



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 26-09-2025

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GS-3

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Venezuela

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography

Context:

- 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck northwest Venezuela (reported by U.S. Geological Survey).
- Venezuela lies in a seismically active region due to the interaction of the Caribbean Plate with the South American Plate.

Geographic Overview

- **Location:** Northern coast of South America.
- **Land Borders:**
 - Guyana – east
 - Brazil – south
 - Colombia – southwest & west
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Caribbean Sea & Atlantic Ocean – north
- **Terrain:**
 - Andes Mountains & Maracaibo Lowlands – northwest
 - Central plains (Llanos) – central
 - Guiana Highlands – southeast



Hydrography

- **Major Rivers:**

- Orinoco (shared with Colombia)
- Rio Negro (shared with Colombia & Brazil)
- **Major Lakes:**
 - Lake Maracaibo – largest lake in South America
 - Lake Guri

Islands & Archipelagos

- Margarita Island, La Blanquilla, La Tortuga, Los Roques, Los Monjes

Key Physical Features

- **Highest Point:** Pico Bolívar
- **Major Waterfall:** Angel Falls – world's tallest waterfall (located in Guiana Highlands)

Natural Resources

- **Energy:** Largest proven oil reserves globally
- **Minerals:** Coal, iron ore, bauxite, gold

Capital

- Caracas

World Food India (WFI) 2025

Syllabus: GS-2; International Institutions- Reports and Indices.

Context:

- The Prime Minister will inaugurate the **4th edition of World Food India** on **25th September 2025** in New Delhi.
- It will be the **largest edition yet**, with **90+ countries**, **2,000+ exhibitors**, and thousands of stakeholders.

About the Event

- Organised by: **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).**
- Dates: **25th–28th September 2025.**
- Aim: Showcase India's potential as a **"Global Food Hub"** for food processing and supply chains.

India's Agricultural Strengths

- **Largest producer:** Milk, onions, pulses.
- **Second-largest producer:** Rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, fruits, vegetables, eggs.
- **FDI Inflows:** USD **7.33 billion** in equity in the last decade into food processing.

International Participation

- **Partner Countries:** New Zealand, Saudi Arabia.
- **Focus Countries:** Japan, UAE, Vietnam, Russia.

Major International Events

- **3rd Global Food Regulators Summit** (by FSSAI)
 - Platform for global regulators.
 - Focus on **harmonisation of food safety standards** and strengthening international cooperation.
- **24th India International Seafood Show (IISS)** (by SEAI)
 - Highlights India's growing **seafood export potential**.
 - Promotes global **market linkages** for fisheries.

Core Focus Pillars (*likely highlights*)



Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Tribunals.

Context:

- The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs recently launched the **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** in **New Delhi**.
- GSTAT is established to resolve disputes arising under the **Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act)** and respective **State/UT GST Acts**.

Key Features:

- **Nature & Function:**
 - GSTAT is a **statutory appellate body** under the CGST Act, 2017.
 - Functions similar to a **civil court** – can hear cases, pass orders, impose penalties, and cancel/revoke GST registrations.
- **Structure & Composition:**
 - **Principal Bench:** New Delhi
 - **State Benches:** 31 benches across 45 locations
 - **Composition:**
 - President (Head)
 - Judicial Member
 - Technical Members:
 - One from the **Centre**
 - One from the **State**
- **Eligibility of Members:**
 - **President:** Current Supreme Court Judge or former Chief Justice of a High Court
 - **Judicial Member:** High Court Judge or served as Additional/ District Judge for ≥10 years
 - **Technical Member (Centre):**
 - Indian Revenue Service (Group A) or All India Service with **25 years** in Group A
 - Experience in administering GST in the **Central Government**
 - **Technical Member (State):**

- State government officer or All India Service officer above Additional Commissioner of VAT
 - ≥ 25 years of service and ≥ 3 years in **GST or finance/taxation**
- **Tenure & Age Limit:**
- **Tenure:** 4 years
 - **Age Limit:**
 - President: up to 70 years
 - Judicial & Technical Members: up to 67 years

Significance:

- Provides **specialized adjudication** of GST-related disputes.
- Reduces **burden on civil courts** and ensures quicker resolution of cases.
- Promotes **uniformity and consistency** in GST dispute resolution across India.

Paracetamol (Tylenol)

Syllabus: GS-3: General Science – Chemistry.

Context:

- Former U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that **paracetamol (Tylenol) use during pregnancy is linked to autism**.
- Experts, including **Soumya Swaminathan (ex-WHO Chief Scientist)**, dismissed the claim as **unscientific and unsupported by evidence**.

About Paracetamol (Tylenol)

- **Type:** Non-opioid **analgesic** (pain reliever) and **antipyretic** (fever reducer).
- **Names:**
 - *Paracetamol* – globally.
 - *Acetaminophen* – in the U.S.
- **Status:** Listed in **WHO's Essential Medicines List**.

