



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 27-10-2025

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150 Years Celebration of Vande Mataram

Syllabus: GS-1: History - Art and Culture

Context

- In his *Mann Ki Baat* address, the Prime Minister urged citizens to celebrate **150 years of “Vande Mataram”**, calling it a “*mantra that unites 140 crore Indians.*”
- The anniversary marks **150 years since Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the song** in the 1870s, symbolizing India’s spiritual and patriotic awakening.

About Vande Mataram

- **Meaning:** “I bow to thee, Mother” — a tribute to the motherland.
- **Significance:** India’s **National Song**, symbolizing **reverence, unity, and patriotism.**



Authorship and Origin

- **Written by:** Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- **Language:** Sanskritised Bengali
- **Composed in:** 1870s
- **First published in:** *Anandamath* (1882), a novel depicting India’s struggle against colonial oppression.

Historical Journey

Year	Event / Development
1870s	Written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
1882	Published in <i>Anandamath</i>

Year	Event / Development
1896	First sung publicly by <i>Rabindranath Tagore</i> at the Indian National Congress Session
1905	Became the anthem of the <i>Swadeshi Movement</i> against Bengal Partition
1937	<i>INC adopted first two stanzas</i> officially as National Song to maintain secular appeal
1950 (Jan 24)	Constituent Assembly accorded <i>equal honour</i> to “Vande Mataram” and “Jana Gana Mana”

Features and Symbolism

- **Spiritual Patriotism:**
 - Portrays *Bharat Mata* as a nurturing, divine mother — source of strength and unity.
- **Secular Adaptation:**
 - Only **first two stanzas** are used officially — these avoid religious imagery, ensuring inclusivity.
- **Cultural Symbolism:**
 - Serves as a **rallying cry** for freedom and unity across regions and languages.
- **Historical Legacy:**
 - Integral to India’s **freedom movements** — *Swadeshi (1905)*, *Non-Cooperation (1920s)*, *Quit India (1942)*.
 - Inspired revolutionaries and reformers alike.

Current Constitutional and Legal Status

- **Recognized by the Government of India** as *equal in stature* to the National Anthem (*Jana Gana Mana*).
- **Instrumental version** played at the closing of every **Parliament session**.
- **Delhi High Court (2022):** Affirmed that citizens should show **equal respect** to both songs.
- Featured prominently in **national events, cultural festivals, and official ceremonies**.

Contemporary Relevance

- Marks a **symbol of unity, pride, and cultural resurgence**.

- Resonates with the vision of **“Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat”**.
- The **150th anniversary celebrations** aim to rekindle the spirit of collective identity and respect for India’s civilizational heritage.

Conclusion

“Vande Mataram” transcends its literary origin to embody the **soul of India’s nationalism**.

It remains a timeless call for unity, sacrifice, and devotion to the motherland — continuing to inspire generations even after 150 years.

Maha MedTech Mission

Syllabus: GS-2; Health, GS-3: Science and Technology – Medical Science.

Context:

Launched by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** in collaboration with **ICMR** and the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** to strengthen India’s medical technology ecosystem.

About the Mission

- **Full Name:** Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas – MedTech (MAHA-MedTech)
- **Nature:** A **national initiative** to drive innovation, manufacturing, and commercialization of **cutting-edge medical technologies** in India.
- **Objective:** Enhance **access, affordability, and self-reliance** in healthcare technologies.

