

August - 03

NATIONAL NEWS

MSME Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026

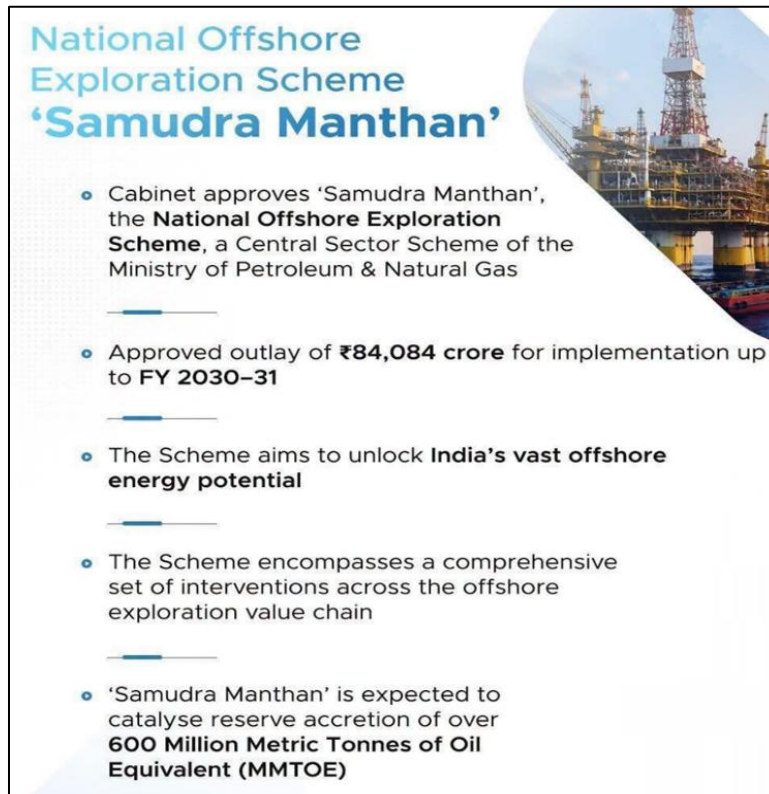
- ❖ The Rajya Sabha has introduced the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to amend the MSME Development Act, 2006.
- ❖ The Bill empowers the Central Government to classify MSMEs based on investment and annual turnover and provides for voluntary digital registration.
- ❖ It mandates Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to use the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) for timely payment of MSME invoices.
- ❖ The Bill sets fixed timelines for mediation and arbitration to ensure faster dispute resolution and allows court challenges with specified deposit conditions.
- ❖ It decriminalises certain offences by replacing prosecution with warnings and graded monetary penalties, while the Development Commissioner will serve as the adjudicating officer.



Samudra Manthan Scheme

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved 'Samudra Manthan' – National Offshore Exploration Scheme for implementation up to Financial Year (FY) 2030-31.
- ❖ It is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with a financial outlay of ₹84,084 crore for deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploration.

- ❖ The scheme aims to explore offshore hydrocarbon resources and target 600 million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE) reserves to strengthen India's energy security.
- ❖ It focuses on 3D seismic surveys, offshore drilling infrastructure, and setting up an Oil and Gas Manufacturing and Services Zone for domestic production.
- ❖ India's offshore basins, including Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Mahanadi, and Andaman regions, hold significant untapped oil and gas potential.



National Offshore Exploration Scheme 'Samudra Manthan'

- Cabinet approves 'Samudra Manthan', the **National Offshore Exploration Scheme**, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- Approved outlay of **₹84,084 crore** for implementation up to **FY 2030-31**
- The Scheme aims to unlock **India's vast offshore energy potential**
- The Scheme encompasses a comprehensive set of interventions across the offshore exploration value chain
- 'Samudra Manthan' is expected to catalyse reserve accretion of over **600 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE)**

Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) to develop Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects with energy storage systems.
- ❖ It is a Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of ₹5,070 crore and aims to develop 5,000 Megawatt (MW) floating solar capacity by 2030-31.
- ❖ The scheme supports solar projects on reservoirs and inland water bodies and provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of ₹1 crore per MW after project commissioning.
- ❖ It includes Energy Storage Systems (ESS) with a minimum storage capacity of two hours (10,000 Megawatt-hour - MWh) to ensure power availability.

