

Current Affairs - 14 October 2026

Tele-MANAS



- **Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States** (Tele MANAS) offers a wide range of mental health services.
 - It was started by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2022**.
 - **Aim:** To provide universal access to equitable, affordable, and quality mental health care through a 24x7 tele-mental health service, forming a key digital component of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP).
 - This service is **available across all Indian States and Union Territories**, with assured linkages to ensure seamless care.
 - **Objectives**
 - **Expanding Access:** Scaling up the reach of mental health services nationwide, ensuring that anyone across India can access support at any time through dedicated 24x7 tele-mental health facilities in every State and Union Territory.
 - **Building a Comprehensive Mental Health Network:** Establishing an integrated system that goes beyond counseling by offering medical and psychosocial interventions, video consultations with specialists, e-prescriptions, follow-up care, and connections to in-person services.
 - **Reaching Vulnerable Populations:** Prioritizing mental health services for vulnerable and difficult-to-reach groups, ensuring no one is left without essential care.
 - **Tele MANAS launched its mobile app** and video consultation services to enhance access to mental health support.
 - This app serves as a **comprehensive platform offering mental health resources**, including self-care tips, stress management strategies, and tools to recognize early distress signals.

Current Affairs - 14 October 2026

- It is enhanced with **Multi-lingual user interface**, **Chatbot feature** (Asmi), **Accessibility**, **Emergency Module**.
- It will now be **available in 10 regional languages**, in addition to the **English and Hindi languages**.
- These languages include Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY



**CENTRAL
ELECTRICITY
AUTHORITY**

- It is a **statutory body** established under section 3(1) of the **Electricity Supply Act 1948**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Power.

Functions of Central Electricity Authority:

- **Advisory Role:** Advice the Central Government on matters relating to the national electricity policy, formulate short-term and perspective plans for the development of the electricity system.
- **Specify the technical standards** for the construction of electrical plants, electric lines, and connectivity to the grid
- **Collect and record the data** concerning the generation, transmission, trading, distribution and utilisation of electricity and carry out studies relating to cost, efficiency, competitiveness
- **Promote research** in matters affecting the generation, transmission, distribution and trading of electricity;

Organisation's Structure:

- It is headed by a **Chairman, who is ex-officio Secretary** to the Government of India, and comprises **six full-time Members**.

Current Affairs - 14 October 2026

NATIONAL CULTURE FUND



- It was set up as a Trust on 28th November, 1996 under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890.

- **Objectives of National Culture Fund:**

- To administer and apply the Fund for conservation, maintenance, promotion, protection, preservation and up-gradation of monuments protected or otherwise;
- To impart training and facilitate development of a cadre of specialists and cultural administrators
- To facilitate in providing additional space in existing museums & construct new museums to accommodate or create new & special galleries.
- Documentation of cultural expressions and forms that have lost their relevance in contemporary scenario and are either fading out or facing extinction.

- **Governance of National Culture Fund:**

- It is managed and administered through a Governing Council chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Culture and has a maximum strength of 25 members to decide the policies.
- An Executive Committee headed by Secretary (Culture) and has a maximum strength of 11 Members, to execute those policies.

- **Benefits to donor:** Donations to the National Culture Fund are eligible for 100% tax benefit under Section 80G (ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

- NCF's activities are covered under Schedule VII No. (v) of the Companies Act, 2013 as valid receptacle of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contribution under:
 - Protection of national heritage, art and culture including restoration of buildings and sites of historical importance and works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion and development of traditional arts and handicrafts."

Current Affairs - 14 October 2026

- **Contribution to NCF:** It can receive donations from Corporates, PSUs, Trusts and Individuals for maintenance and preservation of Centrally Protected monuments/cultural projects through NCF.

MARITIME STATE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



- It is an **apex advisory body** which was constituted in **1997** for the development of the **Maritime sector**.
- The **Indian Ports Act, 2025** grants statutory status to the Maritime State Development Council.
- **Aim:** Its primary aim is to **promote the integrated growth of Major and Non-Major ports** in close coordination with State governments.
- **Composition:**
 - The Council, chaired by the **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**.
 - It comprises **Ministers responsible for ports from all Maritime States, Administrators of UTs**, and key stakeholders, including representatives from the **Navy, Coast Guard, and other agencies**.

Functions:

- It monitors the development of **minor ports, captive ports and private ports** in the Maritime States with a view to ensure their **integrated development with Major Ports** and to assess the requirements of other infrastructure requirements like roads/rail/IWT and make **suitable recommendations to the concerned Ministers**.
- The Council guide **data collection and dissemination and transparency across ports**, and advise the central government on **national planning, legislative reforms, port efficiency, and connectivity**.

Current Affairs - 14 October 2026

INDIA'S PROBLEM OF OVERTREATMENT AND OVERMEDICATION

- Modern medicine has achieved remarkable progress in early diagnosis, disease prevention and life-saving treatment.
- However, technological advances have also encouraged **overtreatment and overmedication**, exposing patients to unnecessary tests, procedures and prolonged medication.

Health Packages and Tests

- **Unnecessary Testing and Overdiagnosis**
 - A 2016 review in the National Medical Journal of India found that routine health-check packages often include unnecessary tests, leading to false-positive results, anxiety, overdiagnosis and unnecessary treatment.
- **Fragmentation of Health Care**
 - India's excessive reliance on specialist and super-specialist services can result in duplicated investigations, conflicting prescriptions and poor coordination.
- **Polypharmacy Among Older Adults**
 - **Polypharmacy** refers to the use of multiple medicines, commonly five or more simultaneously.
 - Although multiple medicines may be necessary, inappropriate prescribing increases the risks of adverse reactions and drug interactions.
- **Commercialisation of Health Care**
 - India's fee-for-service model may encourage additional tests and procedures because providers earn revenue from the services delivered.
- **Patient Expectations and Defensive Medicine**
 - Patients often associate scans and medicines with **effective treatment**, while reassurance and lifestyle advice may appear inadequate.
 - Defensive medicine also encourages unnecessary testing when clinicians fear missing rare diagnoses or facing legal consequences.

