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Top Stories of The Day

- General Dhiraj Seth Conferred *Honorary General Rank* by Nepal, Strengthening Bilateral Defence Ties
- India Launches First Guide to *Open Natural Ecosystems*, Promoting Grassland Conservation
- *Hakainde Hichilema* Re-elected Zambia President for Second Term, Continuing Economic Reforms
- *India, Thailand* Conduct MAITREE-XV Exercise to Strengthen Counter-Terrorism Cooperation
- *Shabnam Sinha* Appointed Airtel Payments Bank Chairperson, Succeeding Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Gujarat Police Launches *Surakshit Shakti Drive* for Women's Safety and Security
- US Welcomes *India's MQ-9B Drone* Lease Contract, Strengthening Defence Cooperation
- India Inaugurates *Three High-Impact Projects in Bhutan*, Strengthening Development Partnership
- *India, Armenia* Sign Defence MoU to Boost Innovation and Joint Production
- *RBI Imposes ₹71.20 Lakh Penalties* on IndusInd Bank and Three NBFCs

General Dhiraj Seth: Conferred Honorary Rank of General of Nepali Army



- Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth has been conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army by Nepalese President Ramchandra Paudel at an investiture ceremony held at Sheetal Niwas, Kathmandu. The honour highlights the longstanding military-to-military relationship between India and Nepal.

Honorary Rank of General:

- The honorary rank is part of a longstanding reciprocal tradition between the Indian Army and Nepal Army, under which the Army Chiefs of the two countries are conferred the honorary rank of General of the other country. The tradition dates back to 1950, when Indian Army Chief General K. M. Cariappa became the first Indian Army Chief to receive the honour in Nepal.

About General Dhiraj Seth:

- General Dhiraj Seth became the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) on 30 June 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi.
- He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla, and was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.
- During his career, he commanded an Armoured Regiment, an Armoured Brigade, a Counter-Insurgency Force in Jammu & Kashmir and the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, a major strike formation of the Indian Army.

India–Nepal Defence Relations:

- India and Nepal share close and historic defence ties based on mutual trust, military cooperation and people-to-people relations.
- The two countries cooperate through military training, joint exercises, defence equipment and high-level military exchanges.
- Nepali Army personnel also receive training at various Indian military institutions.

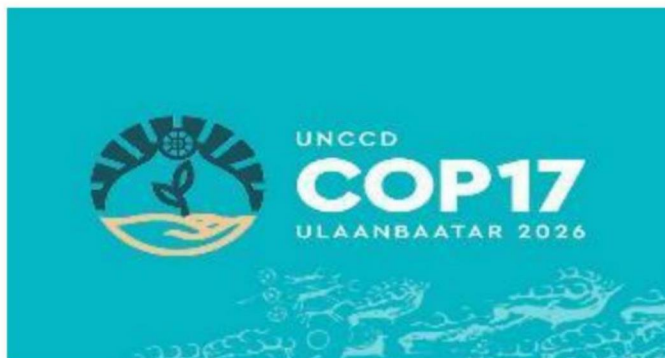
Significance:

- Military diplomacy:** Strengthens institutional and military-to-military ties between India and Nepal.
- Strategic partnership:** Reinforces India's close defence relationship with its Himalayan neighbour.
- Mutual recognition:** The reciprocal honorary rank symbolises professional respect and historical military camaraderie.
- Defence cooperation:** General Seth also held discussions with Nepal Army Chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel and handed over military and medical equipment to the Nepal Army.

Exam Focus Points:

- Person: General Dhiraj Seth
- Current Position: 31st Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army
- Honour: Honorary General of the Nepali Army
- Conferred by: President Ramchandra Paudel
- Venue: Sheetal Niwas, Kathmandu
- Nepal Army Chief: General Ashok Raj Sigdel
- Tradition: Reciprocal honorary rank between India and Nepal Army Chiefs
- Origin: 1950
- First Indian recipient: General K. M. Cariappa
- Strategic Link: India–Nepal defence cooperation and military diplomacy

First-Ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems of India



- India has launched its first-ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs) of India at the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The guide highlights the diversity, ecological significance and socio-economic importance of India's grasslands, savannas, deserts and other open ecosystems.

Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs):

- ONEs are naturally or predominantly open landscapes with limited tree cover. They include grasslands, savannas, scrublands, deserts, rocky plateaus, ravines and coastal ecosystems. The guide classifies 24 types of open natural ecosystems found across India.

Significance of the Guide:

- The guide seeks to promote science-based conservation, restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems that have often been overlooked because of their low tree cover. These ecosystems support unique biodiversity, pastoral communities and livelihoods, while contributing to carbon storage, soil and water conservation and climate resilience.

UNCCD COP17:

- COP17 of the UNCCD is being held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 17–28 August 2026 under the theme “Restoring Land.

Restoring Hope.” The conference focuses on desertification, land degradation, drought, rangeland restoration and sustainable land management.

Additional Key Facts:

- UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- COP17 Host: Mongolia
- Venue: Ulaanbaatar
- International Year: 2026 is the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).
- Rangelands: Cover more than half of the Earth's land surface and support the livelihoods of around 500 million people.
- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN): A key UNCCD objective aimed at preventing and reversing land degradation while maintaining land resources and ecosystem functions.

Significance:

- Biodiversity conservation: Recognises unique species and habitats beyond forests.
- Climate resilience: Healthy grasslands and rangelands contribute to ecosystem stability and climate adaptation.
- Livelihood security: Supports pastoralists and local communities.
- Land restoration: Strengthens India's efforts towards Land Degradation Neutrality and sustainable land management.

Exam Focus Points:

- Initiative: First Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems of India
- Launched at: UNCCD COP17
- Location: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Ecosystem Types: 24
- Key Ecosystems: Grasslands, savannas, scrublands, deserts, rocky plateaus, ravines and coastal ecosystems
- UN Convention: UNCCD

- COP17 Theme: “Restoring Land. Restoring Hope.”
- Strategic Link: Biodiversity, land restoration, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods

Hakainde Hichilema: Re-elected as President of Zambia for Second Term



- Zambia’s President Hakainde Hichilema has been re-elected for a second five-year term in the 2026 presidential election. The Electoral Commission of Zambia declared him the winner after he secured enough votes to win outright, avoiding a run-off. Recent official results reported by international media put his share at around 60%, while the Akashvani report states that he secured more than 51% of the votes.

About Hakainde Hichilema:

- Hichilema belongs to the United Party for National Development (UPND) and first became President in 2021, defeating incumbent President Edgar Lungu. Before entering politics, he was a businessman and economist. His first term focused heavily on economic reforms, debt restructuring and improving relations with international financial institutions.

Economic Significance:

- Zambia is one of Africa’s major copper-producing countries and possesses important reserves of copper and cobalt. Hichilema’s government has sought to attract investment in the mining sector and increase copper production. Zambia’s economic recovery has also involved restructuring more than \$12 billion of debt following its debt crisis.

Additional Key Facts:

- Capital: Lusaka
- Currency: Zambian Kwacha
- Official Language: English
- Independence: 24 October 1964
- Continent: Africa
- Region: Southern Africa
- Major Resource: Copper
- President: Hakainde Hichilema
- Political Party: United Party for National Development (UPND)
- Electoral Body: Electoral Commission of Zambia

Significance:

- Political continuity: Provides Hichilema another five-year mandate to implement economic reforms.
- Economic reforms: Debt restructuring and investment remain major priorities.
- Critical minerals: Zambia’s copper and cobalt resources increase its importance in global supply chains.
- India–Africa relations: Zambia is an important partner for India in the areas of trade, development cooperation and capacity building.

Exam Focus Points:

- Person: Hakainde Hichilema
- Country: Zambia
- Achievement: Re-elected for second five-year term
- Election: 2026 Zambian Presidential Election
- Party: UPND
- Capital: Lusaka
- Currency: Zambian Kwacha
- Major Resource: Copper

- Strategic Link: African politics, critical minerals, economic reforms and India–Africa relations

Exercise MAITREE: India–Thailand Joint Military Exercise for Counter-Terrorism



- India and Thailand are conducting the 15th edition of the India–Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV, aimed at strengthening military cooperation, interoperability and joint capabilities, particularly for counter-terrorism operations. The exercise is being held in Thailand in 2026.