- ❖ The scheme will be implemented by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and is expected to attract around ₹28,500 crore in investment.

Cabinet approves

Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana

Total outlay
₹5,070 crore

For development of **5,000 MW** of **Floating Solar Photovoltaic Projects** with co-located **Energy Storage Systems** having a minimum storage capacity of **2 hours** i.e. **10,000 MWh**



PM-KISAN Scheme Extension

Cabinet approves continuation of
PM-KISAN Scheme
from 2026-27 to 2030-31

- A total financial outlay of **₹3.15 lakh crore** has been approved
- The expansion of PM-KISAN will boost farm investment, productivity and strengthen rural economy
- Over **4.47 lakh crore** transferred directly to farmers under the scheme



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a financial outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore.
- ❖ The scheme, launched in February 2019, PM-KISAN is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare that provides income support to land-holding farmer families.
- ❖ The scheme provides ₹6,000 per year to eligible farmers in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 each through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

- ❖ The scheme uses Aadhaar-based authentication and digital verification to ensure transparent and direct transfer of benefits to farmers' bank accounts.
- ❖ So far, more than ₹4.47 lakh crore has been transferred to farmers through 23 instalments, helping them meet expenses on seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, and agricultural machinery.
- ❖ The assistance helps farmers meet agricultural expenses such as seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, and farm machinery.

DAANVEER Initiative



- ❖ DAANVEER is a platform designed not just to close the immediate computer gap in the Gram Panchayats but to evolve into a long-term, citizen-powered ecosystem for strengthening local institutions.
- ❖ It is a transparent, end-to-end digital and verifiable platform that enables citizens and organisations to contribute towards the identified technology and infrastructure needs of Gram Panchayats in India.
- ❖ Under this, every Gram Panchayat is digitally equipped, connected and future-ready.
- ❖ The initiative provides citizens across the globe with an opportunity to reconnect with their roots by contributing meaningfully to the development of their native villages.
- ❖ It enables individuals and organisations to contribute standardized, quality-verified computer bundles directly to eligible Gram Panchayats.

- ❖ It was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in New Delhi.
- ❖ It has been developed in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Digi Haat.