Ingredients

- **Active compound:** Acetaminophen (paracetamol).



Uses

- Relieves **mild to moderate pain**:
 - Headache, backache, arthritis, toothache, menstrual cramps, post-surgery pain.
- **Reduces fever** in both adults and children.
- **Preferred during pregnancy**:
 - Safer than **NSAIDs (ibuprofen, aspirin)**.
- Sometimes **combined with ibuprofen** for enhanced pain relief.

Features

- Safe for **short-term use** if taken as per recommended dosage.
- **Forms available**: tablets, syrups, chewables, dissolvable packs.
- **First-line treatment** for fever and pain during pregnancy.

Limitations

- **Less effective** for inflammation-related pain (e.g., arthritis) compared to NSAIDs.
- **Excessive use** (>3–4 g/day in adults) → risk of **liver damage/failure**.
- Limited role in **chronic pain management** (osteoarthritis, cancer pain).

Scientific Consensus on Pregnancy Use

- **No credible evidence** linking paracetamol to autism.
- **Regulators (FDA, WHO, NHS, ICMR)** endorse its safe use in **recommended doses** during pregnancy.
- Overdose or prolonged unsupervised use can pose risks, but **therapeutic use is considered safe**.

MiG-21 fighter jets

Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Technology – Defence Technology.

Context:

Backbone Of Combat Fleet, MiG-21 Set To Retire From IAF On September 26.

About MiG-21

- Soviet-designed single-engine supersonic jet fighter.
- Known for **speed, agility, and compact design**.
- Among the world's most widely used fighter aircraft during the **Cold War**.

Developed By

- Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau (USSR), 1950s.
- India started **licensed production** through **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** in the 1960s.



Induction in India

- First inducted into the **Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1963**.
- Served as the **backbone of IAF** from the **1970s to early 2000s**.
- India procured over **700 aircraft across variants**.

Key Features

- **Speed:** Mach 2.0+ supersonic capability.
- **Operational Capacity:** All-weather, multi-role (interceptor + ground attack).
- **Armaments:** Equipped with **air-to-air missiles, bombs, and cannons**.
- **Upgrades:** Later variants like **MiG-21 Bison** included modern **radar systems, avionics, and weapon upgrades**.

Legacy of MiG-21

- India's first **supersonic jet fighter**; first non-western fighter in IAF.
- Backbone of IAF for decades; symbol of Cold War-era Indo-Soviet defence ties.
- Key operations: 1971 Indo-Pak War, Kargil conflict, and 2019 Balakot aerial skirmish.
- Nicknamed "**Flying Coffin**" due to ~500 accidents and 450+ pilot deaths since 1965.

Phasing Out & Present Scenario

- Advanced variant **MiG-21 Bison** to retire by **September 2025**.
- IAF's sanctioned strength: **42 squadrons**.
- Current strength: **29 squadrons** → will reduce further with MiG-21 and Jaguar retirements.

Fighter Fleet Composition (2025)

- Su-30MKI: ~200 operational (out of 272).
- Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguars – ageing fleets.
- **LCA Tejas Mk1**: only 2 squadrons operational.
- Heavy reliance on imports and limited indigenous capacity.

Delays in LCA Tejas Mk1A

- \$6.5 bn deal for **83 Tejas Mk1A** (73 fighters + 10 trainers).
- HAL was to deliver from **March 2024** → delayed, none delivered yet.
- Now: 8 jets expected in 2025–26 fiscal, rest by 2028.
- Problems: vendor ecosystem, manufacturing bottlenecks.

Future Inductions & Modernisation Plans

- **LCA-Mk1A**: 180 units planned.
- **LCA-Mk2**: over 120 planned.
- Medium Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA): 114 (stalled due to cost).
- **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**:
 - Mk1 with **GE-414 engines**; Mk2 with **110KN co-developed engine**.
 - Private sector participation encouraged.
- Navy: **Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF)** on drawing board.
- Interim imports: evaluating **Su-57** (Russia) and **F-35** (USA).

Challenges

- **Squadron Depletion** → risk of falling below 30 by 2030.
- **Production Delays** → HAL's limited ecosystem.
- **Dependence on Imports** → geopolitical and financial constraints.
- **Technological Gaps** → 5th-gen fighters not yet indigenous.
- **Cost Burden** → MRFA vs AMCA vs Tejas investments.

Way Forward

- Expedite **LCA Mk1A & Mk2 deliveries** with vendor strengthening.
- Prioritise **AMCA development** with private sector & international partnerships.
- Balance between **limited imports** and indigenous production.
- Ensure **strategic autonomy** while bridging short-term capability gaps.
- Long-term plan: **600+ jets in two decades** for IAF & Navy.