The exercise focuses on:

- Joint planning and tactical drills
- Counter-terrorism operations in urban and jungle environments
- Cordon-and-search operations
- Room intervention and hostage-rescue drills
- Special arms and firing skills
- Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance
- Small-team insertion and extraction
- Drone and counter-drone operations
- Physical fitness and combat conditioning

Other India–Thailand Joint Military/Defence Exercises:

India–Thailand Bilateral Maritime Exercise:

- The maiden bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy was conducted in December 2023. It involved surface and anti-air exercises, weapon firing, seamanship evolutions and tactical manoeuvres.

Indo-Thai CORPAT:

- CORPAT - Coordinated Patrol. India and Thailand conduct coordinated naval patrols in the Andaman Sea to strengthen maritime security and surveillance. The 36th edition was conducted alongside the maiden bilateral maritime exercise in December 2023.

PASSEX:

- PASSEX (Passage Exercise) is conducted between naval forces, generally when ships of one navy visit the other country's port or operate together. In January 2026, Indian Navy ships conducted PASSEX with HTMS Huahin of the Royal Thai Navy near Phuket.

India–Thailand Defence Relations:

- Defence cooperation is an important component of India–Thailand relations. Joint exercises, military exchanges, training programmes and professional interactions contribute to greater interoperability and mutual understanding.
- The partnership also supports India's Act East Policy, which seeks stronger engagement with Southeast Asian countries and greater regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Exam Focus Points:

- Exercise: MAITREE
- Countries: India and Thailand
- Participants: Indian Army and Royal Thai Army
- First Instituted: 2006
- 2025 Edition: MAITREE-XIV
- 2025 Venue: Umroi, Meghalaya
- Focus: Counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency

- Strategic Link: Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific security

Shabnam Sinha: To Succeed Sunil Bharti Mittal as Airtel Payments Bank Chairperson



- Shabnam Sinha has been appointed as the next Chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank, succeeding Sunil Bharti Mittal. She will assume office for a three-year term from 1 October 2026, following approval by the bank's Board and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

About Shabnam Sinha:

- Shabnam Sinha is currently an Independent Director on the Airtel Payments Bank Board. She chairs the bank's Special Committee for Monitoring Frauds and is also a member of its Risk Management and IT Committees. She has more than three decades of experience in development finance, financial services, public policy, governance and institutional transformation, including significant experience with the World Bank.

About Sunil Bharti Mittal:

- Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, has served as the Non-Executive Chairman of Airtel Payments Bank since April 2016. He will conclude his tenure and step down from the bank's Board on 30 September 2026. Under his leadership, the bank expanded its digital banking and financial inclusion network significantly.

Airtel Payments Bank:

- Airtel Payments Bank is a payments bank regulated by the RBI, offering services such as savings accounts, digital payments, money transfers, bill payments and other banking-related services. It operates through the Airtel Thanks App and a large network of banking points across India.
- The bank currently serves over 121 million monthly active users, nearly 30 million bank-account customers, and has more than 5 lakh banking points.

Payments Banks – Key Facts:

- Payments banks were introduced by the RBI to promote financial inclusion and digital payments.
- Can accept deposits subject to the regulatory limit.
- Cannot undertake traditional lending activities such as providing loans.
- Can provide payment and remittance services.
- Can issue ATM/debit cards.
- Are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

Exam Focus Points:

- Person: Shabnam Sinha
- New Position: Chairperson, Airtel Payments Bank
- Term: 3 years from 1 October 2026
- Predecessor: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Regulator: Reserve Bank of India
- Previous Role: Independent Director, Airtel Payments Bank
- Key Expertise: Development finance, governance, public policy and financial services
- Strategic Link: Financial inclusion and digital banking

Surakshit Shakti Drive: Gujarat Police Initiative for Women's Safety and Digital Security



- Deepfakes
- OTP fraud
- QR-code scams
- The campaign will also promote awareness of emergency and support mechanisms, including 112 – Emergency; 181 – Women's Helpline; 1930 – Cybercrime Helpline, along with One Stop Centres.