Vande Mataram Bill in Rajya Sabha

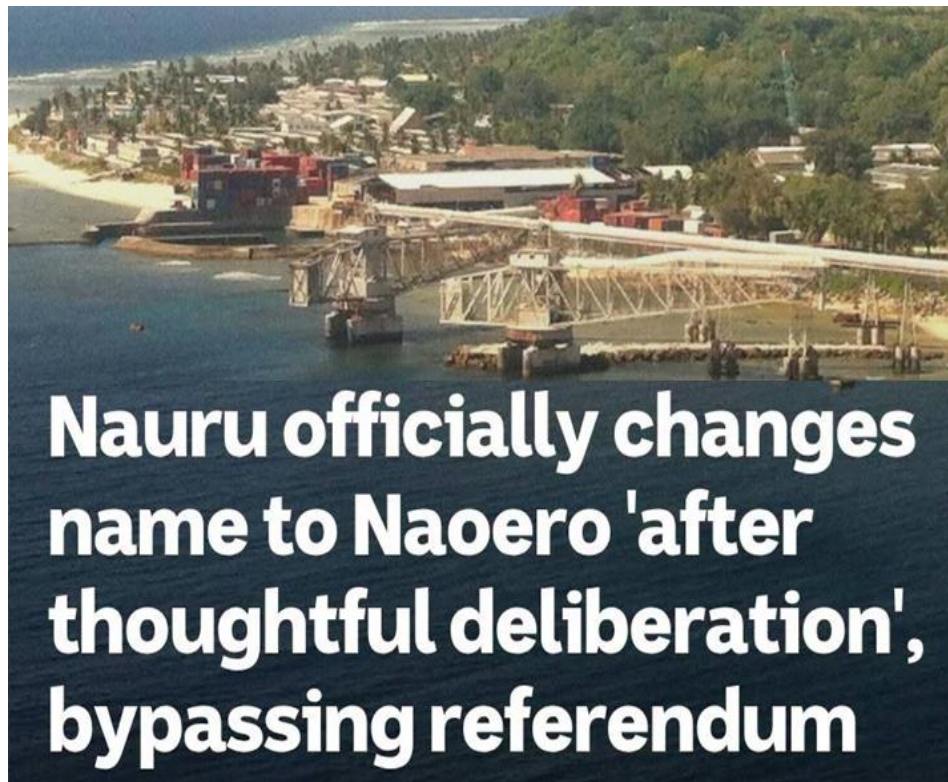


- ❖ Rajya Sabha has passed the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ The bill will further amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
- ❖ The proposed legislation seeks to give Vande Mataram the same statutory protection as the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana.
- ❖ These offences are punishable with imprisonment up to three years, a fine, or both.
- ❖ The Bill also mandates that all six stanzas of Vande Mataram be sung.
- ❖ The proposal comes after the Union Home Ministry directed states to play or sing the national song at official functions, particularly those where the national anthem is performed.
- ❖ When the national song and the national anthem are sung or played, the national song will be sung or played first.
- ❖ The National Song Vande Mataram was composed in 1875 by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
- ❖ In 1937, when Jawaharlal Nehru became the President of the Congress, he limited Vande Mataram to only two stanzas.

- ❖ On the other hand, in 1928, when Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was Congress President, he requested Timir Baran Banerjee to prepare a complete and dignified musical version of the song.
- ❖ On 15th August 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had asked Pandit Omkarnath Thakur to render the complete Vande Mataram on All India Radio at 6:30 in the morning, marking the beginning of the first Independence Day.
- ❖ On 24th January 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad stated in the Constituent Assembly that Vande Mataram would be accorded the same respect as Jana Gana Mana.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Change of Nauru's Colonial Name



- ❖ Pacific island nation Nauru officially changed its name to the Republic of Naoero after a constitutional amendment approved by its Parliament in May 2026.
- ❖ The new name Naoero is the indigenous name of the island, replacing the colonial-era name Nauru.
- ❖ Naoero is located in Micronesia, in the Central Pacific Ocean, and is the third-smallest sovereign country in the world after Vatican City and Monaco.
- ❖ The country has an area of about 21 sq km, a population of around 12,000, and uses the Australian Dollar (AUD) as its currency.

- ❖ The indigenous language Dorerin Naoero (Nauruan language) is classified as severely endangered by UNESCO.