Organisations Involved



➤ **Lead Agencies:**

- Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Aims & Objectives

- Reduce **dependence on costly medical imports**.
- Build **domestic capacity** in MedTech innovation and manufacturing.
- Ensure **affordable, high-quality devices and diagnostics** addressing national health priorities such as:
 - **Tuberculosis (TB)**
 - **Cancer**
 - **Maternal & Neonatal care**

Key Features

- **Funding Support:**
 - ₹5–25 crore per project; up to ₹50 crore for exceptional proposals.
 - Open to startups, MSMEs, academic institutions, hospitals, and industry collaborations.
- **Broad Scope:**
 - Devices, diagnostics, implants
 - AI/ML-based healthcare tools
 - Robotics and assistive technologies
- **Enabling Frameworks:**
 - **Patent Mitra:** For IP support and protection
 - **MedTech Mitra:** For regulatory facilitation
 - **Clinical Trial Network:** For validation and testing of technologies
- **Selection Process:**
 - **Stage 1:** Concept note submission (Sept–Nov 2025)
 - **Stage 2:** Full proposals (from Dec 2025 onwards)

Significance

- Boosts **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in medical technology.
- Encourages **industry-academia collaboration** and **research translation** from lab to market.
- Strengthens **India's position in the global MedTech sector**.
- Supports **inclusive healthcare innovation** benefiting underserved regions.

Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Industrial Policies.

Context:

- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** recently **credited India's DFTP Scheme** for significantly **boosting exports from Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**.
- The scheme has enhanced **South-South trade cooperation** and helped diversify export markets for the world's poorest nations.

About the DFTP Scheme

- **Launched:** 2008 by the **Government of India**.
- **Objective:**
 - To provide **preferential market access** to **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**.
 - To **promote economic growth, export diversification, and trade integration** of LDCs into the global economy.
- **Administered by:** Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



Key Features

Duty-Free Market Access

- Offers **duty-free or preferential tariff access** to **Indian markets** for exports from LDCs.
- Covers **over 98% of the tariff lines**, providing substantial coverage for LDC exports.

Eligible Countries

- Available to **all UN-recognized LDCs** (currently around **48 countries**).
- Includes nations from **Africa (e.g., Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique)**, **Asia (e.g., Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar)**, and **Pacific regions**.

Eligible Products

- Broad product coverage including:
 - **Agricultural goods:** fruits, vegetables, spices, cereals.
 - **Textiles and garments:** fabrics, apparel, home textiles.
 - **Handicrafts and traditional goods:** jewelry, handwoven items.
 - **Leather products:** garments, bags, footwear.
 - **Minerals and metals:** gold, diamonds, ores.

Exclusion List

- A small **Negative List** (around 1.8% of tariff lines) includes products excluded for domestic sensitivity (e.g., certain agricultural and industrial products).

Significance

- **Trade Boost:** Helped LDCs **increase exports to India**, especially in **textiles, leather, and agricultural sectors**.
- **South-South Cooperation:** Strengthens India's image as a **development partner** among Global South countries.
- **Inclusive Globalization:** Supports **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
- **Strategic Diplomacy:** Enhances India's engagement with **Africa and South Asia**, countering China's trade influence.

Challenges

- **Limited Awareness:** Many LDC exporters are unaware of the scheme's procedures.
- **Complex Documentation:** Compliance with rules of origin and certification can be cumbersome.

- **Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** Weak export logistics in LDCs reduce benefits realization.

Way Forward

- Simplify customs and certification processes.
- Enhance **capacity building** for LDC exporters.
- Promote **digital trade facilitation** and awareness campaigns.
- Align with **India's Africa Policy** and **Neighbourhood First Policy** for broader trade development.

Conclusion

India's **Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme** exemplifies **inclusive trade policy** and **South-South solidarity**, aligning with India's vision of being a **partner in development** rather than a mere trading power.

It has positioned India as a **supportive stakeholder** in fostering equitable global trade, especially for the world's poorest economies.

Integrated Alert System (SACHET)

Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Technology

Context

- At the ongoing **G20 Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** held in **Durban**, India's **Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister** highlighted India's cutting-edge **Integrated Alert System (SACHET)**.

About Integrated Alert System (SACHET)

- **Vision & Development:** Envisioned by the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and developed by the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, a premier R&D centre under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**.
- **Purpose:** To deliver **real-time, geo-targeted disaster alerts** directly to citizens, ensuring **last-mile communication** during emergencies.
- **Technical Basis:**
Built on the **Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)** — a global standard recommended

by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** for interoperable alert dissemination across multiple platforms.

