

7. Short News

1. Chandrayaan-2 Observes Sun's Impact on Moon

Chandrayaan-2 recorded the first direct observation of a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) from the Sun impacting the Moon, using its CHACE-2 payload.

About Chandrayaan 2

Launched July 22, 2019, Chandrayaan-2 orbiter carries eight experimental payloads.

Payload - CHACE-2 (Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2) is a neutral gas mass spectrometer on board ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter that studies the Moon's exosphere. It measured the lunar exosphere's response to solar CMEs. Chandrayaan-2's observations provide critical data on lunar exosphere dynamics and space weather effects, reinforcing India's role in cutting-edge lunar science and aiding future lunar exploration planning.

2. JAIMEX-25

Recently, INS Sahyadri participated in the Sea and Harbour phases of JAIMEX-25.

About JAIMEX (Japan-India Maritime Exercise)

JAIMEX is a bilateral naval exercise established to enhance coordination, trust, and interoperability between the Indian Navy and the JMSDF.

Origin - The first JIMEX was conducted off Japan in Jan 2012. It began under the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan in 2014, emphasizing maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

About JAIMEX-25

Location and Duration - The Sea Phase was conducted from 16–18 October 2025 in the Pacific Ocean, followed by the Harbour Phase at Yokosuka, Japan, on 21 October 2025.

Focus Areas -

1. Advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and missile defence drills.
2. Flying operations and underway replenishment for operational coordination.
3. Cross-deck visits, collaborative operational planning, sharing best practices, and a joint Yoga session to foster camaraderie.

Participants -

1. **Indian Navy -** INS Sahyadri (Shivalik-class stealth frigate).
2. **JMSDF -** Ships Asahi, Oumi, and submarine Jinryu.

Significance -

1. Strengthens defence diplomacy and operational synergy between two major Indo-Pacific democracies.
2. Reinforces the shared vision of a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
3. Complements other bilateral exercises like Malabar (Naval), Veer Guardian (Air Force), and Dharma Guardian (Army)

3. International Convention Against Doping in Sport

Recently, India has been re-elected as the Vice-Chair of the Bureau for the Asia-Pacific Group (Group IV) during the 10th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP10) to the International Convention against Doping in Sport, held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

About the 10th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP10)

Date and Milestone - Held from October 20–22, 2025, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Convention.

Participation - Attended by over 190 States Parties along with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), International Olympic Committee (IOC), and UNESCO.

Key Focus Areas - Strengthening governance reforms, financing the Fund for the Elimination of Doping

in Sport, and addressing emerging challenges like gene manipulation, traditional pharmacopoeia, and ethical issues in sport.

Leadership Structure – Azerbaijan elected as Chairperson; Brazil, Zambia, and Saudi Arabia as Vice-Chairs for other regional groups.

India's Contribution – Presented interactive displays highlighting its anti-doping journey and proposed integration of the Values Education through Sport (VETS) approach to inculcate ethics, integrity, and fair play among youth.

About the International Convention against Doping in Sport

Nature – A multilateral treaty under UNESCO through which States agree to adopt national and international measures to prevent and eliminate doping in sport.

Adoption – Adopted on 19 October 2005 during the 33rd session of UNESCO's General Conference.

Entry into Force – Came into effect on 1 February 2007 after initial ratification by 30 countries.

Current Status – Now has 192 States Parties, making it UNESCO's second most ratified treaty.

Objective – Aims to harmonize anti-doping legislation, guidelines, regulations, and rules globally to ensure a level and safe playing environment for all athletes.

Key Features –

1. **Legal Framework** – Aligns national anti-doping measures with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA Code) for consistency and fairness.
2. **Global Cooperation** – Promotes collaboration among governments, sports bodies, and scientific institutions to strengthen anti-doping systems.
3. **Funding Mechanism** – Provides an Anti-Doping Fund to support capacity-building, education, and awareness initiatives.
4. **Ethical Oversight** – Addresses new concerns such as gene doping and traditional pharmacopoeia to preserve sports ethics and integrity.
5. **Governance Reforms** – Through COP sessions, establishes a Bureau and Approval Committee to monitor compliance and financing.

Significance – Provides a platform for international cooperation in promoting sports integrity, athlete protection, and fair competition worldwide.

4. International Snow Leopard Day

On 23 October 2025, India observed International Snow Leopard Day by launching a nationwide campaign titled '#23for23' – inviting citizens to dedicate 23 minutes of physical activity in support of conservation of the Snow Leopard. The campaign was part of a global movement led by the Snow Leopard Trust, supported by UNESCO and UNEP, to raise awareness about mountain ecosystem protection.

About International Snow Leopard Day

Adoption – Declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 12 December 2024.

Objective – To promote global awareness and action for the protection of snow leopards and their habitats across Central and South Asia.

Significance – Safeguarding and conservation of the snow leopard contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Biodiversity).

About Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*)

Geographical Spread – Occurs across 12 countries – Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Habitat in India – Found in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

State Animal – Recognized as the state animal of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.

Adaptations – Known as the “Ghost of the Mountains” for its elusive nature and camouflage; adapted to survive in cold, rugged alpine environments.

Behaviour – Unlike other big cats, it does not roar but communicates through growls, hisses, meows, and a unique “chuff” sound. It is crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk) and solitary in nature.

Conservation Status

IUCN – Vulnerable.

CITES – Appendix I.

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – Schedule I.

Ecological Role

Regulating Prey Populations – As an apex predator, it controls populations of ibex and blue sheep, preventing overgrazing and soil erosion.

Supporting Biodiversity – By maintaining herbivore balance, it supports plant diversity and sustains the mountain ecosystem.

Food Web Support – Remnants of kills serve as food for vultures, wolves, and smaller carnivores, sustaining the food chain.

Indicator Species – The health of snow leopard populations reflects the ecological integrity of high-altitude habitats.

Status of Snow Leopard in India

Population – As per the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Program, India hosts around 718 snow leopards.

Population Distribution by State – Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), & Sikkim (21)

Flagship Species – Designated as a flagship species for conserving the high-altitude Himalayan ecosystem.

Key Habitat – Hemis National Park (Ladakh) – known as the “Snow Leopard Capital of the World.”

5. Jore Sahib

The Prime Minister urged people to have darshan of the sacred ‘Jore Sahib’ during the Guru Charan Yatra from Delhi to Takht Sri Patna Sahib.

About Jore Sahib

‘Jore Sahib’ refers to the sacred footwear associated with Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Sahib Kaur Ji, revered as holy relics in Sikh tradition.

Historical Background – The relics have been preserved by the family of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for nearly three centuries, symbolizing deep spiritual and historical continuity. The relics were formally handed over to the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) by Puri’s family for enshrinement at Patna Sahib.

Physical Description – The relics measure 11” × 3½” for Guru Gobind Singh Ji’s right foot and 9” × 3” for Mata Sahib Kaur Ji’s left foot.

Guru Charan Yatra Route – The Yatra began on October 23, 2025, from Gurdwara Moti Bagh (Delhi) and will travel through Faridabad, Agra, Lucknow, Varanasi, culminating at Takht Sri Patna Sahib on November 1, 2025. The Yatra aims to strengthen spiritual connection with the ideals of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Sahib Kaur Ji, promoting devotion, unity, and Sikh heritage.