Venezuela and ICC

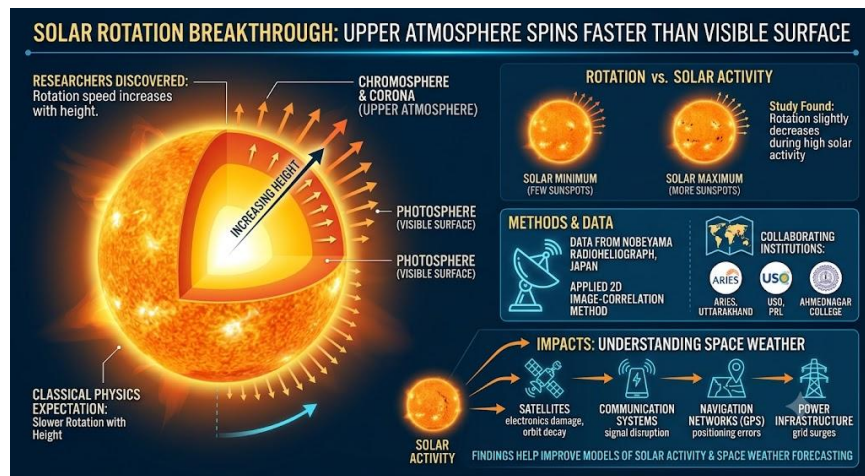
ICC vs ICJ Key Differences at a Glance		
ICC International Criminal Court	Aspect	ICJ International Court of Justice
The ICC prosecutes individuals for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.	 Purpose	The ICJ settles legal disputes between states and provides advisory opinions on legal questions.
A criminal court.	 Nature	A civil court.
Over individuals accused of crimes: • Genocide • Crimes against humanity • War crimes • Crime of aggression	 Jurisdiction	Over disputes between states and legal questions referred by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies.
Cases are brought by the Office of the Prosecutor (own initiative or by referral from States Parties, UN Security Council, or others as permitted).	 Who Can Bring Cases	Only States can be parties in a case. (Individuals and organizations cannot file cases.)
Based on the Rome Statute. States must be parties to the Statute or accept the Court's jurisdiction.	 Consent to Jurisdiction	Based on the consent of states (through treaty, compromis, special agreement, or UN Charter provisions).
The Hague, Netherlands 	 Seat / Location	The Hague, Netherlands 
Established in 2002 by the Rome Statute (entered into force in 2002).	 Establishment	Established in 1945 by the UN Charter.
Issues judgments (guilty or not guilty) and sentences individuals.	 Decisions / Orders	Issues judgments that are legally binding on the parties and advisory opinions (not binding).
Relies on States Parties and the UN Security Council to enforce sentences.	 Enforcement	No enforcement arm. Relies on states to comply with its judgments.
💡 In short: ICC deals with individuals and criminal responsibility; ICJ deals with states and legal disputes.		

- ❖ Venezuela has formally notified the United Nations of its “irrevocable” decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court.
- ❖ The ICC had been conducting a multi-year investigation into members of its armed forces and other officials.
- ❖ But the withdrawal does not affect investigations or legal proceedings that have already begun before the withdrawal takes effect.
- ❖ The ICC can continue its ongoing investigation into alleged crimes against humanity in Venezuela.
- ❖ The government justified the move by alleging a “geographical bias” within the court.
- ❖ It was claiming it disproportionately targets nations in the Global South, specifically across Africa and Latin America.
- ❖ Chad also announced plans to withdraw from the ICC.
- ❖ Chad’s withdrawal follows similar moves by Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger last year.

- ❖ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is wanted by the ICC over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.
- ❖ The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organisation and international tribunal seated in The Hague, Netherlands.
- ❖ It was established in 2002 under the multilateral Rome Statute.
- ❖ The court was established to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression when member states are unwilling or unable to do so themselves.
- ❖ The ICC is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for international crimes.
- ❖ The ICC can generally exercise jurisdiction in cases where the accused is a national of a state party, the alleged crime took place on the territory of a state party, or a situation is referred to the Court by the United Nations Security Council.
- ❖ Countries that are not party to the Rome Statute and do not recognise the court's jurisdiction include China, India, Russia, and the United States.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

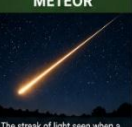
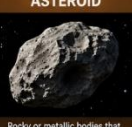
Solar Rotation Breakthrough



- ❖ Scientists discovered that the Sun's upper atmosphere rotates faster than its visible surface, challenging the expected behaviour of classical physics.
- ❖ The study was conducted by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Uttarakhand, Udaipur Solar Observatory (USO), Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) and Ahmednagar College.

- ❖ Researchers used data from the Nobeyama Radioheliograph, Japan and applied a 2D image-correlation method to measure solar atmospheric rotation.
- ❖ The study found that the Sun's rotation speed increases with height above the solar surface and slightly decreases during periods of high solar activity (more sunspots).
- ❖ The findings help improve understanding of solar activity and space weather, which can affect satellites, communication systems, navigation networks and power infrastructure.