➤ **Coverage & Functioning:**

- Fully operational in **all States and Union Territories (UTs)**.
- Sends **location-specific alerts** (SMS, Cell Broadcasts, etc.) to citizens in affected regions.
- Allows users to receive alerts for their **current location** or **subscribe to other regions** (state/district).

○ **Communication Channels:**

Integrates multiple dissemination modes including:

- **SMS, Cell Broadcast, Mobile App,**
- **TV, Radio, Social Media,**
- **Browser Notifications, RSS Feeds, and Satellite Links.**

➤ **Mobile Application (SACHET App):**

- Provides verified **disaster warnings** from authorized government sources.
- Offers **daily weather forecasts** from the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.
- Aims to **enhance public preparedness and minimize loss of life** through timely alerts.

Significance

- Enhances **disaster preparedness and risk reduction** under the **Sendai Framework for DRR (2015–2030)**.
- Demonstrates **India's global leadership** in integrating digital technologies for disaster resilience.
- Strengthens **multi-agency coordination** across domains — weather, ocean, and seismic — for faster response times.

Kopi Luwak

Syllabus: GS-3: Environment - Wildlife Conservation

Context:

- A **recent scientific study** revealed that **civet-processed Robusta coffee (Kopi Luwak)** significantly differs from **naturally harvested Robusta beans** in **fatty acid composition and total fat content**.

- These variations help explain the **unique aroma, flavor, and smooth texture** of Kopi Luwak, which make it one of the **most expensive coffees in the world**.

About Kopi Luwak (Civet Coffee)



Origin & Process

- **Kopi Luwak** is made from **coffee beans partially digested and excreted by the Asian Palm Civet (Paradoxurus hermaphroditus)**.
- After civets eat ripe coffee cherries, the beans pass through their digestive system and are later collected, cleaned, dried, and roasted.

Flavor Profile

- The **fermentation in the civet's gut** alters the chemical composition of the beans.
- **Digestive enzymes** and **gastric juices** increase **citric acid levels**, producing:
 - A **lemony tanginess**
 - **Smooth, low-acid texture**
 - Distinct **chocolate, caramel, and nutty notes**

Price and Luxury Status

- Known as the **“world's most expensive coffee”**, prices can exceed **US\$1,300 per kilogram**.
- Often considered a **luxury or gourmet delicacy**, particularly in Japan, the US, and Europe.

Ethical and Environmental Concerns

- Many producers **confine civets in cages** and **force-feed coffee cherries** to boost production.
- Such practices raise serious **animal welfare issues** and can cause **stress and malnutrition** in civets.

- Ethical coffee producers now promote **wild-sourced Kopi Luwak**, emphasizing **sustainability** and **animal welfare**.

Asian Palm Civet: Key Facts

Aspect	Details
Scientific Name	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>
Common Names	Toddy Cat, Common Palm Civet
Habitat	Forests and plantations in South & Southeast Asia — India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines
Physical Traits	2–5 kg, 53–71 cm long; brown-gray fur with black spots and white face markings
Diet	Omnivorous – eats fruits, small animals, and insects
Behavior	Nocturnal and solitary; excellent climber
IUCN Status	Least Concern

Scientific Insight

- The **fatty acid profile** and **total fat content** are **unique** in civet-processed beans.
- These biochemical changes, triggered by **enzymatic digestion**, are believed to **enhance aroma and flavor complexity** — confirming traditional beliefs about its superior taste.

Ethical Alternatives

- Certifications like **Fair Trade** and **Rainforest Alliance** encourage **humane and eco-friendly sourcing**.
- Growing preference for **wild-sourced Kopi Luwak** aims to ensure **conservation-friendly luxury coffee**.