Current Affairs - 14 October 2026

The Path Forward for India

- **Identify Low-Value Medical Interventions**
 - The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and professional medical societies should develop India-specific lists of low-value tests, treatments and procedures.
 - Hospitals should assess not only whether necessary treatment was provided but also whether unnecessary interventions were avoided.
 - **Empower Patients Through Informed Decisions**
 - Patients should participate actively in medical decisions by asking four questions:
 - Why do I need this test or treatment?
 - What happens if I wait?
 - What are its benefits and risks?
 - What alternatives are available?
 - Shared decision-making improves communication and helps patients make informed choices.
-

PREVENTIVE DETENTION - ARTICLE 22 AND CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS

- **Preventive detention** refers to the detention of a person without a criminal trial or conviction, with the objective of preventing an anticipated offence or threat rather than punishing a past act.
- In India, preventive detention may be invoked on grounds relating to public order, national security and other legally specified concerns.
- The **National Security Act (NSA), 1980**, permits preventive detention where statutory conditions are met, including when a person's activities are considered prejudicial to the defence of India, relations with foreign powers or the security of the State.
- Preventive detention is an exceptional power because it restricts personal liberty without the ordinary process of criminal prosecution and conviction.

Current Affairs - 14 October 2026

Reform Priorities and the Way Forward

- A constitutional approach to preventive detention requires a balance between security imperatives and individual freedom.
- **Strict necessity:** Detention and prohibitory powers should be used only when legally justified and necessary to address the relevant threat.
- **Procedural compliance:** Authorities must communicate grounds, facilitate representations and comply with statutory requirements.
- **Effective judicial oversight:** Courts should scrutinise detention orders and restrictions for legality, procedural fairness and proportionality.
- **Protection of peaceful protest:** Authorities should regulate assemblies where necessary rather than impose blanket restrictions without adequate justification.
- **Accountability and transparency:** Clear reasons for restrictions and effective review mechanisms can reduce the risk of arbitrary action.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) - FROM COMPLIANCE TO DEVELOPMENTAL IMPACT

CSR in India - Achievements and Significance:

- **Legal framework:** Under Section 135 of the **Companies Act, 2013**, eligible companies are required to spend at least **2%** of their average net profits of the three immediately preceding financial years on CSR.
- **Applicability:** Companies meeting any one of the following thresholds are covered - net worth of ₹500 crore or more, turnover of ₹1,000 crore or more, and net profit of ₹5 crore or more.
- **Resource mobilisation:** India mobilised approximately **₹2.6 lakh crore** in CSR funds over a decade. In 2024–25, annual expenditure reached ₹40,794 crore, with 29,500 companies supporting around 72,000 projects.
- **Developmental contribution:** CSR has emerged as a significant source of supplementary funding for social development, demonstrating the potential of corporate participation in nation-building.

Current Affairs - 14 October 2026

Key Challenges in CSR Implementation:

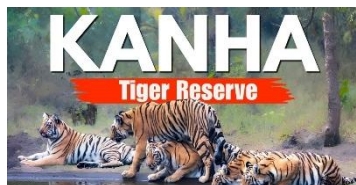
- **Geographical concentration:**
 - CSR funds tend to flow towards states with a greater concentration of corporate headquarters and industrial activity.
 - **Maharashtra** received ₹8,631 crore, **Gujarat** ₹4,549 crore, **Karnataka** ₹3,395 crore and **Delhi** ₹2,753 crore in 2024–25.
 - Corporate location can become a stronger determinant of fund allocation than the actual needs of underserved communities.
- **Expenditure versus outcomes:**
 - CSR accountability often focuses on the amount spent rather than the **lasting change created**.
 - Financial compliance alone cannot establish whether interventions have improved learning outcomes, healthcare access, livelihoods or community resilience.

Reforms for the Next Decade of CSR:

- **Shift towards outcome-based accountability:**
 - Supplement expenditure reporting with **measurable output**, outcome and impact indicators.
- **Promote collaborative and long-term investments:**
 - Encourage companies to pool funds and expertise around common development priorities and geographical areas.
- **Align CSR with corporate competencies:**
 - Companies should contribute not only financial resources but also their **technical knowledge**, professional networks and managerial expertise.
- **Ensure equitable and complementary development:**
 - Give greater attention to underserved regions and communities with significant development gaps.
 - Use **needs-based planning** to complement corporate priorities with local development requirements.

Current Affairs - 14 October 2026

KANHA TIGER RESERVE



- **Location:** It is located in the “Maikal” ranges of the Satpuras in Madhya Pradesh.

Corridor: It has an active corridor between Kanha and Pench Tiger Reserves. Kanha is also connected with the Achanakmar Tiger Reserve of Chhattisgarh.

Terrain: It is characterized mainly by forested shallow undulations, hills with varying degrees of slopes, plateaus, and valleys.

Tribal Communities: The region is known for some of the ancient tribal communities, like the Gond and Baiga still inhabit the region.

It is also the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot, “Bhoorsingh the Barasingha”.

Vegetation: It primarily consists of a moist Sal and moist mixed deciduous forest.

Flora: Bamboo, Tendu, Sal, Jamun, Arjun, and Lendia flourish.

Fauna: The Park has a significant population of Royal Bengal Tigers, leopards, sloth bears, and Indian wild dogs.