- The Gujarat Police has launched a 28-day statewide "Surakshit Shakti" drive to strengthen the safety and security of women and girls.
- The initiative combines preventive policing, digital-safety awareness, victim support, community participation and performance-based monitoring.

Key Features:

- The campaign focuses on four broad areas—prevention and protection, awareness and empowerment, support and enforcement, and sustainability.
- Police units have been directed to identify vulnerable locations, strengthen patrolling and undertake preventive measures against crimes and harassment targeting women. The use of body-worn cameras and technology-enabled policing will also be encouraged to improve accountability and evidence collection.

Digital Safety Focus:

- A major component is awareness about emerging cyber threats faced by women and girls, including:
- Cyberbullying
- Online grooming
- Sextortion

Community Participation:

- Schools, colleges, NCC, NSS, NGOs and local communities will participate through safety pledges, awareness programmes, community meetings and self-defence training. Women will also be encouraged to understand their legal rights and available support systems.

Performance-Based Policing:

- The initiative introduces a KPI-based monitoring system to assess police performance. 40% weightage has been assigned to improvements in crime-related indicators, while public feedback, police response and adoption of innovative practices will also be considered.

Exam Focus Points:

- Initiative: Surakshit Shakti
- Launched by: Gujarat Police
- Duration: 28 days
- Target Group: Women and girls
- Major Focus: Physical safety + digital security
- Monitoring: KPI-based performance evaluation
- Strategic Link: Women's empowerment, community policing and cybercrime prevention

India-US Defence Cooperation: MQ-9B Drone Lease Contract

- The United States has welcomed India's defence contract for leasing MQ-9B remotely piloted

aircraft systems (RPAS) and described it as an important step in strengthening the India-US defence partnership.

- The development highlights growing cooperation between the two countries in unmanned aerial systems, maritime surveillance and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.



MQ-9B:

- The MQ-9B is a long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems of the United States. It is designed for persistent Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions and can operate for extended periods.
- The MQ-9B family includes variants such as SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian, with the latter particularly suited to maritime surveillance.

India's MQ-9B Acquisition:

- India has been strengthening its unmanned surveillance capabilities through cooperation with the US. In October 2024, India and the US concluded a major agreement for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B HALE (High Altitude Long Endurance) armed drones—15 SeaGuardians for the Indian Navy and 8 each for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.
- The systems are intended to enhance India's capabilities in maritime domain awareness,

border surveillance, anti-submarine warfare support and precision strike operations.

Key Features:

- HALE: High Altitude Long Endurance
- Long-endurance ISR: Enables prolonged surveillance missions.
- Satellite communication: Supports operations over large distances.
- Maritime surveillance: SeaGuardian variant is designed for maritime missions.
- Precision strike capability: Armed variants can employ precision-guided weapons.

India-US Defence Partnership:

- Defence cooperation has become a major pillar of the India-US strategic partnership. Important areas include military exercises, defence technology, logistics cooperation, intelligence sharing and defence industrial collaboration.
- India and the US are also partners in the Quad, along with Japan and Australia, which focuses on a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific.

Exam Focus Points:

- System: MQ-9B
- Category: HALE remotely piloted aircraft
- Manufacturer: General Atomics
- Country: United States
- Variants: SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian
- Primary Role: ISR and surveillance
- Indian Acquisition: 31 MQ-9B aircraft
- Indian Navy: 15 SeaGuardians
- Army & Air Force: 8 each
- Strategic Link: India-US defence cooperation and Indo-Pacific security

India Inaugurates Three High-Impact Development Projects in Bhutan

- India and Bhutan have further strengthened their development partnership with the inauguration of three high-impact development projects (HICDPs) in Bhutan. The projects reflect India's continued support for Bhutan's socio-

economic development under the framework of India-Bhutan development cooperation.

