

RADIUS EDUCATION

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DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **India's impressive performance at the Asian Games 2026: Notable achievements in shooting, athletics and boxing**
- **11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan becomes the youngest woman Grandmaster; a new example of young talent and female participation in chess.**
- **SpaceX's Starship's first orbital flight: A key step towards reusable space transportation and a global space economy**
- **Kerala develops dengue early warning system: District-level disease forecasting using machine learning and weather data**
- **Promoting Sustainable Forest and Wood Certification in India through 'Pramaan': A Step towards Environmental Sustainability and Global Supply Chain**
- **India's Forest and Landscape Restoration Model at COFO-28: Emphasis on Sustainable Forest Management, Carbon Sinks and Climate-Resilient Ecosystems**
- **'Prahaar' counter-terrorism strategy and new extradition portal: Boosting inter-agency coordination in transnational crime control**
- **International Day of Older Persons 2026: Emphasis on healthy, dignified and inclusive ageing amid growing elderly population**

1. India's Stellar Performance at the 2026 Asian Games: Remarkable Achievements in Shooting, Athletics, and Boxing

Indian shooters and athletes delivered outstanding performances at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games. Neeru Dhanda won a silver medal in the women's trap team event and a gold medal in the individual event, while Esha Singh secured a silver medal in the 25m pistol event. Vithya Ramraj broke the national record while winning bronze in the 400m hurdles and also won silver and gold medals in the mixed and women's 4×400m relays, respectively. Other Indian athletes, including Yashvir Singh, Rohit Yadav, Gulveer Singh, and Pooja Singh, also bolstered India's sporting prowess by winning medals in athletics.



2. 11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan becomes the youngest female Grandmaster; a new example of young talent and female participation in chess

Bodhana Sivanandan, an 11-year-old chess player of Indian origin representing England, achieved this milestone by securing her third and final Woman Grandmaster (WGM) norm at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad, becoming the youngest person to do so. Playing on the top board for England, she scored 8 points out of 11 rounds, delivering a stellar performance in the Olympiad's women's section, which saw participation from 189 teams. Previously, Bodhana had also become the youngest girl to secure an International Master (IM) norm and the youngest female chess champion in Britain.



3. SpaceX Starship's First Orbital Flight: A Significant Step Toward Reusable Space Transport and the Global Space Economy

On September 28, 2026, SpaceX's Starship-Super Heavy system successfully entered Earth's orbit for the first time during its 14th test flight. During the mission, 26 Starlink V3 satellites were deployed into orbit, expanding the next-generation global broadband network. Although the mission concluded after approximately three hours due to a malfunction in one Raptor engine, key objectives—such as orbital insertion and satellite deployment—were achieved. This milestone marks a crucial step in the development of Starship for reusable space transport, future lunar and Mars missions, and human spaceflight.



4. Kerala Develops Dengue Early Warning System: District-Level Disease Forecasting Using Machine Learning and Weather Data

Kerala's Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) has developed a Dengue Early Warning System (DEWS) based on machine learning, disease surveillance, and meteorological data. This system generates weekly risk forecasts for each district based on dengue cases, rainfall, temperature, and average humidity. District-level alerts can assist health authorities in proactively strengthening mosquito control, surveillance, testing, and healthcare preparedness.



5. Promoting Sustainable Forest and Timber Certification in India via 'PRAMAAN': A Step Towards Environmental Sustainability and Global Supply Chains

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav awarded 'PRAMAAN' certificates under the IFWCS, an initiative aimed at promoting sustainable forest management, responsible sourcing, and the traceability of forest products. 'PRAMAAN' is the brand name for the IFWCS, launched by the Ministry of Environment in December 2023; it covers Forest Management, Trees Outside Forests, and Chain of Custody. The certification process involves stages such as application, assessment, audit, rectification of non-compliance, and final certification, thereby enhancing the system's credibility.



Program for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources

6. India's Forest and Landscape Restoration Model at COFO-28: Emphasis on Sustainable Forest Management, Carbon Sinks, and Climate-Resilient Ecosystems

India showcased its efforts in forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, and climate action at the FAO's COFO-28 held in Rome. India's forest and tree cover stands at 82.74 million hectares (25.17%), and the country has set a target to create an additional carbon sink of 3.5–4.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2035. Under the Bonn Challenge, India aims to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, with work already completed on 21.76 million hectares.



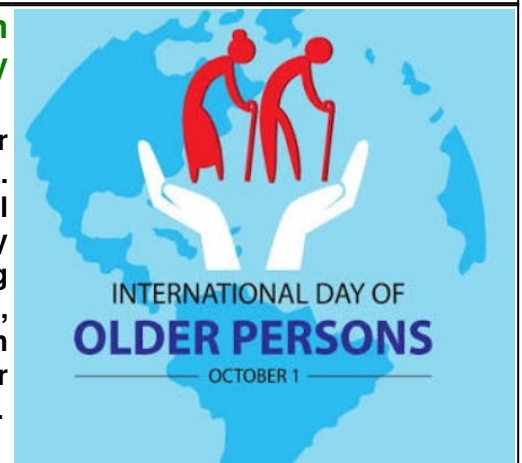
7. 'Prahar' Counter-Terrorism Strategy and New Extradition Portal: Boosting Inter-Agency Coordination in International Crime Control

On September 28, 2026, Amit Shah launched a new Extradition Portal aimed at enhancing coordination among central agencies, state police, and international bodies for the return of fugitive offenders. India has brought back 288 fugitive offenders from 36 countries between 2019 and 2026, while 'BHARATPOL' strengthens international police cooperation and information sharing. Launched in February 2026, the 'Prahar' national counter-terrorism policy focuses on prevention, rapid response, human rights, international cooperation, and resilience through seven pillars.



