

8. Short News

1. INS Trikand's Deployment to the Mediterranean Sea

The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trikand, a state-of-the-art stealth frigate, recently completed a port call at Alexandria, Egypt. This visit was part of its ongoing operational deployment to the strategically important Mediterranean Sea.

About INS Trikand -

Overview - INS Trikand is a Talwar-class guided-missile frigate. It is the third and final ship of the second batch of these frigates ordered by the Indian Navy.

Commissioning - It was constructed at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, and was officially commissioned into the Indian Navy on 29 June 2013.

Design and Technology - The frigate incorporates advanced stealth technology and a special hull design to minimize its radar cross-section, making it difficult to detect. It features a sophisticated blend of Russian and Indian-made systems.

Primary Weaponry - It is armed with the formidable BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, enhancing its anti-ship and land-attack capabilities.

2. India's Success at World Boxing Championships 2025

Prime Minister Modi congratulated Indian boxer Minakshi Hooda for winning the gold medal in the 48kg category at the World Boxing Championships 2025, which were held in Liverpool.

Key Highlights and Medalists -

1. Minakshi Hooda (Gold) - She secured the gold medal by defeating Kazakhstan's celebrated three-time world champion, Nazym Kyzaibay, in the 48kg final.
2. Jaismine Lamboria (Gold) - She won her first-ever World Championships medal, becoming the ninth Indian woman boxer to be crowned a world champion.

Other Medalists -

1. Nupur Sheoran (+80kg) - Won a silver medal.
2. Pooja Rani (80kg) - Claimed a bronze medal.

Overall Achievement - With a total of 2 golds, 1 silver, and 1 bronze, the Indian contingent delivered its best-ever performance in an overseas World Championships.

Legacy of Indian Women's World Champions - The latest winners join an elite list of Indian women boxers who have won world titles, including -

1. Mary Kom (a legendary six-time winner)
2. Nikhat Zareen (a two-time champion)
3. Sarita Devi, Jenny RL, Lekha KC, Nitu Ghanghas, Lovlina Borgohain, and Saweety Boora.

3. National Engineers' Day 2025 - Honouring Sir M. Visvesvaraya

On September 15, 2025, Prime Minister Modi and other leaders paid tribute to Sir M. Visvesvaraya on National Engineers' Day, emphasizing the crucial role of engineers in innovation and building a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

About Engineers' Day - Commemoration - The day marks the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and has been celebrated across India since 1968 as a tribute to the engineering community.

Purpose - It aims to inspire innovation, recognize engineering excellence, and highlight the link between technology and national progress.

About Sir M. Visvesvaraya (1861-1962) - Legacy - Born in Muddenahalli, Mysore, he is regarded as one of India's greatest engineers, whose pioneering work revolutionized infrastructure.

Key Contributions -

1. Infrastructure - He was the chief engineer for the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore.
2. Innovation - He invented and patented a system of automatic floodgates in 1903.

3. Institution Building – He played a key role in founding the Bank of Mysore (1913), the Mysore Soap Factory, and the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) in Bangalore.
4. Governance – He served as the Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918, where he championed industrialisation, irrigation, and modern education.

Recognition – He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1955 and was made a Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire in 1915.

4. Indian Navy Inducts 'Androth', an Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft

The Indian Navy has received 'Androth', the second of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC) being built for it. The first ship, 'INS Arnala', was delivered in 2023, with the remaining six scheduled for induction by 2027.

About the ASW-SWC –

Naming – The ship is named after Androth Island in Lakshadweep, symbolizing India's maritime sovereignty and strategic focus on its island territories.

Builder – It is indigenously built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

Key Features – It is approximately 77 meters long and is propelled by a diesel engine-waterjet system, a first for the Indian Navy. It is equipped with lightweight torpedoes, indigenous ASW rockets, and advanced sonar and surveillance systems for detecting and neutralizing underwater threats.

Purpose and Strategic Implications –

1. Primary Roles – Its main purpose is coastal defence, submarine detection, deterring enemy infiltration, and strategically monitoring maritime choke points.
2. Strategic Context – This induction comes at a time when China is expanding its submarine presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and the Pakistan Navy is modernizing its submarine fleet.
3. Benefits – The craft enhances India's surveillance capabilities, naval presence in littoral (coastal) waters, and boosts the security of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
4. Aatmanirbhar Bharat – The project is a major boost for self-reliance in defence, reducing import dependency and strengthening the domestic shipbuilding ecosystem.