Comet 10P/Tempel 2 - appearance in Bengaluru sky

COMET vs METEOR vs METEORITE vs ASTEROID				
Know the Differences				
	COMET	METEOR	METEORITE	ASTEROID
				
	Icy bodies that orbit the Sun and develop a glowing coma and tail near the Sun.	The streak of light seen when a space rock burns up in Earth's atmosphere.	A space rock that survives its journey through the atmosphere and lands on Earth.	Rocky or metallic bodies that orbit the Sun, mostly found in the asteroid belt.
📍 DEFINITION	Icy, dusty bodies that release gas and dust to form a coma and tail.	The visible streak of light caused by a meteoroid burning in the atmosphere.	A meteoroid that reaches the ground without burning up completely.	Rocky or metallic objects that orbit the Sun; do not produce a coma or tail.
🧪 COMPOSITION	Ice, dust, rock, and frozen gases.	Usually small pieces of rock or dust (meteoroids).	Rocky or metallic; similar to asteroids or comets.	Mostly rock and metal; little or no ice.
📍 LOCATION	Mostly from the Kuiper Belt and Oort Cloud.	Occurs in Earth's atmosphere.	Lands on Earth's surface.	Mainly in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter.
☀️ APPEARANCE	Bright coma and tail when near the Sun.	A brief streak of light (shooting star).	No light in the sky; found as a rock on ground.	Looks like a small star (point of light) in the sky.
🔄 MOVEMENT	Orbits the Sun in long, elliptical paths.	Very fast (tens of thousands of km/h) through atmosphere.	Falls to Earth after surviving atmospheric entry.	Orbits the Sun; much slower than meteors.
📏 SIZE	From a few kilometers to tens of kilometers.	Usually tiny (grain-sized to pebble-sized).	From small pebbles to large boulders.	From meters to hundreds of kilometers.
🌟 EXAMPLE	Halley's Comet, Hale-Bopp	Perseid meteor, Shooting star	Tunguska meteorite, Hoba meteorite	Ceres, Vesta, (99942) Apophis
💡 IN SIMPLE WORDS: Comet makes the tail, Meteor makes the streak, Meteorite makes it to the ground, Asteroid stays in space and orbits the Sun.				

- ❖ It was last visible from Earth five-and-a-half years ago.
- ❖ It was discovered in the year 1873.
- ❖ It completes one orbit around the Sun every 5.5 years. Its last sighting was in 2021.
- ❖ Comet 10P/Tempel 2 is a periodic comet.
- ❖ Although it returns every 5.5 years, it is not always easily visible from Earth.
- ❖ Its visibility depends on how close it comes to Earth during that return, and its position relative to the Sun in our sky.
- ❖ Depending on how bright it becomes during that apparition, some returns are excellent, while others are much less favourable.
- ❖ When the comet is closest to the Sun, the Sun's heat causes more ice to vaporise.
- ❖ This creates the comet's coma (the fuzzy cloud around the nucleus) and tail, making it brighter and easier to observe.

- ❖ It is best to observe the comet from a dark location away from city lights on a clear, moonless night.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New Fruit Fly Species Discovery

- ❖ Scientists discovered two new fruit fly species, *Zeugodacus umiam* and *Zeugodacus nasivittatus*, during a three-year survey in Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya.
- ❖ *Zeugodacus umiam* was named after Umiam, Meghalaya, the place where it was discovered, and was found on the Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Khasi mandarin.
- ❖ *Zeugodacus nasivittatus*, the second new species, was associated with sweet orange and Khasi mandarin crops.
- ❖ Researchers collected more than 35,000 fruit flies and documented 37 species across forests, fruit orchards, and vegetable ecosystems.
- ❖ Three species — *Bactrocera abbreviata*, *Erectovena desperata*, and *Phorelliosoma hilaratum* — were recorded for the first time in the Indian subcontinent.

