency: West African CFA Franc (XOF).
- Continent: Africa.
- President: Bassirou Diomaye Faye.

Neighbouring Countries:

- Mauritania
- Mali
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- The Gambia
- Major Water Body: Atlantic Ocean.

ECOWAS and India:

- India maintains strong diplomatic and economic relations with ECOWAS member countries.

Cooperation areas include:

- Capacity building.
- Trade and investment.
- Energy.
- Healthcare.
- Defence cooperation.

- Several ECOWAS countries are beneficiaries of India's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.

Additional Facts:

Filmmaker James Gray to Receive Career Pardo Award at the 79th Locarno Film Festival

- American filmmaker James Gray will be honoured with the prestigious Career Pardo

- The Treaty of Lagos (1975) established ECOWAS.
- Abuja, Nigeria hosts the ECOWAS Commission headquarters.
- The ECOWAS Parliament is headquartered in Abuja.
- The ECOWAS Court of Justice is located in Abuja, Nigeria.
- The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) is headquartered in Lomé, Togo.
- ECOWAS has deployed peacekeeping missions in countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and The Gambia.
- The organisation promotes the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS) to encourage free movement of goods within West Africa.

Exam Focus Points:

- Organisation: ECOWAS.
- Established: 28 May 1975.
- Treaty: Treaty of Lagos.
- Headquarters: Abuja, Nigeria.
- New Chairman: Bassirou Diomaye Faye.
- Country: Senegal.
- Predecessor: Julius Maada Bio.
- Summit Venue: Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- Capital of Senegal: Dakar.
- Currency of Senegal: West African CFA Franc (XOF).
- Official Language of Senegal: French.

Award (Pardo alla Carriera) at the 79th Locarno Film Festival in Locarno, Switzerland.

- The award recognizes his outstanding contribution to world cinema and his influential career as a filmmaker.



About the Locarno Film Festival:

- Founded: 1946.
- Location: Locarno, Switzerland.
- Edition in 2026: 79th.
- It is one of the oldest and most prestigious international film festivals in the world.
- Held annually in August.

Renowned for promoting:

- Independent cinema.
- International filmmakers.
- Emerging talent.
- Artistic and experimental films.

Major Awards at the Locarno Film Festival:

- | Award | Purpose |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Golden Leopard (Pardo d'Oro) | Best Film |
| Career Pardo (Pardo alla Carriera) | Lifetime achievement in cinema |
| Leopard of Honour (Pardo d'Onore) | Outstanding contribution to world cinema |
| Leopard Club Award | Distinguished achievements in film |
| Best Performance Award | Outstanding acting performance |

About James Gray:

- Nationality: American.
- Profession: Film director, screenwriter, and producer.

- Known for emotionally rich and character-driven films.

Some notable films include:

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| • The Yards (2000) |
| • We Own the Night (2007) |
| • Two Lovers (2008) |
| • The Immigrant (2013) |
| • The Lost City of Z (2016) |
| • Ad Astra (2019) |
| • Armageddon Time (2022) |

- His films have frequently been screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

About Switzerland:

- | |
|--|
| • Capital: Bern. |
| • Largest City: Zürich. |
| • Currency: Swiss Franc (CHF). |
| • Major International City: Geneva (hosts many international organisations). |

Important International Film Festivals (Revision):

- | Festival | Country | Highest Award |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Cannes Film Festival | France | Palme d'Or |
| Venice Film Festival | Italy | Golden Lion |
| Berlin International Film Festival | Germany | Golden Bear |
| Locarno Film Festival | Switzerland | Golden Leopard (Pardo d'Oro) |
| Toronto International Film Festival | Canada | People's Choice Award |

Exam Focus Points:

- | |
|--|
| • Award: Career Pardo (Pardo alla Carriera). |
| • Awardee: James Gray. |
| • Festival: 79th Locarno Film Festival. |
| • Country: Switzerland. |
| • Founded: 1946. |

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highest Award: Golden Leopard (Pardo d'Oro). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Venue: Piazza Grande, Locarno. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award Date: 9 August 2026. |

Kevin Keegan Passes Away at 75: England Football Legend Remembered



- Former England captain, manager, and two-time Ballon d'Or winner Kevin Keegan passed away at the age of 75 after battling cancer.

Key Highlights:

- Major Recognition: Two-time Ballon d'Or winner (1978, 1979).

Former Roles:

- Captain of the England national football team.
- Manager of England.
- Player and manager of Newcastle United.
- Liverpool legend.

About the Ballon d'Or:

- Presented By: France Football magazine.
- Instituted: 1956.
- Awarded annually to the world's best footballer.
- One of the most prestigious individual honours in football.