8. International Day of Older Persons 2026: Emphasis on Healthy, Dignified, and Inclusive Aging Amidst a Growing Elderly Population

The International Day of Older Persons is observed annually on October 1st; it was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990. Its objective is to raise awareness regarding the rights, dignity, social participation, and dignified lives of the elderly. In India, the elderly population is increasing due to rising life expectancy and declining fertility rates, giving rise to challenges related to healthcare, pensions, social security, and long-term care. By promoting 'Active Ageing'—which ensures the health, participation, and security of the elderly—their experience and skills can be harnessed for socio-economic development.



1. In which event did Esha Singh win a silver medal at the 2026 Asian Games?

- A - 10m Air Rifle
B - 25m Pistol
C - Women's Trap
D - 50m Pistol

At the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026, Indian athletes—including Neeru Dhanda, Esha Singh, and Vithya Ramraj—delivered outstanding performances and won multiple medals in shooting and athletics. Vithya Ramraj broke the national record in the 400m hurdles, while Indian athletes also achieved remarkable success in events such as relays and javelin throw.



2. Which norm did Bodhana Sivanandan achieve at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad?

- A - IM norm
B - GM norm
C - WGM norm
D - FM norm

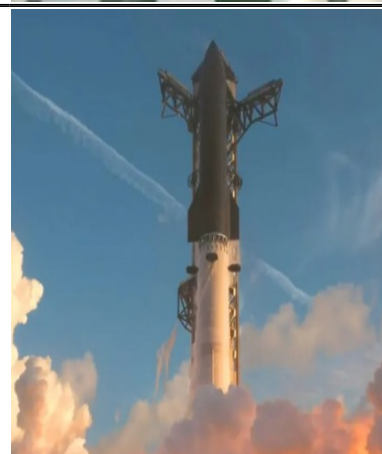
Bodhana Sivanandan, an 11-year-old chess player of Indian origin representing England, achieved the record for the youngest player to secure a WGM norm by clinching her third and final norm at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad. Playing on the top board for England, she scored 8 points across 11 rounds; she had previously become the youngest girl to achieve an IM norm and the youngest female chess champion in Britain.



3. When did the 14th test flight of Starship—Super Heavy take place?

- A - 26 September 2026
B - 27 September 2026
C - 28 September 2026
D - 29 September 2026

On 28 September 2026, SpaceX's Starship—Super Heavy deployed 26 Starlink V3 satellites while entering Earth's orbit for the first time during its 14th test flight. Despite a malfunction in one Raptor engine, the mission's key objectives were achieved, marking progress towards reusable space transportation and future lunar-Martian missions.



4. Which institute has developed the Dengue Early Warning System (DEWS)?

- A - ICMR
B - Institute of Advanced Virology
C - NCDC
D - AIIMS

Kerala's Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) has developed the Dengue Early Warning System (DEWS) based on machine learning, disease surveillance, and meteorological data; it forecasts weekly dengue risk at the district level. Based on rainfall, temperature, humidity, and dengue case data, the system assists health authorities in mosquito control, testing, and healthcare preparedness.



5. What is the brand name of IFWCS?

- A - Harit
C - Vanmitra
B - Praman
D - Prakriti

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav awarded 'Praman' certificates under the IFWCS, which aims to promote sustainable forest management, responsible sourcing, and the traceability of forest products. IFWCS encompasses Forest Management, Trees Outside Forests, and Chain of Custody; its Forest Management Certification is linked to the National Working Plan Code (NWPC) 2023.



6. What target has India set for additional carbon sinks by 2035?

- A - 1.5–2.0 billion tonnes of CO₂e
C - 3.5–4.0 billion tonnes of CO₂e
B - 2.0–2.5 billion tonnes of CO₂e
D - 4.5–5.0 billion tonnes of CO₂e

India presented its efforts regarding forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, and climate action at the FAO's COFO-28 in Rome, setting a target of 3.5–4.0 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent additional carbon sinks by 2035. Under the Bonn Challenge, India has pledged to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, while initiatives like the Aravalli Green Wall focus on land degradation, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.



7. Who launched the new Extradition Portal?

- A - Rajnath Singh
C - S. Jaishankar
B - Amit Shah
D - Ashwini Vaishnaw

On September 28, 2026, Amit Shah launched a new Extradition Portal aimed at enhancing coordination among central agencies, state police, and international bodies for the return of fugitive offenders. The 'Prahar' national counter-terrorism policy focuses on terrorism prevention, rapid response, international cooperation, and resilience through seven pillars.



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8. What is the primary objective of Active Ageing?

- A - Only increasing old-age pensions
C - Only providing employment
B - Promoting health, participation, and security
D - Increasing the number of old-age homes

The International Day of Older Persons is observed annually on October 1st; it was established by the UN General Assembly in 1990 with the aim of promoting the rights, dignity, and social participation of the elderly. In India, the elderly population is growing due to rising life expectancy and declining fertility rates, leading to an increased need for healthcare, pensions, social security, and long-term care.



One Liner

1. How many Starlink V3 satellites were deployed during Starship's 14th test flight? - **26**
2. Which central agency developed BHARATPOL? - **CBI**
3. In which event did Neeru Dhanda win an individual gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games? - **Women's Trap**
4. Bodhana Sivanandan achieved the final WGM norm for which chess title? - **Woman Grandmaster**
5. How many key pillars are there in the 'Prahar' national counter-terrorism policy? - **7**
6. On which date is the International Day of Older Persons observed every year? - **October 1**
7. What is the brand name of the certificate issued under IFWCS? - **PRAMAAN**
8. In which city was the FAO's COFO-28 held? - **Rome**
9. What is the primary objective of India's new Extradition Portal? - **Return of fugitive offenders**
10. How many key factors were used in Kerala's Dengue Early Warning System? - **4**