Key Highlights:

- The three projects are located in different parts of Bhutan and focus on community infrastructure, education and socio-economic development. They were inaugurated as part of India's ongoing assistance to Bhutan through the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) mechanism.
- HICDPs are small-scale, community-oriented projects identified and implemented in consultation with local communities and the Royal Government of Bhutan. They address immediate developmental needs at the grassroots level.



India–Bhutan Development Partnership:

- India is one of Bhutan's major development partners and has supported projects in areas such as education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, digital connectivity, energy and skill development.
- India's development assistance is guided by Bhutan's own priorities and aims to promote sustainable and inclusive development.

Hydropower Cooperation:

- Hydropower remains a major pillar of India–Bhutan economic cooperation. Bhutan has significant hydropower potential, while India is an important market for Bhutanese electricity.

Major India-supported hydropower projects include:

- Chukha Hydroelectric Project – 336 MW
- Kurichhu Hydroelectric Project – 60 MW
- Tala Hydroelectric Project – 1,020 MW
- Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project – 720 MW
- The Punatsangchhu-I and Punatsangchhu-II projects are also important components of bilateral hydropower cooperation.

Additional Key Facts:

- Bhutan: Himalayan landlocked country
- Capital: Thimphu
- Currency: Ngultrum
- Official Language: Dzongkha
- Head of State: King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- Government: Constitutional monarchy
- India–Bhutan Diplomatic Relations: Established in 1968
- Treaty: India–Bhutan Friendship Treaty, 2007
- Strategic Importance: Himalayan security, hydropower, connectivity and regional cooperation

Exam Focus Points:

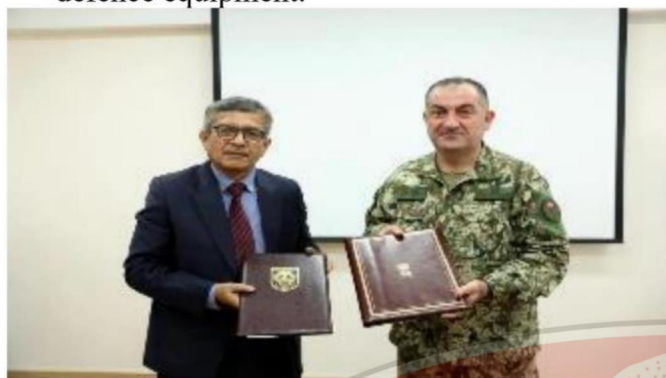
- Country: Bhutan
- Projects: Three High Impact Community Development Projects
- Nature: Community-oriented development assistance
- Major Cooperation Area: Hydropower and development partnership
- Diplomatic Relations: 1968
- Friendship Treaty: 2007
- Capital: Thimphu
- Currency: Ngultrum
- Strategic Link: India's Neighbourhood First Policy and Himalayan cooperation

India–Armenia Sign MoU on Defence Innovation and Shared Production

- India and Armenia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen

cooperation in innovation, technology and shared production in the defence industry.

- The agreement is aimed at promoting collaboration between defence industries of the two countries and expanding opportunities for joint development and manufacturing of defence equipment.



Key Highlights:

- The MoU seeks to establish a framework for cooperation in:
- Defence innovation and emerging technologies
- Joint development and production of defence systems
- Technology and knowledge sharing
- Cooperation between defence industries and institutions
- Identification of opportunities for co-production and industrial partnerships
- The agreement reflects India's growing emphasis on defence indigenisation and export-oriented defence manufacturing.

India–Armenia Defence Relations:

- Defence cooperation has emerged as an important pillar of India–Armenia bilateral relations. India has supplied several defence platforms and systems to Armenia, strengthening its role as an emerging defence partner.
- India has exported systems including Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers, Swathi weapon-locating radars and ammunition to Armenia. Such cooperation demonstrates India's growing capabilities as a defence exporter.

Significance for India:

- Defence exports: Supports India's objective of expanding its global defence-export footprint.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat: Encourages indigenous development and manufacturing of defence technologies.
- Technology cooperation: Promotes collaboration in advanced and emerging defence technologies.
- Strategic outreach: Strengthens India's engagement with the South Caucasus region.
- Industrial cooperation: Creates opportunities for Indian and Armenian defence companies to jointly develop and manufacture systems.