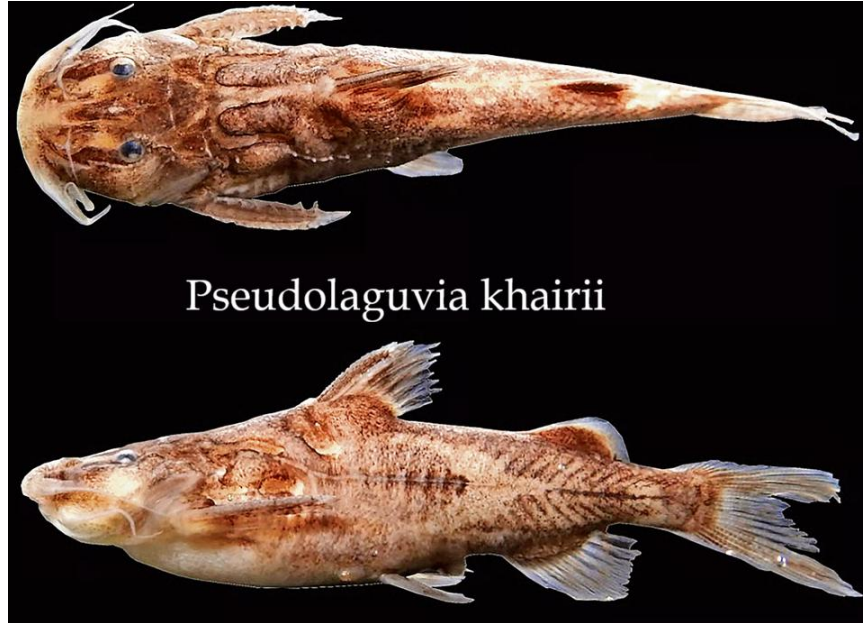


**Two new fruit fly species
discovered in Ri Bhoi**

New Catfish Species

- ❖ A new freshwater catfish species, *Pseudolaguvia khairii*, was discovered in the Budhabalanga River, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.
- ❖ The species was named after Khairi, an orphaned Royal Bengal tigress associated with wildlife conservation in Odisha.
- ❖ *Pseudolaguvia khairii* belongs to the genus *Pseudolaguvia* and the order Siluriformes (catfish group).

- ❖ The species is a small hillstream catfish adapted to fast-flowing freshwater rivers and is identified by a unique fleshy protuberance at the base of its dorsal fin.
- ❖ Khairi was rescued from the Similipal forests, Odisha, in the 1970s and was raised by conservationist Saroj Raj Choudhury and Nihar Nalini Swain.



REPORTS AND INDICES

UNEP Transition Report



- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the report "No Transition Without Justice", highlighting the role of environmental rule of law in achieving a just transition.

- ❖ Just Transition means a fair, inclusive, and rights-based shift towards environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies, ensuring no one is left behind.
- ❖ The report stresses strong environmental laws, protection of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs), public participation, accountability, and coordinated governance.
- ❖ It highlights fair management of transition finance, speedy dispute resolution, and protection of indigenous and vulnerable communities during the transition.
- ❖ The report recommends context-specific policies that balance environmental protection, social justice, and sustainable development.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Lung Cancer Day 2026 - August 01

- ❖ The day is observed to raise awareness about lung cancer and promote prevention, early detection, timely treatment, and patient support.
- ❖ Lung cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths worldwide, but early diagnosis can significantly improve survival and treatment outcomes.
- ❖ The disease can affect both smokers and non-smokers and is associated with tobacco use, second-hand smoke, air pollution, radon gas, occupational exposure to harmful chemicals, and genetic factors.
- ❖ The day also highlights the importance of quitting tobacco, reducing exposure to air pollutants, maintaining healthy lungs, and ensuring equitable access to screening, diagnosis, and treatment.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Together Through Lung Cancer."