Multiple Ballon d'Or Winners

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lionel Messi – 8 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cristiano Ronaldo – 5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michel Platini – 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Johan Cruyff – 3 |

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marco van Basten – 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kevin Keegan – 2 |

About Liverpool Football Club:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founded: 1892. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Country: England. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Stadium: Anfield. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nickname: The Reds. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One of the most successful football clubs in Europe. |

About Newcastle United:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founded: 1892. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Stadium: St James' Park. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nickname: The Magpies. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kevin Keegan is regarded as one of the club's greatest players and managers. |

Exam Focus Points

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person in News: Kevin Keegan. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nationality: England. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major Honour: Ballon d'Or (1978, 1979). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• European Cup Winner: Liverpool. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bundesliga Club: Hamburger SV. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• England Appearances: 63. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• England Goals: 21. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FIFA Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UEFA Headquarters: Nyon, Switzerland. |

Spain Returns to No. 1 in FIFA Men's World Rankings; Morocco Achieves Historic Highest Ranking

- Spain has reclaimed the No. 1 position in the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking after winning the 2026 FIFA World Cup, defeating Argentina 1–0 in the final.
- Meanwhile, Morocco climbed to a record-high 10th position, becoming the highest-ranked African nation in FIFA rankings history.



Key Highlights

- Spain returned to World No. 1 for the first time since January 2025.
- Argentina slipped to 2nd after finishing runners-up in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- France remained 3rd.
- England moved up to 4th after securing third place in the World Cup.
- Morocco reached a historic 10th rank, the highest ever by an African nation.
- Norway recorded the biggest improvement, climbing 12 places to 19th after reaching the World Cup quarter-finals.

Top 10 FIFA Men's World Rankings (July 2026)

Rank	Country
1.	Spain ES
2.	Argentina AR
3.	France FR
4.	England 
5.	Brazil BR
6.	Portugal PT
7.	Netherlands NL
8.	Belgium BE
9.	Germany DE
10.	Morocco MA

Major Ranking Changes:

Country	Change
Spain	 No. 1 after World Cup victory
Argentina	 2nd
England	 4th
Morocco	 10th (Highest-ever ranking)
Norway	 +12 places to 19th
Mexico	 Entered Top 10 in some post-World Cup projections, but official FIFA ranking placed them outside the top nine behind Morocco.

About FIFA Men's World Ranking:

- Introduced in December 1992.
- Officially known as the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking.
- Published by FIFA.
- Since 2018, rankings are calculated using the Elo Rating System.
- Used for seeding teams in international competitions and tournament draws.

About FIFA:

Full Name: Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).
Founded: 21 May 1904.
Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.
President: Gianni Infantino.
Member Associations: 211.

About Morocco:

Capital: Rabat.
Largest City: Casablanca.
Currency: Moroccan Dirham.
Official Languages: Arabic and Amazigh (Berber).
Continent: Africa.

- 2030 FIFA World Cup Co-host: Morocco, Spain, and Portugal.

Exam Focus Points:

- Organisation: FIFA.
- Ranking System: FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking.
- Methodology: Elo Rating System.

- Current No. 1: Spain.
- Historic Achievement: Morocco reached World No. 10 (highest-ever African ranking).
- Biggest Climber: Norway (+12 places).
- FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.
- 2030 FIFA World Cup Hosts: Morocco, Spain, Portugal.

Lets Revise

- ❖ Who has become the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in 2026? **Andy Burnham.**
- ❖ Which institution directed the Centre to frame a uniform policy for post-retirement facilities of High Court judges? **The Supreme Court of India.**
- ❖ Who has been selected for the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026? **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.**
- ❖ Which two new services have been added to the RajmargYatra App? **Digital Local Pass and MargMitra Help Centre.**
- ❖ Which statute is proposed to be amended through the Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2026? **The Advocates Act, 1961.**
- ❖ Which Bill was introduced to increase the strength of Supreme Court judges in 2026? **The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026.**
- ❖ Who has been elected as the new Chairman of ECOWAS in 2026? **Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye.**
- ❖ Which filmmaker will receive the Career Pardo Award at the 79th Locarno Film Festival? **James Gray.**
- ❖ Which prestigious individual football award did Kevin Keegan win twice, who passes away recently? **The Ballon d'Or (1978 and 1979).**
- ❖ Which country topped the FIFA Men's World Rankings after the 2026 FIFA World Cup? **Spain.**



The **ACHIEVERS** IAS ACADEMY PATNA

Daily **NEWS CHRONICLE**

IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS IN UPSC EXAMINATIONS

Current Affairs hold a crucial place in the preparation for the UPSC Civil Services Examination. A comprehensive understanding of recent national and international developments helps aspirants strengthen their General Studies foundation and develop a well-rounded perspective on important issues. Topics such as government policies, schemes, economy, international relations, science and technology, environment, defence, social justice, governance, reports, indices, appointments, awards, and major global events are highly relevant for both the Prelims and Mains examinations. Regular study of current affairs not only enhances factual knowledge but also improves analytical ability, critical thinking, answer-writing skills, and decision-making aptitude. Since UPSC questions often connect contemporary developments with static subjects, consistent preparation of current affairs enables aspirants to understand issues in depth and present balanced, informed, and relevant answers. It also plays an important role in Essay writing, Ethics, and the Personality Test, giving candidates a strong edge throughout the examination process.

CONTACT US



+91 8434931877



achievers_ias_patna



PATLIPUTRA GOLAMBAR



ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY (UPSC/BPSC)



achieversiaspatna@gmail.com



Achievers IAS Academy



www.achieversiaspatna.co.in



Achievers IAS Academy, PATNA