Additional Key Facts:

- Armenia: Landlocked country in the South Caucasus
- Capital: Yerevan
- Currency: Armenian Dram
- President: Vahagn Khachaturyan
- Prime Minister: Nikol Pashinyan
- Region: South Caucasus
- India–Armenia diplomatic relations: Established in 1992 after Armenia's independence from the Soviet Union.
- Major Indian defence exports to Armenia: Pinaka systems, Swathi radars and ammunition.

Defence Indigenisation:

- India has introduced initiatives such as Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, positive indigenisation lists and defence-industrial corridors to reduce dependence on imports and increase domestic defence production.
- India is also seeking to become a major defence exporter, with indigenous platforms and systems being increasingly offered to partner countries.

Exam Focus Points:

- Countries: India and Armenia
- Agreement: MoU on defence innovation and shared production

- Focus: Defence technology, innovation and co-production
- Armenian Capital: Yerevan
- Currency: Armenian Dram
- Diplomatic Relations: 1992

- Indian Defence Exports: Pinaka, Swathi radar and ammunition
- Strategic Link: Atmanirbhar Bharat and defence exports

RBI Imposes Penalties on IndusInd Bank and Three NBFCs for Regulatory Lapses



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties totalling ₹71.20 lakh on IndusInd Bank Ltd. and three Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for non-compliance with regulatory directions.
- The action followed RBI's supervisory inspections and highlights the importance of regulatory compliance and internal controls in the financial sector.

- Importantly, RBI generally clarifies that a monetary penalty for regulatory deficiencies does not by itself invalidate customer transactions or agreements; it relates to the entity's failure to comply with regulatory requirements.

About NBFCs:

- A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company engaged in financial activities such as lending and investment but is not a bank. NBFCs are regulated by the RBI under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and other applicable regulations.
- NBFCs play an important role in providing credit to sectors such as MSMEs, retail borrowers, housing and underserved segments.

Entities Penalised:

- IndusInd Bank: ₹59.20 lakh — the highest penalty.
- Northern Arc Capital Ltd.
- Muthoot MCred Ltd.
- Fusion Finance Ltd.
- The inspections of IndusInd Bank, Northern Arc Capital and Fusion Finance were conducted with reference to their financial positions as of 31 March 2025.

Additional Key Facts:

- Regulator: Reserve Bank of India
- Total Penalty: ₹71.20 lakh
- Highest Penalty: ₹59.20 lakh on IndusInd Bank
- Entities: IndusInd Bank + 3 NBFCs
- Inspection Reference: 31 March 2025
- Major Themes: Regulatory compliance, supervision, governance and risk management

Regulatory Compliance:

- RBI imposes penalties when regulated entities fail to comply with applicable laws, regulations or supervisory directions. Such penalties are intended to promote sound governance, customer protection, risk management and financial stability.

Exam Focus Points:

- Institution: RBI
- Action: Monetary penalties
- Total Amount: ₹71.20 lakh
- Bank Penalised: IndusInd Bank
- NBFCs: Northern Arc Capital, Muthoot MCred and Fusion Finance
- Strategic Link: Banking regulation, NBFC supervision and financial stability

Lets Revise

- ❖ Who has been conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army in 2026?
General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff of India.
- ❖ Where was India's first-ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems launched? **UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.**
- ❖ Who has been re-elected as President of Zambia for a second five-year term?
Hakainde Hichilema.
- ❖ MAITREE is a joint military exercise between India and which country? **Thailand.**
- ❖ Who will succeed Sunil Bharti Mittal as Chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank?
Shabnam Sinha.
- ❖ Which state recently launched the Surakshit Shakti Initiative? **Gujarat.**
- ❖ Which unmanned aircraft system is at the centre of the latest India-US defence cooperation? **MQ-9B.**
- ❖ What type of projects did India inaugurate in Bhutan in August 2026? **Three High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs).**
- ❖ India recently signed an MoU with which country for innovation and shared production in the defence industry? **Armenia.**
- ❖ Which institution imposed a total penalty of ₹71.20 lakh on IndusInd Bank and three NBFCs? **Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**



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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.

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