5. National Hindi Diwas 2025

Hindi Diwas was celebrated across the nation on September 14, 2025. The theme for 2025 was "Strength of National Integration and Global Identity."

About National Hindi Diwas –

Commemoration – It is observed annually on September 14th to mark the day in 1949 when the Constituent Assembly of India adopted Hindi as an official language.

Constitutional Basis – Article 343 of the Constitution designates Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union. The Official Languages Act, 1963, extended the use of English for official purposes.

Purpose – To promote the use of Hindi in administration, celebrate India's linguistic unity, and highlight its rich diversity.

About the Hindi Language –

Prevalence – It is the most spoken language in India (nearly 44% as per the 2011 Census) and the 4th most spoken language globally.

Origin – It is an Indo-Aryan language that evolved from Sanskrit through Prakrits and Apabhramsha.

Official Status – It is one of the 22 scheduled languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution and is the official language of 9 states, in addition to being a Union official language.

Historical Role – Hindi served as a lingua franca during the freedom movement and was promoted by leaders like Gandhi and Nehru for mass mobilization.

Distinction from World Hindi Diwas – It is important not to confuse National Hindi Diwas with World Hindi Diwas, which is observed on January 10th each year to commemorate the first World Hindi Conference held in 1975.

6. Philippines Opposes China's Nature Reserve Plan at Scarborough Shoal

The Philippines has formally opposed China's unilateral plan to establish a nature reserve at the

disputed Huangyan Island, more commonly known as Scarborough Shoal, in the South China Sea.

About Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal) -

Multiple Names - The feature is known as Huangyan Island (in China), Scarborough Shoal (in English), and Panatag Shoal (in the Philippines).

Description - It is a disputed coral atoll strategically located in the South China Sea.

Significance - Its importance stems from its rich fisheries, potential undersea hydrocarbon resources, and its value for military positioning.

Location - It is situated approximately 220 km west of Luzon, Philippines, near the deep-sea Manila Trench.

Historical Claims - It first appeared on a map of the Philippines in the 1734 Velarde Map, claimed under Spanish colonial rule. It was named "Scarborough" after a British ship of the same name was grounded on the atoll in 1748. The Philippines' modern legal claim is partly derived from the Treaty of Washington (1900).

About the South China Sea - It is a marginal sea of the western Pacific Ocean, bounded by the Asian mainland (China, Vietnam), Taiwan, the Philippines, and Borneo.

7. Australia Approves First Vaccine to Protect Koalas from Chlamydia

The Australian government has approved the first-ever vaccine designed to protect the country's shrinking and vulnerable koala population from the devastating effects of chlamydia.

About the Vaccine and Chlamydia -

Efficacy - The vaccine was found to have decreased mortality by at least 65% in trials.

Chlamydia - It is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia pecorum*.

Impact on Koalas - In koalas, the infection is a major conservation threat, causing severe outcomes like infertility and blindness.

Human Comparison - Chlamydia also affects humans (caused by a different bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis*) and is a major but treatable sexually transmitted infection (STI).

About the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) -

Classification - The koala is a tree-dwelling marsupial (a mammal that carries its young in a pouch) and is native to Australia. It is often mistakenly called a "koala bear" but is not a bear.

Habitat - Koalas are primarily found in the eucalyptus forests of eastern and southeastern Australia (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia).

Diet - They are herbivores with a highly specialized diet, eating almost exclusively eucalyptus leaves.

Threats - Besides chlamydia, the koala population is threatened by habitat loss, climate change, and frequent bushfires.

Conservation Status - Since 2022, koalas have been listed as endangered in Queensland, New South Wales, and the Australian Capital Territory under Australia's national environmental law. Their global IUCN Red List status is Vulnerable.

8. "Next Rose" Eustoma Flower Blooms in Odisha for the First Time

The Eustoma flower, previously available in Odisha only through expensive imports, has been successfully cultivated locally for the first time.

The Achievement - This significant floricultural breakthrough was achieved by scientists at the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), a research arm of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

About the Eustoma (*Eustoma grandiflorum*) -

Common Name - It is popularly known as Lisianthus. **Family** - It belongs to the Gentianaceae family.

Native Region - The flower is native to Mexico and North America.

Cultivation Requirements - It thrives in rich, well-drained soil and requires full sunlight. It needs consistent moisture but is highly sensitive to overwatering, which can cause root rot.

Key Characteristics and Market Appeal - It is highly prized for its enormous, elegant, rose-like blossoms, long sturdy stems, and exceptionally long vase life. Due to these qualities, its sales have surged in recent years, earning it the nickname the "next rose" in the global flower market.